

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXI—Number Three

January/February 2011

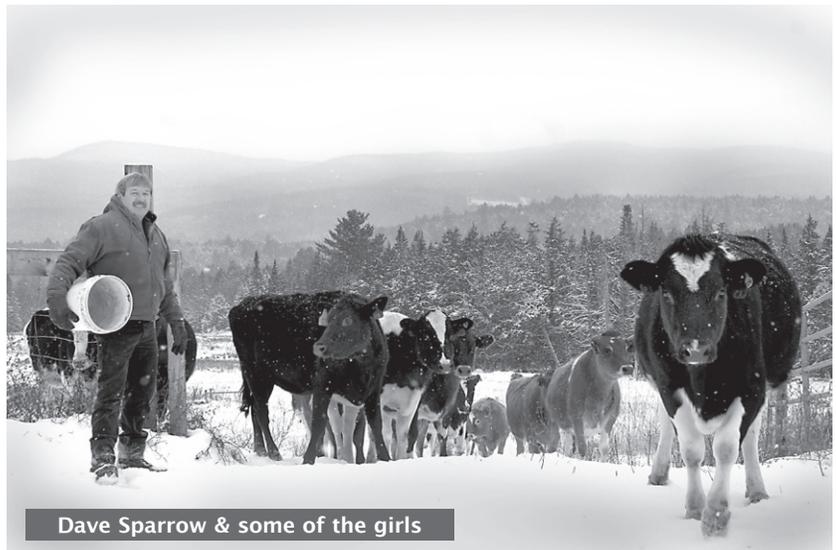
Audrey LaFirira: Her Vermont-Life Story

Martha Israel

If you've ever been to Morse Farm for sugar-on-snow or treated yourself to a cremee, chances are you know Audrey LaFirira. And if you stopped by for their open house over Thanksgiving, you probably feasted on her silver dollar pancakes. At 79 years old, Audrey is Morse's oldest and most senior employee, having worked at the farm on and off for the past 35 years—since the days when the Morses would come to her home in East Montpelier village to pick her up to help can syrup and make their lunches. At one point she made more than 30 pies per week to sell in the store. For the past 16 years she has shared the counter at the store with her daughter Sheryl.

Audrey is a true East Montpelier native—although she likes to add that she was born in Montpelier at the Heaton Hospital—and has resided in and around the village all her life. She remembers that when she was young, there were 40 to 50 farms around town. Her parents, Myrle and Earle Daniels, lived next to the old Butterick Creamery on Route 2. When she was six years old her parents built a house on the property that was set back because the area was too busy with

Continued on Page 3



Dave Sparrow & some of the girls

Dave Sparrow—Close to the Land

Rob Chickering

Dave Sparrow was a boy of seventeen when his family moved from a dairy farm in Northborough, Massachusetts, to the farm on what is now called Sparrow Farm Road in East Montpelier. The choice to relocate to our town was no doubt prompted by the family connections the Sparrows have to other notable local farm families like the Morses and the Sibleys. As a boy, Dave's father would spend a week or two each year staying at the Sibley farm.

With his brother, nephew, and father, Dave worked on the farm where they milked 160 Holstein cows and raised heifers. In the spring they tapped maple trees on the ridge across the road from the farmhouse. They were early adopters of the use of a pipeline to collect sap, but Dave remembers his aching muscles from hefting a lot of buckets as well. He met his future wife, Pam, at a family gathering and they have been married for 32 years. Pamela Morse grew up in Berlin and finished her high school years at U-32. She, too, had several relatives who were East Montpelier dairy farmers. Her family had at one time owned the Morse schoolhouse building since earlier generations were involved in its construction.

Dave's father died in 1988 from a heart attack. The sons continued milking cows until the following spring. They sold the farmhouse, barns, and acreage on the south side of the road and retained the property on

Continued on Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

4—Coburn Rd Quarry Update

5—Music in East Montpelier

6—Serve East Montpelier—Run for Office

7—Town Weathervane

10—Jean & Wes Cate Fund

Signpost Volunteers

Ted Allen: Mailing

229-5819 tedallen05602@comcast.net

Terry Allen: Photography

229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor

229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

Rhoda Chickering: Feature Editor

229-5005 rhoderchick@myfairpoint.net

Rob Chickering: Business Manager

272-7328 rchickering2009@gmail.com

Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster

223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

Lori Martin: Layout & Design

229-0950 lorianne.m@comcast.net

Carol McKenna: Copy Editor

229-6001 cmckenna1000@yahoo.com

Eddie Miller: Organizations Editor

229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

Robin Gannon: EMES Reporter

rgannon@u32.org

Barbara Ploof: Copy Editor

223-6934 signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Cherie Staples: Copy Editor

476-2541 skyearth1@aol.com

Wendy Soliday: Artist

229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

Sylvia Tosi: Town Records

223-3240 dontsyl@comcast.net

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing

802-476-3164

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Published six times a year.
Mailed free of charge
to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Top of the Signpost

Our Town's Beautiful Vistas Await You

Bruce Chapell

Snowflakes are falling and winter in East Montpelier is here once again. Few may realize it, but since November, volunteers with the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers snowmobile club have been busy installing trail signs and preparing the trails for the upcoming season. Many thanks go out to the 90-plus landowners in town who graciously allow the trail system to cross their property. We also appreciate the Gully Jumper volunteers who manage these trails in our community.

If Mother Nature allows, beginning in mid-December, 36 miles of beautiful trails—between eight and 16 feet wide—almost magically reappear in town. Thanks to a \$135,000 Piston Bully trail groomer and many hours of volunteer help from club members, the trails will once again be ready for use. Snowmobile registration and trail fees pay for the equipment to groom the town and statewide trail system. For the 2011 season it will cost approximately \$180.00 in fees and insurance for each snowmobile to use the trails.

Each year our family and friends look forward to the upcoming season of snowmobiling and skiing on the trails in town. We are truly blessed with some of the best wildlife viewing and scenic views anywhere in the State of Vermont from the meadows and woodlands adjacent to our trail system. On a crisp winter day the view from Bruce and Claudia Fitch's farm toward the New Hampshire Presidential Range, from Flor Diaz and Dan Smith's farm toward the Worcester Range, and from the trail above the Sparrow Farm looking toward Camel's Hump are truly breathtaking. Many times we are treated to seeing deer along the trails behind Erica Zimmerman and Kevin McCollister's farm.

Over the years as we snowmobile across the trails and properties in town I am reminded of the great effort and cooperation between our local snowmobile club and the many generous landowners who make this sport of snowmobiling possible. Without this partnership, the winter trail system so many of us enjoy would not be possible. For a mere 120 days each year our trail system appears and then melts into memory. Get out and enjoy the season and always respect the property of all landowners; we are guests on their land.

—Bruce Chapell and his wife, Janet, raise beef and make syrup on Center Road.





the milk trucks coming and going; and then Buttericks built their new creamery right next door. Audrey went to the graded school (now the municipal office) just down the road. She remembers her mother used to walk her to school because of all the traffic on the road. If only her parents could see the Route 2 traffic now!

One of Audrey's most favorite memories is of Wayland Page coming around house-to-house on Monday and Thursday mornings taking grocery orders for Dudley's Store and returning in the afternoon with the orders. Sometimes he would let her ride in the back of his pickup when he went on his runs to other parts of town.

Audrey's father ran the sawmill at Wrightsville Dam, having taken over from his father, Harry Daniels. She has wonderful memories of walking the spillway when her father would stop the water flow to do his annual repair work on the water-powered, rope-driven mill. Later on, when she was a student at Montpelier High School (currently the Middle School on Main Street), her father would drive her to school on his way to and from the mill off Route 12.

In 1951 Audrey married George Page LaFirira of North Montpelier, and eventually they bought what is now the Lyle Haven Farm on Route 14 where they spent 16 years milking 36 jerseys. George went on to become a State Livestock Inspector. In 1961 the farm was burned out. They rebuilt in 1962, but moved off the farm to a nearby house a few years later. George died in 1984. Audrey now lives not too far away in a smaller home off Route 14.

CLOSED Trail Notice

The snowmobile trail between Dudley's Store and the Bragg Farm has been closed due to a bridge washout this fall.

One of Audrey's most interesting relatives was her mother-in-law Luvia Page LaFirira, a well-known local clairvoyant. Luvia was the first of four licensed Vermont clairvoyants in 1961 and used her gift to assist people. She is credited with helping find a lost little boy in Walden, a heifer in Waitsfield, and even a chest of silver in Boston—all from her home in Marshfield. Local police departments even called on her to help with their investigations. Burr Morse had an article published on Luvia in Vermont Life Magazine in 1962. For more interesting reading on Luvia, see Joe Citro's accounts in his book *Green Mountains, Dark Tales*.

Some of our readers who went to EMES may also remember Audrey. She went to work there as the assistant cook when her stepmother Clopha Daniels became ill; she stayed for the next 18 years until retiring in 1993.

But retirement didn't stop Audrey from keeping busy—she still helps out at Morse Farm during busy times, especially during tour bus season. When not serving up maple products Audrey keeps busy with her four children, three of whom live locally in East Barre, Northfield, and Calais. She notes that her daughter Julie lives in Mississippi, but did marry a local boy and is still a Vermonter at heart. She has eleven grandchildren and almost eight great-grandchildren (one due any day now). Audrey likes to do handiwork, especially knitting and crocheting, and enjoys cooking for others. During the summer she likes to relax at her camp on Nichols Pond in Hardwick.

So next time you drop by Morse Farm, look for Audrey and you'll probably find something good to eat.

—Martha Israel is the school nurse at Rumney Memorial School in Middlesex and lives on Barnes Road.

News from U-32

Ginny Burley, Chair U-32 School Board

After the public budget hearings in December, the U-32 Board of Directors will finalize its budget proposal in mid-January so there is time to get the budget printed and sent to the voters in the five towns before Town Meeting Day. Board meetings in January are on the 5th and 19th. If you have questions or comments on the budget, you can talk to a board member any time. Usually in January we have a special session with our legislators. This forum has not yet been scheduled, and may be at a U-32 board meeting or at a WCSU board meeting. Check *Bus Stop Conversations*, the *Times Argus*, the U-32 web page, or the *Signpost* web page for the schedule. While this meeting is too late to discuss this year's U-32 budget, it is a wonderful opportunity to talk with our legislators about our thoughts about school funding issues and current legislation affecting schools. We can share our thoughts about the state's directions and what we feel would best support our schools, and the legislators share with us what they think will come up during the session that we might want to address. You are welcome to join this conversation.

the north side. Dave and Pam were already living in their timber frame house on the corner of Sparrow Farm Road and North Street by that time.

The current Sparrow enterprise focuses mostly on the sale of firewood. Dave buys log-length hardwood that is delivered to his work space next to their house. He uses the fork attachment to his tractor to move the 16 to 20 foot long pieces to an elevated steel rack. After firing up his other tractor to provide power to his rig, he uses a peavey to roll a log onto a conveyor belt that feeds the wood toward the end where Dave takes the controls. He moves the log to the desired firewood length, activates a mounted chainsaw bar that cuts it, then starts a piston that forces it through a stationary wedge that splits it. Sure beats the way I do it in my back yard with a splitting maul and wedges! Dave has plans to automate the process even further. He sells the firewood and delivers it. Recognizing the demand for seasoned wood, he stores some of it in one of the barns his family used to own so that it will dry out and have more value to his customers.

Dave and Pam continue to raise heifers and beef cows for sale, and also sell hay. The arrangement works out nicely for the current owner of the old farm whose fields are kept open and worked for agriculture and for Dave who knows the land like the back of his calloused hand. Over the years he has varied the mix of animals and hay sales depending on market demand and the changing costs of each enterprise. Pam Sparrow keeps the books for the family business. With a family history of heart disease, Dave is particularly attuned to concerns about the cholesterol level of the beef he raises for consumption by his family and his customers. Through his research and experience he knows just when to process his beef to optimize its food value. I can attest to its great taste from the ground beef he gave me as I departed from our interview.

Always alert to new possibilities for promoting local agriculture, Dave is recognizing increasing demand for compost and manure from area gardeners. He has started to experiment with turning farm wastes into fertilizer and expects to be selling and delivering product to customers as early as next summer.

If you are interested in firewood, hay, heifers, beef, or compost, why not give the Sparrows a call at 229-2347.

—Rob Chickering, Selectboard chair, lives with wife Rhoda on Boulder Ridge Road

Welcome Back, Mike

Your Selectboard is pleased to announce the return of Mike Garand to the position of Road Foreman for our town. Mike served in that capacity for several years before taking a supervisory position with the City of Montpelier Public Works Department.

Driving to and from his Montpelier job from his home in Adamant daily, kept our roads on Mike's mind, and we reached agreement with him in early November to return to head up our road crew. We appreciate the conscientious work of Frank Campbell who had taken Mike's place as foreman, and are pleased that he will remain a valuable asset of our road crew.

Coburn Road Quarry Swimming Hole Update:

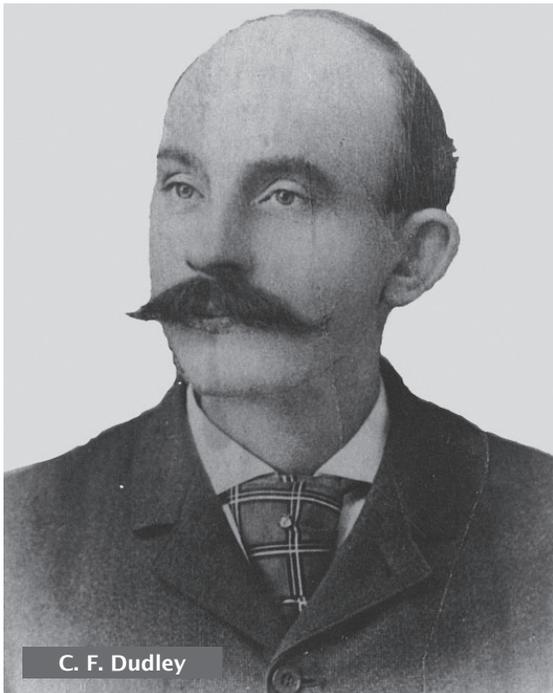
The Good and Not-so-Good News

Renée Carpenter, for Rte 2-Coburn Quarry Citizens' Alliance

On September 16, after months of negotiations with the VT Agency of Transportation (VTrans), we signed an agreement that protected the six-acre swimming pond and its shorelines while allowing VTrans to construct wetlands at the south end of the Coburn Road site. We conceded much beyond the initial Act 250 permit (that VTrans had appealed) to accommodate VTrans' construction needs because VTrans assured us that public access would remain as it has been: posted against trespass, but not enforced.

Recently, however, we discovered that VTrans plans to install a six-foot-tall chain link fence with locked gate down the full length of their property on Coburn Road—a plan that will violate our agreement and thus the court order based on that agreement. Now, instead of rejoicing in our hard-won preservation of the pond for swimming, we must encourage relevant permitting agencies to insist that VTrans abide by the terms of our agreement. We negotiated in good faith with VTrans, and now we must maintain our vigilance to ensure that VTrans abides by that agreement. Clearly, we need members of the public to get involved in order to prevent the installation of this fence. For more information and/or to offer support, please contact me at: reneehc6@myfairpoint.net or 454-7303.





C. F. Dudley

Music in EM: A 100-Year-Old Tradition

For the full 1907 article, follow the link to the EM Historical Society website from emsignpost.com.

*Special Dispatch to the Boston Sunday Herald.
East Montpelier, Vt., Jan 19, 1907*

The Annual Musical Convention Of East Montpelier Opens On Friday

- ❖ C. F. Dudley Will Conduct Cowan’s Cantata, “The Rose Maiden,” and Home Talent Will Sing.
- ❖ Star Soloist and the Whittier Orchestra to Aid in Making Occasion Memorable.

Community Sing-along Keeps the Music Coming

The Community Sing-along in December continued to grow as many new people joined the group. At least three guitars and a drum accompanied the songs, which ranged from folk to old favorites to less familiar songs led by members of the group. An outgrowth of the wonderful fall Pete Seeger pageant, these sing-alongs will continue monthly, and will be held at the Parish House next to the Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center.

Everyone is welcome to come sing and to play an instrument if you wish. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* (available at Guitar Sam in Montpelier) or borrow one of the few extras there. The singing is

preceded by an optional potluck from 5 to 6. For this, bring a dish or drinks to share as well as your own plate and utensils. The music will begin at 6 and continue until 8 o’clock. All ages are welcome. Donations are appreciated to go toward the rental of the Parish House. The next sing-along will be January 16 and February 20. For more information or to be added to the reminder e-mail list, contact Amy Torchia at atorchia1965@yahoo.com or 249-7633.



Good Neighbors

Wendy Soliday

I, for one, know I still have good neighbors....Twice in the last few months I’ve been out painting by the roadside and received gifts from nearby neighbors. Erica Zimmerman and her daughter had just baked blueberry muffins and brought me one right out of the oven, and I was out painting Templeton Farm and the Chappells brought me a pound of home grown beef.



Wendy painting en plein air

Town Offices

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Craig Kleman
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Admin: Dina Bookmyer–Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher 223-7902

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Ross Hazel, Renée Carpenter,
&Putnam Clayton
eastmontlstr@comcast.net or 223-3313 x206

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Rob Chickering, Chair
rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill Don Welch
Seth Gardner Bruce Johnson

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375
Seth Gardner Mark Lane
Jamie Laquerre Jack Pauly
Gene Troia Kim Watson
Ken Santor Jean Vissering

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net
Jeff Cueto Clifton King
Mark Lane Stanley Pierce
Gray Ricker Ken Santor
Kim Watson Carol Welch

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley
Emily Goyette

Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com
Andrea Colnes
Rosie Laquerre
Trevor Lewis
Rubin Bennett

Serve Your Community

Speak to the Voters in the Signpost

At our Town and School Meetings on Tuesday, March 1, we will elect a variety of town officers, all of whom are instrumental in keeping East Montpelier municipal and school government running smoothly. Please note the list below and think about getting involved to serve your town.

For those who decide to become candidates for elective office, please remember to submit a statement for the *Signpost* introducing yourself and what contributions you hope to make. Send to Edie Miller no later than Thursday, January 20, 2011, at signposteam@comcast.net or 1225 Murray Road, 05651. You may call 229-0566 if you have questions. It will appear in the next issue prior to Town Meeting.

Town Moderator – one 1-year term
School Moderator – one 1-year term
Selectboard – one 2-year term, one 3-year term
Lister – one 3-year term
Auditor – one 3-year term
Trustee of Public Funds – one 3-year term
First Constable – one 1-year term
Second Constable – one 1-year term
Town Law Agent – one 1-year term
Town Grand Juror – one 1-year term
Planning Commission – three 3-year terms
Cemetery Commissioner – one 5-year term
EMES School Director – one 3-year term, one 2-year term
U-32 School Director – one 3-year term



New Life for Old Glasses

Nearly 80 Vermonters will travel to Honduras in January to volunteer their skills and talents with the nonprofit Hands for Honduras. Participating ophthalmologists are soliciting no-longer-used glasses for children and adults, prescription or not. Those with glasses to donate should contact Carol Pierce at 223-7486 or carolcperce@gmail.com.

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births:

- Lucien Ward Chaloux, son, born on August 12, 2010, to Danielle Marie Chaloux and Dana Ryan Ward.
- Lacey Melina D'Aoust Bennett, daughter, born on September 27, 2010, to Shaline Kristen and Rubin Balch Bennett.

Marriages:

- Addison Soliday MacDonald and Brooke Erin Hauser, married September 5, 2010.
- Heather Elizaeth Munzberg and Thomas Quias Edson, married October 6, 2010.

Deaths:

- George Lewis Guy, died October 13, 2010, father of Louise G. Sylvain.
- Augustine Frank Pacini, died October 30, 2010, spouse of Alberta R. Pacini.
- Clifton (Peanut) Menard, died November 25, 2010, spouse of Anna Molloy Menard and uncle of Sylvia Menard Tosi.

LAND TRANSFERS

- Harry & Audrey Flint to Nora Miller, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Christopher & Colleen F. Kresco to Elanor & Simeon Chapin, 6.3 acres & dwelling, Powder Horn Glen Rd.
- J. Stuart & Robyn L. D. Hall to Craig & Bethann Behnke, 3.01 acres & dwelling, Towne Hill Rd.
- William C. & Carole B. Shouldice to Robert W. Ohlstein, 51.1 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Michele Leno to Justin R. Worth & Kacie W. Cordia-Worth, 1.33 acres & dwelling, Sanders Circle.
- Ann L. Kienzle to Christine Zahm, 13.2 acres & dwelling, life estate, Cutler Heights.
- Midfirst Bank to US Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev., foreclosure, .76 acres & dwelling, VT 14 S.
- Seth Gardner to Michelle E. Harper, 4.71 acres, Snow Hill Rd. & Stoney Corners Rd.
- Sari K. Wolf to Sari K. Wolf, Casey A. Wolf, Indigo T. Wolf, & Elizabeth D. Brood, 1.1 acres & dwelling, life estate, Lyle Young Rd.
- Kenneth & Melissa Stridsberg to Lida Kenyon, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Patrick Malone, Dennis Hawkins, Susan W. Hawkins & Hugh M. Hawkins to Jeffrey Biron, 10 acres, Quaker Rd.
- Duane Wells to Andrew J. & Michelle E. Harper, 3.0 acres, Captain Kidd Rd, Lot 5.
- Cross VT Trail Association to VT Housing & Conservation Board, 10.42 acres, conservation easement, US2, Lot 2.

- Cross VT Trail Association to Central VT Habitat for Humanity, 1 acre, US2, Lot 1.
- Diana F. Chace to Carlton M. Etnier, 160 acres & dwelling/farm buildings, Sparrow Farm Rd.
- Helen B. Witham to Helen B. Witham Revocable Trust, 20 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- Cross VT Trail Association to Town of East Montpelier, 10.42 acres, conservation easement, US2, Lot 2.
- David E. Rogers to Jaclyn Harman, boundary line adjustment, VT14 & Factory St.
- Kenneth W. & Wendy L. Bailey to Jim E. & Ashley Morris, 1.1 acres, commercial storage building, US2.
- Clifford J. & Abigail M. Hickman to Clifford J. Hickman, 1.1 acres & dwelling, US2.
- NorthCountry Federal Credit Union to Jeffrey LaQuerre, 10.5 acres & dwelling & commercial building, Mays Way.
- Kathleen S. Wilson to Ryan Wilson & Abigail Hickman, contingent remainder, 1 acre & dwelling, Barnes Rd.

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 26, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to spend up to \$3,500 for core testing in front of the pavement area of the bays at the Emergency Services Facility.
- to renew the Maintenance Agreement for another year with Cartographic Associates, Inc. for GIS services.
- to have the Town Administrator execute two Excess Weight permits for Mike Lowell Logging and Wood and Mike Brown.

September 9, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to approve the access permit for Diane Paulger.
- to approve the establishment of the East Montpelier Fire District #1.
- to appoint Craig Kleman to act as the town's delegate at the VLCT business meeting on October 7, 2010.

September 14, 2010

- Special Meeting with the Calais Selectboard concerning the Emergency Services Facility

Motions Approved:

- to approve the installation of a 40' x 72' concrete apron at a cost not to exceed \$25,000
- to approve re-doing the bay floor of the fire station including sanding the floor, repainting the red coat and yellow stripes and a coat of clear sealer at a cost not to exceed \$3000.
- to approve payment for the installation of an exterior light at the fire station.

October 18, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to approve the purchase of the Benton Conservation Park from Cross VT Trails Association at no cost to the town.
- to authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the necessary documents for the purchase of the Benton Conservation Park.
- to adopt the August 30, 2010, draft of the Land Use and Development Regulation as presented.
- to authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the final architectural contract for EMSLI.
- to appoint Bruce Johnson to preside over the Fire District meeting on October 20, 2010.

October 25, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.
- to approve Bereavement Leave of eight hours for Ron Metevier.
- to approve Christine Bookmyer-Baker as eligible for the Health Stipend and she will be paid retroactively at 24 hours a week since the date of employment.

November 1, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to accept minutes of July 26, 2010, October 18, 2010, October 25, 2010.
- to approve the adjustment of the Grand List to reflect the change in assessment of the Rowell's property value from \$251,400.00 to \$244,200.00.
- to approve the excess weight permit for Carl Johnson Trucking.
- to appoint Paul Erlbaum as Green Up Coordinator for 2011.

November 5, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.
- to hire Mike Garand as East Montpelier road foreman at a compensation level equivalent to his current position with the City of Montpelier.
- to appoint Bruce Johnson as a member of the East Montpelier Policy Committee.

November 11, 2010

- Motions Approved:
- Approved a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

November 22, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to accept the minutes of 11/1/10 as amended.

Town Weathervane (continued)

- to ask the Agency of Transportation to pursue the possibility of a sidewalk, preferably on the east side, on Bridge 71.

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 7, 2010

Items Discussed:

- Municipal Planning Grants, Town Survey Draft, Form-Based Training Report.
- Reports: Zoning Administrator's Report, Design Review Board's (DRB) Report.
- Approved the minutes of 9/16/10 as presented.

October 21, 2010

Items Discussed:

- VCC Act 250 Permit; Town Survey Update; Schedule presentation by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, the Planning and Zoning Department Budget, a joint meeting with the DRB.
- Approved a motion to accept the budget for FY10 as \$28,158.00.

November 4, 2010

Items Discussed:

- VCC operation needs a local land use permit for their commercial operation in an agricultural zone, a town survey, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission presentation, Vermont League of Cities and Towns Forum, Training Opportunities.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

July 20, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to appoint Jeff Cueto as acting chair.
- to approve the Seth Gardner subdivision plan as presented without any conditions.
- to approve the Hasland LLC sign as amended.

October 19, 2010

Motions Approved:

- Concerning a permit application from Jonathan Palmer, Section 3.10(A)(3) applies, DRB approval is not necessary: the permit process can be completed by the ZA.
- to recommend to the SB to refund the hearing fee.
- to accept minutes as amended from 7/20/10 and 9/21/10.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

October 6, 2010

Items Discussed:

- Act 146 (Challenges for Change) and Act 153 (Mergers and Virtual Mergers) and their implications for the district.

- Carole Freeman's job title has been changed to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Motions Approved:

- to approve the minutes of 9/15/10.
- to approve the co-curricular advisors.

October 20, 2010

Items Discussed:

- the formation of a study committee to consider the possibility of merging the U-32 Board with what may become a merged elementary schools board. No action taken.
- the FY11-12 budget draft timetable and how Act 146 and the Challenges for Change will effect the budgets.

Motions Approved:

- to accept the minutes of 10/6/10
- to accept the FY10 draft audit report with the understanding that changes will be made to the final version of the report with regard to the Central Office building.
- to accept board orders.
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contract issues.
- to accept the personnel recommendations by the administration.

November 3, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to accept the minutes of 10/20/10.
- to approve winter athletics coaches.
- to accept the board orders.
- to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiation issues.

East Montpelier Fire District #1

Steve Gilman, Chair

As the Fire District moves forward on its mission to negotiate the fair purchase of the Crystal Springs Water System, it has elected its new Prudential Committee. Members are Steve Gilman, Chair (1-yr term); Edward Burgess, District Clerk/Vice Chair (2-yr term); and Rubin Bennett, Collector/Member (3-yr term). Also elected was Loretta Bresette as Treasurer. We have drafted by-laws that have been reviewed by Attorney Paul Giuliani. We sincerely thank Mr. Giuliani for his gratis assistance. The final draft of by-laws will be mailed to all members of the Fire District for review prior to a vote at the annual meeting, scheduled for January 12, 2011. They will also be posted on our website at www.emfiredistrict.org.

Regular monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the East Montpelier Fire Department Community Room. All members of the Fire District are welcome, as is the general public. We appreciate any and all questions, concerns, and comments, which can be directed to any committee member or to me at 223-0803 (h) or 522-7894 (m).

Paulie's Recipe

Date Pudding—Ruth Butterfield

20 dates cut fine	1½ cups milk	pinch of salt
½ cup sugar	1½ tsp flour	2 eggs

Put chopped dates into a baking dish. Beat together the remaining ingredients and pour over the dates. Then cut up 12 walnut meats over top. Bake in slow oven (325°) 45 min. Top with Lemon Sauce.

Lemon Sauce—Maude Templeton

1 cup sugar	1 heaping Tbs corn starch
1 cup boiling water	1 lemon: juice and grated rind

Cook thoroughly and stir into the beaten white of one egg.

Paulie's comment.

figs or apricots could be substituted for the dates.

Re-Valuing Contiguous Parcels

Renée Carpenter, Putnam Clayton, Ross Hazel, East Montpelier Listers

With three active Listers in East Montpelier (since last Town Meeting Day), we have been working to reconcile how parcels in our database are linked to the tax maps (through Geographic Information System, or GIS, software). In the process we have discovered that not all contiguous parcels under the same ownership have been assessed equitably throughout the town. Some parcels had the additional site value removed and others did not.

State statues, under Act 68, require that all contiguous parcels under the same name be treated as one taxable parcel that receives one tax bill. Vermont Listers are also directed to value parcels at their “highest and best use.”

When we have contiguous parcels under one name, the parcel with the principal dwelling is valued with all the acreage. The other contiguous parcel or parcels under the same ownership become inactive in our NEMRC database, but remain on the tax map. Through this process we have been able to link our database with most properties in our GIS mapping software. There are 120 inactive parcels.

We need to value all contiguous parcels equitably across town. In the past, various members of the Selectboard have

insisted that the full value should be applied to all additional sites of contiguous parcels. On face value, this might make sense, but this is not the way it has been done in more than half the cases in the past, and it places a disproportionate tax liability on property owners throughout town.

We have surveyed the statewide listers’ list-serve and consulted with our District Advisor to determine the “best practice” statewide. In small residential subdivisions and contiguous properties under the same ownership, the first parcel will retain full site value; all other contiguous parcels will receive half value for additional sites. We value larger subdivisions by a different, more complex formula that takes into consideration development and carrying costs. Contiguous parcels under the same ownership used for business purposes will be given the full site value on each parcel.

To avoid the higher assessment of additional site value on contiguous parcels under the same ownership, property owners may legally combine their contiguous parcels under one deed. This must be completed and filed with the town before April 1 to apply to the next tax year.

Please call us at the Listers’ Office with any questions.

The Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund Committee: Looking for Your Ideas

The Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund was established to memorialize the community spirit Jean and Wes exemplified in East Montpelier.

Jean was a great role model—she had faith in people and their ability to make a difference. We remember her vision, generosity, service, and community building. As one of the founders of Rally Day and of the *Signpost*, Jean enlisted others to help make our town a place we could enjoy and of which we could be proud.

Following her death in 2004, friends and relatives contributed to a memorial fund to continue this spirit. The Jean Cate Community Fund was created to discover and support new ventures or programs that promised to make East Montpelier an even better place in which to live and raise families.

Jean’s husband Wes was the guiding light for the activities of the committee that administers the fund. His passing this fall extinguished that light, but the committee intends to continue the work of the fund and will endeavor to follow the philosophy so ably exemplified by Jean and Wes. Additional memorial contributions were received in Wes’ name and these have been added to what is now the “Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund.”

To guide the activities of the committee, the following mission statement has been developed: “The mission of the Fund is to provide encouragement and possible financial support to non-profit groups in East Montpelier that will provide long-term benefits through, among other activities, the promotion of neighborhood gatherings, encouragement of participation in town government, and the provision of education for adults and children so as to foster an increased sense of community, citizen responsibility and local pride.”

In the past, the Fund has supported such activities as Green Up Day lunches, daffodil plantings along the roadsides, Informatories (discussions about town issues), a celebration of town waters, and a town dinner and dance. The committee is always looking for groups or individuals who have an idea that needs support and welcomes suggestions and recommendations for the use of the fund. Please send your ideas to Barbara Ploof at 255 Barnes Rd. 05602 or theploofs@hotmail.com. Contributions to the fund may be sent to Dave Coburn at 139 Daggett Rd. 05651.

Paul Cate, David Coburn, Deborah Fillion, Dave Grundy, Elaine Manghi, Barbara Ploof, and Norma Raymond comprise the Fund committee.

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Andy & Carolyn Shapiro	Jerome & Katherine Vaughn
Brian & Betsy Bishop	Doris Washburn
Dorothy Conlon	in memory of Kathryn Cutler
Stuart & Annette Lawson	Judith Hinds

Kellogg-Hubbard Library News January-February 2011

Deep winter, and what better time to borrow a book, DVD, or CD, and enjoy them in the comfort of home? Or for a change of scene why not join us at the library for one of the exciting programs planned for January and February? Check the library link at www.emsignpost.com.

Changing Technology

Andrew Klein

When I came to Vermont in 1970 to teach photography at Goddard College in Plainfield, it was like opening a door to the past. The unpaved roads, the harsh winters, the small population all held a charm that was new and exciting. The hard-scrabble dairy, hill farms of the old days were still here. Most were barely holding their own against the economic reality of the farming industry that was going large-scale and high-tech. I met and lived among people who had worked the land for generations. Self-reliant, independent, and hard-working. Politically Republican. Seemingly at odds with my new-age liberalism, but with a kind of conservatism as to be almost progressive in its philosophy.

I felt that by coming here I had finally broken through the artificiality of the world that I had grown up in and at last found a place that was grounded in reality and alive; where your life and your work were one and the same. I painted houses. Drove a school bus. Cut my own firewood. Worked as a carpenter. There was an almost frontier quality to living here. It was if we were all engaged in a struggle against the still untamed wildness of this place. Helping each other out of the snow banks in the winter or working with neighbors to get their hay into the barn were all part of what it meant to live in this community. I arrived here just as that way of life was coming to an end, replaced by the forces of a change that was both technical and social.

When my teaching at Goddard ended I started a photography business in Montpelier. The service that I offered was for custom processing and printing. I worked for clients who wanted high-quality, mainly black and white, prints of their work. I also did a range of photography services such as weddings, copy work, portfolios and portraits. The emphasis of my work was quality not speed. I took pride in the craftsmanship of my work.

During this time a revolution was starting to take place in the world of photography. Slowly at first, but ever accelerating, we were approaching a dramatic technological watershed. The world of digital image making was upon us. Even though I knew that a change was coming soon, I was still surprised at how quickly it forced major changes in my business. At first there was a gradual drop off in the demand for my custom services. Clients who used to rely on me for copy work were

soon scanning their work themselves into a digital file with no need for my processing and printing. Though I felt there was a lowering of the standard of quality of the work, most of my clients felt the prints they produced were adequate for their needs. More and more customers asked for digital files of the work that I was producing for them. There was a diminished demand for my custom processing.

Finally I had to face the reality of this new world. Though I adapted to these changes to some extent, working on a computer to process the images had no charm for me and left me cold. It all started to seem like a dumbing-down of the quality and feel of the work. So after 30 years of running my business out of an office in Montpelier, I closed my office and moved my workspace back to my home in East Montpelier. I will still offer my services to the people who want it, though the scale of my operations will be reduced. And yes, I will be offering digital photographic services that I am able to do now that I'm wired to the internet at my home.

There is some irony in the fact that now my business and way of life are changing because of the same forces, in a way, that ended the era of the small family farm that I saw when I first came to Vermont. And the effect the digital revolution is having is not just limited to my business. In the movie, music, and print material industries, people are all struggling to adapt and to survive. You don't have to look any further than downtown Montpelier to see this happening. It remains to be seen whether these changes are for the better or not.

The Adamant Co-op 1313 Haggett Rd Adamant, VT
Vermont's oldest Co-op - an old time country store & Post Office

- Ice Cream, Lunch Items
- Great Selection of wines
- Basic Grocery needs
- Frozen Seafood
- Lovely places to picnic
- Wi-Fi access
- Art studio upstairs



802-223-5760
www.adamantcoop.org

facebook: Adamant Village

TEL. (802) 223-7191
NIGHTS (802) 229-2728
CELL (802) 249-8402



BLAKE – LOSO

Finest in North Carolina Used Cars

And Trucks

Rt. 14, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651
DEDICATED SALES & SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS
A SPECIALTY



PROPANE
DELIVERY,
SALES &
SERVICE

Locally Owned & Operated
Call us for your Propane Needs

Route 14, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651
Ph: 802-223-0126 * Cell: 802-793-4013



Propane Delivery * Air Conditioning * Installation * Service

Casey J. Northrup

Owner, ASE Master Certified

KC's Performance Auto Care

- Auto Repair
- Used Cars
- Performance Parts
- Accessories

4423 US Route 2
E Montpelier, VT 05651

Phone/Fax
802-224-7170

kcsautovt@yahoo.com

Kevin E. Hudson

(802) 223-6663
Pager: 826-5313

2235 Brazier Road
Montpelier, VT 05062

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Trucking: Slate, Gravel, Topsoil, Firewood
Excavation, Loader work, Driveway repair
Ditching, Culverts, Water lines, Septic lines
Septic Tank Risers, Landscaping, Rototilling
Brush hogging, Snowplowing/Sanding, Fences

- Free Estimates
- Fully Insured
- Quality Work

Happy Holidays Let It Snow

We ship
anywhere

"A quality
family farm
shop"

802-223-
5757



Vermont
handicrafts

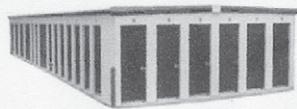
Gifts

Vermont
cheese

Mail-order
maple products

1 mile north of E. Montpelier village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

K & A LEASING



44 Storage Units
Assorted Sizes
5 x 5 to 10 x 30

Call us for your storage needs

802-224-7170

Locally owned & operated on Rt. 2 in E. Montpelier



Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Quality Work

Patrick McCoy
249-3003

P.W. McCoy Corp
964 Bliss Road
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

- ✓ **Driveways:** Installing New or Resurfacing (Slate and Gravel); Ditching and Culvert Work; Plowing
- ✓ **Lawns:** Grading, Seeding and Mulching for New or Existing Sites
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

802-223-2433
Cell 802-249-2462
Fax 802-223-1158



Gallery of Cabinets, Inc

Your Cabinet & Counter Solution Since 1979

Lawrie Morrison
Owner Designer

1678 US Route 2
E. Montpelier, VT 05651
Email Gofc@Comcast.Net

Maple Syrup • Vermont Products • Country Store
Corporate Gifts • Woodshed Theatre • Folk Art



MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Thanks a lot for your continued support!

1168 COUNTY ROAD, MONTPELIER, VT 05602
1-800-242-2740 • WWW.MORSEFARM.COM

Pitz's House Painting

Since 1986

Free Estimates
Local References
Fast, Neat, Friendly



Pitz Quattrone
(802) 229-4952
pitzdidg@yahoo.com

East Montpelier *Signpost*
 PO Box 184
 East Montpelier, Vermont 05651
 Return Service Requested

PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 43
 Barre, VT

www.emsignpost.com

- Up-to-date calendar listings
- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town

Volume XXI—Number Three
 January/February 2011

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, January 20**—last day to file petitions signed by a least 5% of voters (125) for articles for Town and School Meeting Warnings
- Monday, January 24**—last day to file nominating petitions for town and school offices to be voted on by Australian Ballot (1% or 30 signatures)
- Sunday, January 30**—last day to post Warnings and notice of Town and School Meetings
- Wednesday, February 9**—first day town ballots available for Early/Absentee Voter voting from Town Clerk
- Wednesday, February 23**—last day (by 5 pm) for Town Clerk to receive requests for addition to the checklist
- Thursday, February 24**—Town and School Meeting Warnings posted in newspaper if Town Report not distributed by February 19.
- Saturday, February 26**—Town Forum (tentative date)
- Tuesday, March 1**—**TOWN MEETING**
- Thursday, April 1**—last day to register dogs with up-to-date rabies vaccination
- Monday, May 16, by 5 pm**—2nd installment of property taxes due

EVENTS

Community Sing-along

- Sun., Jan. 16, 5–8 p.m.** Old Meeting House Parish House. Potluck 5–6, singing 6–8. Bring your instruments.
- Sun., Feb. 20, 5–8 p.m.** Old Meeting House Parish House. Potluck 5–6, singing 6–8. Bring your instruments.

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: www.emsignpost.com
 East Montpelier announcements welcome.
 To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.

It’s a great way to know what is happening in town.

Deadline for Next Issue: January 20, 2011, to Edie Miller: 229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	Templeton Rd. Fire Station
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School