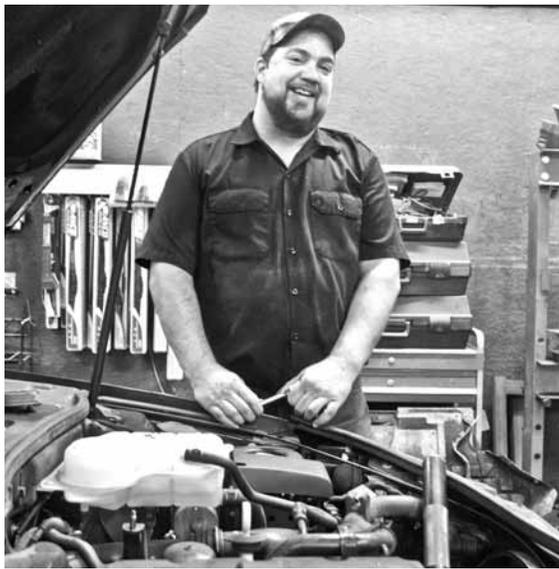


# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXII—Number Three

January/February 2012



TERRY J. ALLEN

## Casey Northrup: Keeps EM Running

by Michelle McFadden

Casey Northrup is a local treasure: an honest and extremely hard-working mechanic who has built his car and truck business from scratch in a matter of years. His dirt parking lot is filled with all manner of colorful vehicles and is located not far from the East Montpelier village on Route 2 toward Plainfield. Casey's two businesses, owned with his wife, Amanda, are KC's Performance Auto Care, Inc. and K&A

*Continued on page 10*

## Pitz and Amy: Intentional Vermonters

by Lori Martin Buley



Amy, Tillie, and Pitz

TERRY J. ALLEN

When Pitz Quattrone and Amy Torchia provide directions to their house, a typical response is, "Isn't that the swamp side of Sodom Pond Road?" Nonetheless, Pitz, Amy, and their daughter, Tillie, are right where they want to be. They are intentional Vermonters, raised elsewhere and drawn to Vermont thanks to Amy's memories of childhood camping trips that convinced her early on that she wanted to live in Vermont one day. Vacationing here over several years in the 1990s with Amy was enough to convince Pitz too. They visited different towns each year and in 1998, things fell in place for them to move to East Montpelier, somewhat earlier than they had expected.

As a newcomer, Amy describes spending a warm, comfortable winter, hibernating inside on Templeton Road and caring for then 8-month old Tillie. She had put aside her career as a folk musician with the duo "Amy and Jennie" several months earlier and was enjoying maternity leave with her daughter. That first winter, Pitz had to travel to fulfill prior commitments to play and exhibit his hand-crafted didgeridoos. [The didgeridoo is a wind instrument created by the indigenous people of northern Australia between 40,000 and 100,000 years ago that is still in widespread usage today.]

The following year, Amy and Pitz became Adamant villagers; they purchased a comfy log house on Haggett Road, joined the Adamant Co-op, and

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## Top of the Signpost

by John Hall

I feel like I'm treading on hallowed ground or rather hallowed space as I share a few of my thoughts.

This column was written for many years by Jean Cate, publisher of the *Signpost*. It was her suggestion, with the full support of her husband, Wes, to publish a newspaper for all townspeople in East Montpelier, fostering what she called community-ism.

Jean expressed that idea at a public forum in February of 1988. I had the privilege of being there as chair of the Planning Commission. Many ideas were expressed that evening, later shaping what East Montpelier is today—an informed, rural agricultural community, which includes an extraordinary recreational trail system.

Jean wrote the "Top of the *Signpost*" in the first issue (Sept/Oct of 1990) and continued until her last entry in the March/April issue of 2004. Therefore in writing this, I give pause and tribute to Jean. The *Signpost* has accomplished her dream, her goal—creating community-ism.

—John S. Hall has served EM well for many years as selectboard member, planning commissioner, and in other roles.

### Serve Your Community Speak to the Voters in the Signpost

At our Town and School Meetings on Tuesday, March 6, we will elect several town officers, all of whom are instrumental in keeping East Montpelier municipal and school government running smoothly. Please note below the positions we will elect this year and think about getting involved to serve your town. Nominating petitions must be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than January 30, 2012.

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 Barbara Ploof no later than Friday, January 27, 2012, at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 255 Barnes Road, 05602. You may call 223-6934 if you have questions. Statements will appear in the next issue of the *Signpost* prior to Town Meeting.

- Town Moderator: one 1-year term
- School District Moderator: one 1-year term
- Town Clerk: one 3-year term
- Town Treasurer: one 3-year term
- Selectboard: one 3-year term; one 2-year term
- Lister: one 3-year term
- Auditor: one 3-year term
- Trustees of Public Funds: one 3-year term; one 2-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
- Cemetery Commissioner: one 5-year term
- Planning Commissioners: three 3-year terms
- Elementary School Directors: one 3-year term; one 2-year term

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills

by Marion Anastasia, Principal, EMES

There has been a lot of discussion about 21st Century Learning Skills in the education field; but what does that mean, exactly? Leaders in the field explain that in order to thrive in today's world, students need to be competent in collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving.

So, how is that different from what's happening now?

The shift is from "knowing" specific content in subject areas, to habitually employing critical thinking in order to "find out things." A 21st Century curriculum moves toward interdisciplinary, project-based, and research-driven learning. Curricular themes will expand to include also global awareness, finance, economics, business, entrepreneurship, civics, health, and the environment. Because today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content, students will have to pay attention to life and career skills in a global society.

What about the learning environment?

Preparing students for success in the 21st century also requires changes in the physical learning environment. Space must allow for student experimentation, exploration, and peer interactions. Rather than a single classroom serving as the individual unit, a learning community extends to involve several teachers and groups of students working and learning together in collaborative spaces. Also, schools should be environmentally friendly, energy efficient, and "green." Schools should connect with the community to provide learning opportunities for all through the library, media center, and parent information rooms.

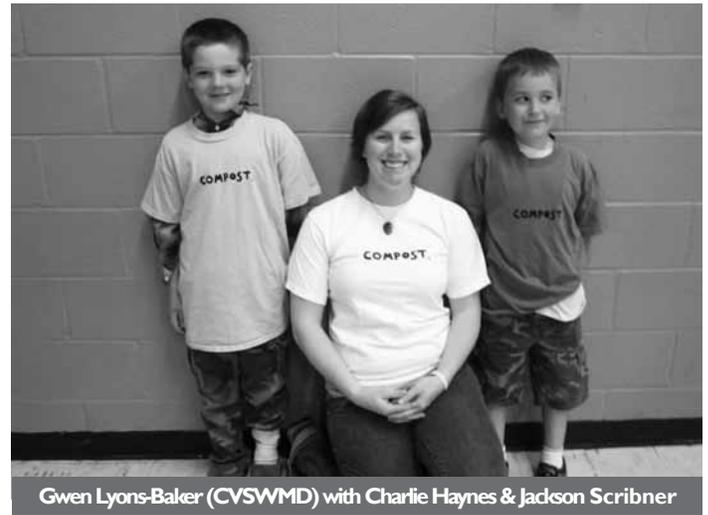
"It is our challenge to match the needs of our learners to a world that is changing with great rapidity. To meet this challenge, we need to become strategic learners ourselves by deliberately expanding our perspectives and updating our approaches" (Jacobs, 2010). Learn more about 21st Century Learning Skills on the East Montpelier Elementary School website, News and Info section at [www.emontpelierschool.org](http://www.emontpelierschool.org).



JANET MACLEOD

## Local Foodshelf

The foodshelf at the Old Brick Church is open to residents of East Montpelier and Calais on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 4–7 p.m. As demand for food has increased steadily during the past several months, our shelves continually need re-stocking! Canned goods, particularly soup, pasta sauce, and tuna, are always welcome, as well as dry goods and paper products.



Gwen Lyons-Baker (CVSWMD) with Charlie Haynes & Jackson Scribner

## East Montpelier Collaborates with Solid Waste District

by Marian Miller, CVSWMD Outreach Coordinator

East Montpelier is a long-term member of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD). The town and the district partnered in several areas in 2011.

CVSWMD rolled out its School Zero Waste (SZW) Program, which helps schools reduce waste and identify cost efficiencies, at EMES this year. To help defray costs, EMES also received a \$300 SZW grant from CVSWMD to purchase reusable trays for the cafeteria so it can cease using disposable ones, thereby reducing waste and saving money.

EMES has participated in CVSWMD's highly successful School Composting Program, now part of the SZW Program, since 2005 and is one of 28 public schools involved—100% of schools in the district! This year, EMES received the Outstanding Student Participation award to recognize the work of students in diverting approximately 39.15 tons (78,280 lbs) of food scraps since joining and an estimated 6.49 tons in 2011 alone. Now that's success!

East Montpelier received a \$229 grant to help cover its waste disposal costs on Green Up Day. CVSWMD also awarded \$12,530 in grant money to residents and businesses of eight member towns, including East Montpelier, to help dispose of waste resulting from this year's historic floods. To learn more, contact CVSWMD at 229-9383 or [www.cvswwmd.org](http://www.cvswwmd.org)

Financial donations are always greatly appreciated and will be used to buy food from the Vermont Foodbank. If you are interest in assembling a group to volunteer a few hours at the food shelf for food credit, please call the church at 223-1232 for more info. Food can be left at the church from 9–5 weekdays, or in a designated drop-off box at Dudley's. Thank you in advance for supporting those less fortunate in our community!

—Mark McEathron, Pastor, Old Brick Church

## Four Corners Schoolhouse News

The Four Corners Schoolhouse board is seeking ways to use its building and the energy of its board to support local food growers in East Montpelier while benefiting all East Montpelier residents. To that end, we have two projects in mind. The first is to compile a list of all food producers in East Montpelier with contact info. The second is to gather everyone together to give this idea direction.

We will be hosting a meeting at the Four Corners Schoolhouse on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. If



Sharing carols and Christmas cookies at the Schoolhouse

you produce any food product to sell—meat, vegetables, dairy, eggs, maple syrup, etc.—and would like to be included in this planning process and on the list we are compiling, please email Rachael Grossman at: [garlicmountain@gmail.com](mailto:garlicmountain@gmail.com) or call her at 223-3177. You may also contact anyone else on

the Four Corners Schoolhouse Board. A list of board members may be found at the organization's link on the *Signpost* home page. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

— Rachael Grossman

### *Pitz & Amy (continued from page 1)*

settled in. Several years later, they began looking for the perfect spot to build a new house. They found it on a small rise next to Sodom Pond. Having lived in Adamant, they knew that black-flies and mosquitoes can be a concern, so Pitz shed his shirt and walked the building lot for an hour or so in mid-July to directly measure the biting-insect population. He found that a persistent breeze kept the bugs out over the pond and away from their future homesite; it was a go. They purchased the lot, sold their home, and lived onsite in a camper for several months while Pitz supervised the construction of their new house. The whole family pitched in for some projects, such as placing bricks and stones for the masonry heater in the center of the house. They were able to move into the partially finished house in time for Thanksgiving 2008, just in the nick of time according to Amy (a camper feels pretty cramped after several months). They plan to finish up the details by this time next year, but are thrilled with their spacious, warm, new home.

You've likely seen this musical family, together and individually, since they are consistent artistic contributors in East Montpelier and surrounding communities. Pitz is the most active; he half-jokingly asserts that he aims to become a "didgeridoo rock star." To that end, he has performed solo and with his band, Pitz Quattrone & The Earthman Band, at local elementary schools (EMES, Calais ES, Rumney ES, Montpelier), First Night, Rhino Fest (Plainfield), Goddard College, Barnstock (Maple Corner), Adamant Black Fly Fest, Montpelier Unitarian Church, and on the radio at WNCS, WGDR, and VPR. Amy helped create and coordinate *Singing Together*, a musical theater tribute to the life, music, and messages of Pete Seeger, last October. She strongly believes that people singing together can change the world, and brings that passion to East Montpelier by helping to organize ongoing community sing-alongs. Amy has also per-

formed backup singing on recordings for other area musicians and has contributed songs at fundraising concerts for organizations that support her interests. As a family, the Quattrone/Torchias have performed several times on the EMES stage for a variety of events.

Pitz and Amy are both multitalented; each also maintains a more traditional career. Pitz paints houses when his schedule allows. He has an extensive list of happy customers as references for his work—many of whom are likely to be your friends and neighbors. Amy has had a long career as a children's advocate in the anti-domestic violence and anti-sexual violence movements, with experience working in a domestic violence shelter and for the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She now works for that organization as a contractor, conducting training in our state and elsewhere in the U.S., and participating in state-level policy discussions here in Vermont. Their daughter Tillie is a hardworking 8th grader who plays the baritone saxophone and competes with the U-32 girls soccer team. She has also been a part of the Chandler Youth Musicals the past two summers.

Both Pitz and Amy now spend some time outside of Vermont pursuing their careers. Pitz will be in Senegal when this issue of the *Signpost* is published. He will be traveling with Arts Are Essential, recording with world-famous Senegalese musicians, and teaching children how to build and play didgeridoos. Amy will have just returned from a trip to Georgia to conduct children's advocacy training for shelter workers. These trips offer opportunities to advance their careers and broaden their life experience, but ultimately serve to remind them why they have chosen to call Vermont, specifically Adamant village in East Montpelier, home.

—Lori Martin Buley lives at Screamin' Ridge Farm on Dillon Road with husband, Joe, and daughters, Olivia, Annik and, on school breaks, Nikita.



MARY AZARIAN

## Willem Lange: A Bard in Our Midst

by Rhoda Chickering

Willem Lange is a retired building contractor and master storyteller who moved to East Montpelier five years ago. You have perhaps heard him at the Vermont Historical Society, at First Night,

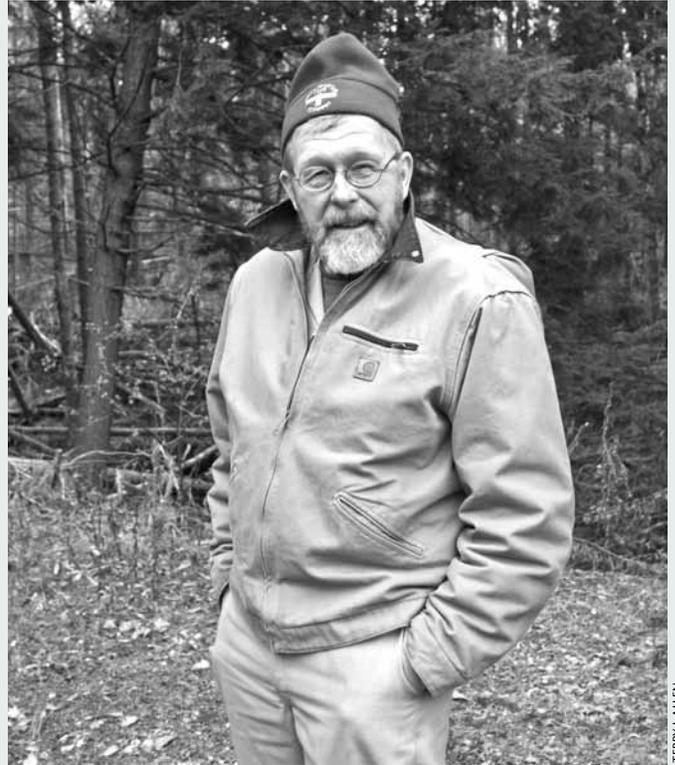
at our own Rally Day, or maybe caught a glimpse of him as he judged pies at the Adamant Black Fly Festival.

Will contributes regular commentary on Vermont Public Radio, hosts “Windows to the Wild” on New Hampshire Public Television, and writes a weekly column for the *Times Argus*. He is the author of eight books. The most recent, *A Dream of Dragons*, is a true story, a saga, written in blank verse and beautifully illustrated by nationally known Calais artist Mary Azarian. It is a short but powerful tale of Olav and his son, Martin, as told to Willem 55 years ago by Martin’s widow.

Here’s how the story begins. If you’re intrigued and want to read the book, it’s available locally at Bear Pond Books.

*“Olav—son of Erik Bjornsson—seventeen, swung his father’s scythe and dreamed:*

*The singing scythe Grandfather Bjorn had made  
and honed each time he found a bit of shade  
and passed on to his oldest son*



TERRY J. ALLEN

*to pass until there were no longer sons—  
the scythe hissed like the grains of sand on the beach  
that hiss when a wave falls back and the bubbles burst.  
The wind that whispered through the grain  
and dried the sweat upon his arms and chest  
bore from the west the scent of salt  
and the distant rumble of the Norwegian Sea.”*

—Rhoda Chickering lives on Boulder Ridge Rd with her husband, Rob.

## Nature-Inspired Poems by EMES Students



TERRY J. ALLEN

**Chipmunk** by Sophia Heinz  
**Chipmunk in a tree**  
**In, out, in out, in, out. It**  
**ran away in fright**

**After the Fall Hike** by Julia Oliver

**From the road it looks like a bump**  
**It’s really called Camel’s Hump**  
**The sunshine on my shoulder**  
**make me feel more bolder**  
**as I hike up the mountain**  
**I hear people shoutin’**  
**Here we are at the top!**  
**I almost want to hop.**  
**I look down and see**  
**All the trees below me!**

**Millipede** by Claire Thompson

**Millipede curled up**  
**A miniscule black spiral**  
**huddled up in fear**

**Millipede** by Josh Ehret

**Millipede in a trap**  
**Shiny with lots of legs**  
**Many curled up legs**

**Cricket** by Jenna Mekkelsen

**Cricket has six legs**  
**The spider got trapped and scared**  
**Cricket jumps up high**

**Spider** by Holly McEathron, Jacob Ehret and Camille Cheney

**Spider got captured**  
**The spider got trapped and scared**  
**The small, cool spider**

## 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:** Bruce Johnson  
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

**Zoning Administrator:** Dina Bookmyer-Baker  
eastmontza@comcast.net

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

**Fire Permits:** EMFD 225-6247

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

**2nd Constable:** Paul Haynes 223-1651

**Listers:** Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton, Ross Hazel  
223-3313 x206, eastmontlstr@comcast.net

**Health Officer:** Dave Grundy 476-4300

**Service Officer:** Rachael Grossman  
223-3177

### Selectboard

Bruce Johnson, Chair  
savagel@pshift.com

Carl Etnier	Peter Hill
Seth Gardner	Casey Northrup

### Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
rcurtis841@comcast.net

### U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley gburley@u32.org  
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair  
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Andrea Colnes	Trevor Lewis
Stephen Looke	Flor Diaz Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

## Town Weathervane

### MILESTONES

#### Births:

- Hunter Stephen Sleeper, son, born on September 13, 2011, to Amanda Jo Boyce & Matthew John Sleeper.
- Jack Van Den Berg, son, born on November 5, 2011, to Laura Jill Stone & Nicholas Roger Van Den Berg.

#### Marriages:

- Danielle Leila Sargent and Christopher Allen Duprey, October 9, 2011.
- Andrea Lynne Colnes and John Joseph Ryan, October 9, 2011.

#### Deaths:

- Valarie Lee (Basile) Smith, died September 30, 2011, spouse of William Smith, mother of Virginia (Basile) Breer, grandmother to Alicia & Joseph Breer.
- Joan Margaret Fitch, died October 21, 2011, spouse of Larry Fitch, mother of Nicole & Sean.
- Jennifer Ann Blais, died October 27, 2011, spouse of Gary Blais, daughter of Lida Kenyon, sister of Janet Coffey & Linda Carey.

#### Property Transfers:

- Michael & Denise Sullivan to Craig & Sheila Palmer, 5.59 acres & dwelling, VT14S.
- Albert D. & Patricia D. Belden to Dorothy Cool, mobile home & storage shed only, Mugford Rd.
- VT River Conservancy Inc. to VT Snow Trails Conservancy/Charitable Trust, 0.10 acre, open land, Coburn Rd.
- Kenneth W. & Wendy L. Bailey to Kevin G. Bailey, 1.58 acre, Lot 3, US2.
- Raymond L. & Jody W. Brown to Raymond L. Brown Trust, 0.77 acre & dwelling, County Rd.
- Donald G. & Barbara G. Cote to Christopher G. Wong, 1.72 acres & commercial rentals, US2.
- Jared C. Lamere & Anne M. Skrocki to Jared C. & Anne M. Lamere (name change), 3.49 acres & dwelling, Johnson Rd.
- Allen L. Goodine & Nancy P. McHugo to Jacques Gourlet, 6.1 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- Roger L. & Linda L. Hall to Roger L. & Linda L. Hall, Suellen Royea, Darrin S. Hall, Kevin J. Hall, and Michelle Morse, 1.3 acres & dwelling, life estate, Cummings Rd.
- Deborah Davidson to Geneva L. Wilkin & Daniel R. Mercier, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Harold Edmunds to Peter Edward Carriere & Jenny M. Coburn, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.

### EAST MONTPELIER SCHOOL BOARD

#### October 9, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to table approval of the contract for Michael Levine pending approval from Central Office and to authorize Rubin Bennett to sign his contract once approved by Central Office.
- to accept the contract for Truex Cullins as presented, in the amount of \$37,300.
- to approve the Audit Report for FY11 report as presented.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

#### October 20, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to give approval to Renee Carpenter, representative for North Montpelier Village and Friends, to apply for a MPG 2012 grant application.

#### November 3, 2011

- Board heard comments on proposed revisions to the sign regulations affecting the Land Use and Development Regulations adopted by the town Jan. 6, 2009, and amended Oct. 18, 2010.

Motions Passed:

- to clarify Section 3.15 as follows: change (B)(2), (B)(4) and (B)(5)(b) from "wall signs" to "wall signs (lettering and/or graphics)" in all cases.
- to add to (B)(2): "In circumstances where there are multiple businesses on a single lot, each business may have a sign on a common, free-standing structure not to exceed the size allowed in the district." (These changes may be viewed at [www.emsignpost.org](http://www.emsignpost.org).)
- to approve \$23,538 for 2012-13 for the Planning and Zoning Dept. budget.

### U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

#### September 21, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve the minutes of the 9/7/11 school board meeting.
- to approve the appointment of Jody Dwire as administrative assistant.
- to approve board orders.
- to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue.

#### October 19, 2011

Motions Passed:

- to approve the minutes of the 10/5/11 School Board meeting.
- to accept the resignations of food services employee Jessica Massey and 0.4 business teacher Ed Dapples.
- to approve board orders.

*Continued on page 7*

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## Bruce Johnson Now Full-Time Town Administrator

by Carl Etnier, Seth Gardner, Peter Hill, Casey Northrup



The East Montpelier Selectboard is pleased to announce that Bruce Johnson has been hired as full-time Town Administrator. Bruce took on the role as Interim Town Administrator after Craig Kleman left the position in March. We initially appointed Bruce to the interim position for six months to see how well it would work.

Bruce is also chair of the Selectboard. Frankly, some of us had reservations about the chair of the Selectboard serving as the town administrator, because we know that good ideas can often be improved through dialogue, and we liked the idea of the Selectboard chair and the administrator considering issues together from different angles. Bruce's excellent performance in both positions has dispelled any doubts.

As Interim Town Administrator, Bruce smoothly handled the town's affairs and kept the Selectboard informed about the issues before the town. We were particularly impressed with his hard work and meticulous handling of the detailed paperwork for FEMA after this year's storm damage.

In September, we re-appointed him to the interim position. On November 21, we removed "interim" from his title and made the position full-time, which better reflects the actual hours Bruce has devoted to the job.

Of course, Bruce recused himself from this letter and all other Selectboard decisions with regard to his new position.

—The authors comprise the remainder of the EM Selectboard.

## 2012 Legislative Session Begins January 3

by Tony Klein, EM Representative



Recovery from Hurricane Irene will be at the forefront of this year's legislative session. Helping citizens, towns, communities, and the state pay for the cost of reconstruction will be the number one priority of this

session. When you add the unknown cost of the recovery to the already-expected \$80 million shortfall in this year's budget, it is easy to see that this will be a very difficult session. In addition is the fact that the federal government will reduce their previous level of support for many of our programs that provide critical help to the most vulnerable Vermonters. We must balance the need to recover from the storm and protect our neediest citizens with making sure that we continue to improve our economy and keep Vermonters working. There will be no easy solutions.

Other top priorities will include legislative redistricting, permanently locating the 1,800 displaced Waterbury state employees, and adopting the state comprehensive energy plan and permit reform, just to name a few. I believe that this could be one of the most challenging sessions the state has seen in decades. I also believe that we will meet all these challenges and adjourn for the year in a timely manner.

If you have questions, concerns, issues, ideas, suggestions, or need help with any aspect of state government, please contact me. I am easily reached on my cell phone at 802-793-6032 or e-mail at [twk@tonyklein.com](mailto:twk@tonyklein.com). I also encourage everyone to visit the State House when the legislature is in session.

—Tony Klein has been EM's representative in the State Legislature since 2002. He lives on Powder Horn Glen Road with his wife Jennifer Boyer.

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*Weathervane (continued from page 6)*

### Wednesday, November 2, 2011

#### Motions Passed:

- to approve, with edits, the minutes of the 10/19/11 School Board meeting and the 10/26/11 Special School Board meeting.
- to accept the FY11 Draft Audit Report.
- to approve the administration recommendations with regard to the matters discussed in two student hearings.



## Over the River and Through the Woods

by Anne Ormsbee, East Montpelier Historical Society

It snowed over a foot on Sunday, April 19, 1925. Charles Ormsbee did not get home until late, having left his car at the foot of Corrigan Hill; he had to borrow chains to get it home. Meantime, his mother transported daughter Ethel by horse and buggy to West Berlin where Ethel was a teacher. "It stormed hard all the way down. I saw where cars had been in the ditch." Early car owners usually put their cars up between November and May, and a late winter snow storm meant using traditional methods of travel or leaving the car at the foot of a hill.

The gasoline engine had led to major changes in mobility in the early decades of the 20th century. *Across the Onion* tells us that Lawson Cummings, with the first Stanley Steamer in town, and Dr. Frank Wheeler were both licensed drivers in 1907. By the 1920s autos and trucks were more widely used, although horses were still the mainstay for travel and on the farm.

One of East Montpelier's early auto enthusiasts was Charles Dudley (1855–1932). He farmed on the corner of the present Route 2 and 14 in the village and was one of the early mail carriers (by horse and cart). He conducted local singing schools as well as the music conventions held at the Town Hall.

In the Dudley family collection is a picture of the Munsey Auto Tour when it stopped in Montpelier in 1910. One can imagine how such a caravan of automobiles would excite interest in the new method of travel. While daughter Ella Dudley McKnight's photo albums show sugaring and corn harvesting being done with horses in 1917 and later, there are many photos of family outings by car to Joe's Pond, Woodbury Lake, and Lake Willoughby, as well as travel with the Lewis Coburns and Lyle Youngs to Quebec and the White Mountains. Ella's photos show the travelers wearing hats and long sleeved "dusters," like lab coats, over their clothing to protect themselves from road dust in the open cars.

As we know, the popularity of auto travel did not wane. The town voted to plow roads instead of rolling them and, in 1938, to sand the roads, enabling winter travel. Eventually, the automobile supplanted horse and wagon, trains, and buses.

By the way, does anyone know the location of Corrigan Hill?



### Dolls... More than Toys for Girls!

The Historical Society display at the Town Offices is about dolls and doll motifs. There are all kinds of dolls: ethnic ones, door stoppers, Campbell Kids, a lamp doll, pillow doll, boudoir dolls, Bobbsey Twin dolls, Blue Bonnet dolls. Anne Ormsbee, who sets up the displays with her husband Conrad says, "My favorite is 'Baby Bea,' a doll made by Mirren Barrie depicting a child of Nieuw Amsterdam (colonial Dutch name of New York). She is dressed in circa-1640 garb with a "pudding" around her waist, so that if she should tumble, the roll of fabric will soften her fall." Come and see this wonderful collection of doll figures the Ormsbees have gathered.

### Paulie's Recipe

#### Spinach and Bacon

Line a baking dish with thin slices of bacon and fill with chopped, cooked spinach, mixed with equal parts bread-crumbs. Add 3 well-beaten eggs, pepper, salt and ½ cup milk or cream. Lay bacon slices over the top of the dish and bake until the bacon is crisp.

Paulie's comments: I would partially cook the bacon before lining casserole dish to make it less greasy. Bake at 350° until an inserted knife comes out clean, about 30 minutes or until the bacon is crispy. This is a good side dish with a special dinner.

—Community Cook Book of Friendly Circle, No. Montpelier

### Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:  
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**Jerome/Katherine Vaughan,  
Catherine Rader/Ken Hertz,  
Florence Young, Doris Washburn**

## Help East Montpelier Plan Energy Goals for the Next 20+ Years

— by Carl Etnier and Dave Grundy

When today's kindergarteners are in their mid-twenties, what will East Montpelier's energy picture look like? Will most of our buildings be snug, comfortable, well-insulated, and heated with the sun, local wood, and other renewable sources? If so, how will we get from here to there?

The Energy Committee and the Planning Commission would like your help in addressing these and other questions about our energy future on Saturday, January 21. We'll meet 1:00–4:30 p.m. in the East Montpelier Elementary School gym for hopeful brainstorming and celebratory planning. The results will help feed into the revised Town Plan and provide guidance for the town over the next decades.

With the help of Transition Town Montpelier, we'll use an internationally vetted model that emphasizes making the description of the future seem like a travel brochure for some exotic destination—just reading it makes you eager to go there.

Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact us at (Carl) 223-2564 or (Dave) 476-4300.

### China Exchange This Summer

For two weeks this summer our communities will host 30 students from China. These students will be housed in pairs with local families. They will spend daytime hours "at school" with a group of our local students, and evenings and weekends with their host families. This will be the second summer exchange coordinated locally by Community Connections. Last July six EM families hosted visiting kids and said it an incredible experience! If you are interested in having two students become part of your family for two weeks, contact Ginny Burley or Bill Merrylees at Community Connections, 223-3456.

### Join the Front Porch Forum Online Community Exchange

The EM Selectboard has just made Front Porch Forum available to all residents. FPF is an online neighborhood forum where clearly identified nearby neighbors share postings about all sorts of topics. You can post about lost pets, block parties, helping neighbors, borrowing/buying/selling/giving away items, and much more. It's free to users! Our neighbors in Calais and Middlesex report they are very happy with the service.

To join, sign up at [FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com). If you're registering for the East Montpelier group, be sure to list East Montpelier in the "City" blank, no matter how your mail is addressed. More information at [FrontPorchForum.com/faq](http://FrontPorchForum.com/faq).



### EMES: What Does the Future Hold?

On November 16 the Facilities Committee held a well-attended forum at the elementary school. The building needs major improvements to address current code violations and to adapt the learning environment to help our students prepare for 21st century demands. The next Community Forum is on January 23, so mark your calendar and watch for details.

The November evening included a brief history of the EMES facility and a summary of the process we are using over the next few months to encourage community input. A panel of teachers and staff of EMES talked about day-to-day life in the building, and the architectural firm Truex Cullins explained the educational specifications, the space needs, and design process. There was a lively audience discussion with thoughtful questions and comments that will help guide the design and scope as we move forward. This event was taped by ORCA Media and the video can be watched online anytime at: <http://www.orca-media.net/category:EastMontpelierElementarySchool>.

The Facilities Committee will continue to work with Flywheel Communications as a neutral voice to make sure we are hearing from the community at-large. We will also continue our work with the architects and school educators to make sure any proposal is long-term and is based on a vision for the next 25 years.

What do we need from the community? We need your understanding of the needs of the building, and the process. We need to gain your trust by being transparent every step of the way as we present you with facts. We need your support; we want you to act as owners of your school. We want to hear your questions and ideas. Please contact Flor Diaz-Smith, Committee Chair, at 802-223-1113 or [diazsmith.flor@gmail.com](mailto:diazsmith.flor@gmail.com). We are posting updates, meeting minutes, survey results, and a timeline at [www.emontpelierschool.org](http://www.emontpelierschool.org). We'll also have a blog there and invite your online comments. The Facilities Committee meets every first and third Monday of the month and is open to all.

Changes at EMES will benefit the entire community. As author Jamie Volmer puts it "Every path to individual, community and national success runs through those wide open classroom doors. Schools remain the principal mechanism through which this nation makes good on its fundamental promise of liberty, justice and opportunity for all."

— The EMES Facilities Committee

Casey (continued from page 1)

Leasing, LLC. The latter business leases storage units and a building that houses J & D Thrift Shop, run by Donny and Judy Case.

Casey, a friendly, easy-going man, prefers to establish long-term relationships with customers and keep their cars and trucks running well. He also buys and sells used cars and will search for a specific car for you. He especially enjoys working on Hondas, Subarus and General Motors vehicles doing diagnostics, mechanical, and tire work, including seasonal changeovers and tire sales.

Working with cars and trucks is in this native Vermonter's family; Casey's grandfather was a mechanic and his father worked in electronics. The hands-on mechanical genes are in Casey's blood. When Casey was in high school, his family moved from Northfield, VT, to Northampton, MA, where Casey finished high school. Although he'd been admitted to General Motors Institute in their automotive engineering program, he chose not to attend. Anticipating the five long years of college and large debt, he instead decided to enroll in the automotive technician school of Porter & Chester Institute in Chicopee, MA. Casey worked for a Goodyear Tire dealer while in school and then for a Chevrolet and Volkswagen dealership in Northampton, MA, after he graduated.

Two years later, in 1996, Casey moved back to Vermont to work for Rossi Buick and Oldsmobile. That December, he and Amanda Eutsler married; they were sweethearts who had met

six months before Casey moved to Massachusetts while in high school. They work closely to run their businesses. The year 2000 was important: they established KC's Performance Auto Care in March, and welcomed their first daughter, Serenity, in December. A second daughter, Selah, was born in 2006. By then the business had moved to its current location. Both girls have been home-schooled by Amanda and the girls' desks are located behind their parents' desk in the very neat and sunny office next to the garage. Both girls' shining smiles reflect their parents' friendly personalities. Serenity now attends EMES in 5th grade and Selah travels part-time to kindergarten.

We are lucky to have Casey serve on our town Selectboard in addition to his long hours in the shop Monday through Friday. Casey attended several meetings before running for office to preview the challenges and issues of volunteering for this difficult position. He began in his elected post this past March.

The foundation of Casey and Amanda's family life is their church, the Barre Evangelical Free Church, and they bring their Christian attitude to everything they do. With their outstanding service to lucky customers like me, raising their close family, spending time with relatives in Vermont and Maryland, and their community contributions, they have a wonderful life.

—Michelle McFadden lives with her husband, Chuck Hoffert, and their children, Charlie, Michael, Henry, and Princess Maeve, on Kelton Rd. She loves the location, especially its proximity to KC's Performance Auto Care!



TERRY J. ALLEN

## East Montpelier Fire District #1

by Steve Gilman, Chair, Prudential Committee



TERRY J. ALLEN

The Fire District will elect members of its governing Prudential Committee (chair, treasurer, clerk, and collector) at its annual meeting on Wed., Jan. 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Emergency Services Facility (Village Fire Station). We also plan to adopt a set

of Rules & Regulations that will govern how the Fire District would operate the public water system. Any registered East Montpelier voter who lives within the Fire District boundaries is eligible to vote at our annual meeting.

To date, as well as volunteering their time, Prudential Committee members have been paying all operating expenses

(mailings, warnings, supplies) out-of-pocket. It is expected that the Prudential Committee will soon vote to institute a \$20 one-time fee to Fire District members who are connected customers of Crystal Springs to cover these expenses in the future.

As always, we encourage anyone interested in our efforts to attend regular monthly meetings the second Wednesday of every month at the Emergency Services Facility at 7:00 p.m. We will gladly answer any and all questions about our work. Please visit our website at [www.emfiredist.org](http://www.emfiredist.org) for more info.

**Central Vermont Humane Society**



(802) 476-3811  
[info@cvhumane.com](mailto:info@cvhumane.com)  
[www.cvhumane.com](http://www.cvhumane.com)

**Tuesday - Friday: 1pm - 6pm Saturday: 11am - 4pm**  
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 January/February 2012

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## CALENDAR & NOTICES

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Wed, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. at EMFD**—Annual Meeting of the EM Fire District #1
- Thurs, Jan. 26**—deadline to submit petitions (signed by at least 5% [130] of registered voters) for articles to be included on Town and School Meeting Warnings
- Mon, Jan. 30**—deadline to submit petitions (signed by at least 1% (30) of registered voters) to run for town and school offices
- Wed, Feb. 15**—town ballots available from Town Clerk for Early/Absentee voting
- Wed, Feb. 29**—deadline (by 5 p.m.) for new voters to register with the Town Clerk
- Sat, Mar. 3**—Town/School Forum (tentative date)
- Tues, Mar. 6—Town/School Meeting Day and Presidential Primary Election**
- Mon, Apr. 2**—deadline to register dogs. Up-to-date rabies vaccination required.
- Tues, May 15**—second property tax installment due (by 5:00 p.m. to avoid 8% penalty and 1% interest)

### EVENTS

- Sat, Jan. 21, 1:00–4:30 p.m., EMES**—meeting to address EM's Energy Future
- Mon, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m., EMES**—Community Forum sponsored by EMES Facilities Committee
- Sat, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.–noon**—Family Day at Orchard Valley Waldorf School and Children's Garden, call 802-456-7400 to RSVP
- Wed, Feb. 8, 6:30 at 4 Corners Schoolhouse**—meeting of all EM food producers, contact 223-3177 or [garlicmountain@gmail.com](mailto:garlicmountain@gmail.com) for information

[WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM](http://WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM)

Check it out: [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com).  
 East Montpelier announcements welcome.  
 To be notified of new announcements, join the email list. Look under "contacts" for Jennifer Boyer and give her your email address.

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

**Deadline for Next Issue: February 1, 2012, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com)**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 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.	EMFD Community Room
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
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School