

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXIII—Number Two

November/December 2012



Carrie Eaton, Jane Stacy & Chris Hull

TERRY J. ALLEN

Insurance Agency of New England—Here to Serve

By Michelle A.L. Singer

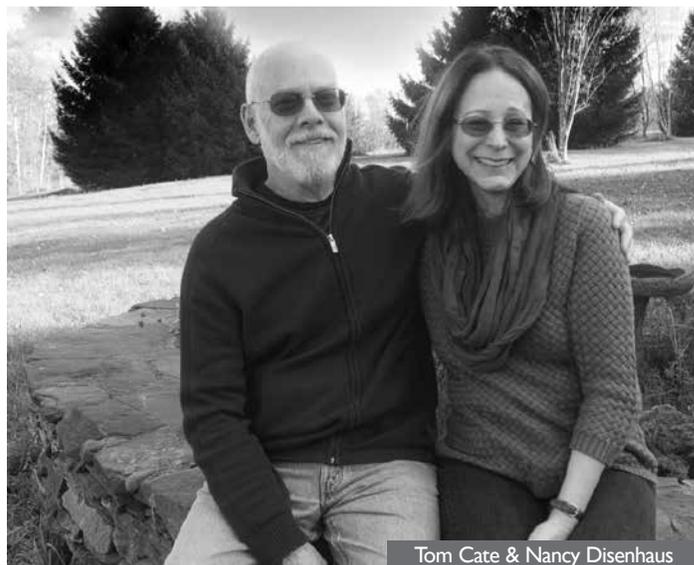
John Hull, one of the owners of Insurance Agency of New England, describes East Montpelier as a “great little place to be.” You have probably driven past his business many times on Route 2; it’s in the East Village just after the new traffic light heading toward Plainfield.

In the age of the computer, when insurance is increasingly bought online, and when customer service is done more often by a computer than a human, Hull believes “There is still space for an in-person insurance agency.” It’s not that Insurance Agency of

Continued on page 9

Tom Cate & Nancy Disenhaus: A Lifetime of Education

By Colin McCaffrey



Tom Cate & Nancy Disenhaus

TERRY J. ALLEN

Tucked away down a quiet dirt road in East Montpelier Center is a modest cape with beautiful grounds and a garden full of tomato plants and bountiful greens. It is the home of our neighbors Nancy Disenhaus and Tom Cate. As I sat with them on their screened-in porch on a sunny but cool September day, I began to learn how these two have been, and continue to be, very dedicated to education and the pursuit of knowledge.

Nancy and Tom met at Peacham Pond while swimming with friends. After settling down together here in East Montpelier, they have worked for nearly three decades as essential participants in the education and enrichment of our children.

Nancy grew up in Annandale, Virginia. She attended Mt. Holyoke College and continued her studies at Cornell where she earned her M.A.T. She moved from New Jersey to Vermont in 1977 and began teaching in Chelsea. She eventually taught English at U-32 for 28 years. Nancy retired in 2010. She felt ready for a big change and dove into her new life by starting her doctorate in education at UVM. When I spoke to Nancy and

Continued on page 10

IN THIS ISSUE

4 — EMES Renovation

5 — Future of the Signpost

8 — Revolving Loan Fund – Can it Help You?

12 — Hunting Seasons

Signpost Volunteers

Terry J. Allen: Layout & Photography
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster
223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

Alex Brown: Mailing
223-0430 alex@printmark.net

Rhoda Carroll: Copy Editor
229-0037 rhoda@rhodacarroll.com

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor
229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

Rhoda Chickering: Town Records
229-5005 rhoderchick@myfairpoint.net

Rob Chickering: Business Manager
272-7328 rchickering2009@gmail.com

Robin Gannon: EMES Reporter
rgannon@u32.org

Lori Martin Buley: Design/Administrative
229-0950 lorianne.m@comcast.net

Carol McKenna: Proofreader
229-6001 cmckenna1000@yahoo.com

Edie Miller: Organizations/Coordination
229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

Carolyn Pastore: Copy Editor
223-7463 cwpas44@yahoo.com

Barbara Ploof: Copy/Administrative
223-6934 signpostbcp@hotmail.com

Alex Rob: Co-features Editor
acrob@hotmail.com

Michelle Singer: Copy Editor
223-6186 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

Wendy Soliday: Features Co-editor
229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing

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

It's a grey October day as I sit at my computer admiring the brilliant color of what has turned out to be a beautiful foliage season. The contrast of the glowering, low-hanging clouds and the gorgeous yellow, orange, green, and red leaves still clinging to the trees is an apt metaphor for the ups and downs in all our lives and the sometimes stark decisions we have to make.

Election season is a time of choices. We are fortunate that we can make our own in a very direct way at the ballot box. Here in East Montpelier we have important issues to contemplate and decide on not just at the national and state levels, but also right here in town.

Some might say that the contrast between bright leaves and a grey, rainy day symbolizes the differing outcomes depending on how we vote. To my mind, the results will be disappointing and grey if we get poor turnout at the polls—if too many of us don't care enough to exercise our precious right to vote. Likewise, I think we can all take pleasure in a large turnout—even if the results don't turn out the way we individually might prefer. Participation is the real key to a vibrant and strong democracy.

Please do your part to keep a glow in our world and in our community. Vote for a president, a governor, for other state and federal officials, and make your opinion known about the future of East Montpelier's real center – our elementary school. We're all in this together.

—Edie Miller is long-time voter in EM



Thank you *Signpost* supporters

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

**Rick & Betsy Barstow, Joyce Bean, Robert & Carolyn Brown,
David & Janet Burrus, Sue Chickering & John Ayers, James Cutler, Charles
Harris, Elaine Manghi, Bill Merrylees & Lucy Patti, Marty & Edie Miller,
Conrad & Anne Ormsbee, Carolyn Pastore, Frank Pratt,
Ginny Callan & Cort Richardson, Fred & Nancy Strong, Florence Young**

Serving our Community: David & Gary Ann Lewis

By Michelle A.L. Singer

Our community and many local organizations depend on the time and energy of volunteers, and many East Montpelier residents respond to these needs. The Signpost will periodically feature the work of our community members. If you would like to share your experiences or know of others who would, please contact any member of the Signpost staff.

David and Gary Ann Lewis have been volunteers at East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) with the Four Winds Nature Institute since it was the ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future) Program. They attend a training on nature science once a month during the school year and take that lesson into an EMES classroom. David is a plant pathologist and former professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey and Gary was an elementary school teacher. They began volunteering when their grandson was at EMES but their dedication has lasted much longer.

1) How did you get started volunteering for Four Winds at EMES and why?

Gary: Our grandson, who lives right across the road, was in the first grade at EMES so we knew about the program. David said, "Let's do that!" We both were teachers, and for him it was a nice change from graduate students. We stuck with it and we've learned a lot. We just kept saying, "One more year. ..."

I love nature myself. I go out when the light is right to do nature photography, and the housework can wait. We both look forward to teaching the lessons at the school. It's a genuine pleasure to pass on and reinforce the value of nature in our lives and how we have to take care of it, preserve it. That's how it all works and weaves together, you're the link—one of many before you and after you—to make sure that nature is respected and taken care of. It's great that the school feels it's important enough to take time to do this in their busy schedules, to raise a generation who cares. They have more hands-on knowledge than we did. We often say, "Gee I wish we could have done that when we were kids."

2) How long have you been volunteering with Four Winds and what is the most rewarding thing about it?

Gary: We have been volunteering for about nine years, and the pay is great. No really, the reward is the children. Last



MICHELLE SINGER

year we were surprised with a book of pictures and drawings of what they had learned the whole year. It really surprised us. The best are the drawings and thank-you notes.

David: I think it's our way of making a contribution to the community. We've both been teachers for many years so it wasn't difficult to move into it! But it was quite a shock to go from graduate students to first or second graders. It's a very different teaching situation. They are much more enthusiastic and willing to learn. They never fall asleep in your class! My academic background is with living things, plants. I also, for some years, taught field identification of birds. We both have personal interests in nature and chose to live in woodlands.

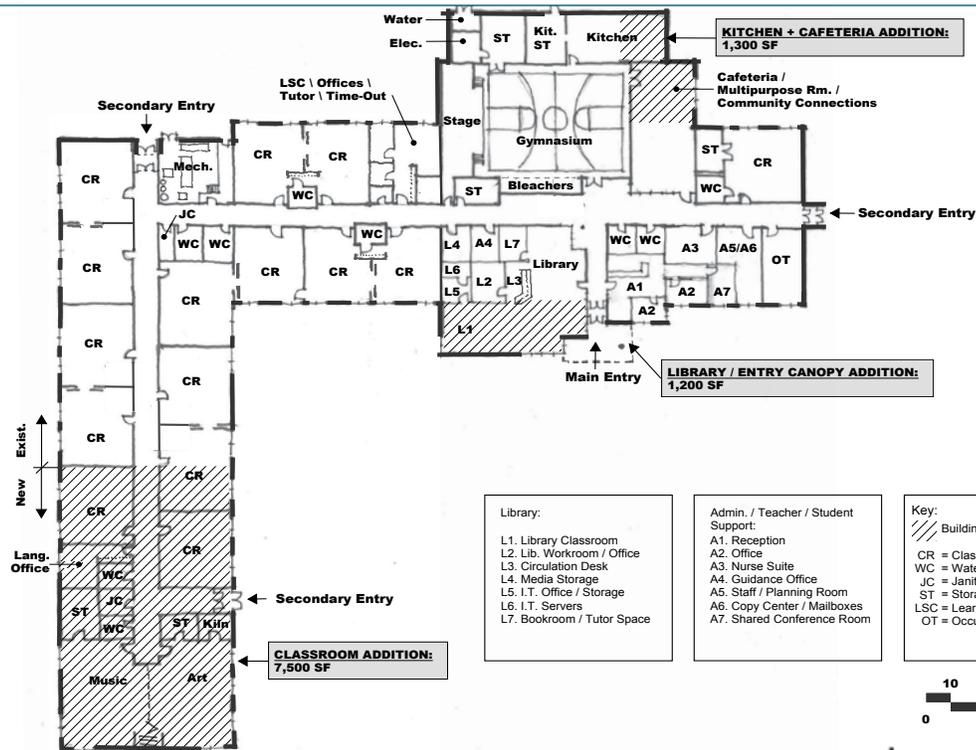
3) Can you share a funny or meaningful story from your experiences?

Gary: One time last year we came in to Mrs. Shedd's first-grade class and one little boy saw us and said, "Four Winds! Four Winds!" and began running around in circles as fast as he could. You get paid in the joy of the reaction of children, and the "aha" moments when it's really sinking in. You can tell when they relate to it, like when they tell stories about what they've seen at their house.

Cutler Memorial Library Invites You

Cutler Library in Plainfield invites East Montpelier residents to take advantage of its expanded hours and new programming, which includes book clubs and a new play group.

Check out their website, a link to which is on the *Signpost* site – www.emsignpost.com.



East Montpelier Elementary School
East Montpelier, Vermont

Building Floor Plan
November 2012 Bond Vote



EMES Bond Vote on November 6

East Montpelier residents vote November 6 on whether to approve a bond for the first significant improvements to our elementary school in over 20 years. Following the defeat of the initial proposal in May, an expanded facilities committee surveyed EM residents and found that the community supported all of the proposed components but the \$10.3 million price tag was too high. The current proposal shaves more than \$2 million off the cost and eliminates building a new gym.

The requested \$8.17M will be used to:

Provide a safe and healthy structure

- Correct existing code violations for fire, safety, and accessibility
- Renovate bathrooms for access by disabled persons
- Improve indoor air quality and lighting
- Remove the temporary classrooms
- Develop a better drop-off/parking area

Improve our building's performance

- Increase energy efficiency
- Eliminate all remaining electric heat and install new hot water baseboard heat throughout
- Implement advanced energy conservation measures with remote monitoring through the school's computer system
- Create more flexible spaces and storage areas
- Replace all the windows with high performance windows

Fix failing systems

- Upgrade kitchen plumbing and meet health and minimum space requirements
- Upgrade the wood chip system
- Replace and improve all mechanical and plumbing systems with high efficiency units

Meet the needs of today's teaching and learning initiatives

- Add a cafeteria area so we don't compromise the PE or gym schedule. Kids can use gym during recess if the weather calls for an indoor recess
- Reorganize and retrofit classrooms
- Create more flexible education spaces for students that may also allow for continued learning opportunities for adults in the community
- Upgrade the library and computer center

The Facilities Committee and the School Board concluded that these renovations and smaller expansion are necessary if we are to meet the needs of our community now and in the future. This plan will provide our students with a safe and stimulating learning environment and retain the value of this major community asset. We are also committed to having a responsible Capital Plan to make sure our investment is maintained and protected.

Whether or not you have children in the school, this comment by nationally noted educational consultant Jamie Vollmer rings true: "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."

Any changes to come will benefit the entire community. Thanks for attending our community meetings and don't forget to vote on November 6 at the Elementary School; polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

—From the EMES School Board

Early East Montpelier Stories

By Anne Ormsbee,
East Montpelier Historical Society

The Town of Montpelier took on the responsibility of caring for poor John Marsh in 1794. When he needed a doctor's attention, town officers called on Miss Rebecca Peabody of Johnson, Vermont. She was noted for her skills in performing surgery and setting bones, having learned these skills from her father and brother, both physicians. Rebecca married Parley Davis in 1794 and they settled in what is now the Center. While she could have made doctoring a full-time job, she chose to devote her life to her family of daughters, as well as answering the demands for her skills from townspeople (excerpts from *Across the Onion* by Ellen Hill & Marilyn Blackwell).

Some of Davis' recipes for home remedies have been donated to the East Montpelier Historical Society by Davis descendant Frederick Strong. They are written on odd slips of paper in black ink, and most are legible. Here's an example:

To make a Salve for a Burn

- 1 quart sweet oil
- 1 pound hog's Fat
- 1 pound white lead
- ½ pound Rosin



Elliott Morse & Michael Duane

- 1 pound Bee's wax
- 2 ounces turpentine
- Simmer over embers until it turns brown

The recipes have been catalogued and placed in the town vault. Many, many thanks to Fred Strong for this gift.

Thanks are also in order to all who made possible the site marker honoring the families of Solomon Dodge and John Templeton, who settled here in 1788. The plaque was installed on a natural boulder on the trail off Dodge Road on September 26, 2012.

The EM Signpost Needs Your Help to Continue

As you know, the *Signpost* lost a major source of its funding because there was no one available to organize the silent auction usually held on Rally Day. On the one hand, a recent survey encouraged the continuation of the *Signpost*. On the other hand, is the issue of funding a bi-monthly paper that is distributed without charge to all East Montpelier residents.

A LITTLE HISTORY –

The East Montpelier *Signpost* is a local newspaper produced by volunteers every other month. Started in 1990, it focuses on very local issues and people in an effort to make it easier for East Montpelier residents to get to know each other – our skills, talents and interests – and learn about issues that are important to us as local residents. The *Signpost* was envisioned more than two decades ago as one way to foster a sense of community; current volunteers still strive toward that goal.

Some time ago we created a website (developed and maintained by volunteer Jennifer Boyer) to make an archive of past issues available online. In the absence of a town website, the *Signpost* site – www.emsignpost.com – has become a community resource featuring a calendar of

events, notices from our governmental boards as well as their meeting times and contact info, links to information about our schools and local organizations, and important documents such as East Montpelier's Zoning Regulations and Town Plans.

A CALL TO ACTION –

We need another reliable source of ongoing funding from year to year. *Signpost* volunteers have started brainstorming a variety of ideas to create financial sustainability but need the support of more community members. If you are willing to serve on an ad hoc group to determine the financial future of the *Signpost*, please contact any of the *Signpost* volunteers whose names are listed in the paper. This work has to be accomplished before the end of the year. Please pass the word.

Secondly—but no less important—another chunk of *Signpost* funding comes from voluntary contributions. We don't send out bills, so you may forget this unless you mark it on your calendar. Many people have recently sent in contributions after a reminder on Front Porch Forum (see page 2). We hope you will do so also. Checks may be sent to: *The Signpost* P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

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: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Treasurer: Don Welch
eastmonttr@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
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier
Seth Gardner

Steve Sparrow
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
Stephen Looke

Priscilla Gilbert
Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Delilah Evelyn Wheeler, daughter, born July 2, 2012, to Melissa & Douglas Wheeler
- Nolan Chase Giroux, son, born July 5, 2012, to Rachel & Jason Giroux
- Madelyn Grace Rouleau, daughter, born July 8, 2012, to Rachel & Robert Rouleau
- Alison Marie Wong, daughter, born July 12, 2012, to Jennifer Thurston & Christopher Wong

Marriages

- Jason Abraham Burke & Anna Martin, Aug. 4, 2012
- Liane Marie Bennett & Marcus Henry Martinelli, Aug. 25, 2012
- Mikeljon Mascitti & Emily Anne St. Cyr, Aug. 25, 2012
- Lindsay Nichole Browning & Daniel Norris Young, Sept. 8, 2012

Deaths

- * *in our death notices, only relatives living in East Montpelier are noted*
- Elsie T. Ibey died July 16, 2012
- Velma A. Defrain died July 25, 2012, mother of David & Randy Defrain, sibling of Glenna Hale, Hester Manning, & Arthur Hale
- Frederick Coburn died Aug. 1, 2012, brother of Beverly Lavin and foster brother of Wayne Mailhotte

Property Transfers

- Anne Day to Susan Day, single family dwelling & 0.49 acres, Dodge Rd.
- Nora Miller to Stephen Melendy, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd.
- Jane Meiklejohn, Trustee, to Kristina Applegate, single family dwelling & 3 acres, Hagggett Rd.
- Wallace & Mary Macnow to Denise & Stephen Towne, single family dwelling & 17 acres, VT14S
- Ruth Ann Crose to Ruth Ann Crose & Kenneth Riportella, single family dwelling & 7.1 acres, Chickering Rd.
- Leonard & Elsie Giroux to Jeanne Lajeunesse & Ramanza Wheeler, mobile home, Sandy Pines Rd.
- Northfield Savings to Donald & Barbara Cote, single family dwelling & 0.18 acres, VT14S
- James Blouin to Elizabeth Blouin, single family dwelling & 1.3 acres, Center Rd.
- Elizabeth Blouin to Charles & Shannon Smith, single family dwelling & 1.3 acres, Center Rd.
- Francis Ying-Wai & Amy Chia-Meiwa, Trustees, to Roger & Rose Ehret, 43.5 acres, VT14N
- Linda Pastore, Trustee, to Peter Gill & Catherine McLinn, single family dwelling & 3.91 acres, Powder Horn Glen
- Guy & Susan Catlin to Elizabeth Catlin, single family dwelling & 1.5 acres, Kelton Rd.

SELECTBOARD

July 16, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to sign the tax anticipation note which has a principal amount of \$360,000
- to sign the Non-Arbitrage Certificate for tax anticipation borrowing

July 30, 2012

Joint meeting with the Calais Selectboard to discuss the ambulance and emergency services contracts with the East Montpelier Fire Department

August 6, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to accept the FY13 tax rate as presented: residential property = 1.9984, non-residential property = 1.9671, municipal rate = 0.5468
- to apply for the VTrans Bike and Pedestrian Grant Program

August 20, 2012

1. Public Hearing on Town Application for the 2012 VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program to construct a sidewalk and widen shoulders along US2 in East Village. After much discussion, all agreed that application should proceed. The plan is to do this project in conjunction with the anticipated 2014 rebuild of the VT14 S Bridge.
2. Regular Meeting of the Selectboard was convened at 7:30 p.m.
 - Met jointly with Calais SB members to discuss contract with EMFD.
 - The two boards agreed on new approaches to the contract; will draft and send to EMFD for further discussion.
 - Heard from Lt. Paul White of the VT State police who updated both selectboards on current activity.
 - Discussed fireworks permitting process and agreed to research the creation of an ordinance on this topic.

Motions passed:

- To authorize SB chair to sign required support letter for the VTrans Bike and Pedestrian grant program application
- To authorize the renewal of the Land Conservation CD as Treasurer Don Welch sees fit
- To authorize the chair to sign Center Rd paving contract with Pike Industries for \$255,665
- To authorize chair to sign a letter of support for the WNRCD/CVRPC grant application to run erosion studies in the North Branch and Kingsbury Branch watersheds
- To appoint Ty Rolland as temporary replacement for John Audy who has resigned as town fire warden

- To enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter: no followup action

September 10, 2012

Heard reports and discussed the following:

- Gave direction to Funding Request Study Committee as to criteria and set an increase cap of 5%
- Discussed potential road policies dealing with town acceptance of roads and upgrades of class 4 to class 3 roads with Roads Policy Committee
- Public Wi-Fi is now working at Town Office and is password-protected
- Ty Roland has been elected new EMFD chief
- Don Tosi has donated a new American flag and lighting for it for the Town Office
- Will supply VTrans with signoff on landscaping at Village intersection after assurances from Jean Vissering and Tom Frazier that everything is in good shape.

Motions passed:

- to authorize the expenditure of VLCT grant fund for safety-related road equipment with a 50% match by the town
- to accept the Listers' Errors & Omissions Report from 9/10/12
- to authorize the chair and vice chair to sign a signatory resolution for the Northfield Savings Bank for the Sandy Pines savings account
- to authorize Town Treasurer to rollover the Forest Fund CD that matures on 9/21/12 for six months
- to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter
- to authorize Casey Northrup to represent the town at the 9/28/12 tax sale of Dodge property and make the minimum bid if necessary
- to authorize chair to sign the letter to Amy Gamble at the VTrans regarding speed limit decrease east of Bridge 64 on US2
- to enter executive session to discuss ZA appointment
- to appoint Bruce Johnson as interim zoning administrator (leaving Gene Troia as acting zoning administrator) through November 2012 with a start date of no later than October 1 and to notify current ZA of non-renewal of contract

September 21, 2012

Discussed the following issues:

- Auditor Fillion questioned whether funding for the hogweed problem at Village Cemetery should be paid for by Cemetery Commission. SB will consider at a later date
- Ms. Fillion requested that SB update external auditor on addition to town properties of Soule and Benton lots.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

June 19, 2012

This meeting is an extension of recessed meeting of 5/15/12 to hear application #12-028 by Roger & Barbara Clark to create a PRD (Planned Rural Development) on +/- 76 acres at 820 Dodge Rd. After much discussion a motion was passed to send application back to the ZA and the Clarks for completion

July 3, 2012

Motion passed to grant the conditional use proposed in Application #12-034 by David and Kelly Fournier, given that it is an existing residential use and there is no change to water and wastewater use

August 7, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve application #12-028, the Clark PRD proposal including the most recent plan, project narrative, and amended covenants
- to recess, until the 10/16/12 ZBA meeting, the hearing on application #12-043, as proposed by Chris Wong
- Appeal of decision of ZA on application #12-037 a proposal by Smith, DeGoosh & Bamforth was withdrawn

PLANNING COMMISSION

July 19, 2012

- Discussion on Town Plan included the following sections: Recreation, Education, Housing, Finance
- Heard the reports of the ZA and the DRB

July 26, 2012

Discussed the following sections of the Town Plan: Introduction, Wastewater, Forest Resources, Townspeople

EMES

July 23, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve the hiring of Allison Grogan, Special Educator, 0.60 FTE
- to approve the bus routes for 2012-13

July 30, 2012

Passed motions to approve the Truex Cullins pre-bond service contract as amended with total cost of \$6,392.00

August 20, 2012

Passed motion to authorize chair to review and sign a contract up to \$2,500 with Flywheel Communications, as long as the scope of work is revised to include measurable deliverables.

September 5, 2012

Passed motion to accept the Facilities Committee recommendation of A.3-R.2 as amended for the school renovation



U-32

August 8, 2012

Motions Passed:

- To approve the following committee membership changes: to combine Curriculum and Co-curriculum Committees into one committee to be served by Adrienne Magida and Emily Goyette; to eliminate the U-32 Negotiations Committee; to keep the WCSU Negotiations Committee, adding Emily Goyette as its new member; to remove Conrad Smith from the WCSU Transportation Committee; to add Mike Law to Facilities and Capital Budget Committee; to add Mike Law to the Personnel Committee
- to authorize Keith Gerritt and Ginny Burley to award the truck purchase bid
- to approve the 2012-13 Student/Parent Handbook, with possible future changes
- to approve the 2012-13 department heads and equity coordinators as presented
- to approve athletic coaches and volunteers
- to approve a one-year leave of absence request to Arlene Trombly-Holcomb
- to approve resignations of Peter Daigle, Mechanic and Russell Shannon, Mechanic
- to approve the appointment of Kristine Chartrand as 0.7 FTE visual arts teacher

August 22, 2012

Motions passed:

- To approve Kingsbury/U-32 Net Metering Contract and to authorize chair to sign corrected copy
- To approve athletics coaches
- To approve following appointments: John Lakey, maintenance & mechanic; Trudy Smith, paraeducator; Devan McGinnis, custodian
- To go into executive session to discuss a student issue

September 5, 2012

Motions passed:

- To approve athletic coaches & volunteers
- To approve the appointment of Johanna Hiller, 0.1 FTE English teacher

September 19, 2012

Motions passed:

- To approve the following policies: G1- Curriculum; G4 – Library Materials Selection (as amended); G5 – Instructional Materials Selection; and G6 – Complaints about Instructional & Library Materials
- To approve appointment of co-curricular advisors
- To approve athletic coaches & volunteers



JAMIE O'HARE

Learning from the Outdoors

By Jamie O'Hare, EMES Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten and first-grade teachers and students at the East Montpelier Elementary School are part of a pilot study (one-half day a week) in collaboration with the ECO (Educating Children Outdoors) program to expand academic learning outside the classroom.

In a year-long collaboration, ECO is providing professional development on the benefits of learning outdoors. Teachers and North Branch Nature Center staff will work together to create a place-based curricula that meets each teacher's classroom objectives by bringing lessons and units of study outdoors. Students will have the chance to have this unique learning experience on alternate Wednesdays throughout the school year. The kindergarteners will be spending their mornings outdoors and first graders will have their chance in the afternoons. Many parent volunteers have already signed up to join us.

Thanks to Signpost Volunteers

A grateful thank you is due Ted Allen, who has been the diligent manager of the *Signpost* mailing list for the last three years. He has been meticulous in this very difficult job of keeping track of the comings and goings of East Montpelier residents. Your efforts have been much appreciated, Ted.

Also thanks and welcome aboard to Alex Brown, who recently revamped the mailing list, and now will maintain it for us. Welcome, too, to Alex Rob as co-features editor and Rhoda Carroll and Michelle Singer who are copy editors, and like everyone, take on a variety of other tasks as well.

East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund: Can It Help You?

The Revolving Loan Advisory Committee has been resurrected to assist low- to moderate-income residents in the Town of East Montpelier with small business development and affordable housing needs. We are seeking ideas from members of the community as to how to target funds to be most effective.

Since April of 2011, the Town of East Montpelier has been receiving about \$650 each month from Housing Vermont, Incorporated, the owners of Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park (SPMHP). This amount is half of their repayment from the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant the town facilitated as a loan to replace their septic system. The remainder returns to the state. In order for the town to keep the money, state guidelines require the town to establish a revolving loan fund with certain criteria, partially stated above.

Do you have an idea for a new small business, or expansion for one already in existence? Are you renting now, but need down payment assistance to purchase in town? Do you own property in town, but were hoping to weatherize, upgrade your energy systems, or otherwise renovate? Would you like to see these funds used for senior housing initiatives? Or maybe you have another idea about the needs for these funds and/or how to prioritize applications when they come in?

If you have ideas for the use of the East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund, or would like to be included in this committee, please contact Dave Coburn by email at: dave.coburn@comcast.net or call 223-6886.

East Montpelier Fire District #1

Not About Fire

Not surprisingly—given the name—it seems there is some confusion about the recently formed East Montpelier Fire District, and some folks have confused us with the Fire Department (EMFD). The Fire District operates independently of both EMFD and the town. While the selectboard had a big hand in creating the Fire District and we cooperate closely, we are not a part of municipal government. Fire Districts are created under the state laws that deal with public drinking water supplies.

So when you hear the term "Fire District," please remember that our primary mission is to secure, protect, and responsibly manage a public drinking water supply for the community we serve. On our successful acquisition of Crystal Springs in East Montpelier, we will be providing water to well over 300 people—residential and commercial.

By Steve Gilman, chair

New England doesn't have a website; they do—www.iqme.com (Insurance Quotes Made Easy). But what they also have, that many similar businesses do not, is a presence in the community, a person who answers your phone calls and knows what you're talking about, and a place where you can still walk in, decide on the insurance that's right for you, and work with a professional right in your own hometown.

That person might be Chris Hull (John's son), Jane Stacy, Kevin Ratti, or Carrie Eaton, their transportation expert. They work together in the office at 3030 Route 2, right in front of the new fire station, along with their office dogs—Duke, Cara, Cooper, and their newest addition, a 10-week-old Golden named Ellie. It's a family business with a commitment to community.

Insurance Agency of New England was a major financial supporter behind Front Porch Forum and is a regular supporter of the high school, elementary school, Rally Day, and many other community organizations. When the Town Office was flooded, they donated numerous file cabinets to help replace the ones damaged. "Wherever you live," says Hull, "you support your neighbors and community. You want to see them grow, and thrive."

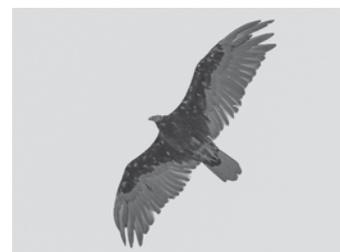
Insurance Agency of New England is an independent insurance agency offering personal, commercial, professional, and trucking insurance. This includes a wide range of services, including home and auto, boat and motorcycle, life and health, as well as insurance coverage for businesses like general liability

and workers' compensation. In 2010, John Hull and Patrick and Betty Sikora (owners of S & H Underwriters that shares the same building as the Agency and John's brother and sister-in-law) wanted to expand their wholesale insurance business to include retail. At the same time, John's son Chris was also ready to come back into the family business. "He has been helping in our office since he was old enough to file papers," says dad John. When the business was ready for a new direction, Chris was ready for the challenge. In 2010, Insurance Agency of New England began to provide professional insurance services to clients in the area and has been growing steadily ever since.

Father and son agree that their location in East Montpelier is an asset. "We have great exposure on Route 2," says Hull. "We are conveniently located close to Montpelier and Barre and all the surrounding towns in the area—and there's plenty of free parking! We are happy to be in this great little community." They are proud of all the excellent work done by the East Montpelier Planning Commission redeveloping the Village and are excited to encourage more retail business and create a village atmosphere in town.

Insurance Agency of New England is open Monday through Friday from 8-4:30 and by appointment anytime. Contact them at www.iqme.com or (802) 229-4177. Or stop in—they would be glad to help.

—Michelle Singer lives on Cherry Tree Hill with her husband, Josh, and their three children. She's a new volunteer on the Signpost staff.



TERRY J. ALLEN

Jelly Roll Recipe by Esther Gallison



- 2 eggs beaten with 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- Flavoring (vanilla, almond, etc.)
- Bake in moderate oven [350 deg. for 12 to 15 minutes].
- Spread with jelly and roll while hot.

Lay out a clean dish towel and sprinkle with confectioners sugar. Remove the cake from the pan while it is still hot, place on dish towel, cover with jelly and roll. Other toppings such as whipped cream and fruit can be used. *Paulie's comments: A very simple, fast dessert with unlimited possibilities for toppings and uses. It makes a small cake—use a 6.5 by 8.5 baking pan.*



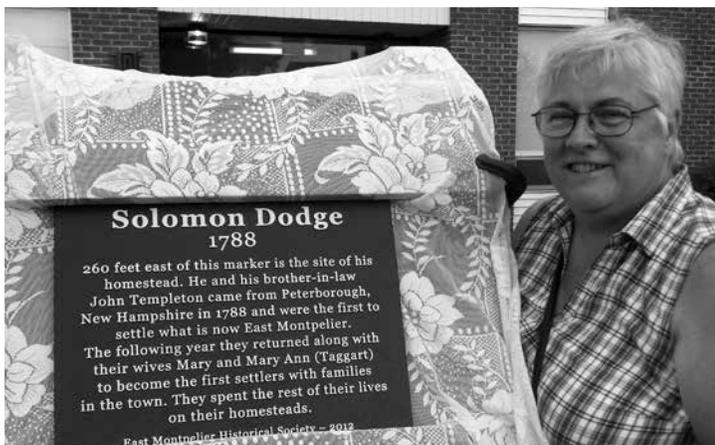
Rally Day 2012



TERRY J. ALLEN



BECKY BROWN



DEBORAH FILLION



DEBORAH FILLION

Tom & Nancy, continued from page 1

Tom, Nancy was in the middle of an intense week of studying. In addition to taking classes, Nancy has a teaching fellowship where she is working the equivalent of a part-time job. When she isn't studying for exams, Nancy is also learning Spanish with the help of Betsy Barstow. She is an avid reader, and also loves to tend the beautiful flower beds surrounding their house.

Tom grew up in Los Angeles, California, and played classical clarinet all through high school. He went to college at California State University in L.A., obtaining his B.A. in music and music education. He started teaching in Glendale, California and worked there for five years. Tom became tired of the traffic, the smog, and the noise. He also thought he was done with teaching. So he packed it all up and made his way east to Plainfield, Vermont. Arriving in October, he discovered that Twinfield School had not yet hired a music teacher. He worked there for three years, then two more years at Berlin Elementary and finally found a home at U-32. Soft-spoken and dedicated to his work, Tom has conducted thousands of students through hundreds of concerts. In addition to the regular school year duties, Tom also ran the successful and popular U-32 summer jazz camp. Tom recently retired from his 32-year career as our U-32 band instructor.

I remember working with Tom and Nancy's son Dylan for a couple of summers at jazz camp. He was a great kid, always positive and helpful, and a solid and musical drummer. Dylan ended

up getting his B.A. at Vassar majoring in Urban Studies. He is now living in Seattle, Washington, as a union organizer for healthcare workers in Yakima. Dylan is passionately into his work, which has been all-consuming lately, as they just won a union vote and are working toward the development of a contract. Apparently the apple does not fall far from the tree when it comes to work ethic in this family!

Tom is an avid fly fisherman, and now as a retiree, he has more time to visit his favorite spots on the Winooski and Dog Rivers. In addition, Tom ties his own artificial flies and has a comfortable little studio above the garage filled with his musical instruments and his fly-tying bench. From his window, Spruce Mountain can be seen off to the east. And this is the view that he relishes as he practices his clarinets and enjoys the quiet of home. His garden is impressive, to say the least. The day I visited he was processing the many pounds of tomatoes that, despite blight, were still weighing down the vines. I was not able to leave without filling my basket with leeks, kale and tomatoes. After saying goodbye to Tom and Nancy, I drove off with a car full of vegetables and a strong feeling of pride and appreciation for these two people who have been such humble and important citizens of our town.

—Colin McCaffrey is a record producer, songwriter, and performer originally from Westminster, VT, and now an 18-year resident of East Montpelier with his wife, Laura, and two daughters, Cerridwyn and Magdalene

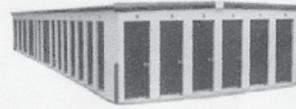
Central Vermont Humane Society



(802) 476-3811
info@cvhumane.com
www.cvhumane.com

Tuesday - Friday: 1pm - 6pm Saturday: 11am - 4pm
1589 VT Route 14S East Montpelier, VT 05651

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



OIL & PROPANE DELIVERY, SALES & SERVICE

Locally Owned & Operated
Now Supplying Premium Heating Oil

Route 14, East Montpelier Vermont 05651
Ph: 802-223-0126 • Cell: 802-793-0013
hanceenergy@yahoo.com



Oil & Propane Delivery • Air Conditioning • Installation • Service

Insurance Agency of New England, Inc.

PO Box 1 Village Acres • East Montpelier, VT 05651
P: 802-229-4177 • F: 802-229-4199
Toll Free: 877-448-1553 • www.iaofne.com
Auto • Home • Business • life • Health

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



Custom Designed & Handcrafted
Specializing in Energy Efficient Homes
Committed to Local Natural Resources

Traditional Vermont
Homes & Outbuildings

Call for a free consultation

Winterwood Timber Frames, LLC
Andy Harper
802-353-6111

Winterwoodtimber@gmail.com
Winterwoodtimberframes.com

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

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

Maple Creemees All Year Long

We ship
anywhere

"A quality fam-
ily farm shop"

802-223-5757

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



Vermont
handicrafts
Gifts
Vermont
cheese
Mail-order
maple products



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 Under-ground Utility Lines; and Much More!

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

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 61
 Montpelier, VT

www.emsignpost.com

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

Volume XXIII—Number Two
 November/December 2012

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

CALENDAR & NOTICES



TERRY J. ALLEN

Hunting Seasons Is in Full Swing

Bow & Arrow Deer Season

Oct 6–28, Dec 1–9

Youth Deer Hunting Weekend

Nov 3–4

Rifle Deer Season

Nov 10–25

Muzzleloader Deer Season

Dec 1–9

General Bear Hunting

Sept 1–Nov 14

In addition there are hunting seasons for moose (bow and rifle), turkey, game birds, small game, and fur-bearing animals, and trapping seasons as well. See the 2012 Vermont Fish & Wildlife Regulations Guide prepared by the VT Department of Fish & Wildlife, available at town offices and elsewhere.

P.S.

Please remember to wear bright colors when you walk in the woods or on back roads during hunting seasons.

IMPORTANT DATES

GENERAL ELECTION:

Tues. Nov. 6, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at East Montpelier Elementary School

PROPERTY TAX INSTALLMENT DUE:

Thurs. Nov. 15 by 5:00 p.m. to avoid 1% interest

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED:

Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 22 & 23

Christmas Holiday Dec. 24 & 25

New Year's Holiday Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Deadline for Next Issue: Dec. 1, 2012

to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, 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 Tues	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room