

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXIII—Number Three

January/February 2013

Culinary Supported Agriculture at Screamin' Ridge Farm

by Louise Rauh

Even though it was barely 30 degrees on the November morning I visited Joe and Lori Buley at their spectacular Screamin' Ridge Farm, the passive-solar greenhouses, lush with multiple varieties of lettuce and spinach, were at over 60 degrees. Knowing

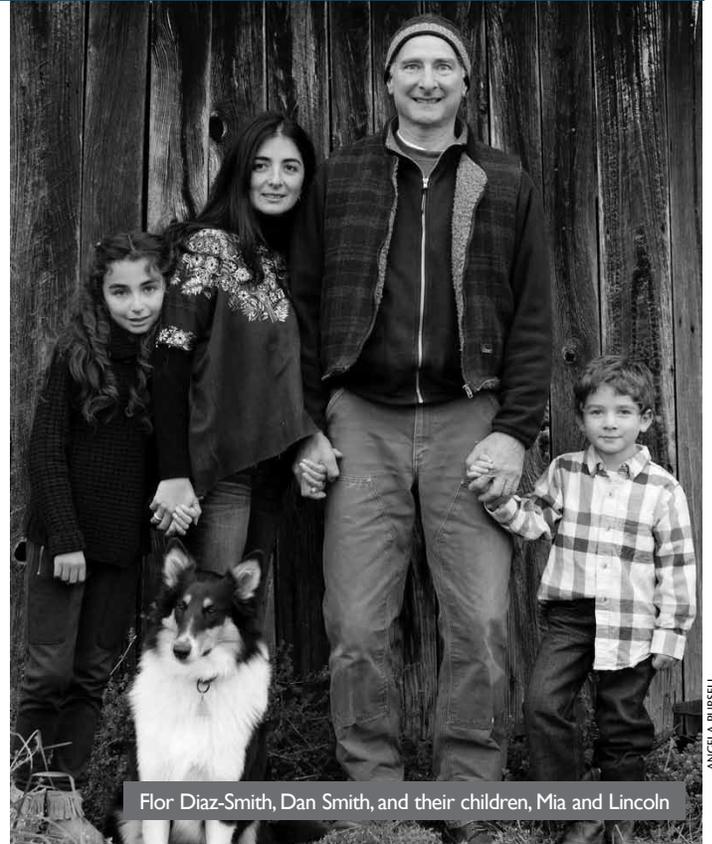
how harsh our Vermont winters can be, it is hard to believe that Joe is able to harvest fresh greens almost all winter. But that is not the only part of their story that is hard to believe. Their adventures and how they ended up high on the hills of East Montpelier with a thriving business also make for incredible stories.

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Lori and Joe Buley

TERRY J. ALEN



Flor Diaz-Smith, Dan Smith, and their children, Mia and Lincoln

ANGELA PURSELL

From Guatemala to the Horn of the Moon

by Jamie O'Hare

What do Prince Charles, Guatemala, Black River Design, and the East Montpelier Elementary School all have in common? The short answer is they each have been touched by Flor Diaz-Smith's incredible creative energy.

When I met with Flor in her farmhouse on Horn of the Moon Road, I wanted to understand how someone who grew up in Guatemala managed to arrive in East Montpelier. Flor was born in Guatemala City and lived in the same working-class neighborhood her Dad grew up in. At the time, the city was far less congested than it is now, and she grew up with a strong sense of community. Flor attended a bilingual school for

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Top of the Signpost

Many of us have heard the sayings “It’s not just a job, it’s an adventure” and “Just do it.” Those expressions ring true as one year ends and another begins and you ponder a personal resolution for 2013. They are also appropriate as one considers whether and how to volunteer for community service. This could be the time and the year for you to follow through with those thoughts or realize that resolution.

Here in East Montpelier, there are a good number of ways for you to get involved and volunteer your time. The town’s annual report is a great resource to see how and where you can get involved. The same report also identifies many persons within the community who are volunteering. All of them can explain to you their volunteer roles and responsibilities and describe what sort of background they may have brought with them to the volunteer job they are doing. Heck—someone now volunteering might even be a neighbor of yours.

From first-hand experience, I can tell you that if you listen to that little voice in your head urging you to get involved, you’ll meet new people and establish rewarding relationships. You’ll even get to learn some things—about yourself and about the town—that you did not know before you jumped in and volunteered.

Because great things don’t just happen on their own, the Town of East Montpelier needs YOU to keep our town vibrant. So—get up, get out and get signatures on a petition and run for an elected position. It’s as easy as notifying the Selectboard of your interest to be appointed to a particular committee.

Try it—you will enjoy the challenge and the satisfaction.

—Rick Hopkins is chair of East Montpelier’s Planning Commission and lives on County Road with his family. When not at work or at Planning Commission meetings, he avoids bowling alleys and enjoys just about any outside activity.

Opportunities to Serve

At our Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 5, we will elect a variety of town officers all of whom are instrumental in keeping East Montpelier municipal and school governments 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 Barbara Ploof no later than Monday, January 28, 2013, at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or 255 Barnes Road, Montpelier, VT, 05602. You may call 223-6934 if you have questions. Statements will appear in the *Signpost* 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

Get ready U32 Girls Soccer Team, the EMES 5/6 girls are!

All EMES soccer families are so grateful for their volunteer coaches and referees.



JUDY HUNTINGTON

Front row: Jenna Mekkelsen (5), Ginger Knight (5)
Middle row: Paige Stevens (5), Phoebe Lutes (5), Sophia Heinz (5),
Kate Buckley (5), Jesse Colnes (6), Olivia Thiemann (5)
Back row: Emily Burroughs (grade 6), Jordan Preman (6), Coach Phillip Heinz



BECKY BROWN

Front Row: Claire Thompson (Grade 5), Frances Kaplan (6),
Rosie Harper (6), Julia Oliver (5), Danielle LaRose (5)
2nd Row: Mollie Brown (5), Holly McEathron (5), Averie Brown (5),
Emma Beall (6), Emily Ehret (5)
Last Row: Coaches Rob Beall & Bill Kaplan

Selectboard Creates New Town and Zoning Administrator Position

by Seth Gardner, chair; Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup, and Steve Sparrow, East Montpelier Selectboard

On November 21, the Selectboard created the new position of town and zoning administrator and appointed Bruce Johnson to the position. Johnson had been Selectboard chair and town administrator. When Johnson accepted the new appointment, he resigned his position on the Selectboard.

With the combined town and zoning administrator position, the town gets a zoning administrator who is available for phone calls or walk-in inquiries any time during regular business hours. Salary costs allocated to zoning administrative functions are approximately half of what we had when we had a separate person as zoning administrator with only 12 regularly scheduled office hours each week. It's not just a matter of hours and dollars, though. The town gets Bruce Johnson, who has done exemplary work as town administrator in the last year and a half and who received high praise for his previous stint as zoning administrator.

The process that got us here has been experimental. Each time we have tried something different, we have moved forward cautiously, trying the alteration on for size before committing to it.

The changes began when the previous town administrator resigned in March 2011. After reviewing dozens of applications, the Selectboard decided the town might be best served with Johnson in the position. We appointed him interim town administrator and, after a trial period, we made the appointment permanent.

In September of this year, the Selectboard, in consultation with the Planning Commission, asked Johnson to take on zoning administrator responsibilities on a trial basis. We thought he would do an excellent job in the combined positions—a combination that Berlin and Hyde Park also have.

Over the last two years, we have discussed potential conflicts of interest with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Secretary of State's office. The potential conflicts generally could be addressed by Johnson recusing himself from particular Selectboard decisions. He did so for all agenda items regarding himself as a town employee, and many of those conversations were held in executive session without Johnson present.

The Planning Commission both nominated Johnson to be acting zoning administrator and conducted the search for a new permanent zoning administrator. After reviewing three applications, they nominated Johnson. We are confident the town will be well served with Bruce Johnson in the new combined position.

Need Money? Have Ideas?

East Montpelier's Revolving Loan Fund Could Use Your Help

Do you have an idea for a new small business, or expansion for one already in existence? Are you renting now, but need a down payment to purchase in town? Do you own property in town, want to weatherize, upgrade your energy systems, or otherwise renovate? Maybe you have another idea about the needs for these funds and/or how to prioritize applications when they come in.

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

EMRLF is comprised of six residents in town—David Coburn (chair), Bruce Bjornland, Ed Deegan, Renée Carpenter, Lesley Drown, and Ross Hazel. We are figuring out how to set priorities and practices to fairly distribute funds returning to

us from a prior investment in the Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park's infrastructure. We have a few proposals waiting for us to finish designing our program and process for dispersal. If you have thoughts, ideas, or experience, perhaps you'd like to join us during this formative stage.

What do you think we need in East Montpelier that a small amount of very low (or no) interest capital can help to facilitate? Senior Housing? Energy upgrades and weatherization for homeowners? Micro-business development? Start-up capital for new agricultural enterprises? Deposits for prospective homebuyers currently renting? Something we haven't even thought of yet?

Now is the time to let us know your ideas and/or needs.

If you have thoughts or ideas for the use of the East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund, please contact Dave Coburn by email at: dave.coburn@comcast.net or call: 223-6886

Mallory Brook Trail Fundraising Challenge



Wow! Two anonymous donors in town have launched a three-to-one challenge grant to complete repairs on damage done in last year's flooding on the beautiful Mallory Brook Trail between Johnson and Cherry Tree Hill Roads. They have contributed \$1,000 to kick off a \$4,000-in-four-months challenge, by March 1. That money will pay a crew of three, led by Greg Western, to repair damaged rock stream crossings and make them resilient for any future flooding, as well as to improve other troubling wet spots.

If you've ever been grateful to have these fine and varied trails right in our community, this is a great chance to join the effort. In addition, volunteers are welcome to help on the trail. Send your email address to Dave Webb at dhwebb67@comcast.net and we will let you know when we have work dates. Greg Western is a trail genius and you will learn a lot.

Please donate. Any amount you can give is appreciated. We will acknowledge all donors unless you state that you wish to remain anonymous. (EMTI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.) Please send checks to East Montpelier Trails at:

EMTI c/o Richard Brock
234 Cutler Heights
Montpelier, VT 05602

Questions? Call us.

Richard Brock 223-7029

Dave Webb 279-2198

Nona Estrin 223-7745

Sandy Woodbeck 229-0734

Rick Hopkins 229-4735

Mary Stone 223-2319

Sue Chickering 229-6232

Recent Publications from the Historical Society

by Dave Coburn

Did you know that East Montpelier Village was once known as Quaker Village? Or about the service to our country that was rendered by five of our town's women? The historical society has published two booklets on these items of history.

Early Friends of East Montpelier was written by Margery Walker while she and her husband were living in Plainfield in the early 1970s. It tells the story of the Quakers who settled in the East Village area. Clark Stevens, the leader of the Quaker community, came from Massachusetts around 1800 and made his home at what is now the intersection of Cherry Tree Hill Road and Towne Hill Road. The Friends Society built its first meetinghouse on his property near the point where Bennett Brook crosses under Cherry Tree Hill Road. A later meetinghouse was further east on that road in what was originally a small general store and between the road and the Quaker Cemetery.

The booklet gives a bit of background on the origin and development of the Friends religion and tells what became of what was, for a time, a sizeable community of believers. It is an interesting story of the very early days of our town.

The second booklet is about five East Montpelier women who served in the military in World War II. When Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan in December of 1941, the United States was forced into World War II in both the Pacific and in Europe. Having to fight on two fronts placed an overwhelming demand for factory workers and on the military, and this need for staffing could not be met solely by men. Women came forward to meet this demand, working in defense plants in great numbers and, after some tribulation, entering military service. *Because We Were Needed*, compiled by David Coburn, is the story of five of our citizens who went to war: Dorothy Codling, Val Cueto, Grace Mekklesen, Mabel Wright, and the late Gladys Dunkling. In a talk at a Historical Society meeting, Gladys used the phrase "because we were needed" to explain why the women volunteered and this became the title of the book.

Women had served in the military as nurses beginning with the American Civil War, and a few women served in the Navy in World War I. However, there was great resistance to their becoming part of the Army. This had always been a male bastion. Further, since the intent was for women to take over clerical and administrative duties so the soldiers who had been doing these could go into combat, it was not a popular idea with these men or with their folks at home.

Because We Were Needed gives some background for the events of the time and the history of the services they entered. Then, based on interviews with three of them and their own stories, it chronicles what they did, where they went, and the experiences and dangers they faced.

The service performed by these five young women and thousands like them changed the culture of America and paved the way for the changes that have taken place since 1945. Their experience set the stage for the women's movement and the opportunities available to today's women. So, if you get a chance to do so, say "Thanks."

Both of these booklets and other society publications are available at the Town Office and directly from the Historical Society at P.O.Box 63, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Further information on publications and society activities can be found at www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org.



SUSAN BULL RILEY

Thank You Signpost Supporters

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Loring Starr & Michael Dworkin
Susan & Chip Stone
Jerome & Katherine Vaughan
Doris Washburn
Gregory Wimer & Kari Little

Your Contributions Are Needed!

Please mail them to:

PO 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/Zoning Administrator:
Bruce Johnson, eastmontadmin@comcast.net
Hours: Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

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

Seth Gardner, Chair
savage1@pshift.com

Carl Etnier
Vacant

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

- Chandler Cripps, son, born Oct. 16, 2012, to Thomas Cripps & Kerry Desilets
- Kaityn Deforge, daughter, born Oct. 30, 2012, to Jason & Talia Deforge
- Analee Popoli, daughter, born Oct. 31, 2012, to Anthony & Rachel Popoli
- Chambers Dalmasse, son, born Nov. 15, 2012, to Leighton Dalmasse & Julie Vogel

Marriages

- Jason Jacques & Ashley Wood, Sept. 29, 2012
- Bradley Lamell & Alissa Meyer, Sept. 29, 2012
- Kris Bador & Robin Spencer, Oct. 24, 2012

Deaths

In our death notices, only relatives living in East Montpelier are noted

- Emily Neary died Aug. 21, 2012, wife of Daniel Neary, mother of Jessica
- Alan Gould died Sept. 14, 2012, partner of Anne Stone
- Charles Calamia died Sept. 14, 2012
- Lloyd Hulbert died Sept. 17, 2012, former long-time resident
- Victor Duprey died Oct. 20, 2012, father of Shannon Davis, Christopher & Eric Duprey
- Harold Hayden died Nov. 17, 2012

Property Transfers

- John Leclerc to Rachel Shea, mobile home & 13.6 acres, VT145
- Victor Duprey & Mary Duprey to Victor Duprey & Eric Duprey, single family dwelling & 4.5 acres, Haggett Rd
- Andrew & Carolyn Shapiro, Amy & Jon Hansen, Jennifer Canfield, Pavel Cherkasov, Lindy Biggs, Stephen Knowlton, Ellen Seeger, Christopher Ellingwood to Andrew & Carolyn Shapiro, Amy & Jon Hansen, Jennifer Canfield, Lindy Biggs, Stephen Knowlton, Ellen Seeger, Christopher Ellingwood, condominiums & 41.1 acres, White Pine co-housing
- Sandra Holt to Jason & Talia Deforge, single family dwelling & 0.8 acres
- Joyce Parker & Clint Cliche to State of VT Agency of Transportation, single family dwelling & 1 acre, US2
- Paul Winters & Jennifer Busconi to Nicholas Van Den Berg & Laura Stone, single family dwelling & 4.33 acres, Coburn Rd
- Stuart & Annette Lawson to Stuart, Annette, Stuart Jr, Steven, Timothy & Thomas Lawson, single family dwelling & 1.23 acres
- Nancy Bruce, Executor, to Jack Lloyd & Ashley Hetrick, single family dwelling, farm buildings & 29 acres, Clark Rd

SELECTBOARD

October 1, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to allow the listers to change the contract value for Comcast in the NEMRC system
- to pass the Resolution Adopting the East Montpelier Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- to adopt the Fireworks Ordinance for the Town of East Montpelier
- to renew the 2013 VLCT PACIF membership
- to authorize the chair to sign the letter of engagement from Fothergill, Segale and Valley
- to authorize the chair to send a letter to the Cemetery Commission requesting they pay one-half of the costs of hogweed eradication in the cemetery
- to accept the holiday schedule for all town employees to work Veteran's Day and take off the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve (recused themselves: Johnson and Sparrow)
- to authorize the TA to draft a letter stating the dates of employment for Dina Bookmyer-Baker to be put in her personnel file

October 15, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve and sign the VTrans request form with one addition
- to appoint Gary Butler to the Farm Contract Study Committee
- to appoint Paul Erlbaum and Chris Racanelli as Green Up Day coordinators

October 29, 2012

No action taken.

November 5, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Winter Roads Policy as written
- to authorize the chair to sign the Commitment Agreement for the Village Sidewalk Project which obligates the town to pay \$49,000, which is 10% of the total projected costs
- to authorize the EM Fire Department to spend \$20,000 from the EMFD Capital Reserve Funds, with the remaining balance to be financed at 2.29% for five years, to be paid from the EMFD Capital Reserve Funds
- to nominate Ty Rolland as Fire Warden
- to adopt the East Montpelier Road Policies: "Acceptance of New Roads" and "Upgrading Class Four Town Roads to Class Three Roads"
- to lift the moratorium on acceptance of new town roads
- to accept the contract with Cartographic Associates, Inc.

Town Weathervane

PLANNING COMMISSION

September 6, 2012

- Discussed format of upcoming public meetings on preliminary town plan
- Discussed ZA appointment in executive session with no action taken

September 20, 2012

Public Meeting on preliminary town plan

Topics discussed:

- Community Resources
- Municipal Resources
- Public Services
- Comment period ends 10/20/12

October 4, 2012

2nd Public Hearing on preliminary town plan

Topics discussed:

- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Comment period ends 10/20/12

October 18, 2012

- Discussed two earlier public hearings
- Discussed CVRPC Enhanced Consultation Review of Preliminary Town Plan
- Discussed ZA position and approved a motion to advertise for candidates for the position

November 1, 2012

Discussed various chapters of town plan draft:

- Energy & Energy Conservation
- Water Supplies/Aquifers
- Reviewed 3 applications received for zoning administrator position
- Update by Farm Contract Study Committee: committee will recommend to SB that the town drop the town program. They are working on an article to be presented at Town Meeting. The committee, having completed its work has been disbanded.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

September 18, 2012

- Took testimony on application #12-048, a proposal by John and Phyllis Sanfacon for Wheeler Road site

Motions Passed:

- to go into deliberative session
- to require the applicant to submit the State's opinion whether the site is a salvage yard under applicable state laws and to provide a legal brief from the applicant stating why the trailers should be considered structures under applicable state laws. The hearing will be recessed until 10/16 for a status update on requested materials and the DRB will decide the matter no later than 12/18 (90 days).

October 16, 2012

Motions passed:

- to elect Rich Curtis as chair of DRB
- to elect Carol Welch as vice-chair of DRB
- to continue the hearing on application #12-048, a proposal by John and Phyllis Sanfacon, to the 11/20/12 DRB meeting
- To continue the hearing for application #12-043, a proposal by Chris Wong, to the 11/20 DRB meeting
- to accept the withdrawal of the Swenson appeal of building permit #12-035 and withdraw notice of violation
- to accept that the final subdivision plat of Fontaine application #12-012 meets the intention of the original decision

EMES BOARD

September 17, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve an Amazon Account with a balance limit if \$300.00
- to increase petty cash from \$200.00 to \$750.00
- to write off uncollectable food service accounts in the amount of \$490.00

Motions Tabled:

- to open an early retirement program for teachers and establish number eligible
- to open an early retirement program for education support personnel and establish number eligible

October 17, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to accept the Auditor's Report as presented
 - to offer early retirement programs for two eligible teachers
 - to offer an early retirement program for 1 ESP
- Motion Failed:
- to offer early retirement program to one eligible licensed teacher

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

September 19, 2012

- Finance committee reported an increased number of tuition students—75 up from 64 last year, thus more tuition revenue

Motions passed:

- to adopt policies G1, G4 (amended), G5, G6
- to approve co-curricular advisors
- to approve athletics coaches & volunteers
- to approve board orders as presented for 9/19/12: \$147,259.18, General; 9/19/12; \$10,667.04, Food Services; \$1,933.00, Athletic Officials

October 3, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to approve athletic coaches and volunteers as listed
- to appoint Stephen Balch to full-time maintenance and mechanic position
- to approve board orders as presented

October 17, 2012

Motions Passed:

- to accept the FY12 draft Audit Report
- to approve the fall athletics coaches and volunteers as amended
- to approve the following board orders of 10/17/12: \$148,422.40, General; \$2,199.00, Athletic Officials

Motion Tabled:

- to approve the Early Retirement Option (ERO) for educational support personnel (ESP)

Motion failed:

- to approve the ERO for teachers

November 7, 2012

Motion failed:

- to adopt an ERO for ESP

Motions passed:

- to approve co-curricular advisors as presented
- to approve athletic coaches and volunteers as presented
- to approve board orders as presented for 11/7 and 11/15/12



SUSAN BULL RILEY

Wintertime Gardeners Discussion and Support Group

When the seed catalogs have arrived and your green thumb is starting to get itchy, but it's January and the garden is buried under three feet of snow, what's a poor gardener to do?

The Four Corners Schoolhouse Association may just have the answer. We are hoping to start an informal lecture/discussion group on all things horticultural, to meet at the Schoolhouse on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2–4 p.m. during January, February, and March. There will be a focus for each meeting, for example, "Tomatoes," or "Insect Pests," or "Perennials." We hope to bring to each meeting someone particularly knowledgeable on the chosen subject who can answer questions and help lead the discussion.

If there is sufficient interest, one meeting could be spent putting together a group seed order. We encourage your suggestions regarding focus topics and local folks who might be willing to share their expertise.

Contact Rachael Grossman, garlicmountain@gmail.com, with your ideas, and keep your eye on Front Porch Forum for further news.

Café and Art at the Old Meeting House

The Parish House Café is a community lunch that is open to all at the Old Meeting House on most Wednesdays from 12–1:30. Soup, salad, homemade bread, and good conversation are highlights. About 20 people usually stop by to enjoy, so feel free to join us anytime. If you want more information or just to make sure the café is happening, call 229-9593. Donations are always appreciated but not necessary.

The Old Meeting House also hosts 3-4 art exhibits each year. Presently the paintings of Susan Bull Riley are being featured. Susan and her husband, Dick, have recently moved into the red school house next to the church. Her watercolors of birds, flowers, and landscapes are stunning. If you would like to see this exhibit, stop by the Old Meeting House during the café on Wednesday or come to coffee hour on Sunday from 10:30–11:30. Wendy Soliday organizes these exhibits and is eager to talk with other artists interested in exhibiting. She can be reached at 229-9594.

Can PACE Save You Money?

Pay for your home energy efficiency improvements only for the time you own your home. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is the only financing option where the assessment transfers with your house to a new owner when you sell your home. It is also the only program that provides you with an analysis of monthly savings to monthly payments specific to your home energy projects.

For more information contact Dave Grundy at ddgrundy@comcast.net.

Energy Efficiency Volunteers Needed

The East Montpelier Energy Committee along with many other Vermont towns is joining with Efficiency Vermont's efforts to increase the number of houses that improve their energy efficiency. The goal will be to have at least 33 homes in our town evaluated and improved in 2013. The Committee is looking for residents who are willing to contribute a few hours of their time to be trained and work with home owners on this project. Anyone interested in joining this effort is encouraged to contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or ddgrundy@comcast.net.

Paulie's Recipe: Ginger Cake

1 egg	1 tsp soda (dissolved in warm water)
¼ cup shortening (butter is better)	½ cup sour milk (or add 2 tsp vinegar to milk)
½ cup sugar	½ cup molasses
1 tsp to 1 tbsp ginger (to taste)	1½ cup flour (sifted twice)
pinch salt	

Bake in a moderate oven at 350°F

Paulie's comment: very good with applesauce and/or whipped cream



– **Esther Gallison** from the *Community Cookbook of the Friendly Circle*, North Montpelier

New Town Plan in the Works

After months of work by the East Montpelier Planning Commission (PC), assisted by several community volunteers who offered their knowledge and expertise on specific topics, the first draft of a new town plan was introduced in two public meetings this fall. That draft is available on the *Signpost* website under “town docs.”

The PC will spend the next couple of months refining and improving the document, taking into account the comments offered at the fall meetings. A final draft will be presented at a public meeting in the early spring and will again be posted

on the website. The process then calls for the new plan to be submitted to the Selectboard (SB), which will sponsor another public hearing. The PC is working to ensure the SB can adopt the town plan before it expires in June 2013.

There is still time to be involved. Persons interested in knowing more about the town plan or the town plan development process can contact any of the nine members of the Planning Commission or attend its meetings at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month. Each meeting begins with an opportunity for public comment.

Screamin' Ridge Farm, continued from page 1

It seems that Joe's love of fresh vegetables and culinary expertise began in his grandmother's kitchen in East Randolph. His work ethic and stamina are the result of many long hours chopping and splitting wood in the family's sugar bush with his grandfather. This early connection to Vermont apparently sowed the seeds for his dream of someday living in Vermont, farming full time, and developing culinary supported agriculture. Joe never waived from this goal—not in Paris as a culinary student and not in Brooklyn, San Francisco, San Diego, or Austin, Texas, where he was a chef in many chic, upscale restaurants. Coming to Vermont in 1999 was the first step in the fulfillment of that dream.

The silent partner and supporting force in Joe's Vermont entrepreneurial adventure is Lori Martin Buley, his wife of 20 years. Lori grew up near Philadelphia, studied horticulture at Penn State University, and earned a Master's degree in genetics from the University of California, Davis. Lori and Joe met in Paris on a riverboat on the Seine when he was a culinary student and she was a research fellow supported by the French government. While the Buley family was young and growing, Lori worked in laboratories as a molecular biologist for many years. She shifted into scientific writing and marketing two years before moving to Vermont and continued working as a remote employee in the biotechnology industry for about 12 years. Now she handles the farm's website, marketing, and advertising, and is a freelance marketing consultant and scientific writer.

There are three other integral members of this family and Screamin' Ridge Farm. Nikita is 21 and studying marketing at Georgetown University. Olivia, 18, is a freshman at UVM and is currently a mathematics major. Annik, 16, is spending a “year abroad”—living with Joe's sister and brother-in-law in Huntington Beach, California, and attending high school there. These girls are not only familiar, beautiful faces at the Screamin' Ridge Farm stall at the Capital City Farmer's Market, they are the inspiration behind the farm's name. Think of three young girls gleefully playing outside (yelling and screaming—according to Lori) and the farm's topography, a ridge with

interesting acoustics, and neighbors having fun, and there you have it—Screamin' Ridge!

In ten years, Screamin' Ridge Farm on Dillon Road at the top of Gould Hill Road has grown into a substantial Vermont business. Farm customers include Hunger Mountain Co-op, Central Vermont Medical Center, Blue Cross/Blue Shield employees, and Capitol City Farmer's Market shoppers. The farm sells salad and spinach all year, and offers a wide variety of vegetables in the warmer months. Joe and a few employees also produce a line of soups and sauces, called “Joe's Soups.” They are made from local farm products as much as possible and are prepared at the USDA-inspected Mad River Food Hub in Waitsfield. Finally, they sell Screamin' Ridge Farm products plus food from producers all over central Vermont through Joe's CSA.

Share boxes from Joe's CSA are comprised not only of fresh produce, fresh herbs, soups, sauces, spreads, and recipes from Screamin' Ridge Farm, but also meats, cheese and other dairy products, baked goods, and handmade chocolates from local farmers and food producers. To quote from the website, Joe's work “... augments that of other small farms, representing a viable, sustainable model that promotes business diversity, local community and a hyper-local economy. Screamin' Ridge Farm is proud to be a part of this movement, one really tasty bowl of soup or chef-curated CSA share at a time.”

Joe mentioned that 90% of all food consumed in Vermont comes from out of state. His goal is to reduce that number to 85%. Somehow, given his drive and ambition and Lori's support and out-of-the box creativity, I bet they will reach that goal, and maybe even surpass it.

Joe calls himself a “seventh generation flatlander” and even so, he has a deep reverence for Vermont and even deeper roots. He and Lori are powerful advocates for Vermont and everything that makes Vermont an incredible place to live. Their website, www.ScreaminRidgeFarm.com, is very informative and tells a great deal about Joe, the farm, and the CSA, Culinary Supported Agriculture.

—Louise Rauh has lived on Murray Road for nearly 40 years with her husband, Steve, son, Neil, and assorted horses and dogs.

East Montpelier Fire District No. 1

by Steve Gilman, chair

The Fire District has finally made it through all the hurdles and secured local short-term funding to cover our loan from the State of Vermont, so the feasibility study can begin. It has been a long and educational road for our volunteers and we sincerely thank all the local and state officials who have guided us along the way. Our approved contract with Aldrich & Elliot has been executed to conduct the engineering study of Crystal Springs Water System. After completion, we will have a very good idea of the existing Crystal Springs infrastructure and what will be required to bring the system into compliance with the State of Vermont to lift the moratorium on new connections. The final step will be for a third party appraisal to determine a reasonable and sustainable purchase price for the water system, also considering any construction costs to make the necessary repairs for compliance.

We are planning for our annual meeting and elections on January 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Emergency Services Building Community Room. We strongly encourage Crystal Spring's customers and any other interested community members to attend, so you can learn more about what we are attempting to accomplish and why. We are looking for new volunteers, so if you have the time, have an interest, and are willing to give a very small amount of your time, please contact Steve Gilman at 522-7894. Thank you!

Flor Diaz-Smith, continued from page 1

elementary and high school and in the evenings attended the Public National School of Dance. After graduating in 1990, her parents encouraged her to stay in school instead of traveling with the National Ballet. Her dad, an actor and director, told her she needed to have a profession that would be more secure.

She was soon accepted to the architecture school at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin. Architecture combined everything Flor loved: art, drawing, math, economics, creating models, and designing. While in school, Flor attended the City Beautiful Convention in Chicago with her architectural professor, Warren Orbough where she met the director of the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture. Flor soon traveled to Potsdam, Germany on a scholarship to take part in the 1996 Prince of Wales Urban Task Force. While there, she met the Prince of Wales (whom she described as very charming in person) and she also met three architects from Vermont who encouraged her to do an internship at Black River Design in Montpelier.

In 1997 Flor came to Vermont for a three-month internship but then had to return home to Guatemala to complete her course work. After graduation, she returned to Vermont. She lived on her own, which was a big deal because, in Guatemala, most young people live with their family until they marry.

Flor was quickly adopted by her Vermont co-workers and they became her family away from home. She stayed with Black River Design for many years and designed familiar spaces such as the porch at Sarducci's that overlooks the river and the beautification project in the alleyway next to Bear Pond Books. As Flor traveled throughout Vermont she quickly fell in love with the natural and architectural beauty of the state. She also fell in love with her future husband, Dan Smith.

Flor had seen Dan around Montpelier and they were casual acquaintances. One day, Flor was doing some measuring in a downtown building for a project. Dan was working in his office when Flor came to measure it. They soon started dating and were married in 2001.

Dan's work entails preserving farms, and his interest in buying one and renovating it was a perfect fit for Flor. When the Stone Farm came up for sale, they were able to envision its potential and moved in when their first child, Mia, was two years of age in 2005. Later that year, a son, Lincoln, was born.

Flor and Dan raise beef cows and chickens in the spring and sell them in the fall. In the early spring they sugar, and in the summer they cultivate a large vegetable garden. Flor still practices architecture as the owner of diazsmithSTUDIO based out of her home. She also spends time assisting the Spanish-speaking workers employed on farms in central Vermont. She transports them to town to get haircuts, translates when needed, and tries to give them a sense of belonging.

When Flor was asked how she got involved in our town's school, she told us that it grew out of her love and admiration for the United States public school system. In Guatemala, public schools are overcrowded and poorly equipped and there is a huge difference in the opportunities available to children of different backgrounds. Here we give all students an equal chance to succeed in our schools.

When her daughter, Mia, started preschool, Flor noticed an ad for membership on the EMES Facilities Committee. In 2008, she joined this newly formed group whose mission at the time was to look at maintenance, do a bit of upgrading, and replace some flooring. This small step into the workings of our school led Flor to run for the School Board after she became a citizen in 2009 and then to chair the Facilities Committee.

Her passion for education and her support of our school and community are evident to anyone who has a conversation with her. Flor believes that the East Montpelier School is the center of our community and the children who walk through those doors every day should be afforded the opportunity to reach their hopes and dreams in the best and most supportive environment possible.

—Jamie O'Hare lives on Dodge Road with her husband, Michael, and teaches kindergarten at East Montpelier Elementary School.

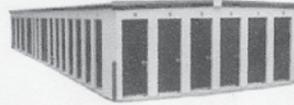
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- East Montpelier Organizations

Volume XXIII—Number Three
 January/February 2013

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CALENDAR & NOTICES

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thurs. Jan. 24:** Deadline for petitions to place articles on Town Meeting Warning: signed by at least 5% (130) of registered voters
- Mon. Jan. 28:** Deadline for petitions to run for elected offices: signed by at least 1% (25) of registered voters
- Wed. Feb. 20:** Early/Absentee Ballots available for Town Meeting
- Wed. Feb. 27:** Deadline for new voters to register with Town Clerk
- Sat. Mar. 2:** Town/School Forum (tentative date)
- Tues. Mar. 5:** Town/School Meetings

CALENDAR

March 8 to April 19, Fridays 2-3:30 p.m.
 Orchard Valley School program for infants up to 12 months with parent: Babies play in a nurturing, homelike environment while parents actively observe and discuss various parenting topics such as sleep habits, nutrition, children's temperaments. Contact Morgan Irons at morgan.i@ovws.org

Don't forget to submit your calendar items for the next issue of the *Signpost*!

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Christmas Holiday Dec. 24 & 25
New Year's Holiday Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Deadline for Next Issue

January 28, 2013
 Send 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