EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

Volume XXVI—Number Six July/August 2016

Stillpoint Associates

by Rebecca Tobin Schrader

Whether it's guiding you through the complexities of Social Security or the Vermont wilderness, Peter and Fran Weinbaum have had a diverse array of work experiences. Peter grew up in Massachusetts and Fran in New York State. They met at the University of New Hampshire, when Peter was working on his Masters in Counseling in Education and Fran was getting her undergraduate degree. They married in 1975 and moved to Vermont in 1976 for Peter to take a position at Goddard College. Their company, Stillpoint Associates, has been the umbrella for several business ventures, including their current pursuits: Social Security Maven and Vermont Wilderness Rites.

At a conference in New Orleans in 2010, Peter attended a talk on Social Security. Like many people, he had not realized the complexity of

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Go For It with Sara & Darryl Garland

by Michelle A.L. Singer

When you walk into East Montpelier Elementary School there is a small plaque, just after the door to the library, which lists all the names of the students who have won the Jonathan Miller Award for a "Go For It" spirit since 1984. Under the year 1988, you'll see the name Sara Danforth. If there was an award for parents with spirit, Sara Danforth Garland would be on that plaque as well. As a room parent, popcorn popper, chaperone, president of the PTNO, Girl Scout troop leader, and, along with her husband Darryl, the force behind the EMES yearbook for the past eight years, she has put in countless hours on behalf of our kids. She feels strongly about investing in the future as I've always known.

The Garlands have always been a special family to me and mine. Both families have three kids, and we had them at the same time, with the same spacing of years between them, in the same gender order: our oldest girls are 13 and just finished seventh grade at U-32, our middle boys just finished fourth grade at EMES, and our youngest girls finished first grade together. We also both live in intergenerational households. My parents share a home with us, and Sara's mother shares a home with her. When I was offered the opportunity to write about Sara for the *Signpost*, I agreed in part because it gave me the chance to say thank you to her, publically, for all she has done for the school and for my kids specifically—

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Signpost Volunteers

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

Marlene Betit: Features Co-editor
223-6028 mabetit@aol.com

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

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

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

Rhoda Chickering: Town Records
229-5005 chickeringrhoda@gmail.com

Ed Day: Proofreader
229-2518 edjoday@ezcloud.com

Darryl Garland: Design
272-4962 redgarlanddesign@gmail.com

Rachael Grossman: E.M. Eats Coordinator
223-3177 garlicmountain@gmail.com

Edie Miller: Managing Editor
229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

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

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

Michelle Singer: Inside EMES Coordinator & Copy Editor
223-6186 jmsinger98@hotmail.com

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

Ann Stanton: Business Manager, Copy Editor
223-5321 profstanton@aol.com

Printed by L. Brown and Sons Printing,
476-3164

Top of the *Signpost*

New Residents—Introduce Yourselves

Traditionally, the September-October *Signpost* has featured a theme that is explored by townspeople. In years past, community members have shared their thoughts on their favorite places to hike, ski, and walk, how they have made homes more energy efficient, the origins of their street names, and uses of technology, to name just a few.

In keeping with the mission of the *Signpost* to help develop a sense of community, we invite new residents of East Montpelier to let us know you're here. If you have moved to East Montpelier within the last couple of years, please contact us. In addition, if you longer-time East Montpelierites have new neighbors, ask them to participate or introduce them yourself. In up to 250 words, tell us about yourself/your family. You might let us know:

- where you live and what brought you here
- something funny or unexpected that's happened to you since you came
- what stands out for you so far
- anything else you can fit in the allowable space

Please send your introduction and photo (optional) by August 1 to Barbara Ploof at signpostbcp@hotmail.com.

If you prefer to have a *Signpost* volunteer write your intro, call Barb at 223-6934.

—Edie Miller is a long-time resident and volunteer in East Montpelier

Creating a Master Plan for East Montpelier Village

The Planning Commission and the E.M. Village Committee are working with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to develop a Master Plan and zoning regulations that will support new growth and a vibrant village.

Currently, we are in the information-gathering phase—inviting various experts and groups to talk with us about current conditions, past studies, and potential opportunities related to water, wastewater, transportation, recreation, housing, and economic development. We are drafting a vision for the village, including boundaries and desired density. On July 21 we urge you to attend an open house to outline these preliminary concepts and solicit public feedback. Over the summer, we will refine these concepts and present three plan scenarios at an open house in October. With public feedback in mind, we will choose a preferred scenario and develop a draft Master Plan and zoning for presentation early next year.

Look to Front Porch Forum for announcements of discussion topics and events, and to the *Signpost* for progress reports and public outreach events. The East Montpelier Village page on the town website is already our resource library, and we will post documents we create there —check it out.

See you in the village!

– Julie Potter is a Planning Commission member

Village Planning Open House
July 21: Your Opinions Wanted!

The Planning Commission wants your ideas and opinions on planning for the future of East Montpelier Village. Help us create a vision for the village, define the village boundaries and identify what you want. Look at maps and pictures, jot down your suggestions, and help us pick the best ideas!

WHAT: Village Planning Open House
DATE: Thursday, July 21st.
TIME: Come anytime 6-8:00 pm
WHERE: Emergency Services Facility (Fire Department), 54 Village Acres
Bonus: ***Refreshments*** will be served!

Who Will Represent East Montpelier and Middlesex?

For the first time in more than 15 years, there is an open seat for the representative to the State Legislature from the East Montpelier/Middlesex district. An encouraging sign for democracy at this level is the fact that we have several candidates from the two towns who are vying for election to that seat in Vermont's Statehouse. The Signpost has offered candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves briefly to East Montpelier readers.

VIRGINIA "GINNY" BURLEY

candidate in the Democratic primary

I want to represent East Montpelier and Middlesex in the House of Representatives. An experienced local leader with a strong record of effective change, I can help make Vermont a better place to live, work, and raise families.

My years on the school board and my work with local non-profits have prepared me well for the job. I represented East Montpelier on the U-32 school board for 18 years, including 10 years as chair. I helped create the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association, was the founding Director of the Central Vermont New Directions Coalition, a substance abuse prevention organization, and the founding Director of Community Connections, which provides expanded learning opportunities for youth in Central Vermont. I have a Master's Degree in English, am a graduate of the Snelling Center's Vermont Leadership Institute, and have a certificate in non-profit management from Marlboro College.

My time on the U-32 board taught me to listen to the community, to work collaboratively, and to find consensus. I helped see the building project through to fruition, and got the capital fund established to sustain that work. Founding both New Directions and Community Connections taught me to understand community needs, have a vision, think about systems, and find the right partners. These skills will be invaluable in the legislature. I have also been in the State House for the past few years, working on issues involving substance abuse and expanded learning opportunities, including serving on three summer legislative study committees under the Pre-K through 16 Council. I know how things work in the State House. I am ready and willing to serve our communities.

CARL ETNIER

candidate in the Democratic primary

Tony Klein leaves big shoes to fill, and I'd be honored to get your vote in the August 9 Democratic primary. I'm also seeking the Progressive nomination, to be a fusion candidate.

Vermont can rein in the influence of money in politics. There's new membership ahead on the US Supreme Court, so the door is open to challenging Citizens United and other rulings that have blocked some of Vermont's campaign finance reform laws in the past.

I'm a union member, pledged to look after the interests of working families and low-income people. Increasing the minimum wage to $15, eliminating Vermont's tax on Social Security benefits, and investing in affordable, efficient housing are among the measures I support.

Through years of work in media and community organizing, I have helped strengthen efforts to increase local food, energy, and purchases.

Bill McKibben wrote about my candidacy, "Carl Etnier has worked long and hard on progressive and environmental causes; his knowledge base is deep and wide, and his commitment obvious."

As a member of the Hunger Mountain Coop Council and the East Montpelier Select Board, combined with my journalism work (WGDR radio, WDEV radio, Vermont Digger, the Times Argus, the Bridge, The World, etc.), I am very familiar with state issues and the State House. I'll be ready on Day 1.

Look for me at events or knocking on your door. Please feel free to stop me on the street or email me at carl@etnier.net or call me at 223-2564 to let me know what's important to you. Thanks!

KIMBERLY JESSUP

candidate in the Democratic primary

I'm running for State Representative to harness nearly three decades of advocacy and legislative experience for Vermont.

My background centers on international development. I chose this direction because I view the world as connected and sought to understand how we impact one another. My experience with the Overseas Development Network, Indian organizations, and the Environmental Defense Fund instilled my deep regard for equity, environmental justice, and economic security.

As a congressional aide, I saw the influence of power and money when grappling with foreign policy at the U.S. House Banking Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I've used this knowledge to advocate on education, poverty, and environment and find common ground within diverse coalitions. I know how to ask tough questions from my work researching and reporting for Vermont Public Radio. And I've wrestled with the details of Vermont's education funding through my service as a school board member.

My current position at the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges brings together my interests in education, affordability, and economic vitality. I view apprenticeships, college degrees, and professional credentials as powerful tools for both individual and statewide prosperity. Through work at the Institute for Sustainable Communities, I know communities are finding creative ways to balance growth and sustainability.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from UC Berkeley and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University. I live in Middlesex with my husband and two children.

I welcome hearing from you. You can reach me at jessupkimberly@gmail.com and 802-249-9306.

BENJAMIN KAPLAN

candidate in the Democratic primary

Ben Kaplan grew up in East Montpelier. Ben has an appreciation for the beauty of Vermont balanced with strong local businesses. During his time working in D.C. for the U.S. Senate, Ben realized the importance of young minds within our government. Later, Ben worked for NASA at the Goddard Space Center. His team of scientists and engineers produced what will become part of the International Space Station later this summer.

Each election we hear of the need to keep youth returning to Vermont. At 18 years old, Ben knows that he will bring needed perspective and change to our Legislature. His years of leadership within our schools and his community projects foster an understanding of the potential Vermont has as a player in today's technology and energy revolution.

The perspective of a young and motivated lawmaker will both inspire many of the youth in Middlesex and East Montpelier to engage with their government and allow us to address the Brain Drain that has long affected Vermont. Ben Kaplan looks forward to serving our towns and communities. His knowledge, perspective, and passion will create strong solutions and set Vermont on the right path forward for generations to come.

B. DEXTER LEFAVOUR, P.E.

candidate in the Republican primary

I am excited to have this opportunity to serve the community and state that I love so much. I appreciate all of the support and encouragement I have received from so many people about running this year.

We have a lot of challenges in Vermont that need to be addressed. I will work hard, and in a practical and balanced way, to find new solutions to these difficulties.

These solutions, like people, aren't one size fits all. I recognize and appreciate the diversity of opinions and ideas that shape who we are and what we choose to do with our lives. When we face challenges as individuals and communities we can work together without unnecessarily limiting our freedom. I truly look forward to seeing many of you that I know and to meet new friends in the months ahead.

KIM SWASEY

candidate in the Democratic primary

Please consider voting for me, Kim Swasey, in the August 9 Primary Election for Democratic Representative from Washington 5 for Vermont House of Representatives, formerly Tony Klein's seat. Tony is retiring, and I wish him the best.

I was born and raised in Montpelier (fourth generation Vermonter), have lived in East Montpelier since 1994, and presently serve on the Selectboard. I graduated from the University of Vermont and later earned a Master of Public Administration Degree from Norwich University. Serving in the military from 1986 to 2012 instilled in me the importance of effective group collaboration, and I am often the facilitator for positive results. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Taking seriously the notion of representative government, I approach this opportunity with an open mind, ready to listen, and then act based on what will be best for my constituents in both Middlesex and East Montpelier. Many of you have already shared concerns about our high cost of education and, as your fiscally conservative representative, I agree with H.262, which is presently in the House Committee on Education. The bill requires school district budgets to include information distinguishing between administrative spending and instructional or programmatic spending at both the district and supervisory union levels.

Other leadership qualities such as patience, tenacity, efficiency, and group motivation were honed while raising three daughters—Jennifer, Megan, and Kaylee—to adulthood with the help of my husband, Norman Hill, to whom I have been married since 2004. I hope you will join them in supporting me for this public service.

MATT SWENSON

Independent candidate in the general election.

Simply put, there are not enough well-paying jobs in Vermont due to hundreds of layoffs and closures of businesses. As a result, young people are leaving the state; many people are working two or three jobs to make ends meet. I envision creating an economic environment that encourages, supports and attracts small businesses and start-ups, especially high-tech companies that will attract young people. I ultimately have the goal of a living wage in Vermont but in order to go forward with this plan we have to push harder for a better economy.

One of our greatest resources is the minds of children and young adults. I back an innovative approach to improving schools which includes focusing on better training in the skills students need for high-tech jobs and a strong emphasis on service learning similar to that provided by Americorps. Local schoolboards have had a confusing and difficult process dealing with Act 46. If I'm elected, it is my intention to address these concerns in any future legislation.

While documenting the political scene for public access TV, I have witnessed the need for a fresh approach that will get government back to its primary goal of facilitating opportunities for all people in the state. I hope to start an independent movement that will bring back progress to Vermont.

Come Celebrate our Village

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SEPT. 10, 2016 Approx. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

RALLY FOR THE VILLAGE

FOOD, MUSIC, DISCOVERY, PLAY

details later (Upper and Lower Villages)

— Sponsored by the East Montpelier Planning Commission (Contact Jean Vissering 223-3262; jeanviss@attglobal.net)

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
http://eastmontpelier.com

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 9am–5pm

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

Fire Permits: EMFD 225-6247

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

Assistant Animal Control Officer:
Elliott Morse 839-8723

Listers: Rob Chickering, Ross Hazel, Chris Racanelli 223-3313 x206, eastmontlstr@comcast.net

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier — Gene Troia
Kimberly Swazey — Casey Northrup

Planning Commission

Jean Vissering, Chair, 223-3262

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley, kbradley@u32.org
Emily Goyette, egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair
rbennett@thatitguy.com

Kimberly Kendall — Lindy Johnson
Stephen Looke — Flor Diaz-Smith

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
twk@tonyklein.com

Town Weathervane

Milestones

BIRTHS

- Nadia Case, daughter, born Feb. 22, 2016 to Lisa Mase & Ryan Case
- Rowen Smith, son, born Mar. 4, 2016 to Erika & Jeremy Smith
- Evangeline Stiles, daughter, born Mar. 16, 2016 to Teal Church & Matthew Stiles
- Grace Amelia Roy, daughter, born Apr. 22, 2016 to Meaghan & Richard Roy

DEATHS

- Suzanne Nishiyachi died Mar. 15, 2016, spouse of Etsuro Nishiyachi
- Kimberly Douse died Apr. 1, 2016, spouse of Jason Douse
- Frances Pickel died May 6, 2016, spouse of David Pickel
- Ronald Morris died May 11, 2016, spouse of Sharon Keefe
- Gerard Jarvis died May 15, 2016, son of Roxanne (Cerasoli) & Gerard Jarvis, Sr.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Beth Plante to Vermont Agency of Transportation, easement, 1.22 acres, VT14
- Larry Fitch to Larry Fitch, Nicole Macharg and Sean Fitch, single family dwelling & 10.2 acres, Lyle Young Rd
- Elaine Manghi Buck to Will Duane & Victoria Capitanelli, 7.02 acres & single family dwelling, Markham Rd
- Charlotte Magurn & Harold Mayforth to George & Shannon Wilson, 12.5 acres & single family dwelling, Deronde Rd
- Gino Castonguay to Megan Castonguay, 1.4 acres & single family dwelling, County Rd
- Jason McLeod to Jason McLeod & Raymond McLeod, 39 acres open land, Muddy Brook Rd
- Rachel Shea to Joseph & Devon Byers, 13.18 acres & mobile home, VT14S
- Gregory Sylvain to Louise LaPoint, 1.67 acres & single family dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd
- Margaret Hood to Holly Newberry, 5.5 acres & single family dwelling, Factory St
- Maurice & Barbara Brown to Michele Bailey & Maurice Brown, 1.1 acres & single family dwelling, VT2
- Richard & Shawn Davidian to Richard & Shawn Davidian Revocable Trust, 24.93 acres & single family dwelling
- Charles Stone Jr Living Trust to Susan Atwood-Stone Living Trust, 29.3 acres & single family dwelling, County Rd
- Susan Atwood-Stone Living Trust to Charles Stone Living Trust, 44.61 acres & single family dwelling, Cummings Rd
- Stephen Ribolini to Stephen & Andrew Ribolini, 0.32 acres & single family dwelling, St Paul's Square
- Teresa Ettouzar to Stephen Ribolini, 0.32 acres & single family dwelling, St Paul's Square
- James Stone to James Stone Revocable Living Trust, 19 acres & single family dwelling, Putnam Rd
- Armand Laquerre to Norman & Carla Messier, 23.1 acres open land, East Hill Rd

Below are excerpts of meetings of EM's key governing boards. Complete minutes are available on the school and town websites.

Selectboard

March 21, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to authorize Treasurer Welch to renew the Forest Fund CD on such terms as he sees fit
- to appoint the following townspeople to these positions: Animal Control Officer: Sandi Conti; Assistant Animal Control Officer: Elliott Morse; Town Service Officer: Rachael Grossman; Emergency Management Co-coordinators: Bill George, Toby Talbot; Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Lead Representative: Julie Potter; Central Regional Planning Commission Alternate: Jack Pauly; Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee: Frank Pratt; Four Corners Schoolhouse Association Representative: Carolyn Shapiro; State Police Community Advisory Board: Carol Welch, Don Welch; Conservation Fund Advisory Committee: Michael Dworkin; Recreation Board: Philiip Heinz, Cristin O'Donnell; Forest Committee: Paul Cate, Colin Blackwell; Capital Improvement Committee: Gene Troia , Don Welch, Casey Northrup, Dave Burley

April 11, 2016

Motions Passed:

- to accept the bid from Grout Farms for roadside mowing in the amount of a $4,950, lump sum for one pass of mowing on all town roads plus $75.00/hour for additional work as requested
- for the Quaker Road culvert structure grant application the Selectboard finds that incorporating "complete streets" principles is outside the scope of the project because of its very nature
- to submit to the Agency of Transportation a Municipal Highway Grant Application for a culvert on Quaker Road , for $79,399.11
- for the County Road paving grant application, the Selectboard finds that it has considered

"complete streets" for this area, and the cost of incorporating complete street principles is disproportionate to probable use because this is an isolated stretch and improvements would not increase user volumes
- to submit to Agency of Transportation a Municipal Highway Grant Application for paving on County Rd, in amount of $210,000
- to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to sign the Muddy Brook Road stabilization grant application to Vermont Better Roads in the amount of $50,455.00 total project costs
- to adopt the FY17 Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways
- to adopt the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory
- to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to submit a 50-50 grant application to VLCT/PACIF for a construction sign package and safety vests
- to approve the Journal Entry Policy as submitted by the treasurer
- to adopt the East Montpelier Local Emergency Operations Plan for 2016
- to adopt the NEMRC Annual Disaster Recovery Contract
- to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the site plan application to the Development Review Board for the Park and Ride project
- to authorize the use of the Emergency Services Facility Bond for facility flashing
- to authorize Treasurer Welch to renew the Forest Fund CD for $20,000 on such terms as he sees fit
- to set the Treasurer's salary for FY17 at $33,000.

May 2, 2016

Motions Passed:
- to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to sign the one year IT Support Service Agreement with rb Technologies at a base cost of $265 per month
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to accept the FY17 ESRI ArcGIS license quote of $700 which is unchanged from last year
- to appoint Art Chickering to a three-year term on the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee, ending March 2019

May 16, 2016

Motions Passed:
- to accept and sign the FY16 Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. Scope of Services agreement
- to authorize TA Johnson to sign the Chase & Chase Surveyors Scope of Services agreement
- to reappoint Ann Stanton, Lindy Johnson, and Charlie Catlin to one year terms to the Funding Request Study Committee
- to authorize Road Foreman Garand to purchase up to five loads of stone/gravel for use on the Cherry Tree Hill Road trailhead parking lot

Planning Commission

March 17, 2016

Discussion Issues:
- the Planning Commission is trying to gather background information and look at future issues with the village and Crystal Springs critical to the village's options as regards the limited water supply
- PSB's Certificate of Public Good Proceedings on the BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC application
- Master Plan for East Montpelier Village
- Village community event planned for late summer

April 7, 2016

Motions Passed:
- to have the chair draft another letter to the Public Service Board stating that the BDE EM Lazar Solar project interferes with the town's orderly development and include the sewer's importance
- to elect Jean Vissering commission chair, Julie Potter vice-chair, and Kim Watson corresponding secretary

April 21, 2016

Discussion items:
- East Montpelier Village Master Plan: Neighborhood Development Areas, Guest John Adams, VT Department of Housing & Community Development
- East Montpelier Village Master Plan: Review of Draft Business Survey

May 5, 2016
- Discussion item: East Montpelier Village Master Plan, wastewater potential options for the future with Amy Macrellis of Stone Environmental
- Motion Passed: to accept the Planning Commission's Rules of Procedure as presented with the attachment of the Open Meeting Law from state Statute as Appendix 1.

May 19, 2016

Discussion items:
- Michael Lazar regarding the Public Service Board's Certificate of Public Good Proceedings on the BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC Application for a 500kW Solar Array on the Cassani Property at the South End of East Montpelier Village
- Eric Vorwald, CVRPC senior planner: East Montpelier Village history & current conditions; master plan for the Village
- July 21 East Village open house

Development Review Board

May 3, 2016

Motions Passed:
- to approve the waiver request for Application #16-005 under Section 3.14A3 for the location of a shed at 2720 Towne Hill Road
- to approve waiver application #16-007 to allow the construction of the Park 'n Ride facility with the condition that consideration is given to including pedestrian connection to the Village
- to recess the hearing for a site visit on 5/17 at 6:30 p.m. and reconvene the hearing on conditional use review #16-010, by the Orchard Valley School afterward at the Town Clerk's Office

May 17, 2016

Motions Passed:
- to go into deliberative session to discuss application #16-010 from Orchard Valley School
- to deny application #16-010 on the fact that it doesn't qualify as a permitted or conditional use and does not meet minimum of being similar in scale, intensity and potential impact as other uses allowed in Zone D-Rural Agriculture

Due to lack of space, the summaries of the school board minutes may be found on the Signpost website at www. emsignpost.com.

Snow, May 16

Stillpoint, continued from page 1

the benefit system. "I was astounded by what I was hearing," he said. A vice president at National Life, he arranged to bring the same speaker there for three presentations attended by 250 people, many of whom had similar reactions. Peter realized there was a real need to help people understand their Social Security options, so he went about researching the topic and becoming an expert himself. When he retired from National Life in 2012, The Social Security Maven was born.

Peter consults with clients all over the country, mostly via phone and email, as well as giving group presentations customized to each audience. He gets some clients through referrals from financial planners or insurance agents, while others find him through his website. The Social Security Maven offers three types of services for individuals and couples: hourly consultation, a comprehensive analysis report, and a more compact summary report. To prepare his customized reports, Peter has clients complete a questionnaire that covers both their financial picture and their goals.

Peter says while he no longer keeps 9 to 5 hours, his work is still pretty much full-time. He might be working on reports or preparing presentations at 5 a.m. or on a Sunday afternoon instead of "regular" business hours, giving him flexibility for other pursuits. As a one-man operation, when business is slower, he'll put more time into marketing and updating his website.

Fran worked full-time until their children, now 28 and 30, were born and has worked in many different areas ever since—sometimes doing paid work and sometimes as a volunteer. For the past 30 years though, she says "home is still the priority." These days, she focuses mostly on the three Gs: grandparenting, goats, and guiding—in that order. The couple's granddaughter spends weekends and school breaks at their Bliss Road home, and Fran's herd of Nigerian dwarf goats lives in a small barn behind the house.

In the mid-90s, she began guiding wilderness rites-of-passage experiences, which she describes as "helping people develop intuitive, listening relationships with nature." In addition to offering quests a couple of times a year at Green River Reservoir, Fran also guides wilderness rites of passage for women in Central Vermont once a year. Over 60 women have participated in the past six years, and now Fran is a mentor to new guides. It is a "giveaway"—the guides do not get paid and the women who quest are supported by other women who have quested before.

Fran and Peter have both completed life coach training through the Newfield Network in Colorado. In addition to group wilderness experiences, she also works with individuals who may be at a crossroads or feel stuck in a rut in their lives. The Weinbaums started Stillpoint Associates in 2001 when Fran took on a contract with the state, working to prevent young people from dropping out of high school. Vermont Wilderness Rites Company is now part of Stillpoint.

Another of Fran's passions is her once-monthly gig hosting "The Quilting Hour" on Goddard's radio station, WGDR. When she started working on the show, she focused on interviews with women over 70. "I had been to several memorial services for older women who had passed away," she related, "and I realized I didn't know their stories." More recently, she has also started featuring service projects. Most of the projects she's highlighted have been international, but she also talks about local projects like Habitat for Humanity's house construction in central Vermont. "Mostly I'm trying to build awareness," she said, "and bring the world into our local view."

When asked about how they balance different work and life goals, Peter and Fran both laughed and noted that balance was probably not one of their greatest strengths. But they're working at it. Peter mentioned that he hasn't been doing as much marketing, and is working on working less. Fran has tried to focus more on the things most important to her. "I'm still very busy," she noted, "but I'm busy with fewer things."

—Rebecca Tobin Schrader moved to East Montpelier with her husband and two school-age boys in June of 2015. Renters for now, they hope to build soon on the land they've purchased in North Montpelier

Thanks to *Signpost* Supporters

• Elaine Manghi Buck* • Megan & Mark Cann • Harriett Haggett • John Ordway & Molly Power

*apologies for incorrect listing in last issue

Sara & Darryl continued from page 1

not only through the PTNO but also as Girl Scout leader of our daughters' troops. I also learned more about her life B.C. (Before Children), something we fellow parents don't always get to do.

I knew Sara grew up in East Montpelier on the land where she lives now with her family. I didn't know that she and Darryl had originally planned to build their own house there or that her parents ran the Danforth Sugarhouse business selling sugaring supplies out of their garage. When her parents separated, Sara's father, Nathan Danforth, moved the business to Route 2 where Sara had her first job. She earned one cent for every label she put on mailing envelopes and developed her work ethic.

Darryl grew up in Derry, N.H., and went to Lyndon State College for its program in radio communication. He discovered two important things there, and neither of them had to do with radios. He met Sara, and he took his first design class. They have been married for 16 years this August, and Darryl is still a graphic designer.

My favorite detail about their wedding, other than that they were married in the North Tunbridge Church and had their reception on the Tunbridge fairgrounds, is that they drove off on a silver 1964 Vespa scooter. They honeymooned in London and Paris and shortly after started their professional lives in Boston. For two years, Darryl worked in design and Sara as a marketing manager. In 2001, they packed up their clothes, books, and the scooter and took a 5,000-mile road trip to California, taking their time seeing the country. They settled in the San Francisco area, and soon after Sara's sister got engaged. Sara, missing home, traveled back to Vermont six times in the 12 months they lived there. When their Vespa was stolen out of their garage, that was the last straw. They knew it was time to come home.

Growing up in Vermont, Sara, like nearly every other teenager before her, swore she wouldn't live in such a boring place when she grew up. Now, she says, "I wouldn't trade being in Vermont for anything." She describes Vermont's charm in terms of people and lack of people. "It's the quality of people," she says, "their manners, opening the door for you, stopping when you cross the street. I also like being able to grocery shop almost any time without it being crowded. In San Francisco, near where we lived, any time you went it was packed."

In 2007, Sara's childhood home in East Montpelier caught fire and was destroyed. Her mom, Ann Danforth, was living there and had a tenant as well. The fire alarms saved the lives of everyone in the house, including the cats and dog. They built a new house for Ann and added an apartment upstairs as a rental. As circumstances would have it, they moved into the apartment themselves and have been there ever since, bringing Sara full circle. She and Darryl are raising their three children, Eliza, Rokes, and Amelia, on the same land where Sara grew up.

Since day one, Sara has been a powerhouse volunteer at the school. She has been active with the PTNO (Parent, Teacher, Neighbor Organization), yearbook, and Girl Scouts since Eliza started kindergarten almost eight years ago. She was the PTNO president for at least half that time before giving up the post two years ago. "We have a great community; they are really good at helping when you need it and showing up with things."

Sara has run not one, but two Girl Scout troops in the past seven years. The troop she started when Eliza was in first grade is still going, and the girls are now Cadets. Last year, they finished out their elementary school years as Girl Scouts by taking an overnight trip to New York City. They experienced the Broadway musical "Matilda," Central Park, and Times Square. "I love being able to provide opportunities through Girl Scouts that the girls might not have had otherwise," she says.

She started the second troop this year when her youngest child, Amelia, was in first grade; that troop will bridge from Daisies to Brownies this summer. The girls work toward earning badges and earning money from cookie sales to do a service project and a fun event. This year they worked with the Central Vermont Humane Society, visiting and buying needed supplies, and took a trip to Jay Peak.

These days, Sara can be found at the Morse Farm working in a business she's very familiar with: maple syrup. Darryl works for National Life as a creative director, where he has been for almost 10 years. "National Life has allowed me to make an impact while being part of something larger," he says. "And the company is as much a cause as a corporation, with our mission of bringing peace of mind to every life we touch." He didn't ever replace the Vespa, but he does have a '78 BMW bike that he enjoys riding.

From the EMES yearbook to which Sara and Darryl generously donate their time and skills, to the *Signpost*, where Darryl volunteers as layout designer, their fingerprints can be found all over our community. Thank you, Sara and Darryl, from my family and all the families in East Montpelier.

—Michelle and her family live on Cherry Tree Hill Road

Isabel Hall trains her show calf.

East Montpelier Eats

When Kim and Geoff Beyer started raising chickens, they did so thinking it would be fun and educational for their daughters with the bonus of knowing that their eggs came from organically-fed, well-cared-for hens. Twenty-five years later, they are quite the pros.

Geoff tells us that the start-up cost is anywhere between $0 and $500, depending on how fancy you want your set-up to be. A coop is essential and should be small enough so that the hens can keep each other warm in the winter. If you want them to run free you should still have an inner, smaller area that is secured on both sides and top. A predator-proof enclosure, while not a must, is a significant and worthy effort to avoid misery and disappointment. The Beyers have lost chickens to weasels, owls, fox, and raccoons.

One caveat: If you are thinking of raising hens and selling the eggs for a profit, try something different. The birds are fun to have but there is definitely a time investment of caring for them every day—letting them in and out of the coop, collecting and washing eggs, and feeding and watering them. Organic feed is expensive, and, remember, in one night your flock could disappear due to a predator.

However, don't be discouraged. Kim and Geoff are still at it and enjoying the eggs, the hens, and all the ups and downs. Their 30 hens provide enough eggs for their family with a little left over to sell to neighbors.

—Rachael Grossman is EME coordinator

Paulie's Recipe: Delmonico Eggs

2 cups thick white sauce
6 hard boiled eggs
1/2 cup cheese, cut in small pieces
1 cup fresh cooked asparagus

Melt cheese in white sauce and season to taste. Put alternate layers of sliced eggs and asparagus in a buttered baking dish. Pour the white sauce over the eggs and asparagus. Brown in oven.
Paulie's comment: Other vegetables could be substituted for the asparagus.

Elva Walker, from the Community Cook Book *(North Montpelier)*

Habitat for Humanity in East Montpelier

Started nationally in 1976 and popularized by the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is known for building homes in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. The local organization, Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity, Inc. (CVHFH), begun in 1989, has built over 20 houses in Orange and Washington counties.

Back in 2009, 11.5 acres of land in East Montpelier was purchased with funds from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the East Montpelier Conservation Fund, and the Cross VT Trail. Named after the previous owner, the Benton Conservation Park consists of 10.5 acres preserved as a natural greenway for public outdoor recreation. One acre (1248 Route 2) was sold for $1 to CVHFH for development. The organization will build a 1,200 square foot, single family, three-bedroom house on the property this summer. This home, the first "Passive House" built by CVHFH, will incorporate components that represent the "gold standard in energy efficiency" according to project manager Bruce Landry. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on June 6.

A volunteer committee used the following criteria established by HFH International to select family-partners for the new to-be-constructed house in East Montpelier and for a renovated Habitat house in Orange: need of adequate shelter, ability to pay an affordable mortgage, and willingness to partner with CVHFH (500 hours of sweat equity is spent building the home and partnering with Habitat).

HFH funds a building project or renovation with current homeowners' monthly mortgage payments, grants and fundraising efforts, donations of building materials, and volunteer labor. CVHFH has already received a generous response when calling out for volunteers and equipment. Plans are being made and lists are organized, but more volunteers and supporters of all levels are needed, including laborers, community groups, and individuals. Other areas of need are board members and committee involvement. Please consider taking part in this community project that exemplifies humanity at its finest while building homes, communities, and hope! *Contact Debbie Goodwin, executive director, Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity 802-522-8611, cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com.*

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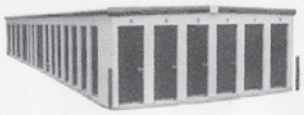

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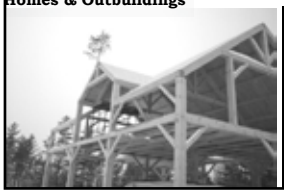

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Calendar

Events

Mon. July 18 6p.m. Reed-Doyle home on VT 214, croquet & ice cream social; sponsored by the Historical society

Thurs. July 21 6:00-8:00p.m. EMFD Community Room, EM Village Planning Open House including refreshments

Tues. Aug. 9 7a.m.-7p.m. EMES, primary elections for state and national offices

Mon. Aug. 15 7p.m. Four Corners Schoolhouse, Dutch collector Gejus van Diggele on old Montpelier invitations to dress balls; sponsored by the Historical Society

Sat. Sept. 10 Rally for the Village, details to be announced

Important Dates

Wed. Aug 3 last date to register to vote in Aug. 9 primaries

Mon. Sept. 5, Labor Day, Town Office Closed

Month of Sept. lottery for hunting permits for Mallory Brook area

Deadline for next *Signpost: August 1*

Committee Meetings

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed		*contact:* blusig@aol.com /229-5441
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board	3rd Mon	5:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative	as needed		*contact:* rhazel@ezcloud.com
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School