

## Arts and Science: Wendy Soliday and Greg McDonald

by Alison Soccodato

I first met Wendy when our family began attending services at the Old Meeting House (OMH). A few years later, we became neighbors. Over the years I have heard bits and pieces of Wendy and Greg's story, but it was nice to sit down to interview them for the *Signpost* and get to know them better.

Graduate school at the University of Vermont brought Wendy and Greg to our state. After finishing school, they lived in Norwich for five years while Greg was studying to become a cardiologist. They then moved to Central Vermont where he established the area's first private practice in cardiology. He wanted to live within 15 minutes of the hospital so he could be available to patients; so while Greg was busy getting his practice up and running, Wendy was tasked with house-hunting. With a baby and two young children in tow, Wendy made several trips back and forth to look at houses. Eventually, they found their house on Murray Road and have been here ever since.

Back then, Greg ran marathons. Wendy needed to know his route whenever he went for a run, in case a patient called while he was out. She would then bundle all three kids into the car and track him down so he could come home and return patients' calls or meet them at the hospital. Cell phones made life much easier!

Shortly after they moved in, a wedding took place. Their dog got the neighbor's dog pregnant. The young kids were asking questions about how this could be possible without the dogs being married. Louise Rauh, the aforementioned neighbor, grabbed a curtain to use as a veil and performed an impromptu wedding ceremony.

In most of their winters here, Greg and Wendy have sugared. There was a sugarhouse on the property when they arrived. When Wendy saw equipment at a yard sale and came



Wendy, Greg, and scarecrow

home with it, a new hobby was born. They tap 200 trees and now use tubing. After losing one stove to their new hobby in the early days, they moved their operation back outside. As a lucky recipient of their syrup, I can attest that it is delicious!

Greg and Wendy have three children—Addie, Brooke, and Luke—who completed East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) and U-32. Brooke and her family moved back to Vermont a few years ago. Her two oldest children now attend EMES and have had several of the same teachers that their mom and uncles did a generation ago.

While the kids went through school, Wendy and Greg became involved. Wendy served on the school board, and Greg enjoyed coaching baseball and soccer. Wendy also started the tennis team at U-32.

In addition to their volunteer work in the school system, Wendy and Greg have volunteered in the wider community and beyond. They both have served as mentors to local children. Greg has been on the Governor's Anti-Tobacco Board for many years and also served as town health officer. He travelled as a volunteer installing pacemakers with Project

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# Hopeful Signs

In early spring, when we gathered to plan this issue of the *Signpost*, we met in person for the first time since March 2020. As this photo shows, Zoom was still necessary to stitch us all together, but at last we could see what Mary was knitting and unpeel one of the fresh clementines offered. Michelle was only part-way through vaccination so she wore a mask, but the rest of us got to show these smiles all through the meeting. Left to right: Mary Redmond, Alex Brown, Hilari Farrington, Michelle Singer, Edie Miller, Barb Ploof, Ann Stanton. On Zoom: Rosie Laquerre.



This issue will reach you in leafy July, but when we started putting it together in mid-May, spring was just beginning. Winter's release is best shown in the sun pouring down on a fern's crozier, the tightest curl of pure potential. Ferns are all leaf—no seeds, no flowers—and the first fossil records of them go back 360 million years. They're the essence of botanical triumph and stunning simplicity. The pinnate fronds that now wash over the woods were once rolled up in miniature, like maps of themselves.

—Alex Brown is the *Signpost's* production and mail list expert as well as being a photographer extraordinaire.



Alex Brown

EAST  
MONTPELIER

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### Celebrate East Montpelier Trails

The September/October issue of the *Signpost* features a “theme” and contributions about that theme from townspeople. This year we are celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of East Montpelier Trails, Inc.—that hardworking band of outdoors people who have created one of the key assets of this community.

Those most closely involved will be sharing the whys and wherefores of how all this incredible work was envisioned and accomplished.

We’d like to hear, also, from the many, many residents who enjoy the fruits of these 30 years of labor. Share your experiences on EM’s trail network. Which trail is the most beautiful, the most challenging? What’s your favorite? Submit brief comments (100-200 words) to Edie Miller at [signposteam@comcast.net](mailto:signposteam@comcast.net) by Monday, August 2.

### Signpost Thanks Kristen Munsen

Kristen has shared the work of *Signpost* design for the last year—with responsibility for the attractive layout we all enjoy. Kristen has moved out of East Montpelier; and we will miss her and her skillful and imaginative work. Kristen, we are grateful for your fine efforts and good ideas.

**Please help us find a replacement to share the *Signpost*’s design work with Terry Allen.** The right volunteer will have a good eye for layout design and be familiar working with InDesign by Adobe and photo editing software. If interested please contact Michelle Singer at [michellealsinger@gmail.com](mailto:michellealsinger@gmail.com).

### Thanks to our donors

- Alban Richey in memory of Margaret Richey
- Cindy Tomaszewicz

## Ormsbee Trail Parking on PHG Road Closed

With deep regret, East Montpelier Trails and the landowners are closing the parking area on Powder Horn Glen Road for the Ormsbee Trail. The trailhead and parking on Center Road will still be available.

Apparently, we have been the victim of our own success. Many people have been coming here and enjoying the trail, and most trail users have been thoughtful and courteous. But too many problems have come up:

- Dogs off leashes on the road and by folks’ houses.
- Too many cars parking in the trailhead lot.
- Cars parking on the road, all around the blind corner—especially dangerous in winter, but unsafe anytime.
- Cars blocking a driveway.
- Cars in lot backing over and breaking property marker pins.
- And lots of dog poop on the trail.

The final straw came one day recently: With too many cars in the lot (limit is two), a car had to back out instead of turning around. A small neighborhood child was biking down the hill as the car started to back out. There were cars parked around both sides of the blind curve, blocking sight lines. Luckily, the car hung itself up on our property marker,

stopped, and the biker went safely past. We were lucky.

This trailhead was an experiment, since the access is on a tricky curve and very close to neighboring houses. It’s too bad that it hasn’t worked out. So, the Ormsbee Trail will now be a loop, out and back from the trailhead on Center Road. We

will be posting signs, and updating the EM Trails website. Please respect landowners and neighbors on Powder Horn Glen Road. Do not park in the lot or along the road on the blind curve. We still welcome folks to use the trail system on our land, but please park at the eastern end of the trail, on Center Road. And, please clean up after your dogs. Check the EM Trails website at [emtrails.org/](http://emtrails.org/)

—With regret, Loring Starr and Michael Dworkin (landowners) and East Montpelier Trails Inc.



# From Creamery to Home Center



Terry J. Allen

*Leo Zampieri and Ron Bradbury take a quick break from helping customers.*

war, the North Montpelier creamery was demolished, and the current brick structure along Route 2 in EM village boasting a cheese-making room with sparkling white tile walls, served the dwindling number of local dairies.

As a boy on a Hudson Valley family dairy farm, I remember well the job of wheeling five ten-gallon milk cans out to the wooden platform beside the state road. These cans would sit on the platform in any weather, waiting for the creamery truck to come by and open its side door. The driver would put five clean empty cans on the platform and then take in the waiting full ones. Public health edicts of that era, however, required all dairies to switch

to bulk tanks, allowing the raw milk to be pumped into collecting tankers. This costly transition drove many farms, ours included, out of the milk business. For those with a keen architectural eye, the milk-can offloading platform of yesteryear can be spotted at today's East Montpelier Home Center. Facing Route 2, the solid concrete platform juts out at truck-body height, its leading edge encased in steel, witness to tens of thousands of heavy milk cans shuttled in and out in all kinds of weather.

Remembered by many local old-timers, Buttrick's Creamery closed by the late 1950s, and the building was vacant for many years. In the 1970s it housed Dave Guillmette's car business, and by the late 1980s, the Creamery Country Store offered groceries and household items for a few years.

In 1990, the once-upon-a-time creamery building and land was bought by the current owner, Steve Noyes, and became the East Montpelier Home Center. Today the business bustles every day of the week, two people staff the front desk and help customers find the right item among nearly 10,000 choices, and the familiar white trucks of the Home Center can be seen making lumber deliveries throughout the region.

The signature stacks of 2"x4"x8' studs in the Home Center's parking lot offer just the tiniest hint of the thousands of items inside. In the barnlike lumber sheds along the banks of the Winooski River behind the store, forklifts scurry about, moving everything from pallets of grass seed and fertilizer to heavy lumber of all sizes. As one hooked on hardware stores and

*continued next page*

Spring comes to East Montpelier in fits and starts. A sunny afternoon in the 70s brings us out to plant our spinach and potatoes, while the predicted frost of the next evening sends us scurrying out to cover the plants in plastic. Most of us take for granted the area's uplifting heritage of purple lilacs, blossoming by late May along the roadways in the woods, and in countless front yards. And the trees of the village park beside the Old Brick Church brim with new leaves promising welcome shade in the warmth to come.

Local businesses, too, respond to spring. Coming into town from the north along Route 14, one spots the sign for "Plant Sale at Cate Farm," while every day one notices a few more cars stopping for the "World's Best Cremees" at Bragg Farm Sugar House. Just south of the village, Mekkelsen RV's roadside plea promises a "Memorial Day Classic," and the display of new picnic tables at the East Montpelier Home Center reminds us of home renovations we've put aside during the winter.

The East Montpelier Home Center building boasts a fascinating history of various businesses that have occupied the space since the original creamery was built in 1945. Have you ever wondered why the current tool and lumber business is topped by an elaborate louvered cupola? Well, prior to World War II, the area's many dairy farms were served by creameries in East Montpelier and North Montpelier. Changing raw milk into butter and cheese, plus the careful washing of hundreds of ten-gallon milk cans, generated lots of steam and heat—hence the ventilating cupola. After the

# Growing with Ceres

by Mária Leon

We drove down East State Street on the way to my son's preschool. The State House dome glittered in the morning light. He noticed its sparkle, too. I asked him if he knew who is on the top. In the rearview mirror, I saw him shake his head. It is Ceres. I explained that she is the goddess of agriculture. She protects all the green fields, all the farms, and all people working on the land. She helps the plants grow strong.

"But when did she live?" he wanted to know.

My mind spun. "A long, long time ago," I answered. What analogy could his five-year-old mind absorb? I finally arrived at Jack Frost. The analogy felt somewhat inadequate, but after a year of outdoor preschool, he knew the forces of nature well.

"We can't see Jack Frost, but know when he comes," I said.

He agreed. His fingers have traced the pattern of frosty ferns on the windows. He has heard the crunch of crispy grass, seen tomato plants wither. Jack frost, Old Man Winter. He knows their work—the icicles, the iridescent promise of fresh snow. Ceres is like them. Alive eternally. She roams the land, watches over our gardens. She sees that we are fed, and that we feed others. A true mother.

My son has been gardening with me since he was in utero. His first summer, at six months old, he squished half a dozen tomatoes into juice on the kitchen floor. At eighteen months he plucked peas from their pods—tiny green pearls.



Mária Leon

*Starting young and cute as a cuke.*

Last summer, he peeled the papery husks from the ground cherries and popped them into his little sister's mouth. It was hard to tell which of them was more delighted.

The time we spend in the garden is about tending to the earth. It is also about learning and teaching the practical skills of growing food. I feel my vision expanding—the earth loves us back. The garden is tending us, cultivating us in reciprocity. This is the mother's force, nourishing us. It makes me proud that Ceres stands on our State House, a reminder of our connection to the land—a connection I see growing in my son.

—Mária Leon lives on Towne Hill Rd with her husband and two children. She is a work-at-home mom, and acupuncturist who inherited her father's love of the land.

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*Home Center continued from p. 4*

bookstores for decades, I'm unable to make a brief visit. What intrigues me the most lurks in the awareness of today's electric tools and non-wood materials doing the same tasks of seventy years ago but with near total reliance on electricity.

The endless array of drill bits vary from thin as a string to thick as your thumb, each with easy connections to an electric drill. As a youngster, I bored many a hole with a hand brace and bit—nothing quite as satisfying as blowing away the curling shavings as the hole deepened. Today it seems unlikely one could buy a brace and bit without a special order. Years ago, hand drilling of metal was out of the question, though today metal drilling bits abound.

The shelves and shelves devoted to nails offer another look at the march of power tools. One might venture to say a wooden-handled hammer is nearly passe, assigned

to the back of the tool box. Automatic nailers, driven by compressed air, now use coils of nails, linking thousands of nails in a belt-like feed, sinking nails into wood as fast as the carpenter can tap the trigger.

As a youngster I used to buy nails by the pound raked out of sloped bins and weighed on a hanging spring scale. Today one buys nails and screws in prepackaged boxes, and every home workshop like mine, I suspect, holds a few half-used boxes. The Home Center's vast stock of varied screws and nails must weigh tons.

Whether planks or pick axes, paints or plastic pipe, shovels or shingles, you'll likely find it at the East Montpelier Home Center. And for you folks looking for a paint brush on a Sunday afternoon, the Home Center is open till 4:00 PM.

—Erik Esselstyn lives in North Montpelier with his wife, Celina Moore.



### Historical Society

Despite the fact the East Montpelier Historical Society hasn't been able to hold in-person meetings, we are working on several projects:

- Historical list of local farms, starting in the 1800s, including locations and biographical information about the farm families.
- Addendum to *Across the Onion*, our amazing town history by Lyn Blackwell and Ellen Hill written in 1983. Jennifer Boyer is working on updates to locations that show 911 addresses rather than references that will be lost over time—e.g. “South of the old Clark Place.”

For both these projects, we encourage residents (and others) with information to contribute to these projects to contact us through the links on our website: [eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org](http://eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org). We've added a link to our Facebook Group as well.

From the Archives: *Daily Times*, Feb. 8, 1906

### EM Still Shops Locally

#### CHANGE AT EAST MONTPELIER.

Clarence P. Dudley Buys Store of W. M. Clark, Where He Was Employed.

East Montpelier, Feb. 8.—Clarence P. Dudley has bought out W. M. Clark, merchant and post master at East Montpelier, where at one time he was an efficient and reliable clerk in the employ of Frank T. Carr. After severing his connection as clerk for Mr. Carr he has held several responsible position, working for the Standard Oil company at Montpelier, later being in the employ of Kellogg & Jerome and recently with the American Express company at Montpelier. As clerk here he won the good will of many of his townspeople, who will be glad to learn of his return as proprietor of the store. Mr. Dudley is considered to be a young man of strict integrity and proposes to sell his goods at live and let live prices, and by so doing it is to be hoped he will receive a liberal share of patronage of the townspeople.

## EM Resilient Roads Committee Recognized Statewide

Our Resilient Roads Committee continues to be a shining star in the community and has been giving us periodic updates on its work to combat the Emerald Ash Borer (EAM). Now that hard-working group has made the big time. On May 17, 2021 EM's efforts to get a handle on this invasive insect were recognized statewide when, represented by Paul Cate and Jeff Cueto, its work was featured on WCAX's *Across the Fence*. Check out the recording of the program on YouTube by going to YouTube.com and searching for “May 17 Across the Fence.”

And remember to thank the committee members—Jeff Cueto, Paul Cate, Steve Justis, Mark Lane, and Guthrie Perry—who, along with Foxfire Tree Care, are working hard on our behalf.



EM's Emerald Ash Borer expert on WCAX "Across the Fence" (screen shot)

## Town Offices

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### Service Officer

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Stephen Looke, stlooke@u32.org

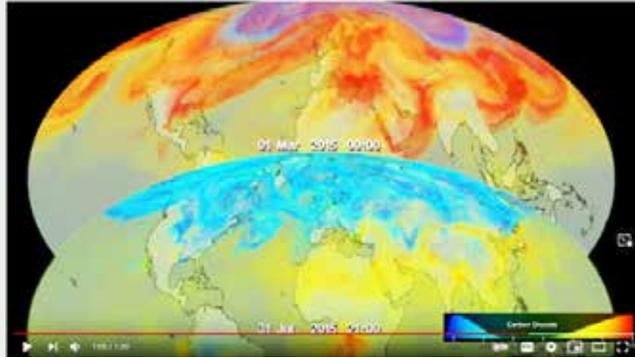
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## Creature Feature

### ANONYMOUS ASKS:

**DOES THE CO<sub>2</sub> PROBLEM IN THE ATMOSPHERE GET BETTER  
IN THE SUMMER BECAUSE OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS?**



### NONA ANSWERS:

First, I asked a couple of science-minded friends. They didn't know, and both wondered if the oceans and plankton algae played a part. Which of course sent me to Google which had ample information, the best of which, for my needs, was a great little 2017 video, available on YouTube.com, compliments of NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio: "Seasonal Changes in Carbon Dioxide." It is all of one and a half minutes, and I recommend it. The answer is both interesting and pleasantly motivating.

The video simplifies a complex reality to show atmospheric carbon dioxide being controlled by fossil fuel emissions and seasonal fluxes.

During fall and winter in the Northern Hemisphere, trees and plants release carbon dioxide as leaves fall and plants decay, and that CO<sub>2</sub> mixes with massive emissions from human sources. Concentrations climb all winter, reaching a peak by early spring. During the summer months, leaves emerge, the world turns green, and plants absorb substantial amounts of carbon dioxide through—you got it—photosynthesis! It's as if the planet is breathing in and out again after holding its breath under a dense blanket of smog. By July our northern air is clear enough in this NASA video simulation to actually again turn from red (the color used to indicate carbon dioxide), to blue (the color used to show levels of atmospheric oxygen).

This simple video makes it all easy to visualize and allows the brain to be open to the written description on the site, which goes into more complex and equally interesting aspects of the cycle and our planetary dilemma.

And closer to home, this site helped me see that we citizens of East Montpelier have steadily prioritized keeping the world green and the sky blue. From our early days, we have worked toward these goals by designating two town forests, permanently protecting our trail system and the farms around it, planting trees and managing forests, both collectively and individually. We are on the right track.

—Nona Estrin is our resident naturalist.

# WCUUSD Students Ponder Pandemic Year



Students Jaden (U-32) and Hazel Singer (EMES) get vaccinated in a school gym.

**H**AZEL SINGER: I was in 6th grade this year at East Montpelier Elementary School and was in school full time with only a few weeks of remote learning. I enjoyed the new routines and disliked them simultaneously. We had to wash our hands before and after any time we ate and had to wait in line forever. We also had to wear masks all the time, and I liked wearing them because it's more privacy and keeps us safe. Whenever we had music or art, teachers would come to us, so we wouldn't really move much. For recess we had one zone (which was a part of the field or playground) every day and if we were six feet apart, we could take our masks off for a bit. Our class has been together for a long time in earlier grades so it was nice to have these same people for this year too. All of these routines took a while to get to know but were not much of a bother as the year went on. Overall, I had a good year, and it was nice to experience the school year differently from normal.

—Hazel Singer will enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade at U-32 next year. She is looking forward to meeting new people and being social.

**J**ACK THOMPSON: Being a fully remote student has been a real challenge. I haven't seen my friends face-to-face in months, and I miss being in a classroom with teachers. The online learning program which remote students used was no approximation of what we would have been learning in person. The fact that curricula had been purchased by the program, rather than created by teachers, was an

immediate red flag. I'm so grateful for Pilot, our school's independent study program and our Pilot director Amy. Because of Pilot, I was able to take my learning into my own hands and work with teachers to study economics for a year. It's not perfect, and I'd much rather be in a classroom, but I'm glad I was able to use this as a learning opportunity, at the very least.

It's because of this year—this wild experience—that I can recognize and be thankful for so many things that I took for granted when I could just walk into school every day. I miss being able to browse a public library and have new books whenever I want. I miss being able to strike up a casual conversation with someone I'd never spoken with before. I miss being able to talk freely with my teachers. I won't take

these things for granted when I come back in the fall. This has been an awful experience in many ways, but it's taught me so much, and I am a far better learner because of it.

—Jack Thompson was a remote U-32 student, theater participant, and technology enthusiast. He has been studying economics by programming simulations, reading, and writing about the human lives that can be uplifted or destroyed by economic systems, and keeping up with math work online.

**J**ACOB MCCOY: When the pandemic started, everything stopped. The end of the school year (March–June 2020) was completely remote, which we were not prepared for. I learned very little during that period.



For the start of the new school year, the school decided to use a hybrid schedule, where the 9th and 10th graders would be in school one week while the 11th and 12th graders were remote; and the next week it

would swap. Because there was more time for everyone to prepare for September, I was hopeful that teachers would be able to teach more effectively on remote days.

What they didn't realize was how much this system would affect students' learning. When we were not physically in school, we would have only one or two Zoom sessions each

week for every class. Then, because we were not learning much new information or meeting often, most teachers assigned minimal homework. This made the remote weeks feel almost like mini vacations. To make up for this, teachers would assign homework every night on the in-person weeks because we met every day. This essentially doubled our homework load during those weeks. It was always a struggle to get to the end of the week. Talking to fellow students and teachers, I could tell that they felt the same way.

After such a hard year, I am so grateful that school is almost over. I pray that next year everything - school and life in general - will be back to normal.

—Jacob McCoy graduated from U-32 in June and will be a member of the class of 2025 at UVM's Honors College in the fall.

**SIERRA HUTCHINS:** My senior year has by far been the worst of my high school experience. I participated in the early college program at CCV, and because of Covid-19, all my classes were all online. I did asynchronous learning, meaning that there were no scheduled Zoom meetings or lessons. This was great for keeping my schedule flexible for work and other priorities, but for the entire year I never once saw the faces of my peers or teachers. I did not feel any connection with my classmates or the subjects I was learning, and I had to teach myself most of the curriculum.

Overall, the whole experience was very lonely and



draining. I was doing 40+ hours of school work a week, all on the computer, while also working 20+ hours at my job. I cannot recall another time I have felt so hopeless, miserable, and apathetic; I floated through every day with barely enough energy to think. I made it out of my school year with straight As and the CCV President's Honor status, but I honestly do not know how. I wish I could say that this was a great experience and that I am glad I did it, but I would be lying. It is unfortunate because I was excited about early college, and I have always been a dedicated student with a passion for learning. I do not feel that passion anymore, and I didn't all year. I never want to go through what I did ever again.

—Sierra Hutchins just graduated from U-32. She may continue her education at CCV, full or part time, while also working, saving, and figuring out what direction to take for her career.



Katrina Johnson

Former EMES students, now graduating seniors at U-32, attend Prom on the same day the governor lifts state Covid restrictions. From left: Caroline Kirby, Payton Gariboldi, Carmen Gallagher, Jordan Pryce, Grace Johnson, Claire Obeldobel, Arianna Hawkins, Eliza Garland, Cadence Burgess, and Ruby Singer.

# A Green Up Thank You!



Chris Racanelli

*Clean-up crew*

by Chris Racanelli, Green Up Coordinator

Green Up Day, May 1 this year, started off slowly, but we had a good turnout and accomplished a great deal. Town Administrator Bruce Johnson reported 3,400 pounds of trash and 131 tires picked up. I thank all of you for this outstanding effort. Our success is due to the collective spirit of our community volunteers who trudged along the roads and kept a vigilant eye for areas that were dumping grounds requiring extra hands.

Thank you to Ginny Callan and Cort Richardson, Renee Carpenter and Friends of Coburn Pond, Ed Deegan, Michael Duane, Deb Fillion, Elaine and David Goodall, Mark Keffer and daughter Siena, Kate and Chris Phillips, Bob Nuner, Allen Ploof, Linda and Ed Radzvilla, Harriet Shea, Shari Young, and the many others who called and emailed me about roads they cleared and troublesome spots that needed extra help for abandoned items such as televisions, mattresses, and furniture. Bob Nuner collected more than a hundred cans and moved an electric range dumped on Horn of the Moon Road. Gale and Alan Rome, although traveling, wrote to let me know of conditions along Clark Road.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who were at East Montpelier Elementary School, collecting bags from cars, separating recyclables and returnables from trash, and depositing tires in the dump truck: Dawn Anderson, Steve Campbell, Rob Chickering, Sally Colman, Emily Goyette, and Peter Maksimow and wife Nora Duane. Without them, it would be impossible for me to manage Green Up Day. My neighbor, Bob Onne, an enthusiastic supporter of Green Up, shows it by coming out first thing in the morning and driving his personal truck all day with Ed Johnson, picking tires and large items off the roadsides and bringing them to the school.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Hunger Mountain Coop, Vermont Coffee Company, and Shaw's for providing snacks and water and Rachael Grossman who sent some home-made brownies and cookies. My thanks to Bragg Farm, Dudley Store, East Montpelier Home Center, Morse Farm, and the Town Office for hanging posters at their facilities and distributing Green Up bags, and Alicia Lyford and staff at East Montpelier Elementary School for hosting Green Up Day. And, finally, as always, a tip of the hat to Guthrie Perry and the road crew for bringing three dump trucks and hauling trash and tires.

Thank you one and all for supporting Green Up Day.



Chris Racanelli

*Tired of tires?*

# New to Our Village

The alert came from Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre: “Someone has been coming in for permit applications to start a new store. I think it’s going to be a grocery or wine bar.” Come to find out, that “someone” is Doni Cain, whom I knew from Quill Farm in Plainfield. Here’s the story of what we can now enjoy.

The Fox Market and Bar is set up in the yellow building across from the intersection of Routes 2 and 14. Owner Doni Cain comes to the business with years of experience, starting with his farm stand in Plainfield, two years at the Plainfield Coop, and 12 years at Hunger Mountain Coop.



Terry J. Allen



More recently, he helped set up the AR Market in Barre. Meanwhile, the dream was planted and took root: owning his own combination market and wine bar.

And it has come to pass. As of mid-June, the market began selling organic produce, craft beer, natural wine, local cheese, rotisserie chicken, and much more. The bar has a great community room full of couches and tables. Outside in the backyard are picnic tables and yard games. Check out their website, *FoxMarket.store*, for updates and hours, or follow them on Instagram and Facebook at Fox Market and Bar. Doni can also be reached at *Doni@FoxMarket.store* or (802) 522-2322.

*--Ann Stanton is coordinator of East Montpelier Eats*



## Paulie’s Recipe:

### MARY SENECHAL’S FRENCH DOUGHNUT MUFFIN

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lg. egg, beaten
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/3 c. melted butter
- 1 1/2 c. plus 2 T. sifted flour
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg

#### TOPPING

- 1/3 c. melted butter
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 c. sugar

#### DIRECTIONS *Makes 12 muffins.*

In a small bowl, beat the egg and add the milk and 1/3 c. melted butter. In a large bowl, use a fork to combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and nutmeg.

Make a well in the center of these dry ingredients and pour into it the egg mixture. Blend gently with fork until just mixed. Do not over stir. Fill paper lined muffin tins half to three-quarters full and bake in a 400° oven for 12-15 minutes or until delicately browned on top.

For topping, in two small bowls combine 1/3 c. melted butter and vanilla in one bowl and the sugar and cinnamon in the other. Remove muffins immediately, one at a time, and dip into the butter and then into the cinnamon sugar mixture. Set on a wire rack to cool. These muffins are exquisite when enjoyed warm from the oven!

*From the 2020 Old Meeting House Cookbook.*

*—Mary Senechal is the wife of a former pastor, Hamilton Throckmorton. Marcia Clark contributed the recipe.*

# Town Weathervane

## BIRTHS

- Clyde Wilter Hagerty, a son, was born to Tara Byrne & Clyde Hagerty in April
- Corey Scott Storey, a son, was born to Daniella Chaloux & Trevor Storey in June

## MARRIAGES

- Simone Labony Labbance & Juan Paulo Vistro were married in May
- Freyda Neyman & Sarah Swift were married in May

## DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Lori Bowley, mother of Briana Lane, died in April
- Ina Broe, wife of Ernest Broe, died in May
- Carlos de los Santos, brother of Daniel de los Santos, died in May
- Barbara Eniti, sister of Sari Wolf and aunt of Indigo Wolf, died in May
- Kristi Garner died in May
- Bruce Marshall, husband of Pauline, died in April

## LAND TRANSFERS

*Transfers relative to estate planning or corrective deeds are not included in this listing. For further information on land transactions, including financial details, please contact the Town Clerk.*

- Loretta Bresette to Ross & Sara Billings, 0.29 acres and dwelling on VT14S
- Brown Living Trust to Caleb & Alyssa Nelson, 3.77 acres of open land on L. Brown Dr.
- Ann Carr to Henry Tittman & Elaine Murphy, 6.92 acres and dwelling on Center Rd.
- Donald & Judith Chase to James Weston & Sarah Emerson, a mobile home on Robinson Rd..
- Brian Dimick to Jonathan Ignatowski, a mobile home on Sandy Pines Rd.
- Glen Ehret to Casey & Jerica Merry, 3.0 acres and dwelling on East Hill Rd.
- Nadell Fishman to David Ferland & Susan Aranoff, 1.77 acres and dwelling on Chickering Rd.
- Julie & Thomas Haggett to U.S. Bank National Association, 2.0 acres & dwelling on Haggett Rd.
- Gregory & Angela Isabelle to GA Rentals LLC, 1.25 acres and multi-family unit on VT14S

- Kristopher & Lesilee Kirby to Peggy Fair, 3.38 acres and dwelling on Fair Rd.
- Albert & Catherine Plant to Greg & Angela Isabelle, 1.84 acres and multi-family unit on VT14S
- Jonathan Last to Christopher Pratt, one third interest of 489.08 acres of open land.

## SELECTBOARD

*The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's governing boards. Complete minutes are on the town and school websites. All meetings were held online using the Zoom conferencing platform with public participation options provided.*

### April 5, 2021

#### Discussion Items

- Calais notice of non-renewal of the EMFD Service Agreement
- rbTechnologies Solar Facility Certificate of Public Good Application

#### Motions Passed:

- to award the County Road ash tree management project contract to Foxfire Tree Care, LLC and authorize TA Johnson to complete the necessary contract documents
- to remove Carl Etnier, Jean Vissering, Jennifer Boyer, and Jack Pauly from the Resilient Roads Committee with thanks for all their past contributions
- to adopt the 2021 East Montpelier Local Emergency Management Plan
- to accept the 2021 NEMRC annual disaster recovery contract
- to approve the requested First Class, Second Class, and Outside Consumption permits; to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the First Class and Second Class license application acknowledging approval by all board members; and, to authorize Town Clerk Rosie Laquerre to sign the Outside Consumption permit application signifying approval of the permit requested by Doni Cain to turn the old Video Box Office location, 3070 US2, into a combination market and restaurant
- to appoint Rebecca Schrader as the Revolving Loan Fund advisor for a term ending March 2022

### April 8, 2021 *Special Meeting*

*Discussion of East Montpelier Fire Department Service & Budget Update*

### April 19, 2021

#### Discussion Items

- Delinquent Tax Collector Report
- Tax Collection Policy
- rbTechnologies Solar Facility Certificate of Public Good Application
- Motions Passed
- to appoint Scott Hess to the Capital Improvement Committee for a term ending March 2022
- The board entered executive session at 7:34 pm and exited at 7:50 to discuss matters related to contractual arrangements for the provision of emergency services to the town
- to vote for the three listed WEC board candidates
- authorize TA Johnson to cast the town's ballot for the 2021 WEC Annual Meeting
- to appoint Frank Pratt as the town's representative to the CVRPC TAC for a term ending March 2022
- to approve Access Application #21-025 for a curb cut to a new 2-lot subdivision at 964 Bliss Road, and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the permit on behalf of the board

### May 3, 2021

#### Discussion Items

- Consideration of ANR Corrective Action Plan for EM Village remediation site
- Discussion on Calais notice of non-renewal of the EMFD Service Agreement

#### Motions Passed

- to authorize TA Johnson to complete and submit a FY22 VTrans Structures Program grant application for the proposed culvert replacement/relocation project on Center Road
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign the letter of support for the CVSWM grant application
- to accept the 2021 Arbor Day Tree Planting Grant and authorize TA Johnson to complete the necessary paperwork
- to adopt the revised Town of East Montpelier Planning & Zoning Fees schedule as presented

### May 24, 2021 (Unapproved)

#### Discussion items

- Property Tax collection
- Town Employee Northeast Delta dental plan
- Act 250 permit for Morse Farm stormwater/erosion control project

- Calais notice of non-renewal of the EMFD service agreement

**Motions Passed**

- to accept the terms of the Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. engagement letter for Special Audit and authorize Chair Gardner to sign on behalf of the board
- to award the County Road paving project contract to Pike Industries and authorize TA Johnson to complete the necessary contract document
- to award County Rd. Morse Farm culvert replacement project contract to Blue Mountain Trucking and authorize TA Johnson to complete necessary contract documents
- to award the County Road “North of Barnes” culvert replacement project contract to Blue Mountain Trucking and authorize TA Johnson to complete the necessary contract documents
- to remove the contractor performance and payment bond requirement from the County Road paving and culvert replacement projects
- to open the town office to the public and remove prohibition on in-person, indoor meetings as of June 15, 2021 or 10 days after the Governor moves to Step 4 of the Vermont Forward reopening plan, whichever comes later
- to appoint Clarice Cutler as the town’s interim representative to CVRPC for a term ending no later than March 2022
- to appoint Riley Richards as the Recreation Board’s youth member for the term June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

**April 6, 2021**

**Discussion and Sketch Plan Review of Subdivision, submitted by McCoy/Gibson for property located at 964 Bliss Rd.**

**Motions Passed**

- to approve proposed Application #21-010 submitted by Doni Cain, to change use of the parcel owned by Jason Lawrence lat 3070 US2 from the existing antiques sales & restoration business to a combination retail market and restaurant operation, including the sign design with the condition that if there are any uses for public access on 1st floor under Section B, the applicant needs to come back to DRB for approval.

**May 4, 2021 (U)**

**Motions Passed**

- to approve Application #21-024 as presented submitted by Patrick McCoy

and Margaret Gibson, for a subdivision of their 15.06-acres at 964 Bliss Rd.

- to approve waiver for side and rear setbacks for Application #21-021 submitted by Penelope Howard and Jim Smith to construct an 8’x16’ addition to the standalone garage on their property at 61 Paul’s Sq. with condition that non-conforming pop-up structure is removed

**WCUUSD**

**April 7, 2021 Board Retreat**

**Discussion Items**

Essential work of School Board goals

**Motions Passed**

- The board entered executive session at 6:04 pm for the purpose of discussing a student matter, and exited at 7:50.
- to approve the following hires: Matthew Pelkey, Rumney math interventionist; Carry Fitz, EMES math interventionist.
- to accept the following retirement: Chip Hedler
- to accept the following resignation: Alaria Doane

**April 14, 2021**

**Motions Passed**

- The board entered executive session at 6:17 pm fto discuss personnel, to include Bryan Olkowski and Carla Messier, and exited at 7:27 pm.

**May 10, 2021**

**Motions Passed**

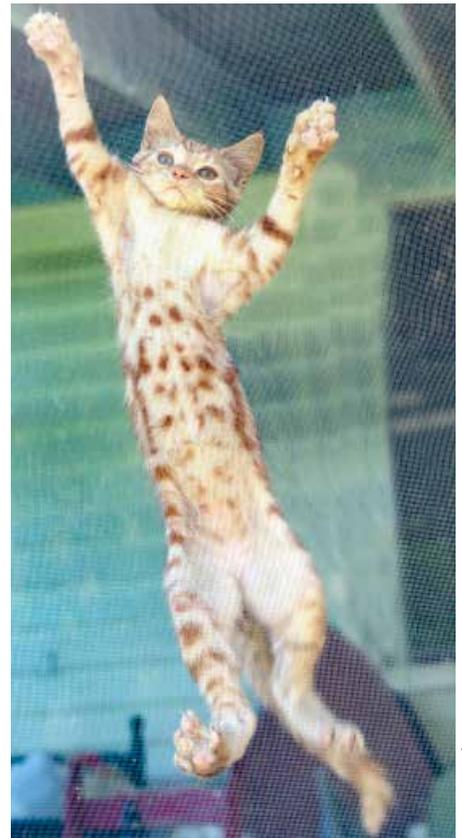
- The board entered executive session at 1:00 pm for Negotiations and Superintendent Evaluation, to include Bryan Olkowski, Lori Bibeau, and Carla Messier. At 1:15, Lori Bibeau left executive session. At 1:40, Bryan Olkowski and Carla Messier left executive session. The board exited executive session at 2:42 pm.

**May 19, 2021**

**Discussion of Art/Music Leadership Team follow up**

**Motions Passed**

- The board entered executive session at 5:05 pm for the purpose of discussing Negotiations and Superintendent Evaluation. The board exited executive session at 6:09 pm.
- to approve the superintendent to sign the Equity Scholar in Residence (ESR) MOU as presented
- to authorize the superintendent to sign all documents and contracts on behalf of WCUUSD



Terry J. Allen

- to authorize the hiring of para-educator position at Rumney School for the 2021-22 school year
- to authorize the hiring of para-educator position at Calais Elementary School for the 2021-22 school year
- to approve new teacher nominations: Annie Ledue, U-32 math/science teacher; Shannon MacKinnon, EMES FT special educator; Christina Pollard, Doty Memorial pre-K teacher; Blakely Gilmore, Calais Elementary grade 1 & 2 classroom teacher; Andrea Dobson, Calais Elementary nurse; Samantha Jackson, Calais Elementary grade 3 & 4 classroom teacher 0.5 FTE; Rebecca Hill, U-32 Nurse
- to accept the following resignations: Marcy Larrabee, Calais literacy interventionist; Meghan Falby, U-32 health education teacher; Hayley Fitzgerald, U-32 special education teacher; Ashley Gilstad, WCUUSD special educator; Ted Nathanson, WCUUSD special educator; Erica Rose, Doty art teacher; Lisa Levangie, Calais kindergarten teacher
- to approve new hires: Katrina Rob, Berlin grade 1&2 classroom teacher (Transfer from Calais Elementary); Mark Kline, director of technology; Erica Rose, Calais Elementary art teacher/Berlin Elementary 0.3 FTE art teacher

Wendy and Greg continued from p. 1

Alison Soccodato



Wendy and Greg with grandchildren Sydney and Truman.

Pacer International to China, India, Paraguay, Ethiopia, and Rwanda annually for the past fifteen or twenty years. Wendy served as features editor for the *Signpost* for many years and also served as president of the Vermont Pastels Society and on the Arts Ministry Committee at OMH.

In 2000, Wendy took a year off from her work as a guidance counselor to homeschool Luke. This turned out to be a moment of serendipity as Wendy discovered she was an artist. Luke was studying art with a friend, August Burns. Luke did not like it much, but Wendy got hooked on drawing. Soon after, while at Lake George, where they spend much of the summer, she joined a watercolor group. Coincidentally, it was a group her grandmother had started. Wendy was going for social time with friends, but she soon found

she was painting eight hours a day. When she came home, she took a pastels class.

Wendy continues to grow as an artist and is comfortable working in a variety of media; she is now studying oils. Her work has been exhibited and sold at local galleries. She keeps paints and brushes in her car and is ready to pull over and paint whenever inspiration strikes. One of her favorite places to paint is Calais. She also teaches others and claims that anyone can be taught to paint. I will take her up on that challenge one of these days!

Five years ago, Greg retired. He has enjoyed having plenty of time for golf and gardening in the warmer weather, skiing in the winter, and grandkids and pickleball all year long. Pickleball is quite popular here; there are almost 200 players in all who are grouped by ability. It sounds like he is quite the pickleball player—he plays in the top tier.

I asked Greg and Wendy what they have done during this strange time of Covid-19. Greg got lots of ski days in this winter—both downhill and cross-country—while Wendy has been painting. She has enjoyed taking two classes recently over Zoom and found it to be a good platform for working with teachers who normally would be too geographically distant. One class, taught by a renowned teacher from Oregon, has students from all over the world. Wendy has also led a group of her own at the Old Meeting House.

Wendy and Greg have carved out a rich life here. And having neighbors like them makes our life here richer too.

—Alison Soccodato moved to East Montpelier three years ago. She lives on Murray Road with her husband, David, and two school-aged children, Amelia and Ben.



Terry J. Allen

VT National Guard readied vaccines at Faimont Farm's calf barn.

### The Town Office Welcomes You

The Town Office is transitioning back to pre-pandemic operations. While it's difficult to know exactly what the details of operation will be by the time you read this in July, it is safe to say that you will have significantly improved access with the office open during regular hours so you can carry out your business pretty much "as usual." In-person meetings will be happening with virtual options available.

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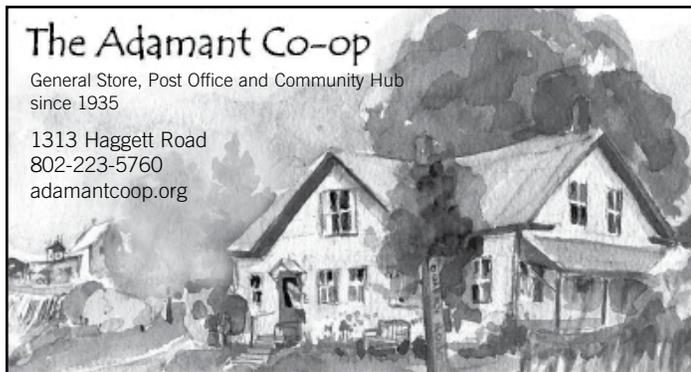
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**CALENDAR**

**Mon. July 5,** Independence Day  
 Holiday – Town Office closed

**Mon. July 19, 6 pm** – EM & Calais  
 Historical Societies annual Croquet  
 & Ice Cream Social, home of  
 Chris Reed & Teresa Doyle,  
 1795 VT214. Bring a chair, bug  
 spray and willingness to play or  
 cheer. Masks optional, weather  
 dependent. All welcome. Contact  
 Sandal Cate at [sandal@sover.net](mailto:sandal@sover.net)  
 for more info.

**Sept.-Oct. *Signpost* deadline  
 for submissions is August 2**

**EM's #1 Pooch ... is (drumroll) Maya**



Terry J. Allen

Megan Goodrich's canine friend, Maya, is this year's #1 dog. Maya is a three-year-old husky who lives on North Street. Each year, all dogs that are licensed between January 1 and April 1 are entered into the random drawing to win the 001 dog tag and prizes from local businesses.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
- Development Review Board (DRB)
- East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
- East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative
- Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn
- Planning Commission (PC)
- Recreation Board
- Selectboard
- WCUUSD Board Meeting
- East Montpelier Historical Society

- as needed
- 1st Tues. 7 pm
- every Tues. 7 pm
- as needed
- 2nd Wed. 7 pm
- 1st & 3rd Thurs. 7 pm
- 2nd Mon. 7:15 pm
- 1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30 pm
- 3rd Wed. 5:30 pm
- TBD

- contact: [blusig@aol.com](mailto:blusig@aol.com) / 229-5441
- Town Office Building
- EMFD Community Room
- contact: [rhazel@ezcloud.com](mailto:rhazel@ezcloud.com)
- Four Corners Schoolhouse
- Town Office Building
- Elementary School
- Town Office building
- one of the district elementary schools
- Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais