

Getting to Know Jon and Jasmine Boucher

by Rachel Senechal

Jon's long-term interest in firefighting led to his introduction to Jasmine. In 1998, Jon was an on-call member of the Montpelier Fire Department and worked with Allan Parry, a full-time firefighter. Hearing that her Uncle Allan was going to introduce Jon to her cousin, Jasmine quickly reminded him that she was his favorite niece. Their first date was at Angeleno's Pizza in the summer of 1998, and they have been together ever since.

In April 2002, Jon and Jasmine moved to Quaker Hill Road, where they live with their two house hippos (aka dogs), Mickey and Rocco. Mickey, 14, was a rescue dog from South Carolina who was found in a landfill and currently uses a doggy wheelchair. Rocco is eight years old and joined the family when his previous owner could no longer care for him.

Jon was raised in Gardner, Massachusetts, and came to Vermont in 1995 when he was hired by Paul Guare to work for the Guare and Sons Funeral Home. Jon learned the business from top to bottom, inside and out. In 2017 when Paul retired, he purchased the business and loves being a funeral director. "The best part of the job is meeting the families I serve. I look back and fondly remember all of them. I love running into people I've helped."

After helping out at the funeral home for the last couple of years, Jasmine recently joined the business after an opportunity arose. "The stars aligned, and here I am," says Jasmine. She has worked in community mental health for more than 20 years in a variety of capacities: behavior interventionist, case manager, and program coordinator. The last year and a half, she's been working for Green Mountain Behavior Consulting.

Guare and Sons is once again a family business. Jasmine recently began her apprenticeship there, and she will return to CCV this fall to complete the Funeral Directors Certificate Program. Jon knows that she will be a great teammate.

As for hobbies, Jasmine is a Scrabble enthusiast. Feeling



Jon and Jasmine Boucher

cooped up with winter and working at home, Jasmine posted on Front Porch Forum to see whether others were interested in getting together to play Scrabble. Her query resulted in monthly Scrabble games at Fox Market. "I am very proud of my Scrabble dictionary and fancy limited edition Scrabble board," says Jasmine. Right now, she is too busy with her work transition to continue with the Scrabble meet-up but believes that the group still meets from time to time.

Outside of work, Jon is an active community volunteer. For years he has been a member of the East Montpelier Fire Department and has held the position of Assistant Chief and Fire Warden. He is currently the First Constable

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It was the longest winter. First, it didn't snow enough in December and January. Then it snowed too much in March. Trees came down by the hundreds, thanks to the Christmas Eve storm. Viral infections were everywhere; children brought them home, passed germs to parents, then to coworkers, and finally to grandparents at the end of the line. But we survived! We had an in-person Town Meeting. Snow machines had a great final month. Sugaring runs were strong. And so we greet spring and early summer, welcoming longer days, May rains, blackflies (yes, even them—think how many baby birds they feed), and tending our flower gar-

dens and vegetable plots. We congratulate all the children, whether moving on to the next grade, over to U-32, and/or out into the big world.

Meanwhile, our thanks go out to all those who serve our town, to the road crew, to candidates and office holders, and to the many committee members who keep us stitched together and functional. We are so lucky to live in this place of everyday helpers and heroes, and that's not even counting the abundant beauty that surrounds us. Enjoy and be glad!

—Ann Stanton is managing editor of the Signpost

And the #1 Dog is....

This year's winner of the #1 dog drawing is Daisy! Daisy is a three and half year-old Golden Retriever who lives with the Phillips family on Rte. 14S. We used www.random.org to generate the winning number (73) from the 251 dogs licensed between January 1 and April 1. Daisy's

owner will receive the #001 tag, a new tote bag filled with goodies from Agway and Tractor Supply and bragging rights through next March 31.

It's not too late to license your dog! Please contact the Town Clerk's office to license. It's quick, easy, inexpensive, and the law.



photo by Alex Brown

Daisy

Perseverance Honored

As June marks the end of the school year, we honor our teachers and students, especially EMES and U-32 graduates. Their lives were affected profoundly by the Covid-19 years, through illness, masking, social distancing, and remote teaching and learning.

These were "lost years," as students missed out on special events like trips, plays, concerts, etc., as well as everyday friends and occasions that make school enriching and fun. They persevered.

Congratulations to all! Readers, be watching our next issue for stories that highlight some of their accomplishments.

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A Delicious Potluck Lunch

by Sue Racanelli

With great trepidation, we started preparations for the return of the first in-person Town Meeting since 2020, including our famous potluck lunch. Because there is no longer a local school meeting, we were unsure how many folks would remain for lunch after the Town Meeting. We asked for RSVPs via Front Porch Forum. Though the initial response was not encouraging, we forged ahead—and we are so glad we did!

What an amazing turnout! More than 75 of you stayed for the potluck, making it a delightful afternoon. Thank you, one and all, for bringing in such a wide range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian entrees. There was a delicious assortment of food, combined with enormous goodwill, even though people had to bring their own plates and utensils as well!

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean: Martha Allen, Eric Esselstyn, Taggart Schrader, Carolyn Pastore, Alison Soccodato and son Ben, Lindy Biggs, and Paul Cate.

Grateful thanks also to the businesses whose thoughtful contributions added to our buffet: Dunkin' Donuts, Hunger Mountain Coop, Red Hen, and Shaw's Supermarket.

Last, but very definitely not least, thank you to Principal Alicia Lyford, Annie Finnegan, and Todd Hill at East



photo by Terry Allen

First in-person TM Potluck since 2020.

Montpelier Elementary School. Alicia, as always, made sure everything was on course, assigning staff to help us. Annie ordered milk for us and graciously allowed the use of kitchenware. Todd, smiling and responsive to requests throughout the day, had the room ready with tables and seating in place.

This is truly a group effort, which succeeds only because of the willing participation of each and every person. And, by the look of things, it appears that the town potluck is here to stay! See you next year.

--Sue Racanelli is EM's Town Meeting Potluck Coordinator

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and serves on the East Montpelier Cemetery Commission as well as the Berlin Corners Cemetery Commission. Jon is a member of the Montpelier Kiwanis Club and serves on the boards of the National and Vermont Funeral Directors Associations.

Jasmine supports local food shelves, as well as Central Vermont Humane Society. She organizes fundraisers each year for CVHS in memory of their dog, Cyrus, who was adopted from CVHS. Jasmine also helps her mother with a local food shelf. "For my birthday this year, I asked all my friends and family to donate non-perishables or make monetary donations to a food



photo by J. Boucher

Mickey and Rocco

shelf rather than buy me gifts."

Jon and Jasmine both enjoy being in and around water. Jon likes paddle boarding and fishing, while Jasmine enjoys kayaking. Spending time with family and their dogs is important, too. Jasmine, who grew up in Calais, loves gardening and got her green thumb from her mother and maternal grandparents. "I love growing tomatoes, gladioli, and sunflowers. In summers, as I was growing up, I would help my grandparents grow all sorts of vegetables, blackberries, flowers, and so much more. Then came the canning and pickling!"

I asked the couple, "What would people be surprised to learn about you?"

Jon: "Cold plunge in an ice bath. YUP!!"

Jasmine: "I enjoy watching mixed martial arts; it takes significant skill and discipline."

Jon and Jasmine are great neighbors and community members!

--Rachel Senechal is a neighbor of Jon and Jasmine and is a member of the Montpelier Kiwanis Club with Jon



new photo of the original by Jeff Cueto

Looking toward OMH circa 1890 from Brazier Road when EM Center was mostly cleared farmland with few houses. (original photo by Thomas Brazier, great-uncle of our neighbor, Tom Brazier)

Celebrating 200 Years

This will be a very special year for the Old Meeting House. Here's a bit of its 200-year history:

The church building was under construction in 1823 after Parley Davis, an early settler in the Center, leased a piece of his farmland to the Methodists, so they could build a church. Parley Davis had already set aside some of his land for a town common because he envisioned the Center of Montpelier would develop up on the hill and not down near the river. As early as 1796, Montpelier voters authorized the building of a "town house," but the leaders could not agree as to its location. As a result, after the construction of the church, the building also became a place for town meetings. It functioned as the place

for Montpelier Town Meetings from 1828 to 1848 when East Montpelier and Montpelier were separated. East Montpelier Town Meetings were held there from 1849 to 1890, when a town hall was built in what is now referred to as the Village of East Montpelier where Rtes. 2 and 14 meet.

This is but one piece of the history that members of the Old Meeting House are discovering. Their research will yield interesting programs and celebrations throughout this 200th year of its existence. Plans for a book about the church and community are underway. Stay tuned for a more complete article on the Old Meeting House to appear in the *Signpost* this fall.

--Barb Ploof is a long-time volunteer with the Signpost

Make a Difference in the Lives of Our Senior Community

Twin Valley Senior Center is seeking an executive director to oversee its many programs.

The ED leads a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who work together to provide services which make a substantial difference in the quality

of life of our senior population and to help them maintain their independence and remain in their homes.

This is an opportunity to serve and give back to your community. Come be a part of our team. Applicants must pass a must pass a background

check. Position is open until filled.

For more information and a copy of the job description, contact Gene Troia at 802-223-3322

or www.twinvalleyseniors.org/

Homing

by Julia Barstow

Each return
begins in tree sap, then coltsfoot
the fertile valleys,
the spaces between vertebrae,
they extend with the shadows
of quickening clouds

the clear cold fades
for a cyclical leap,
enough rain to refresh
the shapes of the spine,
the greening fields

The striped maple leaves are not opaque

sun still filters,
wind dances their forms,
humid in the interplay

meet the rise and
fall of the ledge,
where treetops reach out
to roots that cradle the body

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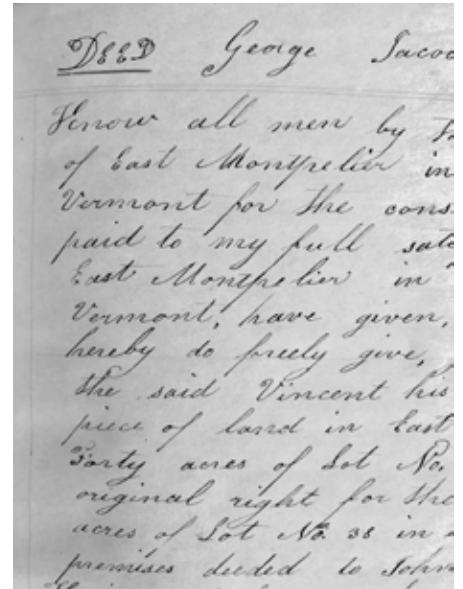
Preserving History: Digitizing Land Records

East Montpelier has reached an important landmark: the town's land records are now digitized from Book 1 Page 1 to the current date. Incidentally, the first transaction of the newly chartered town occurred on January 2, 1849, at 3 o'clock pm Mr. George Jacobs sold 50 acres of land to Mr. John P.W. Vincent for the sum of one thousand dollars. The deed is beautifully handwritten by the first Town Clerk, Royal Wheeler.

Land records are the paper documents that confirm the ownership of property within the town boundaries. Property transfers occur via documents like Warranty Deeds, Quit Claim Deeds, Administrator's Deeds, and Judgment Orders. (The *Signpost* lists all recorded land transfers.) This information is public, available for viewing whenever the office is open.

Vermont statute requires that all land records be kept in paper form in a vault, with adequate environmental protection. Many mortgage companies require title insurance, which cannot be issued if there are any liens, foreclosures, undischarged mortgages, or other encumbrances on the property. Thus, attorneys research the chain of title. Surveyors also use deeds to determine property boundary lines. And genealogists sometimes use land records to confirm names, dates, and locations of ancestors.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the town office and the vault, where records are stored, was extremely limited. Because East Montpelier had begun digitizing land records ten years ago, about 40 years' worth of documents were available online, a distinct advantage to residents who sought to purchase, mortgage, or re-finance property. More than 60% of Vermont's towns were not so lucky. Previously, the State of Vermont encouraged town clerks to microfilm records in case of natural catastrophes like flooding. Thanks to former Town



Clerk Sylvia Tosi, our records were all microfilmed with a copy stored in the state archives. But they were not available when the office was closed. Now, digitizing is considered best practice. Our digital records are kept in the cloud, on our office's dedicated server, and on three geographically separate servers in the US. Physical back-ups are performed each evening and at the end of each month.

Many people contributed to this successful project. The selectboard members have funded it for a decade, starting when former Town Administrator Bruce Johnson budgeted for this work. Former Town Clerk Terri Conti and current clerk Rosie Laquerre did the work of digitizing.

Meanwhile, you are welcome to visit the town office to view hard copy (or digitized) records any time the office is open. Electronic records can be viewed free of charge at www.uslandrecords.com. Once there, click on Vermont and choose East Montpelier. If you ever need a copy of any records pertaining to your property, please contact the clerk's office directly rather than paying the online fee.

--Contributions from Signpost Staff



photo by J. Ryan

Josh, Avery, Jenna, Adaline

One Family, Two Remarkable Businesses

by Hilari Farrington

Flowers and walking trails may well be the things that truly make life worth living in Vermont, especially with the coming of spring. An East Montpelier couple, Jenna and Josh Ryan, are experts in both.

Married for 18 years, Josh and Jenna met while they were both working at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in 1998. In East Montpelier since 2014, their two daughters attend school here, and both are involved in various creative aspects of the family businesses.

Jenna Ryan's company, Elodie Flower Farm, had been percolating in her mind for over twenty years. Before moving to East Montpelier, she had started a small side business arranging flowers for weddings. At the time, she sought out locally grown flowers not only for their beauty and variety, but also as a way to lessen the environmental impact of "event flowers." She always hoped to find the right location to grow flowers on her own property.

In East Montpelier she found the perfect spot to turn her aspiration into reality. She started with two 80-foot rows of flowers and a very ambitious vegetable garden.

Eventually, flowers gained prominence; the addition of a covered growing space (an unheated high tunnel) in 2020 has allowed her to significantly extend the growing season and offer varieties of specialty cut flowers that are tricky to cultivate successfully in Vermont's short growing season.

Elodie Flower Farm offers a wide range of services: wedding and event flowers, bulk flowers for DIYers, weekly flower arrangements for businesses, and wholesale flowers through a flower farm collective. Jenna notes that she's happy to coordinate one-time special orders of bouquets or arrangements with 24-hour notice during the growing season.

Particularly interesting is a project that Jenna began during the pandemic lockdown. From the first week in May through late October, individuals can sign up for 3-4 weeks of bouquets, with pick-up available at the Adamant Coop, Maple Corner Community Store, and J. Langdon Art and Antiques in Montpelier. Jenna adds that she is still looking for a perfect host in East Montpelier for a

bouquet pick-up spot.

Josh's company, Timber and Stone LLC, specializes in trail design and construction. The company's website promises safe, appropriately designed trails and pathways that balance recreational needs while also preserving the natural landscaped trails that stand the test of time.

While Timber and Stone has designed trails all over the Northeast, the company has been involved in many local projects. In 2019, Josh and his staff designed and installed a universally accessible pathway at EMES that leads from the school building to the playground. During that time, the company used the opportunity to create a math lesson for the sixth-grade class that involved calculations that are key to trail materials planning.

In 2021, the company collaborated with Ecolibrium, LLC, to design and install the accessible pathway, stonework, and plantings for a memorial garden at the Old Meeting House. Josh mentioned that the project was meaningful, both in the intended use of the area, and also because it gave him an opportunity to work with a former Timber & Stone LLC member.

Timber and Stone has also donated projects to East Montpelier. For example, it installed the boardwalk and bridge on the trails at the U-32 campus and installed components of the pre-K playground at EMES when it was revitalized a number of years ago.

Josh's interest in outdoor trail design began early. He spent a lot of time during his childhood through college years hiking in the Bigelow Mountains of western Maine. These experiences, combined with his knack for and interest in construction, brought him to his first trail crew when he was just a teenager. The crew was led by Outward Bound and gave him experience working on backcountry trail projects on the Appalachian Trail.

In fact, volunteer education and training are important parts of Josh's work. Timber and Stone has provided work-



photos by J. Ryan

Trail by Timber and Stone in Hubbard Park

shops in trail layout and design, timber construction, and stone work to a long list of educational institutions and organizations.

When asked about a favorite project, Josh noted a 600-foot universally accessible boardwalk that was a re-routing of the Long Trail at Barnes Camp in Stowe. This project was memorable for many reasons: the iconic backdrop of Mount Mansfield, the views from the boardwalk itself, and the opportunity to build part of the Long Trail that is universally accessible.

The effort, funded through the work of stakeholders, was recognized with a trail opening attended by Gov. Phil Scott. At the formal opening, their daughter played fiddle; and there was a proper ribbon-cutting attended by both project partners and the public. Josh described it as "a legacy project" for Timber and Stone.

Josh's work through Timber & Stone, LLC, was acknowledged in 2017, when he was a recipient of the Theresa S. Brungardt Award at the 74th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation. This award honors individuals who have made "outstanding contributions to the parks and recreation of Vermont."

Once a trail is completely built, Josh often returns with his family to share the work and "inspect" all the details. Inevitably, trail users will walk by, not knowing that his crew was responsible for the work. Their awe and appreciation are often evident. He said that his daughters usually giggle to themselves and say, "Daddy, they don't know who you are."

For the Ryans, those moments are pretty special.

--Hilari Farrington is Co-features editor of the Signpost



TOWN WEATHERVANE

BIRTHS

- Sophie Reed Senecal, was born to Kathleen Overbeck and Brian Senecal in February
- Rowan Ruth Peplowski was born to Heather Haskins & Alexander Peplowski in March

MARRIAGES

- Daniella Chaloux & Trevor Storey married in March

DEATHS—survivors living in East Montpelier are listed when known

- Susan Biggam, wife of Patrick Biggam, died in February
- Wayne Fleury, husband of Norma Fleury, died in February
- Glenn Gannon, husband of Robin Gannon and father of Jennifer Nance, died in February
- Harold Hurlburt died in February
- Linda Hutchins, wife of Jon Hutchins, died in March
- Joyce Kraatz-Sumner, mother of Donna Piro, died in January
- Joyce Lamountain, wife of Woodrow Lamountain, died in February
- Kenneth E. Pearson, husband of Rena Pearson, died in March
- Alice Smith died in February
- Ione Stewart died in March

LAND TRANSFERS

Transfers relative to estate planning or corrective deeds are not included in this listing. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk.

- James Touchette to Heather Judd, 11 acres and dwelling on Towne Hill Rd
- The Housing Foundation to Vermont State Housing Authority, 25.58 acres on Sandy Pines Rd
- Joshua & Marie Bernier to Benjamin & Birgit McCall, 1.20 acres of open land on Stoney Corners Rd (boundary line adjustment and merger deed)
- Estate of David Rogers to Wendy Fuller, 0.75 acre and dwelling on VT214
- Double U Investments to Rebecca Hill, 10.10 acres of open land on Chickering Rd
- Morse Family Revocable Trust to Jacob Shattuck, 10.6 acres of commercial property on County Rd

- Estate of Milton Russell to Linda Shatney, a mobile home on Mugford Rd
- Vanessa Deuso to Brittany Houghton & Harley Codling, 0.41 acre and mobile home on Clark Rd
- Linda Shatney to Vermont State Housing Authority, a mobile home on Mugford Rd

The following are excerpts from minutes of EM's and WCUUSD's governing boards. Complete minutes are on the town and school websites. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings were held in person with a remote participation option available.

SELECTBOARD

January 30, 2023

Motions Passed

- to approve the FY24 budget as presented
- to approve town meeting and town forum warning as amended

February 13, 2023

Motions Passed

- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Entered executive session at 6:45 pm and exited at 7:25 pm.
 - to authorize TA Jenkins to hire the candidate interviewed tonight at the current salary, pending satisfactory background check and reference
 - to approve the Avenu contract [renewal for land records management] and authorize TA Jenkins to sign the agreement on behalf of the selectboard.
 - to appoint Andy Shapiro, Ben McCall, Austin Cate, Emily Levin, Stephen Miracle, and Rick Barstow to the newly reformed Energy Committee
- to approve Fox Market First Class, Second Class, and Outside Consumption liquor licenses; to approve Plainfield Hardware Second Class liquor license; and to authorize Town Clerk Laquerre to process the Fox Market and Plainfield Hardware applications

February 27, 2023

Motions Passed

- to transition banking services to Northfield Savings Bank as recommended by municipal staff

- to accept the Sullivan & Powers engagement letter for the FY23 audit and to authorize TA Jenkins to sign the letter
- to offer the recreation field parking lot for school parking and help with improving a path to the school, contingent on a positive response from Road Foreman Perry
- to accept the proposal to close County Road three times per year on a Sunday for three hours between 9 a.m. and noon, contingent on working out the details of insurance coverage and volunteer training
- to approve access permit #23-003 for a new curb cut on Horn of the Moon Road
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Entered executive session at 9:30 pm and exited at 9:52 pm.

to accept the counter proposal from municipal assistant candidate as described to the selectboard

March 6, 2023

Town Forum

- to elect Seth Gardner as chair of the East Montpelier Selectboard, and Carl Etnier as vice chair
- to authorize Chair Gardner to sign regular payroll warrants, regular payroll vendor warrants, and special warrants for standard expenditures under the Town-approved budget and reserve fund expenditures authorized by the selectboard
- to adopt the 2023 selectboard rules of transaction as proposed
- to the extent that the Town of East Montpelier is authorized to delegate authority to the East Montpelier Fire Department to act as a member of Capital Fire Mutual Aid System, we delegate that authority
- to pass the resolution for the special town meeting on April 25 for the vote on Kellogg- Hubbard Library appropriation
- to accept Matt Foster Tree Service as the lowest bidder for the 2023 Ash Tree Management Project

TOWN WEATHERVANE

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 16, 2023

- Discussion of implementation of Town Plan

March 2, 2023

- Discussion of zoning updates needed for senior housing and group homes.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

February 7, 2023 (Unapproved)

Motions Passed

- to accept the preliminary and final plan for application #22-080 as submitted, for subdivision property located on both sides of Foster, Sibley, and Putnam Rds, submitted by Dana and Clara Aver
- to accept the preliminary and final plan for application #22-079 as submitted, for property located on Brazier Road, submitted by Thomas and Ann Brazier
- to approve application #23-002 with the condition that all other necessary permits be obtained before construction begins for a retail farm store with an off-street parking area and a dwelling, property located on US 2, submitted by Fontaine Meadows LLC

WCUUSD

January 31, 2023 (Special Meeting, Virtual only)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of students to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jessica Wills, Lisa Laplante, and student family members. Entered executive session at 7:48 pm and exited at 7:49 pm.
- to affirm the administration's decision

February 1, 2023 (Community Forum)

Motions Passed

- to authorize the use of fund balance for the purpose of executing a contract for strategic planning consultation, not to exceed \$62,000
- to approve the following: Jen Donovan –long term substitute (LTS) Rumney Music, Emily Lanxner – LTS (pending provisional) for EMES Music, Max Segalla - LTS for U-32 English (1/9/23-3/10/23)

- to go into executive session for the purpose of negotiations, superintendent evaluation, and student enrollment request, and to include Superintendent Roy and Susanne Gann for the negotiations conversation, and Superintendent Roy for superintendent evaluation and student enrollment request. Entered executive session at 7:49 pm and exited at 9:40 pm
- to approve the administration's recommendation regarding the student enrollment request

February 15, 2023 (Virtual only)

Motions Passed

- to go into executive session for the purpose of superintendent evaluation, The board entered executive session at 5:18 pm and exited at 6:10 pm.
- to approve awarding the Calais Pellet Boiler Project contract to Froling Energy in an amount not to exceed \$251,900 (this includes the 10% contingency)
- to approve awarding the U-32 Parking Lot and Sidewalk Replacement Project contract to J.A. McDonald, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,476,217 (this includes the 10% contingency)
- to authorize the superintendent to sign the contract with WF Project Inspections for his services as Owner Project Manager and Clerk of the Works through 2/9/24, not to exceed \$89,732
- to accept the request by Noelle Drown to extend the leave of absence and return to work on May 22, 2023
- to enter executive session for the purposes of a student residency request, negotiations, and superintendent evaluation, to include Superintendent Meagan Roy and Susanne Gann. entered executive session at 7:42 pm and exited at 8:55 pm.
- to accept the administration's recommendation regarding the student residency request

February 24, 2023 (Special, Virtual only)

Motions Passed

- to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering matters related to the discipline of students to include Meagan Roy, Steven Dellinger-Pate, and Amy Molina. Entered executive session at 8:32 pm and exited at 8:47 pm

- to affirm the administration's decision

March 15, 2023

Motions Passed

- to elect the following board officers: Flor Diaz Smith, chair; Kari Bradley, vice chair; Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, clerk
- to appoint the following committee members: Steering Committee - Ursula Stanley, Diane Nichols-Fleming; Policy Committee - Chris McVeigh, Jonathan Goddard, and Natasha Eckart; Negotiations Committee - Josh Sevits, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Chris McVeigh, and Jonas Eno-Van Fleet; Education Quality Committee - Ursula Stanley, Mckalyn Leclerc, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Natasha Eckart, Lindy Johnson, Kari Bradley, Daniel Keeney, and Flor Dias Smith; to serve on Finance Committee -Josh Sevits, Ursula Stanley, Daniel Keeney, Kari Bradley, Flor Diaz Smith, and Eric Anderson
- to appoint Flor Diaz Smith as Career Center Director (board member)
- to appoint truant officers Aaron Boynton, Cat Fair, Alicia Lyford, Gillian Fuqua, Karoline May (Elementary School Principals), and JB Hilferty for U-32
- to approve regular board meeting schedules, posting places and other administrative issues
- to nominate Ursula Stanley as voting delegate for statewide health insurance
- to appoint Flor Diaz Smith, Eric Anderson, and Kari Bradley to the [strategic planning] steering committee
- to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations strategy, to include Meagan Roy and Susanne Gann. Entered executive session at 9:12 pm and exited at 10:14 pm

Sweet and Spicy

With barbecuing season upon us (at last!), I reached out to Mark Lawlor, who has crafted a unique Vermont maple sugar-based spice blend that he started selling online in December 2022. What's the story?

After starting his career in television and film, Mark moved on from that hectic world to be a stay-at-home dad when his kids were born. Having always had a passion for food, he then launched a specialty chocolate company before he and his family moved to East Montpelier about two years ago. Living in Vermont, maple seemed like a natural for starting a new business. His dry rub is just the first in what he hopes will eventually be a large array of inventive maple products. "I believe in collaboration with local suppliers," notes Mark, "and there's a lot of flexibility using maple as a base."

As for the rub, Mark had noticed that most dry rubs



Mark Lawlor

photo by Atticus Lawlor

can contain almost sixty percent salt – a "filler" that feels unnecessary. After a lot of experimenting, he devised his own blend of granulated maple sugar and a variety of spices. He explains that he is his own number one customer: "I need to make myself happy. If I like it and it's good enough for me, I hope others will like it, too."

As I write this, with sugaring season in full swing and a backyard still knee-deep in snow, trying out Mark's Applewood Smoked Dry Rub is a cheering thought. You can find it now at Fox Market or at the website: maple.com. And this summer, he'll be at the Capital City Farmers market. Enjoy!

--Ann Stanton is managing editor of the Signpost

Paulie's Recipe

Maple Cottage Pudding

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. maple syrup
- 1 tbsp. shortening
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- ½ c. milk
- 1 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS

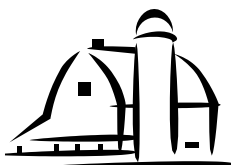
Bring syrup to a boil; pour into 8 x 8 inch baking dish. Cream shortening and sugar and add well-beaten egg, milk and dry ingredients. Pour batter on to syrup. Bake at 400° for 25 minutes. Turn upside down on serving plate. Serve with cream and chopped nuts, if desired.

Serves 6



Comment from Paulie Coburn: Excellent! Self-rising flour (1 c.) may be substituted for the flour, baking powder, and salt. Place baking dish on a cookie sheet as the syrup may boil over rim of baking dish. (This can be prevented by using a deepish baking dish.) Nuts may be added to the syrup before baking. This comes out like an upside-down cake.

*Recipe is from East Montpelier, Vermont Presents Personal Recipes
Sponsored by Brick Church Club - Recipe by Lora Allen*



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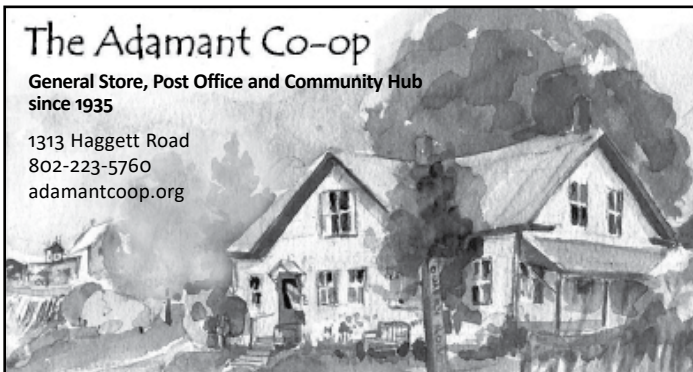
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IMPORTANT DATES

Sat. May 6, 9 am - 2 pm Green Up Day, East Montpelier Elementary School, drop off your collections and stay for lunch. For information call Erin Borland, 970-631-3789.

Mon. May 15, EM & Calais Historical Society meeting, 6:00 potluck supper; 7:00 program at Old Brick Church. Topic: Stories from the life of Audrey Lafirira by Jennifer Boyer. Free and open to the public. Contact Sandal Cate sandal.cate@gmail.com for further information.

Sat. May 20, Old Meeting House, Spring Fling Talent Show celebrating 200 years of community. For more information contact theploofs@hotmail.com

Mon. June 19, EM & Calais Historical Society meeting: Annual Croquet Match and Ice Cream Social:- 6:00 p.m. (dessert only). Home of Chris Reed & Teresa Doyle, Rte. 214. Bring lawn chair and bug spray. Free and open to the public. Contact Sandal Cate sandal.cate@gmail.com for further information.

Mon. May 15, 2nd installment of taxes due by 5 pm



-- Landscape by Susan Bull Riley

Thank you for your support

Robert Brown
Conrad & Anne Ormsbee
Ken Hertz & Kate Rader

SUBMISSIONS FOR JULY-AUGUST 2023
SIGNPOST DUE:
JUNE 5, 2023

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
Development Review Board (DRB)
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)
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
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 / 229-5441
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