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The Charlotte News

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Clouds over Charlotte Beach
Photo by Lee Krohn



Charlotte is the pot of gold



A double rainbow looking east over Mutton Hill even caught the attention of this spaniel; thunderstorms have rumbled through almost daily lately. Photo by James Ingram

CVSD expecting any eventuality: Planning for school opening



Nancy Richardson
CORRESPONDENT

At the Champlain Valley School District school board meeting on Aug. 4, the district administration presented a comprehensive plan for providing two instructional models for preK through 8th grade that will be in place for the district school opening. Families can choose either a hybrid model or a remote learning model for the 20-21 school year. Over 200 parents and community members attended the meeting.

The hybrid model and the remote learning models will each provide focused curriculum, contact with teachers and peers, a mix of instructional methods, and as much safety as is possible. The very low level of virus in Vermont has made school attendance a possibility. That low level, combined with the hard work of the administration over several months, has led to the careful introduction of in-school programming combined with remote instruction. Details of the two models are on the district and individual school web pages.

The hybrid model will feature two days of in-school instruction, one day of remote instruction, and two days of other work that is aligned with the curricular goals. In addition, there will be planned connections and meetings with other classmates and teachers. The K-4 level curriculum will focus on literacy, math and social emotional learning. The 5-8 curriculum will include math, language, world language, science and social studies. Supported instruction will be offered five days per week.

CVU's model will be run on the same principles: a more focused curriculum; small student cohorts; two days per week at school and three days in a variety of remote learning instructional methods; support for students who may need it and possibly more time at school for those students; and sports and clubs with some constraints.

The remote model is designed to offer the same curriculum as the hybrid model for a student who will not be attending school in person. Remote instruction will be improved over the offerings in the spring. Parents of children

SEE **CVSD** PAGE 16

Stormy discussion over pay for assistant town clerk/treasurer

Chea Waters Evans
NEWS EDITOR

Not for the first time, the majority of a Selectboard meeting was spent discussing pay for a position in the town clerk's office. After an at-times contentious discussion, on July 30 the board approved a pay rate for the new assistant town clerk/treasurer and raised the pay rate for the current assistant town clerk/treasurer Christina Booher, who will stay on to train the new employee.

The pay issue has been discussed several times at Selectboard meetings over the course of the summer; at issue was a pay raise from the position's current salary for the new employee. The rate increase would reflect a market adjustment but would also cause the new employee to be paid more than Booher, who is remaining on the job full time for the month of August and part time for September to train her replacement before she moves out of state.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Mead said in the meeting that she was pleased with the new hire, Charlotter Sy Koerner, upon meeting her. "I was thrilled when she walked in the door," she said. Koerner is scheduled to begin her new position Aug. 3. The problem with her hiring arose when Selectboard member Frank Tenney pointed out that in hiring the new assistant while Booher was still employed full time there would be two full-time employees doing the same job, which was not in the budget.

What is in the budget are funds for a part-time assistant town clerk/treasurer at 20 hours a week in addition to the full-time assistant town clerk/treasurer to assist Mead. That item of the budget was scheduled to

begin July 1 of this year, but the position has yet to be posted. Booher was originally supposed to leave her job at the end of October but moved her departure date to the end of September. Tenney thought that the new person would fill that role as a trainee until Booher left for good.

Tenney said "the businessman in me is saying" that paying two people full time for a part-time position was not sound spending despite the need for training.

"You think it's more beneficial for somebody who's brand new?" Mead asked, referring to the money for the new position.

"I'm not saying that," Tenney said. "For me the transition would be from when Christina gives her [end] date, so we know what date this person will be hired for."

"So you have no training whatsoever?" Booher asked.

"That's what I thought this person would be," Tenney said. "Let's get this person in to start when you're gone."

Board Chair Matt Krasnow said from his point of view, no matter who was getting paid the money when, it was within the budget to pay for both Booher and the new hire simultaneously. "The money has been built up; it's the same difference," he said. "Financially, I don't see any difference to the taxpayer... I think there's money budgeted, the money can flip flop to [Booher] instead of the new hire."

Mead said, "I think y'all didn't bat an eyelash when you paid Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission \$50 an

hour for somebody to sit in the zoning office for the length of time there was no zoning administrator. And there seems to be money in the budget for that so I find this discussion to be quite..."

"Sad," Selectboard member Carrie Spear interjected.

"Sad," Mead repeated.

Board member Louise McCarren decided shortly thereafter to make a motion to assign the assistant town clerk/treasurer for \$22 per hour for a 40-hour week position in the step 5 pay grade starting Monday, Aug. 3, and the board approved it 5-0.

After the vote, Krasnow said, "I would like to just make a small point that there was a comparison made to a contractor who was hired by the town who is not an employee of the town, and that is why the pay rate was so much higher."

The peace from the pay increase decision lasted for less than a minute when the issue of raising Booher's pay came up. At first the board wasn't even sure if they should discuss it since it was not, technically, on the agenda for the night, though some thought the general agenda item of the assistant town clerk/treasurer's pay could involve both the new and departing people's salaries.

Spear said, "I was under the impression that whatever pay rate we hired, you were going to be at that same pay rate that the new person was being hired until you leave."

"I was going to be at the same pay rate

even though the man came back and said that the pay range for my job was 18 to 30 and I had been there for six years?" Booher asked, referring to a consultant from Gallagher Flynn who was hired to evaluate the position earlier this summer.

"Oh," Spear said.

"And I came to this job with over 13 years of experience and exactly kind of what I'm doing now? And I've asked, and sat in front of you guys, and reevaluated my job on two different occasions, and you shot me down, only to have a professional come in and actually show you everything I had asked for..."

At this point McCarren interjected and Booher stopped talking. Krasnow said he thought the issue should be brought up at a later date, and that it seemed like they were "paying people by shooting from the hip; I highly recommend against this."

"I don't want to do that either, but every time we talk about it there's an argument. I want a pay system where everybody doesn't have to argue every year," Spear said.

Krasnow said, "We're being asked to go to extraordinary measures to be unfair to every other employee; if there's complaints, there's 13 other employees..." He and the rest of the board eventually ran the calculations, everyone came up with \$25.02 per hour, and a motion was made to pay Booher that salary until she left the position, but the discussion started again before a vote.

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 15

Letters To The Editor

Dear Charlotte neighbors,

I am writing to encourage your support of Thomas Chittenden's run for state senator in this month's Democratic primary. While I have lived in Charlotte for the past twelve years, I have worked that entire time in South Burlington and have come to know Tom through his effective governance as a currently serving three-term City Councilor. He is open minded, pragmatic, and doesn't mind speaking his mind or the truth even if it may not be the popular thing to do. I do not always see eye to eye on every issue with Tom, but I always trust that he has put in the work to understand the issue thoroughly, and that his opinion is informed by facts and the best interests of his constituents. He is fair minded, even keeled, and I have every confidence that he will use the same sound judgement that he has repeatedly displayed in South Burlington in this new role in Montpelier should he be elected.

I think it is also worth pointing out that Tom not only brings seasoned political experience and community oriented volunteerism (former Chair of the CCTA

board of directors, South Burlington Rotarian, former Williston volunteer firefighter), as well as a successful track record as an educator (President of the UVM Faculty Senate, 2019 UVM Grossman School of Business Faculty Member of the Year, 2017 UVM Presidents Distinguished Lecturer Award Recipient), but he is a family man with three school-aged children in the public school system. Tom understands the struggle that many of us are going through right now as we try to navigate an increasingly uncertain future for our children. We are facing unprecedented challenges as a state and a nation and being clear eyed and open minded about our strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and how to successfully come out the other side of the current situation is going to take strong leadership, compassion, and intellect. I have no doubt that Thomas Chittenden is the right person for the job. Please join me in voting for him in the primary, and again in November.

Your neighbor,
Evan Langfeldt

Thanks, CVFRS

To the editor:

In the 25 years I've lived in Charlotte, I've attended many Selectboard and town meeting discussions about the high cost of the services offered by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue. Recently, while being treated at UVM Medical Center emergency room for a sudden and acute asthma attack, I heard from three different doctors that Fire & Rescue's quick and efficient service kept me out of Intensive Care, where I surely was headed.

Treatment started as Fire & Rescue were carrying me down the stairs in our home, gasping "I can't breathe."

In 25 years, I've only needed Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue services this one time, but when I needed them in the scariest episode of my life they were there—and on a sunny Sunday afternoon, the 4th of July weekend, no less. I just want to say thank you.

Susan Ohanian



The Charlotte News

Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is to inform our readers about current events, issues and topics, and to serve as a forum for the free exchange of views of town residents and community volunteer organizations on matters related to Charlotte and the lives of its residents.

Editorial independence

The Board of Directors retains full authority over all editorial and advertising content in *The Charlotte News*. While we are funded by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news judgments are made in accordance with our mission and independent of all sources of financial support, including support given through our affiliated 501(c)3 organization, The Friends of The Charlotte News.

Letters, Commentaries and Obituaries

Consistent with our mission *The Charlotte News* publishes letters to the editor, commentaries and obituaries from our readers. All letters, commentaries and obituaries are subject to review and approval by the news editor of the paper and to the following rules and standards:

- Letters to the editor, commentaries and obituaries should be emailed to news@thecharlottenews.org as attachments in .doc format. All letters, commentaries and obituaries must contain the writer's full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and commentaries 750 words.
- The opinions expressed in commentaries and letters to the editor belong solely to the author and are not to be understood as endorsed by either the Board of Directors or the editorial staff of the paper.
- All published letters and commentaries will include the writer's name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our house publishing style.
- Whenever editing is necessary we will make every effort to publish each submission in its entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording. We will confer with writers before publishing any submitted material that in our judgment requires significant editing before it can be published.
- The news editor makes the final determination whether a letter to the editor, a commentary or an obituary will be published as submitted, returned for rewriting or rejected.

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Around Town

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Robert L. Struble** of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, who passed away July 17 at the age of 80. A New Jersey native, his son, Robert, Jr. and daughter-in-law Stephanie are residents of Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that memorial contributions in Robert's name be made to Caris Hospice, 17 Waccamaw Medical Park Court, Conway, SC 29526.

is extended to family and friends of **George L. Richardson** of Waterbury, Connecticut, who passed away July 21 at the age of 94. He was born on his grandparents' farm in Shelburne and graduated from Shelburne High School. His son Gary and Gary's wife Cheryl, who live in Charlotte, survive him.

is extended to family and friends of **Glenn T. Good** of Houston, Texas, who passed away July 23 at the age of 87. Glenn was a native of Montpelier who earned a baccalaureate degree from St. Michael's College, followed by a graduate degree from Stonier School of Banking at Rutgers University. He became a Naval officer for several years before retiring and entering the banking business. His sideline activity was competitive running, and his friend and Olympian Al Lawrence wrote a book about Glenn titled *The Self-Coached Runner*. His surviving family includes his daughter Augusta Good Krahl and her husband, Troy, of Charlotte, as well as his grandchildren, Caroline and Catherine Krahl. The family asks that those wishing to make a donation

in his memory give to Vitas Healthcare, 17320 Red Oak Drive, Suite 102, Houston, TX.

is extended to family and friends of **George H. Agnew** of Colchester who passed away July 22 at the age of 82. He is survived by his son William Agnew and William's partner Barbara Collins of East Charlotte. Condolences may be sent to William Agnew at P.O. Box 442, Charlotte, VT 05445.

is extended to family and friends of **Mary Hagar Currier** of Burlington who passed away July 18 at the age of 86. A New Yorker, she and her family spent summers on Lake Champlain in Charlotte. It was there she met her future husband, John R. Currier. She is survived by her brother Henry of Charlotte. The family asks that gifts in Mary's memory be made to the Lennox Gastaut Syndrome Foundation (lgsfoundation.org).

is extended to family and friends of **W. James Walford** of East Fairfield, Vermont, who passed away July 7 at the age of 78. After moving to Vermont and living in the ranger's cabin atop Mount Mansfield, he began a teaching career in mathematics at Albert D. Lawton Middle School where he stayed for over 20 years. His surviving family includes his son Dylan Walford and Dylan's wife, Kathleen Walford Kelly, of Charlotte. The family asks that, "in lieu of flowers, condolences and gifts," you enjoy each other a bit more by "covering an entire piece of pie (or 3) with whipped cream" in his honor.

Correction

In the July 2 issue the article "Discussion heats up at Selectboard meeting" incorrectly identified a participant in the Zoom Selectboard meeting. The correct name is Ellen Fallon. The acronym for the TPLA was incorrectly reported. It is the Thompson's Point Leaseholder's Association.

News from The News

New publisher for *The Charlotte News*

The Charlotte News Board of Directors

On July 17, the board of directors of *The Charlotte News* announced that Claudia Marshall will replace Vince Crockenberg as the paper's publisher and president of the board.



Claudia Marshall

After almost six years in both positions, Vince stepped down in order to “get some relaxation out of my so-called retirement.”

He nominated Claudia as his replacement. The *News* board gave unanimous approval.

“It’s been a great run,” Vince said, “and it seemed like a good time to bring in someone new as president and publisher. Claudia has extensive and successful experience in fundraising, newsroom management, and digital media, so I think she’s the ideal person to build on what we’ve accomplished in the last several years.”

To assist in the transition, Vince will remain on the board as a member until April 2021, when his second four-year term expires.

Claudia brings to her new role as publisher a rich and varied background in journalism both online and over the airwaves. Her early career included managing news coverage and anchoring the morning drive news broadcasts at K-EARTH 101 in Los Angeles and at KXL-AM and -FM in Portland, Oregon.

She moved to New York City in the 90s to become a network news anchor at CBS News, then ABC News, broadcasting nationally on both radio and television. From 2001 to 2012 she hosted a morning drive-time talk and music radio show on National Public Radio’s flagship contemporary music station WFUV-FM at Fordham University in the Bronx, hosting live music events and interviewing leading names in music and the arts.

She’s been recognized widely for her work: Claudia has earned local and national awards for reporting, writing, editing and producing, and won a global award for investigative journalism.

Since 2012, when she moved to Vermont, Marshall has worked as an on-air fundraiser for Vermont PBS, produced and reported lifestyle and feature segments for VPR News, North Country Public Radio and the Burlington Free Press, and created, hosted and produced “Soul Shindig” for Farm Fresh Radio, 102.9 FM. Claudia also recently worked for three years as the Director of Good Works and Public Relations at Gardener’s Supply Company in Burlington. She is an active volunteer in Charlotte and says she loves living here with her husband Matt Zucker and her rescue dog Trudy.

Despite a change of leadership Claudia and the board of *The Charlotte News* are committed to delivering on the paper’s current five-year strategic plan.

The plan identifies four significant goals for the paper over the next several years: increasing fundraising, improving digital offerings, building and maintaining strong relationships in the community, and growing a more robust board.

According to Vince, “Over the last three years, we’ve renewed the board and organized our work more efficiently, significantly ramped up our fundraising work, and increased and improved our digital presence. In the board’s view, Claudia has exactly the right set of skills to see that work through to a successful conclusion.”

Of her new role, Claudia says her primary goal is to be of service. “Vince is handing over the helm of a strong paper with a great staff and a terrific board, as well as the support of our community. With the pandemic, our work is more vital than ever. Vince has done a lot of heavy lifting and I’m lucky to have a clear roadmap in our strategic plan. My job is to execute on that plan.”

Curious about what we’re hearing from our website readers?

John Quinney

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Last week, we launched a website survey, asking you, our readers, a few questions about our website—as it is today, and what you’d like to see us offer in the future. Responses are still coming in, and we’d like as many readers as possible to weigh in. Visit our website to take the survey at: www.charlottenewsvt.org/how-our-website.

Here’s some of what we’ve heard so far:

“I always read the synopsis of meetings.”

“In these COVID days, I have preferred to read the online versions of articles but somehow missed the option to download a pdf of the current edition! Now I know!”

“More detail on town meetings to keep the public informed.”

“Continue to include articles about/ interviews with local residents.”

“Website is best for ‘breaking news’ requiring early attention in the opinion of editors.”

“I prefer to read the printed paper that

comes in the mail. That’s a nice break from too much screen time.”

“I think you can increase content and change the format to get more on a page. Rolling photographs and headlines are nice, too.”

Our survey will be on *The Charlotte News* website for at least the next couple of weeks. We really want to hear from as many of our readers as possible, so if you’ve not already done so, stroll over to our website and give us your thoughts.

Many thanks to those who have already completed the short survey.

COVID-19

Charlotte COVID-19 Assistance Team compiles coronavirus-related resources for mental, physical, and financial health



Trina Bianchi
CHARLOTTE
COVID-19
ASSISTANCE TEAM

The Charlotte COVID-19 Assistance Team met this past Monday and continued our discussion around community resilience, this time focusing specifically on the survey from Community Resilience Organization we discussed at our last meeting. With Mindy

Blank from the CRO, we reviewed the current survey and made suggestions on how to change it so it might be more user friendly and relevant to Charlotte. We also discussed how to best present the survey to the community.

Other towns in Vermont have taken the survey and have been able to implement changes based on the results; the hope is to be able to do the same here in Charlotte. Unfortunately, the survey is designed to be given at an in-person forum that gives people the opportunity to ask questions before assessing each individual question. Given COVID-19, this approach is not possible, so there was discussion on how to make it easily available to all residents and easily understandable to complete without the benefit of being with others and asking questions. If you have thoughts on how best

to accomplish this, please let us know.

Community Resilience Organization started in Vermont after Hurricane Irene devastated so many towns and areas in our state. What became apparent was the fact that some communities were able to rise to the challenges they faced, while others struggled. The difference was the level of resilience in one community versus another; some communities were better prepared to deal with a crisis and met the challenges they faced. CRO's mission is to help build strong, resourceful communities that can survive and thrive in the face of a changing climate and other challenges that lie ahead. Other towns in Vermont that have taken on this challenge and are doing the work can be found at this website: <http://www.gocros.org/teams-2#teams>.

The Charlotte team has decided to move forward with the survey. At our next meeting, August 10 at 11 a.m. on Zoom, we will discuss the assessment and how to roll it out in our community, the goal being to hear from as many community members as possible. If you would like to be involved or learn more about this team, please contact Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen at rev.kemg@gmail.com. If you have suggestions on how to introduce the assessment, please let us know.

As for resources available now:

Food and meals

The **school lunch program** is available to school-age kids through the summer. To access, go to the website www.cvsdvt.org, click on District Resources, click on Menus, then click on the link: <https://bit.ly/SummerMealInfo>. Call Scott Wagner at 802-871-6198 for further information. These lunches will be available at Charlotte Central School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Pick-up is between 10 and 11 a.m.

Grab and Go lunches from the Food Shelf are available at Spears Store and Charlotte Library, daily, Monday through Friday. To register, call 425-3252.

The **Food Shelf** itself continues to be open Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Kids lunches will also be available at this time and will include a week's supply of lunches. Tenney's Snack Bar has added a voucher for a creemee to the summer lunch bags. Call 425-3252 to register.

The school district is currently looking for volunteers to help with food distribution for the summer meals. Interested in helping out? Email cvsdinformation@cvsdvt.org.

Emotional and mental health

Vermont 211 from your phone is available for referrals and questions.

Pathways Vermont (883-888-2557) is free and is available 24/7 to call or text a peer who has dealt with mental health issues in the past.

NFI Vermont, access through www.nfivermont.org, serves Vermont families whose children are struggling with emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges.

First Call (802-488-7777) is for crisis situations. Available 24/7.

Financial assistance

Emergency financial assistance is available through the Charlotte Food Shelf, Charlotte Congregational Church and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church. Requests can be made by calling 425-3252 or 425-3130.

From the Vermont Department of Health

Stay abreast of the ongoing coronavirus-related news in Vermont, check on what businesses are opening, learn new regulations for traveling into our state, and find out where to get a COVID-19 test and more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>.

COVID and the courts



Helen Toor
CORRESPONDENT

These are strange times for all of us, and that includes the Vermont courts. Several people have asked me recently whether the courts are open, and how they are functioning, so I thought I'd share the answers with all of you.

Yes, courts are open. However, not in the way they used to be. Back in March, the Vermont Supreme Court issued an emergency order canceling all court hearings other than emergencies (Administrative Order 49). The staffing schedule was cut as well, so that we could keep all staff at least six feet apart.

In essence, we had about half the staff in the courthouse at any one time. Even though most hearings and trials were not happening, a lot of the work in the courts involves written filings by lawyers or other parties, and written orders being issued, so the staff still had to process all of that. Since then, we have adjusted office furniture and staff seating to accommodate full staff again (though all staff must be masked in the building unless they are alone in a private office). Cleaning of high-touch surfaces has been increased, and shared spaces such as break rooms are limited to one person at a time.

Since June 1, the Supreme Court has amended its order to allow non-emergency hearings to be scheduled, although the courts are encouraged to do as many hearings as possible by video or phone rather than having people come

to the courthouse. In addition, we are limited to five hours of hearing time a day to allow staff time to catch up on all that fell behind when staffing was cut back. Anyone filing or picking up documents has to exchange them at the door rather than entering the building.

Different courts are doing things very differently at the moment. Some are doing almost all online and phone hearings; some have more in-person hearings. This is due in part to the different kinds of cases in different courts, and in part to a lack of equipment and training to use the necessary technology. We are ramping up with new equipment and software across the state, but that will take some time. Even when we are doing hearings online, there is a mix of software being used at the moment. Thus, if you receive a hearing notice, it may tell you the hearing will be by video, and you will need to

follow the link or go to the online site as directed in the notice.

However, because not everyone has the ability to participate in an online hearing (because of bandwidth limits, limited monthly access, or even the lack of a quiet location), we also provide the option of a phone number to call in instead.

If parties to a case object to having the hearing by video or phone, they can file a request for a live hearing, and the judge will decide whether that is necessary. If you do come to court for a hearing, you must answer health screening questions at the door and wear a mask at all times while in the building.

Even the usual setup of lawyers sitting next to their clients in court is not possible due to the need to keep a six-

SEE **COURTS** PAGE 5



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COVID - 19

COURTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

foot distance, so we have rearranged the seating in the courtroom. In some courtrooms, witnesses are testifying from a different location in the room to keep them safely distanced from others. We are also limited to ten people in a courtroom at one time.

One of the biggest challenges we face—and courts across the country are facing—is how to do jury trials. The Supreme Court order says that no criminal jury trials may take place before September, and no civil jury trials before January. Normally we bring dozens of people to the courthouse at the same time to select jurors from that group. Then the 10, 12 or 14 jurors selected for a trial are seated right next to each other in the jury box during the trial and sit right next to each other around a conference table when they are on breaks and when they are deliberating at the end of the trial.

It is impossible to do this as usual if we are going to maintain safe social

distancing for the jurors, so we are trying to come up with creative solutions—such as having the jurors sit spaced out in the public seating area, and letting them use a second courtroom as their private room. However, figuring all this out is challenging. We need to balance the parties' need to have their cases resolved with the safety of everyone involved, including citizens who are asked to serve as jurors. We are hoping that some people will choose to have a “bench trial”—meaning a judge or judges decide the case—instead of a jury trial so that their cases can move forward sooner.

If you would like to read the Vermont Supreme Court's most recent version of the emergency order (Administrative Order 49), or the recent Report on Restarting Criminal Jury Trials, you can go to our website at vtjudiciary.org and click on the link at the top of the page for “information regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and court operations.”

The Honorable Helen Toor is a superior judge with the Chittenden Civil Division.

Town

Sharpening at the library

Ruah Swennerfelt

Transition Town Charlotte is hosting a sharpening workshop on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., co-hosted by the Charlotte Library. The workshop will be set up on the west porch of the Charlotte Library, with seats spaced to comply with current Covid-19 physical spacing guidelines.

Do you have home, yard or shop tools that no longer work as well as they did? Are you frustrated with those old scissors, that balky lawn mower, those dull kitchen knives, those sticky garden shears, etc.? Do they possibly just need a little sharpening and oiling? Don't throw them away. Learn how to make them like new by sharpening them yourself at home.

Louis Cox of Transition Town Charlotte will lead an outdoor demonstration workshop to guide you through the basics of tuning up a range of home and shop items that usually work better when they get periodic sharpening. He will explain what sharpening devices, such as honing stones and files, you may need to buy or borrow, how to set up and operate the sharpening devices, and how to test whether your sharpened tools are now ready to go back to work.

There is no charge for admission, but enrollment in this workshop is limited to 15 people, so please register by sending an email to Louis at jlouiscox@gmail.com.

Just Asking

Two out of five Charlotters want to learn to chill out.

This week's question around town:

What is something new you'd like to learn?

Photos and interviews by Jim Squires



Jacinta Monniere (Charlotte):

“At my age? I'm finally learning how to relax, something I always wanted to do.”



Jim Taylor (Charlotte post office):

“I'd like to learn how to sit down and play the piano. I've always wanted to know how to do that. I can play Chopsticks pretty well but that's about it.”



Dylan Arthaud (Charlotte):

“I'd love to learn how to fly!”



Josephine Devita (Raleigh, NC/Williston):

“I'd like to learn how to play the bass guitar. I already know how to play drums.”



Jeffrey Small (Charlotte):

“I want to learn how to retire and be really good at it.”

Town

Charlotte lowest per capita police spending in Chittenden County

Chase McGuire
COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP

How much is Charlotte spending on policing? The simple answer: not a lot, but police services are a very small piece of the greater emergency services pie.

Charlotte utilizes the Vermont State Police as its primary police force, a service that is available to all municipalities in the state, but every municipality has the opportunity to create an additional local police force. This is contingent on their cooperation with the Vermont Mutual Aid Agreement for the Sharing of Municipal Resources. The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that every area of Vermont has access to all municipal services.

“The Legislature has allowed any municipality, any town or city the right to form their own municipal police force, which would add what they call the primary police force for that municipality. So currently, if a town or city does not have their own municipal police force,

the state police are the de facto prime police service for that municipality. And that’s what Charlotte has,” explained Matt Krasnow, chair of the Charlotte Selectboard. The Town of Charlotte has contracted additional services to forge safer roadways by patrolling areas prone to speeding, accidents and criminal activity. This is where the \$30,000 police budget goes, but that is just a fraction of the money spent on emergency services.

The Charlotte Town Budget for the last fiscal year appropriated \$661,064 for the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, more than 22 times what was appropriated for specific policing, but the mutual aid agreement works with all emergency services. So, while the Shelburne Police Department may be responding to police calls in Charlotte, CVFRS may be responding to ambulance calls in Shelburne.

“Cooperation of mutual aid also includes other emergency services, which I think is really

SEE **POLICE** PAGE 16

Education

Private schools see surge in applicants as public schools roll out fall plans

Chea Waters Evans

In person? Remote learning? Hybrid model? With a month left until the beginning of the school year and constantly changing information about the coronavirus pandemic and the best and safest way to open public schools in the fall, some parents are turning to area independent schools for their children’s educations for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Champlain Valley School District is using a hybrid model to start the school year; Superintendent Elaine Pinckney said that the schedule could always change later in the school year, but that for at least the first six weeks the hybrid model is her recommendation. This means that most students in the K-8 Charlotte Central School classrooms will attend school in person two days a week. For many parents, particularly those with younger children, this scheduling option presents a childcare challenge. That’s where private schools come in.

Vermont Day School in Shelburne plans to open for in-person instruction five days a week when the school year begins, with a contingency plan in place should the need arise for online learning. For working parents, this schedule eliminates the problem of finding childcare that would include an academic proponent for three weekdays. Head of School Sage Bagnato said that since the public school district announced the hybrid schedule, she had a surge of requests for tours and applications.

“A lot of people are looking at what their options are—knowing what their current public schools are planning, they’re looking into alternative options,” she said. She said that size is a helpful factor in planning and



Walter Adams and Luna Van Deusen volunteered at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School, building outdoor classrooms so students can safely social distance while learning. *Photo by Jen Zahorchak*

that she is sympathetic to the public school’s struggles; enrollment at VDS is around 65 students. “So much of it is inherently our smaller size—it’s easier to think about opening when it’s 60 students as opposed to 400.” Though there is much more interest from the community, she said that social distancing and safety protocols mean that enrollment will remain similar to years past. The K-8 school is limiting class sizes, which are typically 12 to 16 students, to 10 per classroom.

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 7

Education

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Aside from the now-normal protocols of mask wearing, disinfecting regularly, frequent handwashing, and maintaining proper physical distance, Bagnato said VDS faces a particularly challenging academic situation. “We do a lot of collaborative, hands-on learning, so at the moment one of the hardest elements is how to create that work when we need to be physically distant,” she said. “It’s challenging to think about situations when they need to be close to each other, or even when a child is upset and needs reassurance. I can’t imagine having to console a child from six feet away.”

The Lake Champlain Waldorf School in Shelburne, which has students from preschool to high school, is not only shifting their perspectives on teaching and curriculum, they’re actually shifting the students outdoors. Along with LCWS staff and teachers, parents and students volunteered this summer to build outdoor classrooms on the school’s 20-plus acre campus. A combination of canvas tents, hammock chairs strung between trees, heated seats, and even an amphitheater, the classrooms were designed to be movable to lessen environmental impact and to allow for different kinds of outdoor learning five days a week.

Head of School Jas Darland said that four classrooms will be finished by the beginning of the school year and two others will be completed by students once the school year begins. There will also be smaller canopy tents and camp chairs so teachers can easily move kids indoors if need be. “My goal is that in the pleasant, mild months a teacher and a class can spend the entire day outside,” Darland said, “and that in the difficult months, teachers will feel comfortable and confident spending 30 percent of the day outside.” Portable heaters and staggering outdoor class periods with indoor work will help keep students thawed in the winter.

Within that framework, Waldorf students also have an option to take a parallel learning course that is all online or take advantage of the option to attend school for the outdoor portion of the day and return home for online learning once their class heads inside.

Darland said she and the school are empathetic to the equity issue between students whose parents can afford an independent school’s tuition and those who must attend public school for financial reasons. She said that close to 60 percent of students at LCWS receive financial aid, and that she is looking into other options to help finance more scholarships. She said

she and the school’s teachers are grateful for the ability to make curriculum and facilities adjustments independently. “I’m not looking to capitalize on the public school’s misfortune, and I feel so sorry for people who are trying to solve this difficult problem without flexibility,” she said.

Though enrollment inquiries are higher this year, Darland said there are already wait lists for some grades. She anticipates that, because of social distancing requirements, the school will be full at 150 students, though in a normal year they have the capacity for 300, with student enrollment typically closer to 200.

On the other end of the spectrum, students at Vermont Commons School in South Burlington will be online at home four days a week and outdoors together one day of the week. Head of School Dexter Mahaffey said that because VCS students are in middle and high school and don’t necessarily need adult supervision all day, the childcare issue faced by families with younger children isn’t as much of an issue. Finances are still a necessity for a private school education, however.

“Socioeconomic diversity is a huge portion of our school’s mission since its foundation,” he said. “Our financial aid is always in a percentage of our overall budget, and this year we did a huge fundraising campaign in early June to add to that” in order to help families who might have taken a hit to their incomes.

Academically, the college preparatory aspect of the school remains the same, Mahaffey said. He said that the online curriculum planned for the fall is much different from the work students did this past spring; he said the VCS staff has been working all summer to find interactive ways to engage students from afar. He also pointed out that when they’re at home on a screen, students and teachers will be able to see each other’s faces because they’re not wearing masks during work time, and the rest of the community connection will come in person. “We’re going to hit our academics hard for three days, but on Wednesday we’re out in the world in small groups doing outdoor experiential education.”

Despite the challenges presented by the school year, Mahaffey said he is looking forward to the coming school year. “Educators love working with kids; we love doing what we do, so a vision of anything of being able to do that, whatever it is, that’s what gets us excited. If you have the privilege of working around kids all day long, you get to believe in a future of growth and cheerfulness.”



Have a hot news tip?

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The Charlotte News

Education

School superintendent announces retirement

Staff report

After 15 years as superintendent, Elaine Pinckney announced this week her upcoming retirement from the Champlain Valley School District in June 2021.



Elaine Pinckney

“I am very grateful for having had the privilege to serve such a forward-thinking organization, one in which lifelong learning and a focus on personal and institutional growth are at the core,” she wrote in her letter to the CVSD school board. “I was drawn to this vision from the start and continue to be inspired by it to this day. Over the years, I have been enormously blessed to work with passionate, dedicated board members, outstanding administrators and a top-notch faculty and staff.”

CVSD is the largest school district in the state; her final year as superintendent is already proving to be challenging, with school districts across the state scrambling to come up with plans for the upcoming school year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pinckney assured the school board she is ready to lead the district through the uncertainty of the next school year. She said she will share regular newsletters and updates, work collaboratively with the district and school leadership teams, visit schools and reach out to the community for input and feedback. She said, “I look forward to serving CVSD and its member communities during this final year. I am still energized by the work and continue to be inspired by my colleagues. 2020-2021 will not be without its challenges, but if past history is any indicator, we will figure it out together and work collaboratively to ensure the best possible outcome.”

Elaine has served as a trustee for the Vermont Superintendents Association, a member of the American Association of School Administrators Governing Board, a member of the Governing Board for the Northeast and Islands Regional Education Lab, District Management Group Superintendent Strategy Summit member, and on the board of directors of the Stern Center. She previously served as Vermont’s deputy commissioner of education and was a principal in Morrisville, Stowe and Williston.

The board will begin a search process immediately.

Town

Sports Report



Edd Merritt
CORRESPONDENT

S.D. Ireland tops Vermont Summer Baseball League
Traveling to Hartford, the S.D. Ireland summer baseball team, winners of the northern division, faced Lakes Region, the southern conference winners, after each carried winning records for the foreshortened season. Ireland was ranked first in the state, Lake Region second.

The Summer Baseball League was a five-week fill-in for what would normally be a full-summer American Legion season. Ireland is a team made up of many Champlain Valley Union High School players, the Division I state high school champions last year. This was the first year in the last 75 that Vermont has not had an American Legion tournament or full summer season.

Known as the Shamrocks, Ireland scored single runs in each of the first three innings of the championship game, which proved enough to shut out Lakes Region 3-0. The Shamrock record stood at 17-1 going into the final game.

Pitching was a major factor in the team’s season. In the semi-finals against Colchester, Storm Rushford threw a four-hitter, and in the finals Ian Parent threw six innings giving up only two hits and striking out five. Wyatt Cameron relieved him for the final inning to maintain the shutout. Baker Angstman, Lars Jensen and Jacob Murphy gained RBIs

Fall high school sports move back start date

It appears that fall sports in Vermont high schools will begin their practices the first day of school—Sept. 8 rather than Aug. 10.

Field hockey, football, soccer, volleyball, cross-country running, golf and fishing are the sports affected by the later start.



Baker Angstrom helps fire Ireland to the American Legion Championship.

Photo by Al Frey

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Hi, Neighbor!

Jack Pilla: Ultra runner and coach



Phyl Newbeck
CORRESPONDENT

In a normal year, Jack Pilla would be traveling to compete in Ultra running races like the 100-mile Bighorn Trail Run in Wyoming, which should have taken place in June. Instead, he is spending his time and energy locally, running

up and down Pease Mountain with his dog Ducati and going back and forth on sections of the Town Link Trail and the Town Village Loop. He has run every day for over 14 years, totaling 56,000 miles in that time span.

Pilla ran his first marathon in 2001, and several years later, he began running Ultra races. In 2009, he was the first Vermont man to win the Vermont 100, and he has raced nationally and internationally with first place finishes in distances ranging from half marathons to 50- and 100- milers. "Back in 2008, I was doing well in races and people kept asking me for advice," he recalled. "I talked with them and next thing I knew, I was creating training plans for them and then others asked for help. I had no intention of becoming a coach, but it fell into place."

Pilla has clients across the United States, although most live in New England. He has even had some international inquiries. "I take a good look at their running histories,"



Jack Pilla and his dog Ducati ran to the top of Mt. Mansfield.

he said. "I look at their specific goals and where they want to go and see whether it is realistic." Pilla has turned down clients whose goals he considers unattainable, such as those who want to compete in events for which there isn't sufficient time to train. "I don't want to waste their time and money," he said.

Pilla has spent the last four years coaching running camps at Craftsbury Outdoors Center, although this year, those events have been cancelled. In 2017, a Boston-based organization called The Run Formula



Jack Pilla, on the left, in second place on the podium at the TDS race in the Alps of Italy and France last September. The TDS race is part of the UTMB series around Mt. Blanc and is over 90 miles long with over 30,000 feet of ascent. There were over 2,000 participants.

Courtesy photos

asked him to join their team to assist trail and Ultra runners. "I've been busier than ever," he said. "The whole trail thing has just exploded." Although Pilla thoroughly enjoys working with clients on his own, the advantage to The Run Formula is they do all the office work and billing. "They send me clients," he said "and I create schedules and put them online. Clients upload their runs so I can see what they're doing." Pilla noted that many people are perfectly fine training on their own but others need him to scold them if they aren't working hard enough or, conversely, working too hard on what should have been an easy day.

With races across the world being cancelled because of the pandemic, Pilla has been

helping his runners stay motivated. "It's been very challenging," he said. "Usually people have a goal race, but that's not the case this year." To complicate matters, race directors often wait until the last minute to cancel races which makes it difficult for runners to prepare. "I want people to peak for their races," Pilla said "but now I need to get them into maintenance mode in case something pops up." Many runners are now focusing their attention on Fastest Known Times (FKT) on a given course, and one of Pilla's clients is trying to set one for running the length of the Long Trail. Another of his trainees recently broke the FKT on a course in the state of Georgia.

Pilla hasn't raced since January when he and his wife, Kristin Lundy, completed a 50K during a visit to St. Croix. The two married in 2013 and ran a 206-mile race in the Italian Alps with 158,000 feet of elevation change to celebrate. A friend is trying to schedule a race for 125 runners at Lake Dunmore in August, and Pilla is hopeful that will take place. In the meantime, he recently crewed for his wife and two of her friends as they ran a section of the Long Trail from Brandon Gap to the Beane Trail in Huntington, a distance of roughly 40 miles that they completed in 19 hours.

When the pandemic struck, Pilla's first thought was to run some of his favorite mountain routes. But as the weather grew warmer, those trails became too crowded. "I've been doing a lot of local runs," he said, noting that he hoped Charlotte will soon be able to finish the Town Link Trail to allow running from Charlotte Beach to Mt. Philo. He continues to provide his clients with feedback and hopes that in the not-too-distant future, both he and they will be able to get back to organized racing.

Outdoors

More good news in the outdoors



Elizabeth Bassett
CORRESPONDENT

There's no space right now for more grim news. I will leave it to others to write about cyanobacteria blooms in Charlotte and elsewhere, drought and its sequelae, climate change, and species loss. For this

moment, through rose-colored glasses, I'm reporting good news in the outdoors.

Loons

In July, 200 volunteers visited 160 bodies of water for the annual Vermont loon count. After visiting 110 Vermont lakes and ponds, loon watchers confirmed 94 nests. This season saw the earliest nest ever, in early May, and the latest in mid-July. A pair on Kent Pond hatched its chick on June 4, an early record, while on Bald Hill Pond a pair did not start nesting until between July 11 and 13, the late record.

Through the early 1990s there were as few as a dozen breeding pairs in the state. At the turn of the century there were still fewer than 50 nesting pairs. The year 2000 was the first to witness more than 50 hatched chicks. Final numbers have not been tabulated for this season, but 2019 saw 115 chicks hatched with 87 surviving through August. The 2019 tally of adult loons was 339 on 86 bodies of water. This season, Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Conservation Project believes that Green River Reservoir and Somerset Reservoir each are hosting a record of four breeding pairs. All in all, good news.

Landlocked shrimp

Who knew that one could raise shrimp in Charlotte? Sweet Sound at Nordic Farm is John Brawley's land-based aquaculture farm, currently producing between 50 and 100 pounds of Pacific Whiteleg shrimp each week.

"Before the virus I was selling mostly to restaurants," Brawley says. "We had also planned to sell at the weekly Shelburne Farms market." All of that has changed in the era of COVID-19, he said. "Restaurants are slowly re-opening and we are selling retail from the farm."

Brawley's shrimp grow to market size in about three months, considerably less time than the year or more for farmed trout and catfish and closer to two years for oysters, which Brawley farmed in Duxbury, Massachusetts, before moving to Vermont.

Shrimp arrive from a Florida hatchery the size of an eyelash. They spend their first month in nursery pools until they reach about one inch in length. Brawley then transfers them to larger pools of recirculating seawater where they spend two to three months sizing up to 20 to 35 per pound. Shrimp are fed four times each day—no hormones or antibiotics. Brawley includes probiotics, locally grown organic grains fermented with probiotic bacteria.

Shrimp, like lobsters, are carnivorous and cannibalistic, consuming their own shells as they molt and occasionally their neighbors'. About 80 percent survive to harvest. They are sold with head and shells intact.



Loons are flourishing in Vermont this year.

Photo by Janet Steward courtesy
Vermont Center on Ecostudies

A recent dinner on our porch included Vermont Shrimp, Broadbook Farm rice from Ferrisburgh (Duck Rice Farming in Vermont, *The Charlotte News*, June 27, 2019 charlottenewsvt.org/2019/06/27/duck-rice-farming-in-vermont), and our garden vegetables. Can't do much better than that!

New trail on Mt. Philo

Perhaps you have noticed trail work at our local state park. Timber & Stone, a Central Vermont-based trail design and construction firm, is running the project. Principal trail designer and builder Josh Ryan is a veteran of Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. Since its founding in 2004, Timber & Stone has worked on trails throughout the Northeast, including the boardwalk at Raven Ridge in Charlotte, built from reclaimed cedars. The new trail on the upper part of Mt. Philo will protect against erosion and minimize wear on the underlying bedrock, soil and flora.

Bird-friendly maple project

A recent partnership between Audubon Vermont, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers has a goal of managing sugarbushes for three long-term goals: maximizing maple sugar production, managing diverse forests for healthier trees, and providing habitat for birds to forage, find cover, and raise their young. As gardeners know, there are risks in monocultures as pests and diseases can ravage a single crop. Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Center on Ecostudies will study outcomes for sugarbushes that are biologically and structurally diverse. The hope is that these sugarbushes will have better long-term sap production, fewer forest health problems, and be better able to adapt to the stresses of climate change. Look for the label that indicates that syrup was produced in a bird-friendly forest habitat.

Peregrine falcons

If you've been waiting to hike near cliffs with nesting peregrines, the trails are open. Vermont's falcons have fledged, and biologists and volunteers believe that 2020 is a successful year. Peregrine pairs nest on more than 50 cliffs across the state. Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont's threatened and endangered species list in 2005.

Food

Food trucks and farm dinners: Foodie options right here in Charlotte



Juliann Phelps
CORRESPONDENT

Charlotte is home to a diverse set of agricultural activities and, by extension, some fantastic food options. From food trucks to homemade breads and pastries, coffee and creemees, there's something to try nearly every week.

Two newer businesses on Route 7, Rise 'N Shine Farm and Charlotte Crossings, are offering weekly evening food truck events; Catering By Dale is at the Point Bay Marina on weekends. Charlotte mainstays like the Old Brick Store and Tenney's Snack Bar have adapted with walk-up windows and continue to offer breakfast and lunch options.

Rise 'N Shine Farm – Food Truck Wednesdays, Farm Stand Saturdays; carry out

On Wednesdays, Rise 'N Shine hosts Half Baked Pizza, fresh brick oven pizza from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The farm stand is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring local vegetables, meats, eggs, flowers and baked goods—including breads and pastries. “We are working toward our year-round commercial farm stand and creamery. Eventually we'll be open every day,” said Kit Perkins, Rise 'N Shine's produce manager. (facebook.com/risenshinefarmVT/)

Charlotte Eats! By Charlotte Crossings – weekly food trucks; carry out and outdoor seating

Charlotte Crossings features dining options several nights a week with their Charlotte

Eats! event. From 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. a different local vendor is featured each night. After ordering, you can take your food around back to the outdoor patio pop-up restaurant hosted by La Villa Bistro and Pizzeria. Seating is first come, first served, and La Villa offers bar service starting at 5 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday the tent is open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; reservations are required. Pre-ordering for food trucks is encouraged but not required. Details for each vendor is available on the Charlotte Crossings website (charlottecrossings.com/).

Tuesdays: Mediterranean Mix. Greek cuisine: mousaka, spanikopita and dolmas.

Wednesdays: Sausage Shack. American fare: sausage and Philly cheese steak sandwiches, burgers and dogs. Lake Champlain Chocolates Ice Cream truck. (no pre-ordering)

Thursdays: Tourterelle Restaurant and Inn. American fare: Grilled fish tacos, Cuban flatbread, poutine.

Fridays: Grazers. American fare: burgers, fries, tacos. Skinny Pancake. savory and sweet crepes.

Catering by Dale – weekends at the marina; carry out and outdoor seating

Catering by Dale sets up every weekend at the Point Bay Marina, with options like lobster rolls and chicken fajitas. Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Owner Susan Thompson said, “We will begin grilling soon and opening up the bar inside the garage for happy hour!” Seating is available, with picnic tables outside and in the garage. (cateringbydale.com/)

Brick and mortar businesses like the Old Brick Store, Tenney's Snack Bar and Philo Ridge Farm continue to offer breakfast and lunch options. And Pizza on Earth is still serving up pizzas every Friday as they have for over 20 years.

Old Brick Store – breakfast and lunch; walk-up window

In addition to coffee and smoothies, the Old Brick Store features a weekly breakfast (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.) and lunch menu (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Order their rotating lunch specials, like Thai peanut wrap and chicken cobb salad, by calling ahead or from the takeout window. Details can be found on their Facebook and Instagram pages. (oldbrickstore.com/)

Tenney's Snack Bar – breakfast and lunch; walk-up window and outdoor seating

Tenney's Snack Bar still slings tasty ham and sausage breakfast sandwiches starting at 9 a.m. and continues to serve lunch all day until 5:30 p.m. They serve several different creemee flavors, including maple, with the option to sit outside at picnic tables. “We are still doing bottle redemption, too,” said owner Rick Tenney. (facebook.com/TenneysBritsuesGreenhouse/)

Pizza on Earth – Fridays; carry out

The Voglers have been baking and serving fresh pizzas for over 20 years. While the process for ordering has changed, the demand hasn't—they serve about 100 pizzas every Friday night. At 10 a.m. on Friday, they post their menu on their website and take pre-orders throughout the day. In addition to three regular pizza choices and two specials, they also offer tarts, cupcakes and French sourdough

bread. With no shortage of regular customers, owner Marcia Vogler said they are grateful for the support. “We know about 80% of our customers from name and sight—I sometimes recognize their voices on the phone!” (pizzaonearth.com/)

Philo Ridge Farm – lunch and summer dinner series; walk-up window and outdoor seating

While the farm stand shifted to a weekly pop-up option (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday), Philo Ridge Farm recently announced their Summer Dinner Series “following the success of our July 4th weekend dinners,” according to their website. Patrons can book reservations for a *prix fixe* meal served *al fresco* from Thursday to Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. Dining options “change weekly and highlight the bounty of the season.” Lunch and espresso are still available at the walk-up window and include burgers, salads and weekend brunch. (philoridgefarm.com/)

With all the carryout and dining options, there are still a few places left to mention: Backdoor Bread (backdoorbread.com/) offers freshly made organic bread available on Fridays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for pre-order or pick up until 2 p.m. Paradiso Farm Coffee (paradisofarm.com/) will roast and deliver fresh coffee to your door, and Spear's Corner Store (facebook.com/Spears-Corner-Store-107620895923907/) features local honey, snacks and beverages. Whatever you choose, patronizing our local businesses continues to strengthen and support our economy!

Town Library News



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

We have enjoyed greeting visitors to the library since Phase 2 of our reopening plan allowed for limited access to the library collection. In case you need a reminder of the guidelines, we've included them below.

School is starting! Whether you've got a kindergartener or are a grad student yourself, whatever your plans, we want to make sure that the library can provide the resources, information and kits you may need. Library staff are compiling our provision list and we hope that our tech resources, learning kits and added inter-library loan capacity will help make the transition smoother to however you're learning this fall.

Library Guidelines

The Library is Open! Children may now come into the library as long as they are accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Children over the age of 2 must wear masks and abide by all library use guidance as listed below.

- Library Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - 10 to 11 a.m.: reserved for at-risk individuals
 - 12 to 1 p.m.: library closed for cleaning & sanitizing
- Patrons are allowed in the building for maximum of 30 minutes to select and check out books.
- 5 patrons are allowed in building at one time.
- Patrons enter through main entrance and exit on north end of porch (except those requiring ADA access, who may enter and exit through main entrance)
- Patrons are encouraged to limit number of family/pod members visiting library.
- All patrons must wear masks and sanitize hands when entering building.
- Patrons must follow marks on floor



for social distancing while visiting the stacks and standing in line at the service desk.

Library staff will be on hand to assist with book checkout and location via computer. Staff will be masked at all times and wear gloves when handling materials for sanitizing prior to and during checkout. The latest updates and information are available on the library website, charlottepubliclibrary.org.

New books at the library

Lots of great reading coming in August. Here are just a few of the new titles available:

Scarface and the Untouchable
by Max Allan Collins

Playing Nice by J.P. Delaney

His & Hers by Alice Feeney

The Eighth Girl by Maxine Mei Fung

The Lantern Men by Elly Griffiths

Hour of the Assassin by Matthew Quirk

Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir
by Natasha Trethewey

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

See one you'd like us to set aside? You can place a hold online using your library card or call the library to let us know.

Upcoming library programs and activities

Check out our new activity offerings!

Cake Decorating Competition: Aug. 1–15

Monster or mountain? Maple leaf or ski run? We're looking for creative bakers out there to show us their fabulous cake creations, based on your favorite Vermont icon. This could be Champ, Mt. Philo, a sap bucket or your favorite winter activity. We'll provide the cake mix, frosting and selection of decorations. You add your own imagination and any other embellishments you like. Family efforts are encouraged and prizes granted for all entries! Email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org to sign up!

Activity Kits: We've put together some fun and entertaining kits for all ages. Try your hand at knot tying, do a doodle with Zentangles, plant a shoebox garden or create a pet rock. All are available for check out through porch pickup or the front desk.

Online Activities

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m.: Zoom with Confidence

Virtual meetings are here to stay—find out how to utilize helpful Zoom functions. Susanna, our tech librarian, will walk you through features including chat, screen sharing (including using a pointer), and changing your name and background. There will be time to practice skills during the Zoom session. All features covered are available with a free Zoom account. Registration required, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3hGzKa8>.

Monday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.:

Mystery Book Group: *Magpie Murders*

by Anthony Horowitz
When editor Susan Ryeland is given the manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has no reason to think it will be much

different from any of his others. After working with the bestselling crime writer for years, she's intimately familiar with his detective, Atticus Pünd, who solves mysteries disturbing sleepy English villages. Conway's latest tale has Atticus Pünd investigating a murder at Pye Hall, a local manor house. Yes, there are dead bodies and a host of intriguing suspects, but the more Susan reads, the more she's convinced that there is another story hidden in the pages of the manuscript, one of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition and murder. E-book available via Hoopla and print copies available at the library circulation desk.

Tuesday, Aug. 18 @ 10 a.m.: Climate Change in a Pickle Box

Climate change is the fundamental issue defining our future. Learn about the challenges we face here in Vermont, what we can do on a local and larger level and how the climate crisis ties into the pressing social justice issues we face today. Registration required, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/33oQKxY>.

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m.:

How to Hoopla

Learn how to use our new Hoopla service to read books, listen to books and music and watch tv shows and movies at home for free with your library card. Our tech librarian, Susanna, will walk you through how to get started with Hoopla on your device. Registration is required, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/39CmBvP>.

Library Contact Information

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Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER
DIRECTOR

“The Tin Woodman knew very well he had no heart, and therefore he took great care never to be cruel or unkind to anything. “You people with hearts,” he said, “have something to guide you, and need never do wrong; but I have no heart, and so I must be very careful.”

~ L. Frank Baum,
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

At present

The Senior Center building remains closed, but things are happening. Those activities that are held outdoors, namely Kayaking for Women and Birding Expeditions, have started up again.

There is a wide variety of online Zoom courses that you can check out on the website, CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. All of the Wednesday presentations/events at 1 p.m. can be attended online, via Zoom. Any other activities or in-person courses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and announced after they have been carefully considered. Meanwhile, please take good care to social distance, wash your hands frequently—and consider your mask as your new best friend.

Updates

The Foot Clinics/Blood Pressure Clinics will be starting up again in the fall. Those

who were signed up in the spring will be contacted when new dates are established. It was recently announced by Age Well that the Universal Restaurant Tickets that they have already dispersed will have a new expiration date of 2021.

Zoom course

The new iteration of Writing Your Life Story, online with Laurie McMillan starts tomorrow, and a new version will be offered in the fall as well. The hope is to ultimately establish an informal group of writers who get together once or twice a month (via Zoom or in person) to share their writings and get feedback if desired. (It could be fun.)

Courses are winding down for the summer and new ones are being planned for the fall. While finding new courses is always a fun challenge, this is now slightly complicated by needing to locate instructors who are comfortable using the Zoom format and whose subject matter is a reasonable fit for it. One exciting course planned for the fall will be Civil Discourse, starting in mid-September. And there is another one planned with a physical therapy focus. Stay tuned.

Outdoors

Both the first Kayaking Trip for Women and the first Birding Expedition have successfully taken place this month with great weather for both days. All participants had their temperatures taken (forehead, digitally), dutifully answered the brief health screening questions, donned masks—and responsibly kept that six feet of social distance.

The next Birding Expedition with Hank Kaestner, scheduled for 8/12, is now only taking names for the waiting list. If you are already on the list and are not able to make it, please call so that someone else can have

your spot: 425-6345. Fear not—these will continue in the fall.

The next Kayaking Trip for Women is 8/14. Please register your interest with Susan at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Locations vary and are weather dependent, of course. Additional dates are: 8/28, 9/11, 9/18 and 9/25.

Wednesday events

All Wednesday events at 1 p.m. will take place only as Zoom meetings, and you will not need to sign up in advance. In order to join one of these events via Zoom, access the link on the Events page of the Center’s website at CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The specific invitation/link for that week will be posted by the day before the presentation. As well, this link will be supplied in Front Porch Forum in Charlotte and in FPF postings in surrounding towns. Some of the events will be recorded and posted in case you missed the original presentation.

Next week’s **Wed. 8/12 event, Greenbush ~ Music with John Creech and Cobey Gatos** on Zoom has been cancelled, unfortunately. Perhaps, at some time in the future - when in-person attendance is possible again, it can be rescheduled. Many of you know of John Creech from his years of teaching T’ai Chi at the Senior Center, but you might not know that he is also an accomplished musician. It is something to look forward to for next year.

8/12 at 1 p.m.: Greenbush ~ Music with John Creech and Cobey Gatos

As long-time friends and neighbors, John and Cobey draw on a lifetime of playing jazz, blues and rock, as well as years of weekly get-togethers in Cobey’s backyard studio. They choose from a library of their own original pieces and from carefully selected compositions written by musical masters. They seek out a personal connection with each tune, creating a unique and evolving version each time they perform.

8/19 at 1 p.m.: Lake Champlain: History & Shipwrecks with Art Cohn

Review 12,000 years of Lake Champlain’s human history along with shipwrecks that connect us to that history. Over four decades, his team has located more than 300 intact sites. Art will update us on the Spitfire, a Revolutionary War gunboat that fought the British at the Battle of Valcour Island in

1776 and sank during a daring escape.

In addition to being Director Emeritus of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Art is a professional diver, educator and a nautical archeologist. He has helped develop law and public policy for the preservation of submerged cultural resources. He is also a member of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, a chaplain and a tug boat captain.

Art exhibits

The Senior Center’s monthly art exhibits have resumed—even though the building is not open for the regular hours. This means that anyone interested in coming in to see an art exhibit in the Great Room is asked to schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. The days for viewing are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m. Please leave a message anytime at 425-6345, and include your name and phone number for a confirmation of your appointment.

The current show is the August & September Art Exhibit: Bill Stirewalt—Large Format Photography. During his long medical career, Dr. Stirewalt remained serious about his hobby of fine art photography. The work on display for these two months spans a time frame from the 1960s to the present. Subject matter is varied and locations range from New Zealand to Vermont. The 27 pieces that comprise the show are all available for sale. Two of the most stunning pictures are of the Hoh Rain Forest in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

The Senior Center’s mission is to serve those 50 and up; if a course is not full, younger ages may also enroll. Residents from other communities are always welcome. There are no membership fees. Feel free to leave a message anytime at 425-6345; voicemail is checked daily.

Be careful. Stay well. We are all in this together.

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345

SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Board member James Faulkner said he thought “it would be nice” to get a date when Booher was leaving. Spear wanted to know, “Why is that so important?”

Discussion resumed about whether the expense was worth it for both two people to train a new employee on a full-time basis, with Tenney wondering if there was money in the budget and whether it was fiscally responsible to accommodate three full-time employees.

“There could be a cleaner way to do it, but Carrie wants to hire everybody,” Tenney said.

“No, I want to see us get through the end of September, and if it takes three of them to get through the end of September...” Spear said. She said she thought Mead might not hire that third part-time person eventually.

“I beg to differ,” Tenney said. “I would expect...”

“No. No,” Spear interrupted.

Tenney replied, “You keep on saying no, Carrie. I’m not trying to be confrontational

with you, but Mary brought up this extra person before Christina really was going to leave. She has been complaining about needing a third person there for a year and a half. And I say complain...they probably need the person. I’m not saying they don’t need the person. But she’s been talking about this third person since before Christina was leaving.”

McCarren said, “We have great uncertainty about who said what and how people communicate. For me, that’s a lesson going forward...we’ve got to get through this... but I’m with you. This is Uncertainville.”

At this point, Booher had left the meeting; Krasnow pointed out that the job salaries were actually still within the department’s budget, and that the only item that would go over the budget would be paying benefits to two employees at once.

Faulkner said, “We don’t want to take her benefits away. That would be a storm. Stay out of the storm.”

The board agreed to accept that expense and voted unanimously to set Booher’s new pay rate at \$25.02 based on pay grade and calculate it according to step 11 starting Monday, Aug. 3.

Charlotte Planning and Zoning Dept. is open for business

Daniel Morgan
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Charlotte Planning and Zoning Office staff want to make sure residents know that we are open for business and reviewing and administering municipal permit applications. Addressing residents’ and businesses’ concerns, questions and applications remains our highest priority,

and we are available via phone, email and now once more in person here at Town Hall, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Furthermore, enforcement and compliance with the Charlotte Land Use Regulations will continue to be upheld. While violations will be dealt with expeditiously, staff remain committed to helping

residents find a path toward compliance.

For any and all proposed projects, please do not hesitate to make an appointment or reach out to our office. We are here to help.

Note: It is kindly requested that all Town Hall visitors wear a mask and respect CDC guidelines.

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS August, 2020

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Planning Commission (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & April 30, 2023)
- Recreation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2023)
- Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2021)
- Conservation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Energy Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities please send a short statement explaining your interest and any relevant background information to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at dean@townofcharlotte.com. If you have questions, please e-mail or call 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall).

Classifieds

Reach your friends and neighbors for only \$12 per issue. (Payment must be sent before issue date.) Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@thecharlottenews.org.

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Don't forget to take our survey!

We are asking you, our readers, a few questions about our website and what you'd like to see us offer in the future. Responses are still coming in, and we'd like as many readers as possible to weigh in.

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Click on "Feedback"



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The **Charlotte News**

POLICE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

important to look at. Or at least acknowledge emergency services is what we're looking at from a community safety perspective. When there's a car accident, it's not just the police that responds, it's the ambulance and the fire departments. So how are those services tied in to public safety? Policing is a hot button issue because social equity issues are really at the forefront of people's consciousness, but it's just a part of a much larger system," Krasnow said. "It goes into the emergency services discussion, which I think policing is a large part of the mutual aid system... We are at a comfortable level with the level of police service that we have. From time to time I've heard residents wish that there was a faster response time. A municipal police force doesn't guarantee that either." Mutual Aid allows towns like Charlotte to focus their spending where it is essential.

Charlotte is among the lowest per capita in terms of police spending while towns such as Stowe and Newport spend more than \$400 per citizen annually. Police spending in Vermont covers a wide range because of diverse communities across the state. Generally, the largest towns spend the most money on policing, with exceptions of towns that may have a smaller population but draw a lot of tourism, such as Stowe. Student researchers with the Legislative Intern Policy Center found that the average town police spending in Vermont is \$176 per capita. Charlotte is one of ten towns with a population of more than 3,000 that spends less than \$50 per capita on police services. Charlotte has the twelfth highest police budget out of the 16 towns that make up Chittenden County.

Chase McGuire is a student at the University of Vermont and participates in the Community News Group program, which provides local news written by student journalists to area media outlets.

CVSD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

selecting this model will be assisted and supported by the district in their efforts to deliver the remote curriculum. Because the 5-8 curriculum becomes more specific as the grade level gets higher, consideration is being given to working with the Vermont Virtual Learning Corporation which offers a fully developed curriculum. Conversations on this option are ongoing. The provision of a highly evolved remote learning program with either model means that if community spread becomes higher or lower, the district can rapidly pivot to enhance either model.

Within each model there are layers of complicated steps that must be pursued to make the model work successfully for safety and for academic success. For in-school safety, the implementation plan will include: measures to take temperatures before getting on buses or entering school and social distancing within the bus. Within classrooms there is protective equipment that will be worn, surfaces that will be cleaned daily, and air that will be cleaned and circulated. The main emphases for students will be wearing masks, social distancing and handwashing. Students will spend their in-school time in small learning cohorts that will limit their exposure to other students and to possible positive cases. The district is exploring the creation of outdoor classrooms in temperate weather.

Special attention will be paid to the social emotional growth and care of all students. Jennifer Roth, co-principal of Charlotte Central School, described the three main goals of a "learning process to nurture hearts, bodies and minds: 1) relationships and mental health; 2) safety in the presence of COVID-19; 3) rigorous academics." The district is exploring how to provide childcare and supported instruction to children of district staff as well as children of working parents in the district. However, no volunteers or visitors will be permitted in the school to reduce the student and teacher exposures. If a case of COVID-19 arises, the public health department will handle the contact tracing. Some students and teachers in the cohort may have to quarantine for 14 days, but the school will not have to be shut down.

A survey was emailed to families Aug. 5, and parents have a week to decide upon which model they will select. After that selection has been made the hard work of matching students with cohorts and teachers will take place. Students will most likely not be matched with the teacher assigned to them last spring, given the number of classes, remote classes and levels to be taught. Many community questions were answered during the meeting. Administrators stressed that this opening is a work in progress and that flexibility and patience will be the basis for a more successful opening and for the school year.

FY20 Police Budgets | VT Towns of 3500-4500 residents



TOWNS LISTED WITH ACS 5 YEAR CENSUS POPULATION
Chart: Data by the author. Source: Census for Research in Vermont, 2019. Created with Tableau.

Chittenden County Police Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020

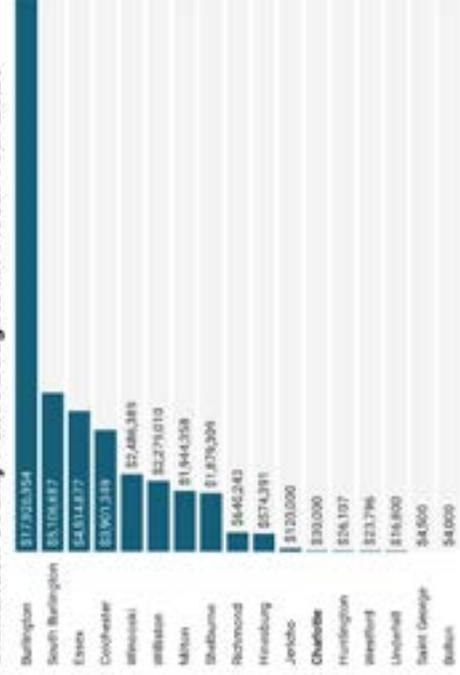


Chart: Data by the author. Source: Census for Research in Vermont, 2019. Created with Tableau.

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Clouds over Charlotte Beach
 Photo by Lee Krohn

