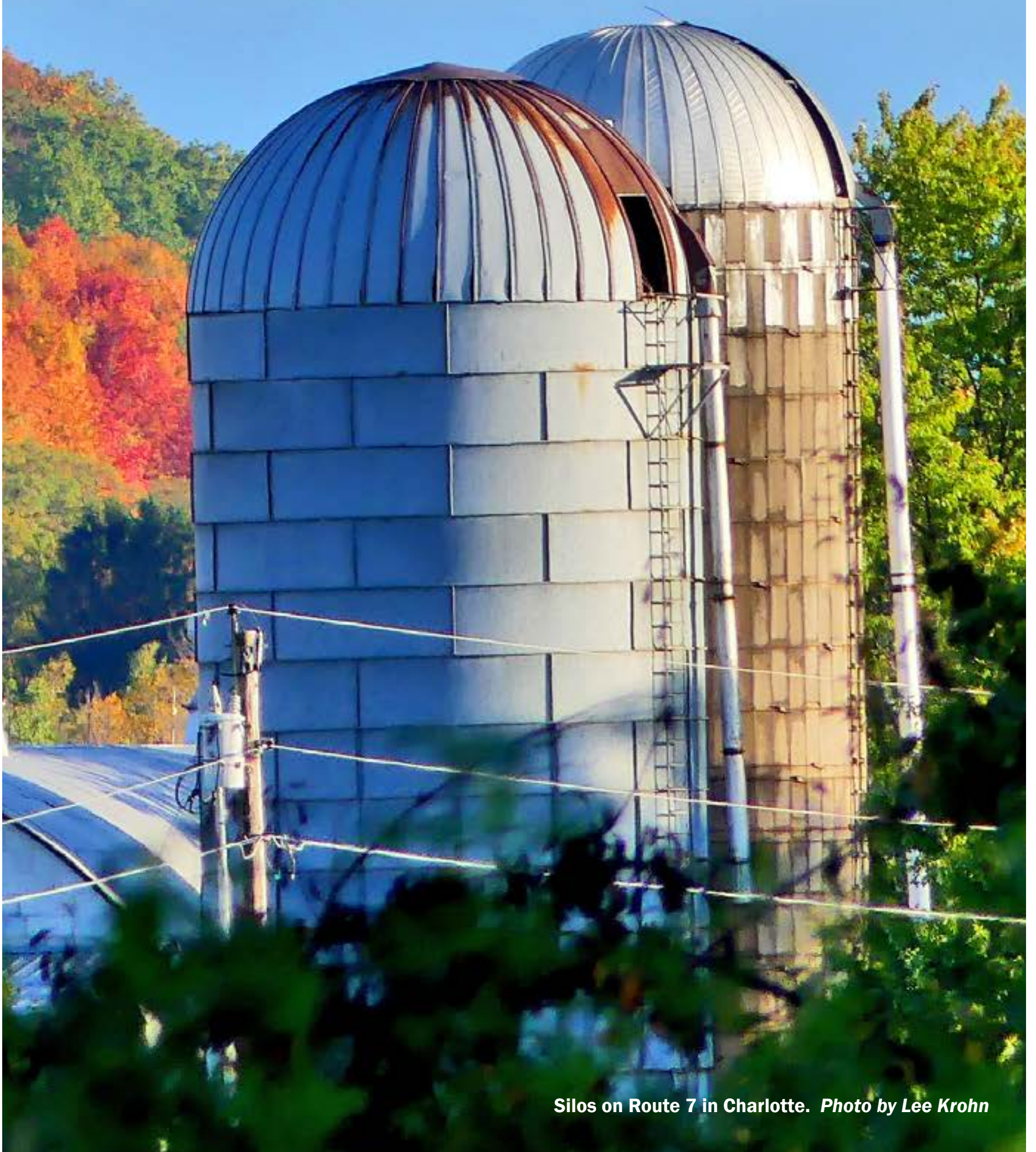


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The Charlotte News

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Silos on Route 7 in Charlotte. Photo by Lee Krohn

Burlington's sandwich loss is Charlotte's gain

Tyler Lederer
CONTRIBUTOR

Church Street's Red Onion Café will relocate to Charlotte after 30 years of servicing downtown Burlington. In a press release last Thursday, owner Mickey West cited financial troubles brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for the move.

"Between the high rent on Church Street and the dwindling foot traffic due to people increasingly working from home, making a move to Charlotte was a no-brainer."

The move is the latest action West has taken to preserve her business. In June of this year, a local organizer set up a Go-Fund-Me page on her behalf, seeking \$20,000. As of Oct. 13, only \$2,995 has been raised.

The restaurant is known for its sandwiches, such as the namesake "The Famous Red Onion," which combines apples, turkey, bacon, onions and cheddar. The sandwich comes on a variety of different breads, such as Honey Oat. It combines tang, sauciness and crunch and quickly became its staple dish.

Social media users were upset by the news of the move.

"Loved their sandwiches during my breaks working at Red Square," said Nicholas Von Shats, a Reddit user and Champlain College alumnus. While the news shocked him, as an aspiring restaurateur, he was also interested in what could replace it, he said.

Not everyone shared his enthusiasm for the future. On the opposite end, Facebook user Joseph Pensak was more concerned about the



The Famous Red Onion sandwich will be available to Charlotters in their own town starting this November. Photo by Tyler Lederer

implications of the move.

"I'm very disappointed," he said. "Red Onion had character and funkiness and that is disappearing on Church Street."

Other Facebook and Reddit users questioned the value of Church Street and complained about the lack of businesses in Charlotte.

The Red Onion will shut its doors for good on Oct. 27 at 4 p.m., according to a sign posted at the restaurant's Burlington location. It will move to Charlotte Crossings on Route 7. The property already houses restaurant, retail and office space and was the center of a food truck permitting controversy this summer. The Red Onion will open there this November pending approval from the town.

Editor's note: This article is by Tyler Lederer, who is a student reporter with the Community News Service, a collaboration with the University of Vermont's Reporting & Documentary Storytelling program.

Planning Commission preview: 23-acre solar array, the health center and more LURs

Chea Waters Evans
NEWS EDITOR

Tonight's Oct. 15 Planning Commission meeting includes some major town planning issues, including continued public discussion of the draft Land Use Regulations, including more talk about the East Charlotte Village Commercial District, a sketch plan review of the Charlotte Family Health Center project in the works for Ferry Road in the West Village, and a 23-acre solar array project that is proposed at 2257 Lake Road, which is owned by Michael and Margaret Russell.

In a Tuesday email to members of the Charlotte Conservation Commission, the Energy Committee and the Trails Committee, Town Planner Larry Lewack said that the proposed solar array, called the Pringle Solar Project, falls under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Public Utilities Commission because it's a utility-scale project, and therefore is not subject to town oversight.

In a Sept. 24 email to town administrators and board and commission members, Town Administrator Dean Bloch wrote, "The project is exempt from town permitting, but the Planning Commission and Selectboard have a statutory right to submit comments in conjunction with this notice."

He noted that potential areas of concern he identified after a "very cursory review" were the fact that there is an unnamed road on the property that will need to be named for E-911 purposes, that there is a trail easement on the property though the town

trail does not exist in that area yet, and that "While some of the power serving the facility is proposed to be underground, the section closer to Lake Road is proposed to be overhead. This conflicts with the Land Use Regulations."

Any boards and commissions who wish to comment on the project will do so on Thursday night.

The Pringle Solar Project will encompass 23 acres of a 108-acre land parcel that is zoned as a rural property. According to an email from Morgan Kerns, the lead project manager from DG Vermont Solar, "The Project will include approximately 10,080 non-reflective solar PV panels installed in linear arrays and will utilize 28 string inverters." Kerns anticipates the project will take one month to complete. The email also said that an aesthetics assessment was performed and that "the Project will not result in undue adverse impacts to the aesthetics, scenic, and natural beauty of the area," that it complies with all open space and scenic requirements, and that it does not affect any rare, endangered or threatened wildlife.

Lewack said the Planning Commission welcomes input from interested parties and wrote, "Because Charlotte has a regionally approved town energy plan, our views and recommendations on utility-scale projects such as this must be taken into consideration by the PUC in their project reviews."

The link to the Zoom meeting on Thursday night is on the town web site.

Selectboard roundup: Resilience, budgets, and some new appointments

Chea Waters Evans

It was all about the budgets at Monday's Selectboard meeting, as the first five town departments to present their FY2021-22 financial hopes and dreams shared spreadsheets in the first round of the yearly budget process. There were also a few interviews for open town positions and a discussion about the Community Resilience Survey, which will be rolled out across town in the coming months.

Until this week there were two open positions remaining on the seven-person Planning Commission; three candidates were interviewed on Monday night for the remaining two seats: Kelly Devine, Alex Bunten and Benjamin Pualwan.

Devine is the executive director of the

Burlington Business Association and was instrumental in developing the Champlain Valley Cohousing property on Common Way. She has lived in Charlotte for 15 years. Bunten, coincidentally, also works at the Burlington Business Association as a Special Projects Manager. He was formerly the editor of *The Charlotte News* and was born and grew up in Charlotte; he moved back to raise his family here. Pualwan was formerly chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for five years; he is a program management analyst for the Department of Homeland Security and has a master's degree in public policy analysis. He has lived in Charlotte for 24 years. The Selectboard will deliberate in executive decision to decide which two candidates will be appointed.

Ship to shore



Boat season is over and it's time to take them out of the water. Chris Falk captured this unfortunate incident on Route 7, south of Higbee Road, on Saturday. He said the guardrail was twisted and the trailer appeared to be destroyed, but everyone seemed to be fine.

Photo by Chris Falk

Town

LUR amendment discussion prompts conflict of interest charge

Lake Road development planning allowed to proceed

Chea Waters Evans

The Oct. 1 Charlotte Planning Commission meeting started with confusion and contention, partly due to the perpetual challenges of holding municipal meetings via Zoom video call and partly because of another conflict of interest allegation against Planning Commission member Bill Suono—this time by a meeting attendee.

During the public comment segment of the public hearing portion of the meeting, which allowed community members to ask questions about and discuss proposed amendments to Charlotte's Land Use Regulations, there was some trouble from the Planning Commission end regarding sound and confusion on the part of meeting attendees on how to "raise their hand" virtually; the phrase refers to a function on the Zoom platform, but some took it literally and raised their hands waiting for a turn to speak.

Once the confusion settled and just before the discussion on the LURs was to begin, Clark Hinsdale, a Ferrisburgh resident and Charlotte property owner, questioned Suono's ability to be impartial. A portion of the proposed LUR amendments takes place in the East Charlotte Village, where the Sheehan Green neighborhood is located.

Hinsdale, who owns property in the East Charlotte Village that he wants to develop and would be directly affected by approval of the LURs, said "Bill Suono has violated the conflict of interest policy over and over, and used his position on the Planning Commission to advocate for his own personal position as a resident of Sheehan Green. He should be asked to be removed from the table, and go sit in the audience, and not participate in continuing to harangue the Planning Commission and continuing to vote no on what happens in his neighborhood."

At this point, meeting attendee Brownie Adsit interjected and disagreed with

Hinsdale. "I'm not clear that [Suono's] neighborhood is involved, there doesn't seem to be anything that's changed in Sheehan Green," he said. "I would object to that." Planning Commission Chair Peter Joslin reminded Adsit that it was important to speak in order and let Hinsdale finish, saying they would "get nowhere fast" if people kept interrupting, for which Adsit apologized.

As Hinsdale continued his complaint about Suono, he also began to explain his position regarding why he believed that a third of the four corners in the East Village, at the intersection of Spear Street and Charlotte Hinesburg Road, should be zoned as part of the commercial district—a zoning designation that Suono objected to and said could be considered "spot zoning."

Suono interrupted and loudly objected to Hinsdale's comments during this part of the discussion. "No, no," he said, "Clark is monopolizing our meeting and he's making an accusation here that I'd like to respond to first," but he was interrupted by Hinsdale, who said he would respect Joslin's opinion about who could speak. "I want Clark to finish," Joslin said.

Hinsdale continued to explain his position on Village Zoning and commented that he did not like Suono's body language while he was speaking, which he could see over the Zoom video. Suono attempted to talk once more, and both Joslin and Planning Commission member Marty Ilick told Suono to be quiet.

Hinsdale continued to speak for minutes longer, continuing to state his opinion on why the East Charlotte Village corner should be zoned commercially, and why he thought Suono should recuse himself. He alleged that Suono was exercising "undue, adverse influence" over the PC.

Joslin said "it's ultimately up to Bill" to decide whether or not to recuse himself, and that the PC has been working on these

amendments for years and now is the public's opportunity to weigh in on such matters.

The amendments in question would extend the boundary of the East Charlotte Village Commercial District, change the density requirements for potential housing, and provide more flexibility for properties within that district to access to septic and water. LUR adjustments discussed at the Oct. 1 meeting also included Act 143 and accessory on-farm businesses.

The discussion over the LUR amendments will continue tonight, Oct. 15, at 7:10 p.m., during the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

The other significant portion of Thursday's meeting was dedicated to a sketch plan review of a proposed housing development on a 124-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Lake Road and Greenbush Road. Patricia O'Donnell and Jim Donovan purchased the land earlier this year; they own 112 acres adjoining this property. They said during the meeting that they bought the land, which is farmland, woods and wetlands, as a conservation effort to prevent a developer from purchasing the property and building more than 20 homes on the land. They said they are building homes not to develop the land and make money but to pay off the loan they secured to buy the property.

"When we, by surprise, saw the 125 Lake Road For Sale sign, we did some research and learned a developer was prepared to buy the property but not respect the use valuation program, which is known as current use. Charlotte zoning would allow that property to have 24 home or house lots. We were very concerned," O'Donnell said. She said that dividing the property as such would result in "lost farmlands, scenic views over the property, and the open character of the northern part of the farm parcel. From our perspective, this was an unacceptable outcome."

O'Donnell said she and Donavan are subdividing and building on the property in order to pay off the debt they incurred to purchase the land with the intent to preserve it. She said their intention is not to make money on the project. They purchased the 124.33 acres for \$900,000 on April 13.

Members of the public expressed some support and some concern regarding the project, specifically mentioning ruining views for those on Greenbush Road and potentially disrupting a wildlife corridor and wetlands. Joslin called this first meeting essentially a "brainstorming" session for the PC, the property owners and the public. The commission voted to allow Donovan and O'Donnell to proceed with the planning process based on their current submission; no final plans were approved at this stage.



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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Editorial

Freedom & Unity Walk

Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen

It will not be news to you that we’re living through a bellicose period in our nation’s history. In a normal time, this would make for an especially volatile campaign season leading up to the national elections on Nov. 3. This is not a normal time. COVID-19 has altered traditional campaign patterns, complicated our collective ability to hold safe and fair elections, and set many of us on edge. On this side of election day, I’m concerned about the state of our nation. What keeps me up at night, though, is not what’s on this side of election day, but what’s on the other side. What will Nov. 4 bring? Will any election result be accepted by the losing candidates and parties? Will there be chaos? Will there be violence? Rather than allow myself to be overwhelmed by “what if” thinking, I’ve decided to take a long and purposeful walk during the week leading up to the elections on the roads of Charlotte instead.

Wakeful nights have afforded me time to reacquaint myself with some commonly shared values from our past which we could dust off for the future. One of these shared values is articulated in the Vermont state motto, written on our state seal and flying from our state flags: “Freedom and Unity.” A wonderfully concise phrase that summarizes the ambitious goal to balance our personal freedoms with the common good. The motto is not freedom OR unity. It’s not freedom OVER unity or unity OVER freedom. The motto is freedom AND unity, which encourages Vermonters to do that very hard work of holding these sometimes-opposing values together. We aren’t to coerce one another, nor are we to abandon one another. We aren’t to be controlled by one another, nor are we to be ignored by one another. It’s freedom AND unity...freedom AND unity for the good of us all.

A related value from our past that we could dust off for our future is found in the Judeo-Christian concept of lovingkindness (Hebrew: chesed). The idea is that God treats humanity with lovingkindness (lovingkindness=grace, forgiveness, humility, encouragement, justice, basic needs) and then invites us freely, non-

coercively, to treat ourselves, God and our neighbors the same way. As individuals we’ve been given free will to do whatever we choose to do. At the same time, it’s God’s ardent hope that we’ll freely practice the way of lovingkindness. Why? Because God loves us and desires for us to inherit the life that comes when we practice it.

Vermont’s State motto, “Freedom and Unity,” and the Judeo-Christian concept of lovingkindness are two sides of the same coin. The coin of relationship that: 1) is aware of the real tension between personal freedom and the common good, 2) invites us to do the hard work of balancing them in real time, under real circumstances, with the actions of our real lives.

Freedom and Unity is so easy to say and so hard to live out. Which is why there are times in our country when we find ourselves walking a quarrelsome road like we’re walking now. Some shouting, “FREEDOM,” some shouting, “UNITY,” and all sides preparing for war. I long for a different way, and maybe you do too. I long for a better balance. I long for a Nov. 4 that’s filled with lovingkindness and not the division and violence I fear will proliferate.

I’ve decided to let my longing become my doing. I’ve decided to let my longing become an action that reminds Charlotters of some commonly shared values from our past which we can dust off for the future. I’ve decided to let my longing become a walk of 50 miles through our beloved town from Oct. 28 through Nov. 3. The 50 miles represents our 50 states and the ending date is, of course, election day. My goals are simple:

- to walk the roads of Charlotte with a few companions (send me a note at rev.kemg@gmail.com if you want to walk a segment with me)
- to remind us all about the Vermont value of Freedom and Unity and its related value of lovingkindness
- to proclaim the message that we need one another
- to inspire my neighbors to freely choose actions that build the common good.

It’s not much, I know. Just some walking. Just some posts on social media. Just a gentle tip of the hat to our state’s motto. Just a stroll by the homes and business of my neighbors. Just a small act of lovingkindness on this side of Nov. 3 to inspire small acts of lovingkindness on the other side, too.

- Walk with me virtually from 10/28–11/3:
- FaceBook @: RevKevin Goldenbogen
 - Instagram@: rev.kevg
 - Charlotte Front Porch Forum

Walking,
Kevin

Kevin Goldenbogen is the senior pastor at Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC.



Have a hot news tip?

**Call us:
425-4949**
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news@TheCharlotteNews.org

The**Charlotte News**



HALLOWEEN

CANDY DRIVE

With the uncertainty of trick or treating hanging in the air like a silken spider web, **Charlotte Recreation is collecting individually wrapped candy** (and teal pumpkin non-candy options) to distribute to residents for their children who may not wish to partake this year. Please consider donating a bag of candy and/or non-candy items (stickers, pencils, mini notebooks, bouncy balls, bubbles, etc.). Donations will be gratefully accepted in the Town Hall, Spears Store and Charlotte Central through Friday, October 23. The donation box will be labeled and located at the entrance of each building.

Goody bags will be available for pick up Monday, October 26th through the 30th.

Recipients can use the bag of goodies for a scavenger hunt with their family!
We'll supply the candy - you do the hiding!



Education

School budget season is here

Staff report

The Champlain Valley School District School Board is beginning the budget process for the 2021–2022 school year. This budget will be presented to voters before and on Town Meeting Day, March 2, 2021. The board is providing virtual opportunities for community members to give input regarding next year's budget.

In a press release, Bonnie Birdsall, CVSD director of digital learning & communication wrote, "While this has been quite the unusual year, the board and administration are planning around a return to normalcy for the 2021–2022

school year. Are there parts of our current experience that we should continue? Thanks to federal and state funding, we are optimistic we will be starting next year on sound financial footing. Should this change, what areas of the budget do you believe are important to protect? We invite you to join us in the discussion."

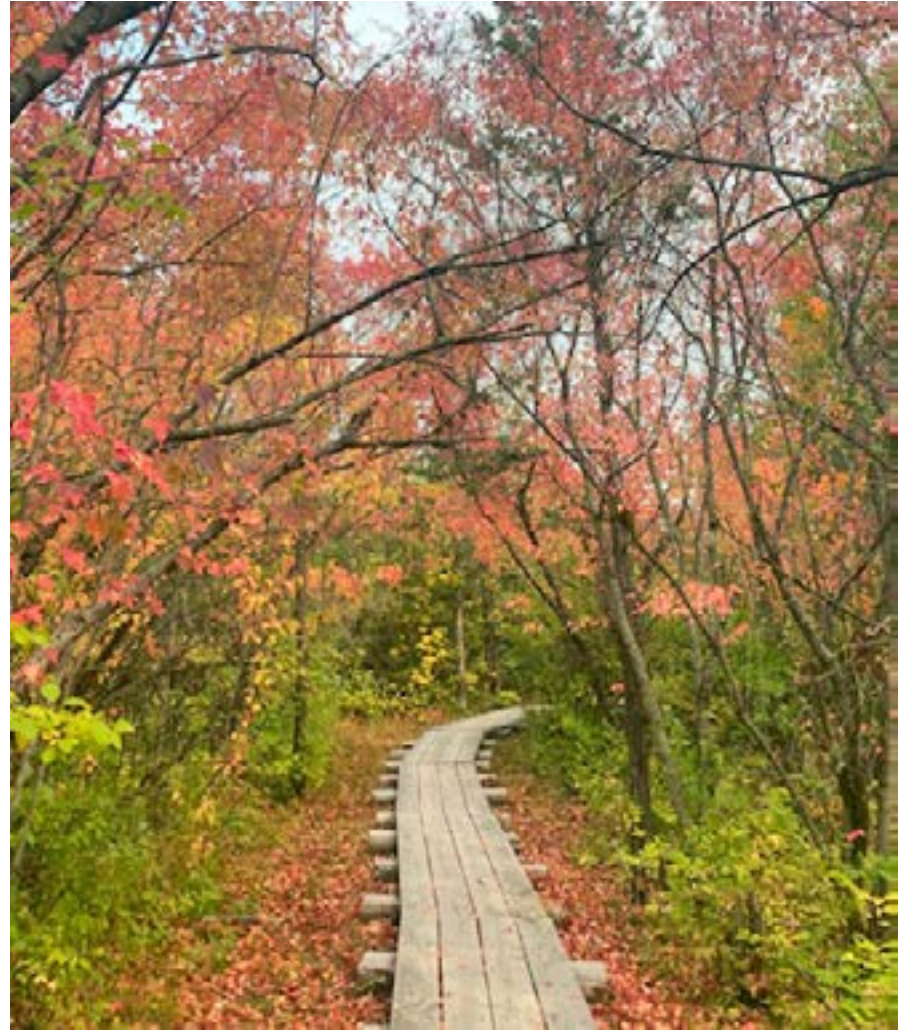


Community members can share their thoughts and rate those of others on the CVSD Budget Thoughtexchange: <http://bit.ly/CVSDBudgetInputOct2020> by Oct. 23.

There is a virtual CVSD Community Budget Forum on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. that will allow discussion regarding what taxpayers value most in local schools and will provide an overview of CVSD's financial outlook. School principals from Charlotte, Shelburne, Williston and Hinesburg will present their thoughts as well.

Information about how to join the forum will be posted on the Budget page of the CVSD website and communicated through school newsletters. A full schedule of future school budget meetings can be found on the district's website.

Trees are turning in the Demeter



The Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge on Greenbush Road, formerly and still colloquially known as Demeter Park, hosted a brightly colored path this weekend.
Photo by Olivia Hagios

Around Town

Congratulations:

to **Ava Rohrbaugh**, whose poem “My final thought at night,” appeared in the *Burlington Free Press* Young Writers Project on October 9. In it she picks up a bit on a previous poem of hers that appeared in the Project in which she hears nighttime sounds that make her think there is “Something almost here.” In her current poem her thoughts shift to what enters her mind as she falls asleep. “Everything is moving, because the night can breathe if you let it.”

to **Christy Leonard** and **Jonathan Enos** who were married on September 18 at the Old Lantern in Charlotte with Justice of the Peace, Caitlin Terry, officiating. Jonathan is the son of Robert and Janey Enos. He grew up on Lewis Creek Road in Charlotte where his parents still live. He attended CCS and CVU. Christy’s parents are William Leonard and Christal Brown. She also graduated from Champlain Valley Union High School. Christy and Jonathan now live in Hinesburg. He earns his living as a roofer; she is taking courses on line.

to **Marge** and **Hal Blake** of Southern Pines, NC who celebrated their 70th

wedding anniversary. The couple spent many summers on North Shore Road, Thompson’s Point, Charlotte, in a camp which Marge’s family maintained. Although they moved to a senior living community in North Carolina, they still manage to remain quite independent at ages 98 and 94.

to **Christy Gallese** of Charlotte who was recognized as one of 40 “Outstanding Young Leaders” by the *Vermont Business Magazine*. Christy is one of 15 from Chittenden County. Twenty-four of the nominees are women this year, and the 40 were selected from over 190 nominees. She is employed by the Burlington School District. The 2020 Rising Stars will be featured in the November issue of the *Vermont Business Magazine*.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Renee Sahyoun** who passed away at her daughter’s home in Charlotte on October 10 at the age of 92. Her daughter, Rima Burton, survives her. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy be made to Home Health and Hospice, 1110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

Obituary

Sam Edward Titus Shelburne, VT

Sam Edward Titus, of Shelburne, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 1, 2020. Sam was born on a beautiful sunny day, June 21, 1986, to Tracy and Brenda Titus of Charlotte. It was fitting that his birthday fell on the summer solstice, because when Sam walked into a room, it was like the sun came out. He grew up in Charlotte and attended Charlotte Central School, CVU, and then graduated from Saint Lawrence University.

His career in finance and adventurous spirit took him to Denver, where he eventually met his love Aubrey (Friedrich). The two were married on July 29, 2017, in a beautiful ceremony on the lawn of Sam’s childhood home. In 2018 they moved back to Vermont, buying and renovating a house in Shelburne as they prepared for the birth of their son. Jack Elbert Titus was welcomed on Feb. 24 of this year.



Sam Edward Titus

Sam will be remembered for his authenticity, kind heart, big smile and curious mind. He had a boisterous personality and contagious laugh. If he wasn’t regaling family or friends with a story or lesson in history, it was not uncommon to find him making friends with complete strangers as he heard their life story. His favorite topics of conversation ranged from baseball and golf to cooking, philosophy and Phish concerts.

Aside from his parents, wife and son, Sam is survived by his best friend and brother, David Titus, his loving aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws, an enormous and ever-growing circle of friends, his family of colleagues at TIAA, and his sweet dog Ollie.

Go to storiesaboutsam.com to share stories to help keep Sam’s memory shining brightly.



The Charlotte News

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Town

Halloween, like everything else, will be subdued this year

Chea Waters Evans

Trick-or-treating on Greenbush Road is a Charlotte tradition that feels like the most Charlottiest of them all—families together, kids running around getting (and eating) candy, some of them out for their first independent nighttime adventure without parents in a safe environment where everyone else’s parents have an eye on them. This year, because of COVID-19, Halloween is going to be a lot different.

Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow and Town Administrator Dean Bloch said that the town does not have any particular guidance or official input regarding the matter. Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said in September that trick-or-treat celebrations are allowed and that families should follow health guidelines regarding social distancing and mask wearing.

Nancy Warren, a Greenbush Road resident who lives in the busiest part of the trick-or-treat corner, said that her family does not plan on handing out candy this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. She said she and at least five other nearby homes do not plan on turning on their porch lights and having candy available even in a bowl at the end of the driveway, though she knows other families are trying to come up with a safe and fun workaround. She said she

and others on the road hope to have some fun decorations out for children to see as a drive-by activity.

Patrice Machavern from Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue said that she believes the town constable will still be out with streetlights on the corner of Greenbush and Ferry, and that the CVFRS auxiliary is working on a safe Halloween night alternative to the usual crowd of cocoa drinkers at the fire station.

The Charlotte Library is not going to have a Halloween night presence this year, though they are giving out pumpkins for carving starting this week and have a Halloween pumpkin book craft posted on their web site.

Greenbush Road resident Jessica Scriver is leading the charge to light up the town on Oct. 31 in lieu of the regular crush of families out on Halloween night. We can’t get together to party, but the pumpkins can; start planning your carving strategy now and prepare to deliver your carved, unlit jack-o-lanterns no later than Oct. 29. More details regarding drop-off and display is forthcoming in the Charlotte News e-newsletter and online, and on Front Porch Forum; for more information on how to help out, contact Scriver via text at (802) 318-3228.



Photo by Chea Waters Evans

Town

It's a robber...it's a murderer...oh, wait. It's just ghosting season.

Chea Waters Evans

There's no moon. I sit in my car on the side of a back-country road, lights off, hazards clicking in the blackness, hoping someone doesn't call the police. I care about the environment, so I don't leave my car running, but it's 40 degrees out. The heat slips out the windows and night sounds settle in as I sit there, shivering, waiting for my accomplices to come back. Eventually they hurtle into the car, dressed in black, the masks that protect them from the coronavirus also providing a disguise. "Go, go, go!" they shout, frantic. It's critical: they can't be caught. But Safety First is my motto, so I start the car and carefully pull out onto the road. I'm not the world's worst getaway driver and this is not a burglary: I'm a mom, and I've gotten suckered into taking my kid ghosting.

Ghosting is easy, in theory: sneak up to a house, knock on the door, and then run, leaving no trace but a bag of candy or treats on the doorstep with a little note that says: You've been ghosted!

Ghosting in other towns might be a quick knock on a friend's door, a sprint back to the car, and a one-block drive to the next friend's house. In Charlotte, the excitement, and therefore the potential for danger and disaster, is real. The lack of streetlights, long driveways, and dirt roads can make the process exhilarating for kids and panic-attack-inducing for parents, not to mention terrifying for Charlotters who don't have



school-age kids and are wondering, Why did some creeper just pull up next to my house and turn off the car lights?

Charlotte children, as they do, have taken this custom to the next level. My 5th grader likes to put a pearl onion in with the bag of candy, just to keep things fresh. Someone once left a radish and a Band-Aid in a bag on our front porch. My oldest once included, along with candy and Halloween novelty pencils, the brochure about puberty he got from health class at school.

And it's not just the treats themselves that are kicked up a notch—it's the delivery. Kids dress like the guys from "Home Alone," and the friends don't stand on the doorstep and wave with delight when they see their treat. More often than not, it's a pursuit straight out of a James Bond movie.

They fly out of the house, sometimes with a Nerf gun in hand, hot on the heels of their ghoster, desperate to catch them. One kid we know waits in the bushes in front of his house most evenings in October, dressed in black, flashlight in hand, ready to catch anyone who dares to deliver him a small bag of Snickers.

I don't know why I continually say yes to taking my boys and their friends out. I'm terrified that I'm going to run someone over, terrified that someone is going to think I'm casing their joint and call the cops, terrified that I'm going to sneak too much candy from the ghosting bag and the kids will catch on to how I spend my time when they're out of the car, terrified that the children are going to yell at me.

And yell at me they do. Slow down! Don't

park here! Turn off the lights! Drive faster! You missed Arthur's driveway! You missed Arthur's driveway again! Chea, are you okay? Why do you keep missing Arthur's driveway? I don't know why. Maybe I have a bit of a stomach ache because I just scarfed down 13 mini Twix in three minutes.

A couple years ago, with five kids screaming at me from the back seat, in an attempt to ghost a particular family without causing a multi-car pileup or lose a kid in the ditch on the side of the road, I backed into my friend's mailbox. I sent her a text. "Hey, just wanted you to know, I think I just nicked your mailbox." Then two minutes later I sent her another text. "I don't know why I lied to you, you're going to see your mailbox on the ground and shards of my taillight all over it. I didn't nick it. I smashed it. Sorry!" She was very sweet about it, but one gift card to Lowe's later, I realized the true price of being a bad getaway driver.

Some families, even those who make it through October with their mailboxes intact, don't like ghosting. I get it. Sometimes it gets late, sometimes toddlers get woken and dogs go bananas barking and kids fall in a hole in a field and sprain an ankle. But sometimes it's really great, like when the kids are having the most fun ever, or like last night, when a friend sent me a photo of two airplane-sized bottles of Bacardi and Fireball that arrived along with the candy on her front step. "Are you my favorite ghost?" she asked. "No," I wrote back, "but I hope that ghost came to my house, too!"

Town

Food shelf news

Susan Ohanian
CONTRIBUTOR

Throughout the year, the Food Shelf rejoices in the ongoing stories of our community reaching out many helping hands. Many contributions are anonymous and go unrecognized but certainly not unappreciated. This month we celebrate our library and its great dilly pickle event.

The October Library News featured an invitation to “brighten up winter meals with these fun pickles made from whole green beans and lots of dill.” Experienced canner Ruah Swennefelt was joined by Seed Library co-coordinator Linda Hamilton to use the library’s new “Charlie Cart” portable kitchen unit to discuss the general basics of canning and the array of possibilities in preserving food this way. People who had never canned before practiced safe distance to accept the challenge of attending the demonstration at the Charlotte Library parking lot. This event was co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library, Transition Town Charlotte and the Charlotte Seed Library.

Jars of preserved pickles were given to the Food Shelf.

Want to know what’s coming next? For ongoing information about library happenings, check out their website: charlottepubliclibrary.org. You can sign up for a monthly newsletter: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

The COVID catastrophe didn’t shut down the food garden at Charlotte Central School. Last spring, Deidre Holmes put out a call for help, and she reports that throughout our very dry summer “generous community members each took on a week to water, weed and harvest.” The bountiful result was that “starting in May, the garden has been able to make weekly donations of fresh organic produce to the Charlotte Food Shelf and/or the school meals program.” We extend great thanks to Deidre and to Cecelia Wu, Jeanne Blackmore, Julia Parker-Dickerson, MaryEllen Hebert, Karen Tuininga, Deborah Dodd Squires, Alice

Trageser, Abby Foulk and members of the Charlotte, Shelburne, Hinesburg Rotary Club.

Thank you for monetary donations: Anne Castle Co-op, Joseph & Jennifer Dickerman, Tara Mullen, Kathleen Nolan, Charles & Elisabeth DesLauriers, Cynthia Marshall, Robert & Marjorie Archer, and Deb Cook.

Hooting, howling, shrieking with laughter

Keep an eye on Front Porch Forum for the latest news for where candy is being handed out around town on Halloween, and the Food Shelf will provide food for the soul. An anonymous donor has provided Halloween-themed books for the children, and we hope older teens and adults will share in the word fun. Parents should realize that word play isn’t frivolous but is actually fundamental for vocabulary development. Riddles depend on understanding and appreciating such basics as word sounds, double meanings, variant spellings and idioms. Think about the verbal understandings required in these samples:

- How do vampires get around on Halloween? On blood vessels.
- What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurred? Spooktacles.
- Who did Frankenstein go trick or treating with? His ghoulish friend.
- Knock Knock
Who’s there?
Phillip!
Phillip who?
Phillip my bag with Halloween candy, please!

Adults may groan, but reading research shows that when you practice such word play with kids, you are practicing reading basics.

Here’s a word challenge for your kids: Make up Halloween questions that can be answered by these idioms.

- white as a ghost
- ghost town
- skeleton key
- skeleton staff
- witch hunt
- make your blood run cold
- death trap



The library’s new “Charlie Cart” portable kitchen unit was used to discuss the general basics of canning and the array of possibilities in preserving food this way. *Photo by Margaret Woodruff*

Important Notice: If a family can’t get to the food shelf they should call 425-3252 to arrange for food delivery. Just leave a name and number for a return call. We don’t want anyone cut off from necessary basics: food, shelter, utilities or gas for their car. Our community calls out to people: Don’t be reluctant to ask for a little help.

Note: For anyone suffering economic hardship from COVID-19, look into the possibility of assistance through the Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance program. This program provides eligible Vermont utility ratepayers served by a fixed-line telephone service, Vermont electric, or natural gas, with a grant to assist with past-due balances. For more information, you can call your local Vermont Community Action Agency or contact the Department’s Consumer Affairs and Public Information (CAPI) Division at 1-800-622-4496 or email psd.consumer@vermont.gov.

The Charlotte Food Shelf is an all volunteer organization supported by the Charlotte Congregational Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and the Charlotte community. It is located in the Congregational Church vestry at: 403 Church Hill Road. It is open Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. for curbside pickup. Delivery is also available to those sheltering in place for health reasons and to those who find themselves unable to get to the delivery night. The Food Shelf contact number is 425-3252.

Visit the website for more information on other assistance programs, such as 3 Squares VT: charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf.

Keeping safe

The Food Shelf continues to take precautions to help everyone keep safe. Anyone who has a fever or cough—or symptoms that might seem like a cold—should not come to the distributions. Also, don’t come if you have

been in contact with anyone who has these symptoms. Instead, call 425-3252 and leave your name and number. You will receive a call back to come up with a plan. We need to help families and volunteers stay safe.

Financial assistance

Reminder: The Food Shelf has some funds available for emergency assistance with fuel and electric bills. Call 425-3252 if you need assistance.

For emergency food call John at 425-3130.

Volunteers welcome

The Food Shelf welcomes volunteers to assist with:

- Food distribution
 - Food Shopping
 - Special projects throughout the year.
- For information please call: 425-3252

Donations

The Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. Our organization is run by volunteers, so all donations made to the Food Shelf go directly for nutritious food or assistance to our neighbors in Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh. Should you wish to honor someone with a donation, a special acknowledgement will be sent to that person. Checks may be mailed to Charlotte Food Shelf, P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Call the Food Shelf number (425-3252) for a recording of the distribution times.

NOTE: Because it’s getting dark earlier and earlier, starting Wednesday Nov. 4, we plan to change the weekly pick-up time. For details, watch for information in *The Charlotte News*, Front Porch Forum, a recorded message on our phone line, and a sign posted on the Food Shelf door.

Hi, Neighbor!

Katie Fraser: On the front lines at CCS



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Katie Fraser started her teaching career as a long-term substitute at the Allen Brook School in Williston. “I fell in love with the district,” she said. A lack of classroom openings led her to become director of Part 2, the Allen Brook after school program, but when she saw an opening at Charlotte Central School, she jumped at the chance to apply.

A six-year resident of Charlotte, Fraser taught 3rd and 4th graders for three years before being asked to take charge of the 5th grade class. “At first I didn’t want to teach anything above 4th grade,” she said “but now there is no looking back. I love this age. There is so much they are discovering about themselves and the world around them.” Fraser is in her fifth year of teaching humanities to her charges and she thoroughly enjoys it. “They are starting to dive into deep and important topics,” she said. “It’s a special age.”

Like everyone else, Fraser is adjusting to the pandemic. She teaches 11 students in person on Monday and Tuesday mornings, followed by 10 remotely in the afternoon. The numbers are reversed on Thursday and Friday, and all learning is remote on Wednesdays. “Remote learning does pose many challenges,” she said “particularly with connectivity and bandwidth. Sometimes I feel like I’m swimming upstream.” The silver lining is the ability to work with small groups in person. “It’s exciting to be able to provide more individualized attention,” she said. “It promotes a deeper understanding.” Although the school is gradually moving toward providing all-day, in-school education for younger kids, Fraser recognizes that she will be on her hybrid schedule for quite some time.

Fraser always knew she wanted to be a teacher, but she felt it was important to broaden her horizons first, so she started her career in social work as an outreach advocate/educator with Voices Against Violence, which is based in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. “I’d go into schools and collaborate with classroom teachers in teaching about healthy relationships and



Left: From India to the Champlain Islands to Charlotte, Katie Fraser helps her students connect to themselves, each other, and humanity as a whole. Right: Katie Fraser enjoys her down time with her husband, James, and their two boys, Ronan and Silas. *Courtesy photos*

consent,” she said. After that, Fraser worked for the Howard Center helping families learn important living skills.

While attending graduate school at St. Michael’s College, Fraser spent a month in India as a staff person for an undergraduate trip to Calcutta to work with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. “That work will forever be with me and transformed me as a person,” Fraser said. “It helped me understand what we have here and recognize the goodness of humanity that exists.” Fraser was impressed by the people she met on the trip. “Some of the most amazing people I met were on the streets of India and had nothing,” she said. “Being a humanities teacher, I feel grateful to be able to teach about other cultures and perspectives and to broaden students’ horizons.”



Fraser is helping to broaden her students’ horizons in other ways. “They’re not too young to talk about race,” she said, noting that she has a Black Lives Matter sign in her classroom. Last year her students read Jewell Parker Rhodes’ novel “Ghost Boys”, in which the protagonist’s story is similar to that of young Tamir Rice who was killed by a police officer in Cleveland when his toy gun was mistaken for a real one. This year, her students are reading “Front Desk” by Kelly Yang, which discusses prejudice. “I teach students the importance of finding common ground, bridging culture divides, being open to ideas, and listening to what others have to say,” she said. “It’s an ongoing theme in the books we read.”

Fraser is the mother of two young boys—Ronan is four and Silas is two—and credits her husband, James, with being incredibly

supportive. Maybe it’s the presence of young ones in her own home, but Fraser is optimistic for the future, despite current challenges.

“Our priority is our students’ well-being,” she said. “We start every day by checking to see how they are doing, given the gravity of day to day life.” Fraser recognizes that remote education may lead to some deficits in students’ learning, but she believes they are making the best of a difficult situation. “We’re naming and talking about the unprecedented situation and validating students’ feelings,” she said. “It’s important to keep circling back and talking about it. We’re all in this together and we’ll come out stronger on the other side.”



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Twenty years of tractors

Photos by Chea Waters Evans

It wasn't the ideal 20th anniversary celebration of the East Charlotte Tractor Parade, but like everything else this year, it was memorable, nonetheless. The weather was glorious, the leaves were golden, and the wisp of the smell of diesel exhaust was in the air.

Though there were fewer tractors, the route was longer, and the crowd was dispersed throughout several miles instead of festively packed into Baptist Corners, the things that make the tractor parade so special were still there: little ones waving at the tractor drivers, friends connecting (from afar, but still connecting), and, of course, the tractors themselves. From a classic Farmall to a John Deere lawn tractor, they rumbled down Spear Street, then headed east on Hinesburg Road, chugging up the hill and out of sight, making a loop around Bean Road and back to Spear, where the drivers still had their annual luncheon.



2020 East Charlotte Tractor Parade

Out Takes

Thanksgiving was a ritual for “Packer Backers”



Edd Merritt

Go, you Packers!
Go and get ‘em!
Go, you fighting fools!
Upset ‘em!
Smash their line with all
your might!
A touchdown, Packers!
Fight! Fight! Fight!
On, you Blue and Gold
to glory! Win this game, the same old story!
**Go You Packers, Go! –
Eric Karll**

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us.

I have memories of two types of rituals for this holiday. The first revolves around football; the second revolves around food. In this issue of *The News* I’ll tell you about how in Green Bay, Wisconsin, football rules the roost on Thanksgiving. I will get into food next time.

A longstanding pro-football franchise, the Green Bay Packers is the only publicly-owned major league franchise and is owned by thousands of its fans. Founded in 1919 by Curly Lambeau and George Calhoun, Lambeau was the team’s coach for its first 30 years. The team’s distinctiveness is what it does to the town each fall.

Through most of the year, Green Bay is a relatively small, quiet town located at the southern end of the Lake Michigan bay after which it was named. However, in the fall it turns itself from a town that is home of the National Railroad Museum and Acme Meat Packers into a city that, at least prior to the pandemic, mutated into the football capital of the upper Midwest and home to its heroes Bart Starr, Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor, Boyd Dowler, Max McGee, Willie Davis, Ray Nitschke and the like. Home games often brought what seemed to be half the population of Wisconsin to the city, including some of us who lodged just north of the Illinois border. In the early 1960s I was one of them, a student at Beloit College that is in Wisconsin just above the Illinois state line, much closer to that state’s city of Rockford, than to Packer town.

I had a good college friend who grew up in Green Bay, and, rather than drive the five hours to my own home in southern Minnesota, I spent several Thanksgivings in Packer land. In this part of the upper Midwest, the history of the holiday went back hundreds of years to the early 1600s when the local agricultural folk in good Christian faith established it to thank the

lord and commemorate a plentiful harvest. By the time I entered college, the focus had shifted somewhat. Thanksgiving’s Christianity had become Thanksgiving’s “NFL-ity”, with the community’s eyes moving from cornfields to goal posts.

My Green Bay friend invited me to join him there for the holiday. When I accepted his invitation, he explained that Thanksgiving was not simply another day of the week. It rivaled Christmas in its annual activities—food, drink, a sporting event, and it ended with a bar visit.

Since many college students from the area came home and the Packers had an annual Turkey Day football game against Detroit (always in Detroit in those days), the day’s ritual began in the morning, getting off on the right foot with a touch football game—in which, by the way, players who had continued the sport in college had to play a position on the field that was different from their intercollegiate one. Quarterbacks became linemen; guards moved into the backfield. The game was then followed by the turkey dinner of the day, which lasted only long enough to be in time to drive and greet the Packer players at the airport—cheering them if they won and comforting them if they lost. Following the airport greeting, most of the players and many of the fans drove into town to a bar and grill named “Fuzzy Thurston’s Left Guard.” Its owner had, in fact, been a Packer lineman in the late 1950s, early 1960s. There they drank a toast to a win or followed suit to console a loss. In either case, they imbibed Wisconsin’s state beverage, which my friend said could only go down so well if it

was brewed with the state’s own grain and hops, ingredients that were not native to every stop on the NFL road map.

Having enjoyed all parts of this ritual, I spent several Thanksgivings in the Bay. I’m not certain whether my parents bought totally into my excuse that it was equally good use of time, equal to the long drive for a short spell spent at home in Minnesota, which always included having to head north to Minneapolis for dinner at my aunt’s house before leaving on Saturday and heading south for classes to pick up on Monday.

It may be a figment of my imagination. However, I vaguely remember that if I did spend free time at home, my parents required me to delve into a class project by arising early mornings to read, write notes or solve math problems. In their minds, holidays were not just fun and games. These thoughts, however, were replaced by my notion, which meant late morning rises, daytime movies and hanging out with girlfriends.

I believed that my trips north were what holidays should be about— confidence builders, not simply turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes.

I also became a devoted Packer Backer, which I have remained to this day. I must have cheese for my head somewhere in the refrigerator.

Town

SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An interview for one of the two open spots on the Board of Auditors was quick, since at the moment Selectboard member Louise McCarren is doing that work on her own and there’s no one else who wants the open positions. Mike Dunbar was unanimously approved for the job. During his interview, he said that he decided to pursue the position because as an engineer and a business owner, he had the experience and interest to take on the task. He’ll take the job as an appointee until Town Meeting, at which point he will have to run for the post in the March election.

The Charlotte Community Partners is a group of representatives around town (including a member of the board of *The Charlotte News*) that has been meeting every other week by Zoom since April. Their purpose is to provide a network of resources and information (see page 14 for an update from the group) for Charlotters during the coronavirus pandemic. They have also been meeting and discussing distributing a community resilience survey to all Charlotte residents in order to find out what our strengths and weaknesses are as a community. The presentation by the Charlotte Community Partners group regarding this survey took an uncomfortable turn during the meeting, but all ended as the group had hoped.

McCarren started the topic off with a motion that she wrote and that Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow read: “The Selectboard thanks and appreciates the work of the RAC but at this time the Selectboard declines to be a partner.” She said she had two big issues with the survey: who funds the organization that creates the survey, and what they will do with the data, which will be publicly available. “As best as I could ascertain, there’s not a lot of support on the board for this endeavor,” she said. “That doesn’t mean you can’t go ahead, because you should if you want; there’s no reason you can’t.”

Reverend Kevin Goldenbogen, who is the senior pastor at the Charlotte Congregational Church and who spoke on behalf of the group, said, “I guess I’m just confused by the process...we haven’t spoken yet. It feels perhaps that there have been some conversations behind the scenes that we’re not privy to.”

McCarren said that she had learned about the group from public documents that

were shared in advance of the Selectboard meeting, personal research, and from communications with Library Director Margaret Woodruff, who is a member of CCP. “Perhaps we were a little quick with the resolution, but convince us why we’re wrong,” McCarren said, though she did not clarify why she was speaking for the board with her initial motion, though she said they had not discussed it yet as a group.

“I’m not sure we’re asking you for anything,” Goldenbogen said. “We’re here to primarily communicate. Our only ask was to put a copy of the survey in the Town Hall.”

“I’m speaking for myself now, because I’m only one of five,” McCarren said. “I thought you were asking for us to be a partner in it. I’ll take accountability if I misunderstood what you wanted.”

“Perhaps we were a little quick with the resolution, but convince us why we’re wrong. ”

— Louise McCarren
Selectboard member

Selectboard member Carrie Spear said that in her opinion, the survey was “too big for the general public,” and that many of the questions might not pertain to people in Charlotte.

Goldenbogen explained that the purpose of the survey is to “identify weaknesses and celebrate where we’re strong,” and that the information gathered could help a variety of town organizations plan how to better serve Charlotters. He said it “came out of recognition and desire

to be a resource to the town going forward, and recognizing places in our town where we’re strong and not so strong, and help us illuminate that, and help people in various areas and corners of town use that information however they want.”

He said the survey will be available online and on paper, in both English and Spanish, and that there will be provisions made for those who can’t read. In the end, with a friendly amendment suggested by Krasnow, the Selectboard passed McCarren’s motion with the additions that they would include a link to the survey on the town web site and have paper copies available in Town Hall.

For the first round of budget presentations, Krasnow said that he and the Selectboard encouraged town departments to “think about what’s needed as compared to what’s wanted” this year, keeping in mind that the financial impact of the coronavirus could extend well into the next year and beyond. Any department with a line item budget presents their figures to the Selectboard; Monday night’s included the Charlotte Library, the Charlotte Land Trust, the Road Commissioner, Planning and Zoning, and the Conservation Fund.

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North wind, glowing field



The photographer noted that this shot, taken on Lake Road, simply had to be taken. “The light was irresistible and the barn was practically posing,” she said.
Photo by Mary Landon

COVID-19 Resources for resilient Charlotters in hard coronavirus times



Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTOR

As I sit to write this week’s update from the Charlotte Community Partners, the colors of fall have come and are quickly disappearing, reminding us that we are slowly but surely heading into winter. We are watching the virus increase in states all around us and across the entire country, and I know we are all hoping that we, as independent Vermonters, stay the course and remain safe.

We continue to work on the Community Resilience Assessment, editing it to be as clear as possible, as the goal is to have every resident in our town complete it. The goal is to be able to get a clear picture of how our town is doing in terms of providing for and serving our residents.

How do you feel Charlotte does in terms of providing basic needs and services? How do you feel Charlotte is doing in terms of protecting our environment and natural resources? Do you feel that Charlotte does a good job caring for and protecting our roads, bridges, culverts, etc.? Do you feel that Charlotte does a good job in creating community connections, giving us opportunities to thrive together?

Each of the questions asked can be rated on a scale of 1 to 5 with the option of saying “I don’t know,” as that is also valuable information for various boards and organizations in town to realize. If the town or an organization thinks they are providing a service to residents, but a percentage of our residents don’t even realize that the service is available, that is important information.

If this assessment is to have value to our town, we need to hear from as many Charlotte residents as possible and the team continues to discuss just how to make it as easy and painless as possible for everyone to complete it. The plan currently includes having it available online, accessible from the Charlotte Library and anywhere you have computer access, and for those preferring to complete a paper copy, have paper copies available at several different places in town.

The goal is to finalize and publish distribution and collection locations and hopefully roll it out soon after the election in November. Our hope is that each of you will take the time to read and complete the assessment as this is the first step in a Resilience Series, hosted by

the Charlotte Library, Charlotte Community Partners and Community Resilience Organizations. It is our hope that through this assessment we can get a clearer picture of public perception of our resilience across the many sectors that make up our community. This is the starting point to future discussions on how to make Charlotte the best community we can be for everyone who chooses to call our town their home.

As for resources available now:
Food and meals
Available to Charlotte school age kids: The school lunch program continues whether your students are in school or learning from home. Access the website cvsdvt.org, click on “District Resources,” click on “Menus,” or call Scott Wagner at 802-871-6198.

The Food Shelf continues to be open Wednesdays from 5–7 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Call 425-3252 to register.

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

Pathways Vermont, 883-888-2557, is free and available 24/7 to call or text. Talk with a peer who has dealt with issues in the past. This is an awesome resource available to all Vermonters.

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

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

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

From the Vermont Department of Health
Stay abreast of the ongoing COVID-19 news in Vermont or learn how Vermont is opening up by going to the website that is updated on a regular basis. Check on what is opening, new regulations for traveling into our state, where to get a test if you need one, how to remain safe and well: healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19.

In closing, I will remind everyone to take the time to vote. You should have received a paper ballot in the mail; you can complete it and mail it or take it directly to the Town Hall now.

Sports

CVU – from soccer central to sports central



Edd Merritt

For a number of years, fall sports revolved around soccer on the fields and cross-country running in the woods. That has changed as do the leaves this time of year so that now, as one looks across the board at fall Redhawk teams (men and women alike), they all appear at, or nearly at, the top of Division I in the state.

This is why Essex’s single-goal soccer win over the Hawk men early this month was so important to both teams. It ended CVU’s 37 game win streak, including last year’s victory over Mt. Mansfield for their second back-to-back state title, and which replaced them in the Division lead this year with the Hornets.

Meanwhile, the women began this season with an equally impressive 51 game win streak and hope to head toward their ninth state title in ten years.

To put records in perspective, long-time coach Peter Coffee felt it was valuable to experience a close loss once during the regular season, that it gave the players a sense of their vulnerability, which made them that much more competitive come tournament time – a

philosophy that seemed to work well. All in all, the entire display of Redhawk sports this fall – men and women alike – is impressive. There is not a losing group in the bunch. Cross-country running is worth mentioning because it involves both individual and team effort to a strong degree. Last year’s state champs were invited to travel west for a national tournament. This year’s team includes many returnees from that group plus a number of important newcomers. In a coach’s often-stated uncertainty about the upcoming season, however, Scott Bliss said they will have to wait and see how everything works out. (Save them from growing the “big head,” eh coach?)

Meanwhile, football, volleyball, field hockey, golf all carry Redhawk jersey-wearers on most of the victory buses.

Golf is often a sport overlooked at the high school level. However, CVU’s linksters have shown once again that their chips, putts and drives can bring them a state title. This year it happened in Barre for the men and was the team’s third in a row, with women coming in second on the Champlain Country Club course where they were edged out of first place by Burr and Burton who won by six strokes.

Making a run for it



Middle school cross-country meets are twice as often and half as big this year, with kids from each school racing the 1.8-mile course on their in-person school days. Tuesday’s meet against Shelburne had 28 girls and 24 boys from Charlotte Central School Group A; Group B will run on Friday after school at Palmer Field and the official meet score will be a combination of the two races.

The CCS girls Group A team is ahead of the Shelburne girls team with 22 points to their 37. The top five girl finishers from Charlotte were Kate Silverman, who came in first place, Lydia Donahue who finished second, and Lily Mae Siedlecki, Amelie Fairweather, and Whitney Butnor.

The Shelburne boys are currently behind the CCS boys group A team 20 to 37. The top five finishers from Charlotte were Sam Moore, Rory Donahue, Cal Gardner, Nathanael Axelrod, and Ronan Evans.



The boys ran at 4 p.m. and the girls started at 4:15. Above, fifth grader Nathanael Axelrod pushes himself to the finish.

Photos and text by Chea Waters Evans



Redhawks in uniform, eyes on the ball.

Photo by Al Frey



Charlotte Fire and Rescue Log

September 2020

Tuesday, September 1

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Wednesday, September 2
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Thursday, September 3
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Friday, September 4

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Saturday, September 5

Intercept
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Sunday, September 6

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Monday, September 7

Standby-No Services or Support Provided

Tuesday, September 8

Patient Evaluated, Released (AMA)
Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)
Canceled (Transferred to Mutual Aid)
Patient Dead at Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required

Wednesday, September 9

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Thursday, September 10

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Monday, September 14

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Tuesday, September 15

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Friday, September 18

Standby-No Services or Support Provided
Standby-No Services or Support Provided

Saturday, September 19

Intercept
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Sunday, September 20
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Monday, September 21

Patient Refused Evaluation/ Care (Without Transport)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Tuesday, September 22

Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)

Wednesday, September 23

Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)

Thursday, September 24

Standby-No Services or Support Provided
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Friday, September 25

Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Saturday, September 26

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Sunday, September 27

Standby-No Services or Support Provided
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Tuesday, September 29

Standby-No Services or Support Provided

Wednesday, September 30

Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS
Intercept
Patient Treated, Transported by this EMS

Vermont State Police Williston Barracks Town Of Charlotte Recap

Road	Tickets	Warnings
Mt Philo & Hinesburg Rd	5	5
Mt. Philo Rd	7	6
Rte 7	19	14
Rte 7 & Patton Woods Rd	10	8
Rte 7 & Ferry Rd	25	25
Rte 7 & Church Hill Rd	38	22
Rte 7 & State Park Rd	4	12
Rte 7 & Berry Farm	45	34
Rte 7 (Passing Lanes)	41	31
Rte 7 & Lime Kiln Rd	16	20
Rte 7 & Higbee Rd	2	4
Rte 7 & Nursery Ln	15	5
Spear St	7	9
Spear & Moss Rock Rd	1	2
Spear & Lime Kiln Rd	0	2
Jackson Hill Rd	0	1
Greenbush Rd	2	8
Greenbush & Telecom	42	5
Greenbush & Ferry Rd	10	17
Greenbush & Orchard Rd	1	4
Greenbush & Lake Rd	1	2
Hinesburg Rd	11	13
Hinesburg & Church Hill Rd	8	13
Hinesburg & Bean Rd	0	3
Ferry Rd	11	18
Ferry & Lake Rd	0	8
Lake & Thompson Point Rd	0	2
Cedar Beach Rd	1	4
Dorset St	3	0
Church Hill Rd	0	1
Totals	325	298

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SHELBURNE | 985.4445
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Town Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Library Hours:
Monday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)
Friday: CLOSED to the public, open for porch pickup
Saturday: CLOSED to the public, open for porch pickup

Porch Pickup Hours:

Monday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to noon

From Monday to Thursday, the library will be open to groups by appointment from 3 to 4 p.m. Each appointment slot is 30 minutes and allows for up to 8 people in a pod/family group to enter together. Please contact the library at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for details.

Activity Kits: Check out our new collection of activity kits available to check out. Enjoy on your own or with friends and family. Everything from Archaeology to Zentangles, including our seasonal crafts (see below).

Bookshelf Pumpkin Craft Kit: Create a festive pumpkin for your bookshelf using an old paperback! Simple instructions and all the supplies you need available for pick up at the library porch. Email us at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org so we can set aside a kit for you! Kits available Oct. 12 through Oct. 26.

Jack-o-Lantern Parade: If you're in a Halloween mood, be sure to join our online jack-o-lantern parade. Pick up a carving pumpkin from the library porch and work

your magic. Send a photo of your finished masterpiece so we can feature it on the library website.

Programs at the Charlotte Library:

In-Person:

The Big Green Draw Comes to Charlotte! Oct. 12–25 You are invited to draw (paint, color, your choice) your interpretation of your backyard. For all ages with or without artistic experience. Pick up your Big Draw packet at the library desk and get started! Our collective drawings will be woven and displayed on the town green later in the month.

Important dates:

Oct. 12–16: Pick up paper strips and art supplies at the Charlotte Library.

Oct. 19: Due date to return artwork to library

Oct. 23–24: Volunteers will help weave our collective collage to be hung on the town green.

Oct. 25–29: Enjoy the Big Green (Charlotte) Draw!

The Big Draw is a global festival in October that showcases the power of drawing throughout the world as a form of communication, expression, reflection, creativity and discovery. It is recognized to help make sense of an uncertain world. This year's global festival theme is "The Big Green Draw: A Climate of Change," focusing on the relationship between people and their living environments, a theme so relevant to our Charlotte community theme of "resilience."

Online via Zoom:

Coding Club

Wednesdays at 3 p.m., Oct. 7–Nov. 11

Join coding mentors Charlie and Susanna on Zoom for an hour of coding and connection. All levels are welcome to learn Scratch or hone their Scratch

coding skills. Ready to take your coding know-how to the next level? We'll have a breakout room for kids with more experience who are interested in an introduction to Python, a coding language the pros use. 4th grade and up. 6-week session. Registration is required.

Book Discussion Group:
Water by Alice Outwater

Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.

An environmental engineer turned ecology writer relates the history of our waterways and her own growing understanding of what needs to be done to save this essential natural resource. Please email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for a Zoom invite.

Mystery Book Group: *Murder at the Vicarage* and *The ABC Murders*

Monday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.

Agatha Christie's detectives go head-to-head as we read the top mysteries featuring Miss Marple of Mary Mead and the indomitable Hercules Poirot. Print copies are available at the circulation desk and online versions available through Hoopla. Please email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for a Zoom invite.

Q & A with *Fair Play* Author Eve Rodsky

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

Working from home colliding with homeschooling has become a new norm.

Join Eve Rodsky, New York Times bestselling author of *Fair Play*, as she illuminates the need to re-establish our values and provides tools to clearly define roles and expectations to divvy up the workload fairly and communicate with grace and generosity. Registration required for Zoom event.

Men's Book Group: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization and more. Print copies available at the library circulation desk. Please email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for a Zoom invite.

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, consider subscribing to our e-newsletter: [Charlotte Library Newsletter](#).

Library Contact Information

Margaret Woodruff, Director
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

“Life is all about balance. You don’t always need to be getting stuff done. Sometimes it’s perfectly okay, and absolutely necessary, to shut down, kick back, and do nothing. ~ Lori Deschene

“Balance is not something you find. It’s something you create.” ~ Jana Kingsford

The two **Better Balance** courses that Dee PT has presented have been very enthusiastically received. It is exciting that more than 30 people signed up for each of them—an expanded class size is definitely one of the advantages of Zooming. And, because having good balance and avoiding falls is so important for everyone, I will be exploring the options for offering something with this focus in the coming months. Stay tuned.

10/21 - Another way to find balance is to practice **Mindfulness Meditation**. The Wednesday afternoon sessions at 2:30 are open to all; there is no fee, but you will need to register for the invitation/link. Whether or not you are experienced with the approach, you are welcome to join in. (See below for how to register.) Please note that there will be another Mindfulness for Life intro course in the winter if you would like the full orientation. It is a very simple and effective approach—and you can sit comfortably—the lotus position is not required. Dates will be in the Winter Schedule at the end of November.

Two of the ongoing exercise courses that have some space are looking to expand a little:

10/20 & 10/22 - T’ai Chi Ch’uan for Beginners with John Creech on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10:30–11:30. The flowing movements and postures will

increase flexibility, improve balance, and strengthen core muscles. Cultivate a deeper sense of relaxation, gain an increased energy level, and experience a sense of confidence. (You could attend either or both sessions.) Fee: \$5 per class, paid at the end of the month.

10/21 & 10/23 - Essentrics™ with Sherry Senior on Wednesday mornings, 8:30–9:30 and also Friday mornings, 9:30–10:30. A dynamic combination of stretching and strengthening works through all the joints and releases tight muscles. It promotes improvement in flexibility, mobility and posture, as well as relief of pain. (You could attend either or both sessions.) Fee: \$5 per class, paid at the end of the month.

How to register for a course

All courses are online—and all require registration.

To register, send your name and mailing address to CSCZoom@gmavt.net. Be sure to note the name of the course in the memo line. You will receive confirmation that you are registered.

Payment—If there is a fee, kindly pay by check (made out to CSC) and send to P.O. Box 207, Charlotte, VT 05445. Be sure to note the name of the course in the memo line. Those in ongoing exercise courses pay that the end of the month for the classes they attended. For courses with limited dates, kindly pay prior to the start of the course.

Courses starting soon

10/23 - Writing Your Life Story with Laurie McMillan

Fridays, 11:00-12:30. Dates: 10/23, 10/30, 11/6 & 11/13.

How can you make your memories interesting to a reader? Explore storytelling techniques and utilize in-class exercises to help launch your own meaningful and important stories. Newcomers welcome. Registration required by 10/21. Fee: \$30 for the 4-part series of 90-minute classes.

11/6 - You will have another chance to dive into Italian language and culture in

case your schedule has been too busy in the past. On **Friday, 11/6, Italian Intro–B** (1:30 p.m.) and **Italian Refresher–B** (3 p.m.) will both begin and run for 6 sessions into December—with a break for Thanksgiving. The suggested fee is \$30, but donations of any amount are accepted.

Outdoor activities

After a robust signup for the 10/3 trip to Lemon Fair Sculpture Park, it had to be cancelled for this season. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Frank was not able to make it this month. But do consider taking a trip down on your own as the park is open every day until November. Lemon Fair will be back on the schedule next year—either in late spring or fall.

10/20 - Fall Road Hikes in the Champlain Valley with Joan Mollica continue next Tuesday. There is some space, so if you are interested, please call and leave a message at 425-6345. Be sure to include your name, phone number and email address for the contact tracing log. The next hike is to Rock Point Trails, Burlington. If there have been any weather cancellations during this month, the makeup date will be on 10/27. No fee.

Events on Wednesdays at 1 p.m

All free, Wednesday events have now morphed into online Zoom gatherings. The invitation/link for each week will be posted at CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org by the day before the presentation. As well, this link will be supplied in Front Porch Forum in Charlotte and in surrounding towns. Please note: Registration is not required.

10/21 - Medical Imaging: 1895 To the Present with Rick Goldman

Take a look at the changes in medical imaging, particularly Neuroradiology, which parallel the advances we have seen in the technology we use in our daily lives. Neuroradiologists interpret X-rays, magnetic resonance images (MRI), and computed tomography (CT) scans showing the effect of strokes and cerebral hemorrhages, Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis and brain trauma.

Dr. Goldman was Head of Neuroradiology at Hartford Hospital from 1977-2010.

10/28 - A Mile of Ice Above Us with Craig Heindel

Learn about the most recent geologic history of Vermont and the Champlain Valley—from more than a mile of ice over us, to raging meltwater rivers, to a salty sea (home of the ill-fated beluga whose skeleton was found in Charlotte), and then, finally, to some large, higher-elevation lakes.

Art exhibit

The Senior Center’s monthly art exhibits continue and visitors are welcome. To see an art exhibit, please schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. Viewing days are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m.. Leave a message anytime at 425-6345 and include your name and phone number for a confirmation of your appointment.

The new show this month is: **October Art Exhibit—Photography by Mike Sipe and Photography by James Regan**. These two photographers have very different approaches to photographing nature and are certainly worth a visit. Remember, the space will be distinctly uncrowded and you can take your time. Mike’s pieces are up only for this month since he had another commitment; James’s photos will be up through November. Take a break for art.

Be careful. Keep your spirits up. We are all in this together.

The Senior Center’s mission is to serve those 50 and up; if a course is not full, pre-seniors may also enroll. Feel free to leave a message anytime at 425-6345; voicemail is checked frequently.

Life is like riding a bicycle: In order to keep your balance, you must keep moving. – Anon.

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

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Property transfers for September 2020

Sept. 3 Matthew and Pamela Dawson to Daniel Ehrenbard and Colette Schlieben, 39.45 acres with dwelling, \$1,531,884.82.

Sept. 3 Christina and Robert Booher to Leslie Tountas, 1 acre with dwelling, 695 Ferry Road, \$274, 800.

Sept. 8 Nancy and Robert Bloch and Ian and Katherine Karczeski to Robert and Shannon Shapiro, Trustees, Sharon Morrison Revocable Trust, 6.26 acres, land only, Lot 2 Whalley Road, \$150,000.

Sept. 14 Peter Fenn to Mare Hopkins, 28.14 acres with dwelling, 3421 Lake Road, \$799,000.

Sept. 16 Neal and Patricia Rodar to Justin Samuel and Erin Bleichfeld, 10.15 acres with dwelling, 3130 Mt. Philo Road, \$700,000.

Sept. 17 Lucia Plante (50% interest) to Vermont Commons School, 54.07 acres, land only, \$150,000.

Sept. 17 Richard Shappy, administrator of the estate of Louise Plant (50% interest) to Vermont Commons School, 54.07 acres, land only, 2369 Spear Street, \$150,000.

Sept. 18 Jessica Elaine Tampas Declaration of Trust, Trustee Jessica Elaine Tampas, to William and Lynn Fox, 5.64 acres with dwelling, 2296 Greenbush Road, \$918,500.

Sept. 21 Ivy Naef to Jordan and Allison Provost, 3 acres with dwelling, 585 Ferry Road, \$402,000.

Sept. 22 Renee Plant to James Morrissey and Christina Cotas-Morrissey, 10.1 acres with dwelling, 551 Dorset Street, \$429,000.

Sept. 25 Mariam McGuillivray to Rhonda and Paul Pagnucco, 2.43 acres with dwelling, 279 Upper Meadow Lane, \$622,500.



Just Asking Who was your most memorable teacher and why?

Photos and interviews by Jim Squires



Todd Hardie

"Nine people were put in my path of life who really helped me and I consider memorable

teachers. One in particular, Arthur Clark, who used to live at Mt. Philo Road and Spear Street Extension, taught me so much about bees and life in general. He was wise and generous. He even let me use his family's name company for my emerging business decades ago called Honey Gardens Apiaries. You know, Charlotte is one of the best towns in the state for the production of honey where all of the elements come together, something I learned from Arthur."



Hannah Stirewalt

"When I was a student at Harwood Union, my art teacher, Wendy Peterson,

made a big impression on me. She always found and appreciated the uniqueness in every student and helped nurture it in me and others."



Bill Stirewalt

(proud grandfather of Hannah) "When I was 14, I first met my favorite and most memorable teacher at an art gallery

when he asked me what I thought of his photograph, which were being displayed. I'm not sure what he made of my response when I told him they didn't look real. From that interaction I developed a relationship with Ansel Adams and his family, which inspired me as a life-long photographer. I learned so much from that man and his works." (Note: Bill Stirewalt's impressive photographs were recently on display at the Charlotte Senior Center).



Lynn Williams

"Mr. Whidden, my 5th-grade science teacher at Berkshire Country

Day quickly comes to mind. He was my first experiential teacher who showed me how to learn by doing. I think of him often."



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