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The Charlotte News

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Twins! CVFRS delivers

Chea Waters Evans
NEWS EDITOR

A regular Monday morning turned into an extraordinary one this week for Willa and Eric Lampman. Thirty-five weeks and six days into her pregnancy with twins, Willa went into labor at their home in Charlotte and ended up delivering the babies shortly afterward—one while they were still at home. “It’s wild!” Willa said. She and both babies are doing great.

While getting her day started with her 22-month-old son, Willa felt a contraction at 7:45 a.m. and made a call to her obstetrician at University of Vermont Medical Center. “By the sound of my breathing she was like, you’re not going to make it, you need to call 911,” Willa said.

It’s a good thing they called when they did—even though Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services showed up before 10 minutes had passed, baby number one was almost there. Luckily, Eric’s mother was able to come over in time to pick up their older son before first responders’ ambulance arrived.

“I thought we were going to get in the ambulance and go to the hospital, and I was going to get an epidural, and we were going to have a baby,” Willa said. Because her daughter was still in the breech position, she was expecting a birth by C-section anyway. But it wasn’t to be.

When CVFRS Deputy Fire Chief Rob Mullin and AEMT Arron Barney arrived, two members of the Lampman family were on the floor in the bathroom—one giving moral support, one in serious labor—and a third was on her way.



Rhodes Lampman and her brother, who arrived so unexpectedly he doesn’t quite have a name yet, made a dramatic entrance into the world Monday with the assistance of CVFRS.

Photos by Eric and Willa Lampman

SEE **BABIES** PAGE 15

Zoning administrator, town agree to part ways

Chea Waters Evans

“The Selectboard wishes to offer you an opportunity to voluntarily resign your employment under a separation agreement.” A separation agreement ends Zoning Administrator Daniel Morgan’s 18-month term with the Town of Charlotte. Delivered to Morgan by the Selectboard on Dec. 31 and ratified by the board on Jan. 4, the agreement ends months of back and forth between the ZA and the town over the terms of his employment.

The fourth ZA in seven years, Morgan was hired in the summer of 2018 for several jobs within Town Hall that added up to a full-time position. As ZA, Morgan operated as his own department with quasi-judicial authority; in his other jobs as clerk to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the town E-911 coordinator, and the sewage control officer, he was under the supervision of Town Administrator Dean Bloch.

The separation agreement between Morgan and the town stipulates that Morgan’s

resignation would be effective Jan. 1 pending a formal, irrevocable resignation letter due no later than Jan. 4. Morgan’s paid administrative, which began on Dec. 23, ended at that time.

Under the terms of the separation agreement, Morgan was held to town employment terms and was still under Bloch’s supervision, but he was ordered not to go to work or perform any town work unless specifically directed to do so. Morgan also agreed that he would not communicate with any town personnel unless directed to, and that he would continue to “cooperate and communicate” with the Selectboard as requested.

Morgan received a severance as part of the separation agreement that amounted to three months of regular payroll for 40 hours a week of work, plus \$5,000 within 15 days of the agreement’s ratification. He also received payment for unused vacation leave.

SEE **ZONING** PAGE 7

An astonishing result

Claudia Marshall
PUBLISHER

Thank you.

The Charlotte News just wrapped up the most successful fund drive in its history--and that’s because of you.

We started our campaign October 29 with a report in this paper reminding folks that we are an independent, nonprofit community newspaper devoted to telling the authentic stories of Charlotte. We work to connect this community and I believe that connection is more critical than ever.

Clearly, you feel that way, too.

In the last two months of the year, we received more than 280 voluntary donations and almost double the amount of money raised in our year-end campaign the previous year. The number of brand-new donors in 2020: 166. To my mind, that’s an astonishing result given these uncertain times. I take it as a vote of confidence that this paper is delivering (um, no pun intended) the news you need on the page and online.

Part of the fund drive’s success is most certainly due to a matching grant which we expect to receive worth \$11,500, and it must be mentioned that our board of directors ponied up another \$11,000 as a matching grant.

All of these contributions will make it possible for us to grow our coverage of the issues that matter most in Charlotte and of the people who live here. You and me, in other words. That old saying, “We’re all in this together” has been bandied about a lot lately,

but even though it’s hackneyed, in this case, it’s certainly true.

An equally big “thank you,” goes to the people who have given their time and talents to the paper voluntarily. That includes nearly 130 writers, photographers and proofreaders, who have all pitched in to make *The Charlotte News* what it is: a community newspaper by the people of Charlotte and for the people of Charlotte.

So thank you for stepping up and helping us meet the challenges of these times. Thank you to our stalwart advertisers who have stood by us and expressed their support for the community, even when times are tough.

Thank you to the Friends of the Charlotte News who work quietly to support the paper behind the scenes. Thanks to members of our board of directors, who have given both time and money to ensure the paper’s success. Thank you to the staff, who work way too hard and turn out a great paper 25 times each year.

I recently read an interesting article by a research scientist about the difference between optimism and hope. Optimism is considered a tendency to see the glass half full, while hope is a practice of working to make good things happen. Here at *The Charlotte News*, we have certainly seen the people of Charlotte demonstrate their hope for this newspaper and this community by donating generously. It’s gratifying and humbling.

Our board of directors is discussing ways we can thank the town for its support...in addition to putting out a paper we can all be proud of 25 times per year. As always, watch these pages for details.



Pineapple sign stolen from Inn at Charlotte

Chea Waters Evans

The pineapple is commonly known as a sign of hospitality; last week, someone did a most unhospitable thing to the owner of the Inn at Charlotte. The inn’s landmark carved-wood pineapple sign was stolen in the night; the owner, Duker Bower, who also lives on the property, is hoping to get it back—and if that’s not possible, to see if anyone has a photo of it. He’d like to have the memory of it, and he can’t afford to buy a new sign.

Bower said that he noticed the sign was missing on Dec. 17, and figured it must have been stolen in the early hours at that morning, when traffic past the Route 7 and State Park Road inn was quiet and the Charlotte winter sky was dark. “It wasn’t that easy to steal,” Bower said. “It had four chains holding it into position...they must have had a bolt cutter or something.”

The sign, which Bower, who is an artist, designed, cut, and painted himself, was made by Monkton artist and sign maker Homer Wells, who works with metals and auto paint to create works of art that can withstand the



The Inn at Charlotte sign was stolen using bolt cutters.

Photo by Ronan Evans

elements. It featured the name of the inn and a carved pineapple, which Wells enhanced with cut metal letters placed on posts so they became three-dimensional.

SEE **SIGN** PAGE 15

LURs wend their way to the ballot; budget has to budge a bit

Chea Waters Evans

With three meetings in eight days, the Selectboard is just about on track for time spent getting the budget and ballot items ready for Charlotters. With Land Use Regulation amendments on track to make it to a vote this spring, and around \$70,000 that needs to be shaved off the budget, there's a lot to talk about.

Land Use Regulation amendments
The Planning Commission has been working on amendments to LURs since 2008, Chair Peter Joslin said. There were over 70 to consider, and the PC divided them into three buckets for ease of discussion and to make it easier for the town to vote: Act 250, which deals with accessory on-farm businesses; expansion of the East Charlotte Village Commercial District; and some more mundane housekeeping and minutiae-related changes that often come down to wording and specifics of language. Much of the discussion comes down to the age-old, perennial conundrums: how much development in Charlotte is too much, and how can the town keep growing in ways that keep it vital for generations to come?

Though the East Charlotte Village is the most controversial of the three buckets, at the Friday, Jan. 8 meeting and public comment regarding LURs, the Selectboard saved that topic for last. Proponents of expanding the ECV's possibilities for development say that it's been a long time coming to bring the village on that side of town up to par with the West Village; opponents say that the rural character could be compromised by too much development and that they are wary of the impact it could have on that section of town.

During Friday's meeting, landowner Clark Hinsdale, who said he is one of seven major landowners who would be most affected by the ECVCD amendments, spoke about his goals for his property in East Charlotte: senior and affordable housing and a vibrant village area that brings the east side of town up to par with the West Village. He said in order to develop his property to achieve those goals, he needs his property, the Sheehan

“We’re losing smart, capable seniorns because there’s no damn place to live when they can’t take care of a big colonial house anymore.”

— Clark Hinsdale

house on the south west corner of Charlotte Hinesburg Road and Spear Strteet, to be included in the ECVCD so it can be zoned commercially so he can develop in one-acre as opposed to five-acre lots. He said he also would need to be able to build septic underneath the road.

Hinsdale pointed out that he has, over the past 35 years, conserved land around the perimeter of the East Village area, and that his intent all along was to improve Charlotte for Charlotters, particularly seniors. “We’re losing smart, capable seniorns because there’s no damn place to live when they can’t take care of a big colonial house anymore,” he said.

Selectboard member Louise McCarren said she is on board with Hinsdale's efforts to develop in the East Village. “It’s critical and I support it,” she said. Planning Commission Chair Peter Joslin noted that little had changed in the East Charlotte Village over the past ten years and said, “The town has to grow.”

David Adsit, an East Charlotte resident, said he's not sure the town has to grow in the way Hinsdale and the LUR amendments are proposing, noting that a 2010 PC survey of East Charlotte residents only tells part of the story about the need for growth in that area. The proposed changes to the commercial district, he said, “are a direct affront to the people in East Charlotte” who said they were opposed to development in the area. He said that most people he knew who lived in the area liked it how it is now.

He said the current impact research “isn’t enough information to be making these changes,” and said that one of his concerns that though affordable senior housing might

be built in the area, there was no guarantee that it would actually be inhabited by Charlotters.

Alex Bunten, who also lives in the East Village, said he was concerned that Charlotte was making itself into a “lab rat” with zoning and density changes in the East Village, and that he thought any changes made should apply to all village zones in the town, not just the east. He also said he was concerned that the amendments were being proposed in order to accommodate one landowner.

East Charlotter and Planning Commission member Bill Stuono concurred that some of the proposed amendments in the ECVCD troubled him as well. “We’re undermining out own senior and affordable housing ordinances,” he said, noting that current LURs already make density allowances for different types of housing.

Hinsdale grew frustrated at one point, saying he had been villainized, and saying to Bunten, “Alex, if you want to stop it, stop it. I can put a for sale sign on [the Sheehan property] and sell it to a developer who doesn’t give a damn about Charlotte’s future.”

The LURs will be discussed at one more public hearing at a Selectboard meeting on January 25 before they are finalized and put on the ballot in March on Town Meeting Day.

Town budget
It’s no lie, the people of Charlotte don’t like big budgets, and during a pandemic that shows no sign of waning and an uncertain economic future for many, the Selectboard is committed to keeping the budget as flat as possible. In general, the town budget breaks down with 1/3 going to the road commissioner’s budget, 1/3 going to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and the remaining third is split approximately in half with payroll and other employee expenses and the remaining committees in town.

All fall and winter, town entities have been presenting their budgets to the Selectboard and then coming back with new, smaller figures, and there’s still about \$70,000 left to go.

Monday’s meeting saved about half of that, with \$10,000 optimistically removed from the legal budget, and CVFRS volunteering to lower its reserve fund to \$95,000.

The final opportunity for Charlotters to weigh in on the budget before it goes to a vote is at the Jan. 25 Selectboard meeting.



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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Report from the Legislature

A new beginning



Rep. Mike
Yantachka

As the world reacted in shock to the events unfolding in Washington, D.C. on January 6, the Vermont Legislature was convening for the 2021–2022 biennium. The storming of the U.S. Capitol for the first time since the War of 1812 by a mob egged on by a self-serving President, who refused to recognize that he lost the election, drew strong reactions throughout Vermont's state government. That afternoon Governor Scott condemned the lawlessness and called for the President's immediate resignation or removal from office.

The following day the Vermont House passed with a vote of 130 to 16 a resolution sponsored by Democrats, Republicans, Progressives and Independents calling for the same. (The text of the resolution can be found at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/J.R.H.1>.) In my lifetime, only the 9/11 attack on our nation's capital compares, and this time it was against the Constitution and our democracy itself by our own citizens. This is not what America stands for, and we need the country to

make a course correction immediately. I hope that the nation can begin to resolve our deep political differences starting today.

Here in Vermont the Legislature began its work not in the usual fashion with pomp and circumstance in a packed chamber with friends and relatives looking on as members, new and returning, were sworn in, but from our own homes over Zoom. The House unanimously elected its Speaker, Representative Jill Krowinski of Burlington, as well as the Clerk of the House, Betsy Ann Wrask. Members were assigned to committees, and resolutions were passed to formalize the rules and procedures under which the Legislature will operate while the pandemic emergency order is in place.

Traditionally, the governor would give his inaugural speech to a joint session of the House and Senate in the House chamber. This year, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Governor Scott chose to deliver the speech on television in the evening. He did briefly address the joint session online earlier in the afternoon, congratulating the historic ascension of women to almost all the leadership positions in the Legislature. In the House they include Speaker Jill Krowinski, Democratic Majority Lead-



Vermont State House.

Photo by Mike Yantachka

er Emily Long of Newfane, Republican Minority Leader Pattie McCoy of Poultney, and Progressive Minority Leader Selene Colburn of Burlington. The Senate is led by Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, President Pro Tempore Becca Balint, and Democratic

Majority Leader Alison Clarkson. Senator Randy Brock was elected as the Republican Minority Leader.

In his address to the Legislature, Governor Scott acknowledged the necessity of working remotely, keeping meetings open to the public online, and working together for the benefit of all Vermonters. He said that while the pandemic brought heartache to many, it also showed that Vermonters care for each other. This care has made Vermont more successful in controlling the spread of the virus than many other states. While we cannot know when life will get back to normal, there is a light at the end of the tunnel because of the vaccines that are now available and being distributed. He reiterated his long-standing goals of growing the economy, protecting the vulnerable, and making Vermont more affordable, goals that are shared by legislators as well. The hard work now begins on how to achieve those goals.

I welcome your emails (myantachka.dfa@gmail.com) or phone calls (802-233-5238). This article and others can be found at my website (MikeYantachka.com).

Letters to the Editor

U.S. should sign treaty to ban nuclear weapons

To the editor:

A historic step has been taken that will make the world safer and more secure.

As we are deep in worry about the future due to covid-19, domestic terrorism, climate disasters, health care, the economy, and the future of democracy, we often forget the danger of nuclear war. So it was encouraging to hear that on October 24, 2020, Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. With this 50th ratification, the treaty will enter into force on January 22, 2021, at which time it will become illegal to possess, use, and threaten to use nuclear weapons in these 50 countries.

I have been involved in the effort to ban nuclear weapons for 60 years. A more recent campaign began in 2007 with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons made up of over 500 non-governmental organizations from 103 countries.

While the United States chose to boycott the negotiations in 2017 and has refused to sign the treaty, it still has the potential to significantly impact U.S. behavior regarding nuclear weapons issues. Previous weapon prohibition treaties, including the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, have demonstrated that changing international norms leads to concrete changes in policies and behaviors, even in countries not party to the treaty.

Article One of the treaty prohibits states parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

The treaty also expresses in its preamble deep concern "about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons." It further recognizes "the consequent need to completely eliminate such weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances."

If the US were to suddenly show interest in joining the treaty, additional countries would almost certainly join according to nuclearban.us.

The treaty is a clear indication that the majority of the world's countries no longer accept nuclear weapons and do not consider them legitimate. It demonstrates that the indiscriminate mass killing of civilians is unacceptable and that it is not possible to use nuclear weapons consistent with the laws of war. I am urging our country to abide by international law in the future by joining other countries in ratifying the treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The treaty can be read in its entirety at <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>.

Catherine Bock

Thank you for supporting Rotary

To the editor:

I want to thank the residents of the three towns of Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg that our Rotary Club serves for the generous support during a challenging year for all of us. Covid increased the needs for basic things like food and warm clothing for many in our community. Like many of you, our Rotary Club shifted to on-line meetings, and our members found creative and safe ways to continue to provide essential hands-on and financial support for the food shelves, the schools and many families in our towns.

We could not have done this without

the generous support from so many of you. The donations of cash, warm winter clothing, and local business and nonprofit support allowed our Club to continue our mission to meet needs in the three towns. Thank you from all of us in the Rotary Club of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg. You can always go to our website rotaryclubofcsh.org or to rotary.org to learn more about who we are and what we do.

THANK YOU from all of us. We wish all of you a safe, healthy and more normal 2021!

Chris Davis, President
Rotary Club of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg

Words matter

To the editor:

As I reflect on what happened in our nation's capital on Wednesday last, I remind myself that words truly do matter. And it matters

not who we are or what position we hold, each of us has a responsibility in our own individual lives to think before we speak because our words do matter.

We can choose to use our words to encourage someone or criticize and humiliate...to be positive or negative...to bring healing and peace or to promote divisiveness and hate. It should be painfully apparent to all of us the flaws that exist in our society today and each of us has a responsibility to do whatever we can to learn how we got to where we are and then to start the journey towards coming together and healing.

I would like to suggest that if you have not yet read *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, this would be a good time to pick up a copy and read it. Before we can begin to heal, we need to begin to understand how we got here.

Stay safe, stay well,
Trina Bianchi

Around Town

Congratulations:

—to **Kate Brennan Keech** and **Ava Rohrbaugh** whose poems were selected to appear in issues of the Burlington Free Press Young Writers Project. Ava wrote about her pet friend, “Crystal Dog” saying that he likes it when she takes his collar off and allows him to go free. Going free in the forest, he chooses what to sniff and what tracks to follow. He tends to lose his identity as a dog, that he “burns brighter than the homely crystal dog.” Ava wonders whether there is something like this shift away from being coddled, what she calls “crinkled ancient but there nonetheless,” in all of us.

Kate had two of her poems make two separate Writers Projects. One appeared Christmas day last year; the other Jan. 8. In December she wished “Goodbye 2020.” The year brought a number of things to human culture that had not appeared previously—most brought on by the corona virus. Listing items and actions that she hoped would not continue beyond 2020, she says she won’t miss them at all (including, incidentally, a “president who doesn’t know a thing”).

Kate’s second poem, “Wonderful Things,” opens with the author saying “This poem is irrelevant. Seriously, you have better things to do.” However, after listing a batch of better things to do, she closes by saying that if the reader is not doing “an infinite number of wonderful things . . . feel free to read this poem.”

—to Charlotte resident and attorney **Gary Franklin** for being named Managing Shareholder and Board Chair for the Burlington law firm of Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer. Having built a successful law practice over the years in New York and California as well as Vermont, Gary served as president of both

the Chittenden County and Vermont Bar Associations.

—and “hail, hail Rock and Roll” to guitarist and bandleader **Xander Naylor**, who has produced another album, this one titled *Continuum*. According to Chris Farnsworth, music reviewer for Seven Days, this follow-up album to *Transition*, has ascended to another level. Xander grew up in Charlotte before moving to New York to study his musical craft, earning a degree in jazz performance. He is the son of Magdalena Naylor and the late Thomas Naylor.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Andy Mansfield** of Charlotte who passed away Dec. 18 at the age of 81. Born in Stowe, he moved to Charlotte where he worked as a skilled finish carpenter, performing largely custom work, home items such as cabinets, gun cases, even doll houses. Andy married Marlene Russell in 1980. She predeceased him. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, those wishing to remember him consider making a donation to the Humane Society of Chittenden County.

is extended to family and friends of **Elizabeth Cilley**, most recently of Elderwood in Burlington and prior to that a longtime resident of Essex Junction. Elizabeth died on Christmas Day at the age of 91. After a long teaching career, she retired in 1992 as head of the English Department at Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School in Essex. Her surviving family includes daughter Julie Voll and Julie’s husband, Peter, and daughter Andrea Cilley, all of Charlotte. The family asks that those wishing to make donations in her memory consider doing so to the Heavenly Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

is extended to family and friends of **Norm Bean**, a longtime Charlotte dairy farmer who passed away Dec. 11 in Holly Hill, Florida at the age of 93. Norm and his wife, Jane, operated a dairy farm on the Charlotte/Hinesburg Road for over 50 years. She died in 2001. Norm is survived by his daughter Diane Johnson of Charlotte, a son living in Shoreham, two sisters and two brothers plus numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Donations in Norm’s name may be made to Halifax Health Hospice, 3800 Woodbriar Trail, Port Orange, FL 32129.

Leo G. LaBerge

Leo G. LaBerge (aka Lee, Butch), 65, of Charlotte passed away on Dec. 23 after a long illness. He was the fifth child of Reina and Leo LaBerge of Charlotte.

He graduated from CVUHS in Hinesburg in 1972. He went to VT Technical College in Randolph, graduating in 1976 with an associate’s degree in Architecture.



Leo G. LaBerge

He worked many different jobs in many different fields, including as caregiver for our father during his final illnesses; he also worked for the Post Office for several years.

He was pre-deceased by both our parents, his sisters Colleen LaBerge McGrath, Bedette LaBerge Viens, Renette LaBerge Procopio, and his brother, Roland Laberge.

He is survived by his brothers Gerard (Beth) LaBerge of Barre, Donald Laberge of Charlotte, and Marcel LaBerge of Burlington, and his sisters Leona LaBerge of South Burlington, Lynn (Tom) Croto of Essex, Viv LaBerge of Canaan, CT, and Julie (Kevin) Lusignan of Milton. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews, and good friends Nancy Dyke of Bristol, Mike Yantachka of Charlotte, and Kingsley Nice of Ohio.

Due to Covid-19 issues, no funeral services will be held. Instead of flowers send hugs and prayer to those we love in Heaven.

William McHenry Keyser

After struggling with aggressive pneumonia and complications from lifelong diabetes, William McHenry Keyser died peacefully on Dec. 15 with his wife, Virginia, by his side near their new home in Lake Wales, FL.

Mac was born on Aug. 2, 1952, in New Bedford, Mass., near Marion, a treasured place where he spent time every summer with his family. The son of R. Brent Keyser and Helen Angier Keyser, Mac attended the Gilman School and the Harvey School and later graduated from Middlesex School. While attending New England College,

his love of music and skiing led to his moonlighting as a disc jockey and working on the ski patrol at nearby Pat’s Peak Mountain. Upon graduating from NEC, he moved to Vermont, where he resided for more than 40 years, the last 20 in Charlotte.



William McHenry Keyser

During summers in Marion, he became an accomplished sailboat racer and learned to tinker, taking things apart and making them whole again—tractors, cars and various engines. He seemed to have every tool. He was best known for his ability to work on bikes. You knew a bike dropped off for a simple tune-up would be returned spanking clean and perhaps with one or more parts completely rebuilt.

The Shelburne Bike Club, established by Mac in the 1980s, continues to this day as the Wednesday Night Riders. Many of these cyclist joined Mac in the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI), riding across Iowa on a dozen different Julys. Mac’s biking trips introduced many nieces and nephews to biking, and he made life long friends along the way.

Mac will be remembered for his love of puzzles and his competitiveness playing backgammon—best played with a mai tai in hand. He looked equally at ease wearing bow ties, cycling spandex or suspenders with his Carharts. His humor and good nature kindled many loyal friends. His strength and ability to meet his many health challenges stoically and without complaint never wavered and amazed us all.

Over the course of time, however, the wear and tear from his medical conditions presented even greater hardships. Virginia was his partner in facing the daily challenges, and they strived to live life to the fullest, doing the things they loved together. Mac always lived his life on his terms, and when his body finally ebbed, he was ready with courage to say goodbye, sharing a hint of his smile. He was a remarkable soul and will be remembered and profoundly missed by so many who were fortunate enough to know him.

Mac is survived by his wife of 24 years, Virginia Bartholomew Keyser; his mother, Helen A. Trumbull, and stepfather, Walter H. Trumbull; his sister, Leigh Keyser Phillips (Peter); his brothers, Donald A. Keyser (Anne) and Peter S. Adamson (Mary); and numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren. He was predeceased by his father and his sister, Elizabeth H. Keyser Evans.

A memorial service will be held next summer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mac’s memory to his boyhood summer camp, Kieve Wavus Education, P.O. Box 169, Nobleboro, ME 04555, or to Local Motion, 1 Steele St., Suite 103, Burlington, VT 05401.

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Town

Your Rotary Club in 2020

John Hammer
CONTRIBUTOR

In days of yore, if you asked anyone about Rotary, they would say, “Oh, it’s just a group of old men sitting around smoking cigars.” That may have been true in the days of our grandparents, but not now, certainly not in the case of the Rotary Club of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg. In this past year, the role of our Rotary Club and its members has taken on a series of assistive and support services for people in need as the result of the coronavirus pandemic.

In recent years, many of the Rotary’s activities centered around specific projects such as building walkways and bridges in the wildlife refuge, a compost building at the Charlotte Central School or the Charlotte Beach attendant hut. The pandemic has added another important layer for members who follow the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self.” Food insecurity in Vermont has been reported to be in the neighborhood of 40%, and a major food delivery service has been created centered around the schools of the Champlain Valley School District. This program, run by the district and supported largely by volunteers, provides full meals to needy students under 18 from the district’s schools. The service has provided 133,370 meals within the district since July when Rotary first began providing help to the program.

Scott Wagner, food service manager for the CVSD, said, “It was all about helping people and feeding people for us, and the Rotary Club has been right there with us as partners.” Rotary member Carrie Fenn has been working assiduously in scheduling support for those who have worked in the kitchens, handling distribution and even to the point of riding school buses that are used to deliver meals to families unable to get to the distribution points. Carrie, in her usual self-effacing way, passed on the credit to the program’s organizers. She said, “The CVSD food program runs like a well-oiled machine—from Scott on to the individual school program directors. Rotary members have been able to jump in and support the critical work of these programs for students experiencing food insecurity.”

The service continues right through vacation times, so that needy children are provided with healthy nutrition.

In other sectors of the food chain, Rotarians served during the summer in the Charlotte School garden, weeding, watering and harvesting food for the school. During Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Club donated their usual annual gifts of holiday turkeys and hams to food shelves in its three towns. This year’s needs have increased, and 26 turkeys and hams have been delivered through the Charlotte Food Shelf. This, plus substantial donations to food shelves and Meals on Wheels have rounded out this



Sherry Beaty, who runs the Charlotte Central School kitchen, and Linda Gilbert prepared meal deliveries.

past year’s food activities with no end in sight.

Another pandemic-related effort was originated by the wife of a member. She is a teacher at Shelburne Central School and identified a serious need this year for winter clothing for children and families in the district. The highly successful drive resulted in a flood of donations in all three towns. Rotarians met the challenge of cleaning, sorting and distributing clothing to the school counselors who coordinated the identification and final distribution of clothing. The program will continue into the winter term as needs are identified. Special thanks are due to All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne for providing storage space and the Wash Shed in the Shelburne Shopping Park for providing free washing and drying machines.

Chris Davis, current president of the Club and a resident of Charlotte, gave high praise for the support it receives from its constituent communities. He said, “A thank you for the generosity and support our Club has had in donations of winter clothing and funds even during these challenging COVID times and how critical that support has been to our Club’s ability to serve the essential community needs this past year and going forward with primary needs being food security, winter clothing for kids and families, and the college scholarships the Club is committed to support through VSAC.”

The Club meets each Wednesday morning at 7:30. Ordinarily you would find the meeting in the Fellowship Hall behind Shelburne’s Trinity Episcopal Church, but, as with so any other organizations, it currently meets by Zoom. Access and entrance code can be obtained by emailing Bikeped@gmavt.net. Information on the Club’s activities can be found on its website at RotaryClubofCSH.org or look for the club’s Facebook page under the title Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary.



Above: Susan Grimes (Shelburne), Linda Gilbert (Charlotte), and Chris Davis (Charlotte) socially distance in the garden. Below: The gardening crew rested at Philo Ridge Farm after working in the CCS Garden, from left to right, Linda Gilbert, Susanne and Chris Davis, Keith Walsh, Carrie Fenn, Susan Grimes.

Courtesy photos



Hi, Neighbor!

Debbie Lamden: Making life better for Vermonters with special needs



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

In 1989, Debbie Lamden’s life was turned upside down. Her son, Ari, was born after just 24 weeks of pregnancy, weighing only a pound and a half. A stained-glass artist by profession, Lamden decided to dedicate her

life to finding ways to help Ari and others with special needs engage in the same kinds of activities as other children. She founded Partners in Adventure in 1999 to help accomplish that goal.

“In my wildest dreams I couldn’t have imagined the way it’s grown,” Lamden said. Partners in Adventure began as a summer camp but expanded to include a winter camp and year-round programming, with events like movie nights and dress-up dinner and dancing socials, serving 600 people a year. “There was such a need for it,” Lamden said. “Now there are similar programs, but when we started, it was very unusual.”

This year, Covid-19 prevented the summer camp and other in-person events from happening, and Lamden worried about her son and others who have attended year after year. “We open up a whole world of social experience that these young people have never had,” she said. “Outside of Partners in Adventure, it’s hard for them to make new friends and integrate into the community.” Determined not to let her campers down, Lamden huddled with her staff to find a way to continue the programming, a task made harder by the fact that the organization’s two main fundraisers, a Calcutta game night and a golf tournament at Vermont National Country Club, also had to be cancelled.

Lamden credits her staff and PIA partner



Left: Debbie Lamden started Partners in Adventure to give her son, Ari, opportunities to socialize and make connections with other children with special needs. Right: An artist by nature, Debbie Lamden works with stained glass, makes jewelry, and paints. *Courtesy photos*



Sue Minter with pulling together events that kept campers engaged throughout the summer. A six-week online program featured activities that included dancing, science, and arts and crafts. Staff and some of the workshop providers like musician Jon Gailmor still received payment for their services and four University of Vermont interns chipped in to create high-quality videos. Video content included sessions focused on beekeeping, PIA’s wheelchair accessible raised-bed gardens at Ethan Allen Homestead, and a series about chickens with segments on collecting eggs and cooking a vegetable omelet. “They sound pretty simple,” Lamden said “but they were wonderfully done with borders and colors and pop-ups.”

The videos were offered for free through a private Google site and 36 kids took part. Many of the programs included arts and crafts activities, so Lamden provided those materials free for pickup for those who couldn’t afford to purchase them. “It’s hard to know what will happen as we move forward,” she said “but I believe we’ll get through this and it will just be a glitch in the big picture.”

In 2011, PIA branched out to create Adventures in Granola as a way of providing employment to people with special needs. That venture continued this year but in a scaled down version because they could no longer use a communal kitchen. Many PIA campers sell the granola at farmers markets. Those who are non-verbal have a button they can push to provide prospective buyers with information on the product.

Lamden has a fine arts degree from the Boston Museum School. After graduation, she moved to Vermont and started Charlotte Glassworks across from the Old Brick Store. She stayed at that location from 1977 to 1981 before moving her operations to Burlington and is pleased to report that many of her creations can still

be found in residences and commercial establishments throughout the state. After Ari’s birth she shifted gears and worked for the Vermont Parent Information Center before starting Partners in Adventure. In 1995, she returned to her artistic roots when she started Debbie Lamden Jewelry, but the pandemic has given her time to pick up her paintbrushes again. “I never stopped being an artist,” she said. “Art has always been the balance in my life.”

Having time to paint has helped propel Lamden toward her next career move. “I’m well past the age of retirement,” she said “and I have wanted to have more of my own time.” Lamden will be turning the reins of Partners in Adventure over to Joan Martin, who has served on the board since 2017. “I see myself staying until the summer,” Lamden said “but then I’ll be ready to leave.”

Lamden loves that there are campers, aides and staff members who have been with the organization for five to 10 years and hopes they will stay for many more. “It’s pretty amazing what we’ve accomplished,” she said. “I’m very proud of what we’ve done.”

Winter wonderland was here



It'll be back again, don't worry. The winter snow of Christmas week was hopefully a precursor of beauty to come. Photo by Quinn Sunderland

ZONING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The agreement also stipulates that inquiries from prospective future employers will consist of “a letter which states only the dates of employment, positions held, and a copy of the job description for the position.”

On July 24, the Selectboard issued an oral warning to Morgan regarding job performance; prior to this point, his performance reviews were positive. In mid-October of 2020, the Selectboard then issued a written reprimand to Morgan regarding his job performance, of which The Charlotte News obtained a copy. The reprimand cited several areas in which the Selectboard and Morgan’s supervisors said his job performance was not meeting expectations.

Through a letter sent by his legal counsel, employment attorney John Franco, Morgan challenged the written reprimand. The Charlotte News also obtained a copy of this document, which argues that “the Written Reprimand is without legal effect” because the town failed to follow its own personnel policies in warning and issuing the reprimand, and that the reprimand “prejudged the matter in violation of his Loudermill procedural due process rights under the 14th Amendment.” It also states that, despite the town’s assertion that Morgan was not performing to expected standards, “there are no established standards that he is accused of violating...notice of such standards are required for there to be just cause to reprimand him.”

The grievance submitted by Franco also asserts that certain grounds for reprimand cited in the formal complaint against Morgan “would impose de facto standards in contradiction to the requirements of the Planning Act.”

On Dec. 17, after over a dozen executive sessions regarding Morgan’s employment, the town formally withdrew the reprimand. It read that in order to “rule-out any possible ambiguity” regarding employment expectations, the Selectboard had revised the ZA job description with the intent to clarify

expectations and improve job performance in the future.

“Therefore, the Selectboard does hereby rescind the written reprimand and it will be expunged from his personnel file and it will not be considered in any later disciplinary matter.” The Selectboard denied Morgan’s request to reimburse his attorney fees.

The formal withdrawal was signed by Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow and members Jim Faulkner and Louise McCarren. The two other members, Carrie Spear and Frank Tenney, recused themselves from the decision because of a separate matter currently before the Zoning Board Adjustment, of which Tenney is the chair. Spear has an application under consideration with the ZBA; at a meeting in December, Morgan said he had put the application in front of the ZBA in the first place due to pressure from Tenney and others on town boards.

Morgan said that he has no comment regarding the reprimand withdrawal or the separation agreement “at the moment.”

At the Jan. 4 Selectboard meeting, the board began plans to refine the job description and pay grade for the new ZA. The Planning Commission nominates applicants for the job and then the Selectboard appoints the person to the position, which is held for three years.

Krasnow wrote in an email to The Charlotte News, “The Selectboard is moving as quickly as possible to fill the position....Hopefully the job will be posted this week. My guess is there will be a different configuration than it is now, but that’s conjecture and is entirely up to the Selectboard to decide.”

At last week’s Selectboard meeting, after accepting Morgan’s resignation, the board approved a familiar face to temporarily hold the job until a permanent replacement is found: Jeannine McCrumb, who last held the position full time in 2015. Morgan’s other responsibilities will be covered by other town employees and volunteers until someone new is hired.

Red Onion opens its doors in Charlotte

The well-known and much-loved Red Onion Café opened with a rush on Wednesday morning that was still going at lunch time. After closing its doors in Burlington due to financial struggles brought on by high rent on Church Street and a pandemic-related drop in business, the sandwich shop is back open at Charlotte Crossings (the former Vermont Wildflower Farm) on Route 7. The breakfast and lunch menus remain the same as in the shop’s previous location, including the famed Red Onion sandwich. Orders can be placed ahead at 425-3194.

Photos by Chea Waters Evans



Education

Hitting the road from home: College visits during a pandemic

Margo Bartsch
CONTRIBUTOR

With the start of the new year, the tradition of college road trips during February break should be on the radar. How can road trips continue during the pandemic? Welcome to the virtual campus tour! With nearly 10 months since the coronavirus pandemic shut down the world and disrupted American life, education as we know it has changed. For colleges, Zoom classes, hybrid learning and gap years are common terms that were previously unfamiliar. The virtual road trip helps families become familiar with each college’s academic options and distinct campus community, while the college tracks the student’s engagement and gauges the student’s intent to attend.

The college road trip has a history of being a rite of passage. Movies such as College Road Trip with Raven Simone highlight the funny debacles of an overprotective father and his confident daughter trying to find her perfect college fit (spoiler alert: she chooses Georgetown over my alma mater of Northwestern). Until the pandemic, road trips involved researching the college’s website, registering for an admissions tour and information session, and attending a college class. Currently, however, campus visits have become an online experience.

Scheduling a virtual campus tour and



Photo courtesy pexels.com

information session allows the student to listen to admission officers and current college students tout the strengths and unique character of each college. Arranging the tour and information session, typically around an hour each, can be done on the Admission’s website. In registering for an on-campus or online session, each college presents an overview of the college’s academic programs,

study abroad choices, club activities and financial aid options. Each college keeps track of a student’s engagement to learn more about the school. This is a chance for students to ask questions during the forums and email follow-up questions for additional information. The more information, the better!

If a family is planning to travel near a college, the student can contact admissions to notify them of the expected visit. In some cases, the admissions team can arrange a personal tour; however, if the school is not open, then the family might be able to walk around campus and follow an online tour. Check each college’s website about their campus visit policies during the pandemic. For example, Bowdoin College offers a student-led virtual tour that follows an on-campus route (at your own pace) followed by a Zoom question and answer session.

If a campus is closed, a student can still visit campus to get a feel for the size, environment and location. Check with the admissions website to confirm that the school is allowing people to visit. It can also be helpful to contact a local alumnus. It is insightful to have a personal perspective while walking around campus to highlight some traditions and campus pulse. Most alumni receive a quarterly magazine making them aware of new opportunities and general college trends.

Once a student visits a campus (virtually or in-person), the college tracks the visit. The student registers with their email and provides general information such as their high school, interests and graduation year. Most colleges will begin emailing students college updates. Open these emails and read them—colleges are tracking your engagement. In some cases, colleges will invite students to Zoom or Facetime interviews with admissions officers.

Many college applications include questions, “Why X-College,” within various word counts, such as “Why Dartmouth” at 100 words or “Why University of Vermont” at 500 words. In attending virtual tours and on campus visits, students can reflect on their experiences with the college and shed insight into their personal goals as a student. Colleges prioritize specific essays since it helps to distinguish a student’s future engagement and contribution to the campus.

Distinctive applications are not achieved overnight. Compelling essays trace a student’s interests and achievements over time. Throughout college road trips, there are honest discoveries revealing how their past will influence their future.

Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admissions business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.

Preschool lottery coming soon

Staff report

Champlain Valley School District school-based Early Education Programs are now accepting applications for a random preschool lottery drawing for the 2021-22 school year. The part-time, partial-day, preschool classrooms are 5 STARS licensed early education programs that provide play-based, developmentally appropriate environments for all children in an inclusive setting. The curriculum is based on the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) and Teaching Strategies Gold. The district says they “believe that a diverse classroom offers opportunities for adults and children to practice acceptance and compassion and also provides a broad range of learning experiences.”

Programs follow the CVSD school calendar. Students who will be age 3 or older by September 1, 2021, who have not enrolled in kindergarten, are eligible to enter the lottery. Families selected for and choosing school-based programs are accessing their Act 166 funding for universal preschool there.



Image by Aline Ponce from Pixabay

All applications must be received by Feb. 5, 2021. They are located on the CVSD website under 2021-2022 Lottery Application. Students will be selected via a lottery and families notified in February.

The early childhood education team is available to screen your child, ages three to five, if you have any concerns about your child’s development in any of these areas: Communication, Social-Emotional, Motor Skills, Adaptive Skills or Cognitive Skills. Please contact Kristin Eisensmith at keisensmith@cvsdvt.org.

Opinion

Watching rebellion back home

Lewis Mudge

In 2013 my wife and I had plans to return to Vermont from our home in Rwanda so she could give birth to our first child. As a human rights researcher and investigator, I had one more trip to conduct in the Central African Republic. The country was reeling from a coup, rebels had just taken the capital, Bangui, and I was part of a team documenting war crimes that were continuing in the countryside. As I walked amidst the ruins of the courthouse destroyed by rebel fighters, an old teacher friend, Jean-Daniel, explained, “They wanted to break everything they could, they don’t want to build, they just want to destroy.”

The rebel coalition that took over the Central African Republic were called the Seleka, and almost eight years on, it is still hard to know what they were for. What is much easier is to define them based on what they were against: basic human rights, stability, development and religious tolerance. They ruled by fiat, destroying at will, and it took a UN peacekeeping force (who are still on the ground) to bring a modicum of stability to the capital.

We had set out from the capital with an aim to document serious crimes: the deliberate killing of civilians and cases of rape used as a weapon of war. But we did not expect such levels of destruction. In town after town, we saw the Seleka dismantling the image of the Central African state: buildings were ransacked, documents were burned. In Kaga Bandoro I watched as Seleka fighters stormed the town hall, pulling the building apart. The town court was ransacked by troops. The primary school was pillaged. The Seleka fighters occasionally approached and yelled in mixed French and Sango, “This is our country! We are in charge here!”

I could have never imagined my time in the Central African Republic could have prepared me for seeing the same hatred and destruction in our own country. Like many Charloters, I watched in dismay last week as a mob, incited and encouraged by our president, attacked the Capitol. I stared in disbelief as the news commentators talked of casualties, congresspeople in hiding, and offices occupied. But I also had reference points from a profession that does not seem so distant anymore.

The mob that attacked the Capitol pulled pages straight from an autocratic playbook: make those who refuse to bend do so and enforce your will. They employed tactics of warlords, authoritarians and dictators. They had as much disregard for democratic institutions as they do for the democratic process. They are only a few steps removed from the Seleka’s foot soldiers, two of whose leaders go on trial next month at the International Criminal Court.

As I watch the mob at the Capitol scream, “This is our house, let’s take it back,” I felt a pit in my stomach. For those of us who have witnessed or lived through societal breakdowns, days like January 6 are a warning. Central African Republic is one example where I watched firsthand how norms are cast aside, one by one, and red lines are crossed. First a rebel smashed a window at the town hall in Kaga Bandoro. Facing no recrimination, he broke down a door. Moments later, he entered and started to tear the building apart. I saw the same action at play in Washington. For those heady moments, when the pro-Trump mob in Washington thought they had achieved a victory, they tried to break down our society.

For many of us in Charlotte, that the horror of events last week in Washington seems far off. In the aftermath of the mob’s wrath my wife and I had homeschooling to deal with. The kids made a desperate plea to go sledding as last Wednesday wrapped up, and we relented. Most of us continue to strive to be good Vermonters amid COVID, which means to mask up, social distance, be considerate about going out and wait patiently for a vaccine. The pandemic continues to define our life. But let us not get complacent about what we saw last week. Strong-men and their foot soldiers thrive in an atmosphere of terror. And the one thing they fear, above all else, is accountability.

We must demand that our state-wide representatives continue to call for all those who planned and incited this riot to be held accountable. If some of those Vermonters who floated state regulations by cramming themselves into a bus to drive down to the melee are found to have participated, they must face consequences too.

Back in Central African Republic in 2013, as my friend and I left the courthouse, now occupied by Seleka troops, we were stopped at a rebel roadblock. A young fighter with an AK-47 slung over his shoulder demanded money and cigarettes. He waved the gun in our faces and insisted that we pay because this was “his town” and “he was in charge.” He only let us pass when he recognized my friend as his former teacher. Jean-Daniel explained: “I was teaching him six months ago. Now he drives around on a stolen motorcycle and lives off the money he extorts at this roadblock.” I asked how it could be possible, that someone could so quickly resort to banditry. “He started to believe his own rhetoric,” my friend said. “He really believes this country was for him and his cohorts alone. And nobody stood up to him.”

Lewis Mudge is the Central Africa Director at Human Rights Watch. He lives on Greenbush Road.



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Town

Town meeting, town warning, running for office—all different this year

Mary Mead
TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

Town Meeting as we have been accustomed to will not be happening this year. Every article on the Town Warning will be voted on by Australian Ballot. There will be an informational Selectboard Meeting, held by Zoom, within 10 days of March 2, to discuss all Articles. But once the Warning is set by the Selectboard, there is no opportunity to amend any article.

Every Article included on the Warning will be voted on by Australian Ballot exactly as it is stated on the Warning. If you are interested in the budget or any other Articles that might be up for discussion for inclusion on the Warning, you should be attending the Selectboard meetings right now. The Selectboard is currently planning on having the Warning completed by Jan. 25, 2021. The last day to post the Warning is Jan. 31, 2021.

Jan. 14, 2021 is the last day for voters

to file a petition with the Town Clerk to have an article appear on the ballot. The petition must contain signatures from at least 5% of the registered voters (3291) of Charlotte.

The petition requirement for people wishing to run for office is not in play this year. The only requirement for getting your name on the ballot is to fill out a Consent of Candidate form, which you can request from the Town Clerk's office or you can print off of the town website by going to charlottetv.org and clicking on the Town Clerk tab. You will find the form on the bottom of that page along with a list of offices that are up for election this March. The consent form is due back at the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25.

Voting will again be at the Town Hall, not Charlotte Central School. I anticipate a large number of absentee ballot requests, but you can also vote in person at the Town Hall if you like. You can request your ballot from us any time now, either by phone or email or on the Secretary of

State's website, sos.vermont.gov. Ballots will be available by Feb. 10. After that date, you will also be able to come to the office and pick up your ballot or vote early right at Town Hall as well. If you have requested an absentee ballot in the past, and you would like to continue to vote by absentee, you still have to make a new request for 2021.

The following offices are up for grabs this year, and these candidates have filed paperwork:

Auditor: 1, 2 & 3-year terms available
Mike Dunbar filed for 1-year term.

Cemetery Commissioner: 1, 2 & 3-year terms available

CVSD School Director: 3-year term

Library Trustee: 5-year term
Robert Smith (incumbent) filed.

Delinquent Tax Collector: 1-year term
Mary Mead (incumbent) filed.

Town Moderator: 1-year term

Road Commissioner: 1-year term

Selectboard: 2-year term
Mike Dunbar filed; Frank Tenney (incumbent) filed.

Selectboard: 3-year term
Dale Knowles filed.

Town Agent: 1-year term

Town Clerk: 3-year term

Mary Mead (incumbent) filed.

Town Treasurer: 3-year term
Mary Mead (incumbent) filed.

Trustee of Public Funds:
1, 2 & 3-year terms
Moe Harvey (incumbent) filed for 3-year term.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email us!

Mary A. Mead
Sy Koerner

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425-3071

Community Partners update



Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTOR

The Charlotte Community Partners took a break over the holidays, but we are now back in the saddle. The Resilience Surveys that you completed online are being tabulated; the ones that folks did manually have

all been collected, and that data will now be added to the online data. We don't yet

have the results nor know the total number of surveys that were completed, but we are meeting again on Jan. 18 and at that time should have more information to share.

We hope that many of you took advantage of this opportunity to let your voice be heard so that we learn where improvements can be made in our town to make it an even better place to live and raise a family.

2020 was certainly a most unusual and for many families a very challenging year. With the advent of the vaccine and the administering of same within our state, we can begin to see light at the end of what has been a very long and dark tunnel. Let us continue to march on this path until all who want the vaccine get it and hope that we can turn the page and leave COVID in the dust behind us.

Available resources:

Food and meals

The school lunch program continues whether your students are in school or learning from home. Visit cvsdvt.org,

click on "District Resources," click on "Menus," or call Scott Wagner at 802-871-6198.

The Charlotte Food Shelf is 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—available for referrals and questions.

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

NFI Vermont, access through 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.

Assistance with utility bills

The Vermont Department of Public Service has arranged for the local

community action agencies to assist people who are not able to access the application for help with overdue electric, gas, telecom or water bills online. Call CVOEO Monday–Friday at 802-863-6248. Bills need to be 60 or more days overdue.

Financial assistance

Emergency financial assistance is available through the Food Shelf, Charlotte Congregational Church and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Call 425-3252 or 425-3130.

The latest information

Stay abreast of the ongoing news in Vermont with respect to CV-19, check on what is opening, new regulations for traveling into our state, where to get a test if you need one, and how to remain safe and well. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>.

Until next time, stay safe, stay well and Happy New Year!



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On Books

What you might consider reading next, Part One



Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

ready. I really am.

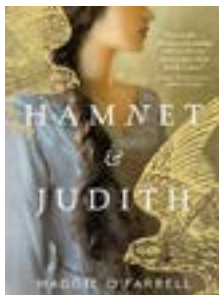
I have read some good books since you last heard from me. One of the best, if not the best book I read all year was Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*. Riveting and beautifully written, I savored every word, every sentence. Set in 1580s England, a young man forced to pay off his tempestuous father's loans by teaching Latin to a handful of kids at a neighboring farmhouse catches a glimpse of a woman through the window.



This woman, he sees, has something wild about her. She carries something strange on her gloved hand, something which upon closer inspection turns out to be a falcon, which turns out to be her falcon, given to

her by a local priest, lovingly kept in an apple shed with a hood over its head. The young man is fascinated by this rather disheveled female creature calmly bearing a bird of prey, and he seeks her out. Turns out her name is Agnes (pronounced Ann-yis) and she is not a servant, as he had assumed, but a member of the family for whom he is working as a Latin teacher. Which makes things tricky, of course.

But, hold on. I don't want to spoil this for you. I want you to read this tale for yourself and let it unwind for you the way it did for me. Seamlessly, beautifully, hopping deftly back and forth in time. Bottom line is that this rather unlikely couple ends up marrying and having three children, two of whom are twins, *Hamnet and Judith*. I have not yet read any of O'Farrell's earlier books (I certainly will), but apparently, they are known to contain rather ominous forebodings. From *Hamnet*: "Every life has its kernel, its hub, its epicenter, from which everything flows out, to which everything returns. This moment is the absent mother's: the boy, the empty house, the deserted yard,



the unheard cry ... It will lie at her very core, for the rest of her life."

It is fascinating to read about life in the 16th century and fascinating to be prompted to imagine what Shakespeare's life might have been like, including the possible significance to him of his free-spirited wife and this special and much beloved son. *Hamnet* takes place during the bubonic plague, and at one point O'Farrell describes how the disease manages to reach the household of Agnes and her husband. But don't let this scare you off.

I did begin to read a different novel a couple of weeks ago that takes place during a time of plague, and I had to put it down. I just couldn't. It hit too close to home. But nothing like this happened to me with *Hamnet*, which, from the moment I started it, I could not put it down—very cliché, I know, but it really is very true in this case. This is a novel I will read again. (It might also make me read *Hamlet* again.) Warning, though: it's extremely popular right now, and like toilet paper in March 2020, hard to get your hands on. (I read this one on my Kindle.)

Another worthwhile read is *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. As with Maggie O'Farrell, I had not read any of this author's previous novels, so this was another first for me. Really impressive. Textured, rollicking

and dark, yet hopeful too, if that makes any sense. Set in a housing project, this book is crawling with characters. I could almost have used one of those keys that you find in some of the denser Russian novels that explain and remind brave readers who is who and how they are related/connected to so-and-so. This book, set in New York in the late 60s, is about love, crime, misdemeanors, longing, church, friendship, enemies, mysteries, faith, shame and secrets. Colorfully complex and textured, and very well written. Comic at times, and sometimes tragic. Wonderful dialog, especially between Sportcoat and his deceased wife, Hettie. Amazing names: Sportcoat, Bum-Bum, Hot Sausage, Soup, Jet... (I've got a thing for nicknames.)

James McBride was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Obama "for humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America."

Happy, happy new year, and may the days and months ahead bring health, blessings and peace to a weary, wounded, but hopefully hopeful world. Happy reading to you all!



Out Takes

Eat your hearts out, Vermont



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant
You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant
Walk right in it's around the back
Just a half a mile from the railroad track

And you can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant

Alice's Restaurant – Arlo Guthrie

Well, it certainly was not a Christmas present when the announcement came that Vermont's long-standing New England Culinary Institute (NECI) would close. For 40 years NECI trained chefs, providing them with educational credits as well as cooking skills; NECI enrolled as many as 800 students at its peak. Due to a severe drop in the restaurant business, more recently driven by the corona pandemic, causing a loss in cooking jobs, that enrollment had dropped dramatically.

Visiting NECI restaurants was worth road trips to Montpelier soon after we moved to Vermont in 1980. Later, in Burlington, eating at NECI Commons was a great choice. While most often we ate in the main restaurant section, I clearly remember an occasion when that seating was full and we were invited to sit at the preparation counter. It proved to be not only an eating pleasure but an educational one as well. The chef who trained the students also helped them prepare the food that we at the counter ate (much to our pleasure I may say). As he taught them, he

also taught the customers. As a result, we learned some of the tools of the trade and the menus of the moment.

I can't speak for the other customers, but I know I was drawn into learning-by-listening and testing the results. From my career "educational" bent, I felt it was a wonderful example of learning by doing with results tested—in this case, on your plate. I hate to see that opportunity lost.

As I look at other eating experiences, I see many of them connecting the food with learning. It happened whether we lived in Vermont or in Minnesota, so place was not an issue.

In Minnesota we became friends with a neighbor who was born and grew up in India. A Christian, he was at the low end of the social scale there and ended up migrating to this country where he gained college and post-graduate degrees and ran a laboratory at the Mayo Clinic.

He also introduced us to a small but delightful Indian restaurant in town. It was delightful because if we went there with our friend Chella, we were treated to true Indian cuisine that was over and above what was listed on the menu. I must admit to a certain feeling of being special as a result.

A couple of similar situations happened after we moved to Vermont, both, believe it or not, in Johnson. One happened to be an occasional meeting at the sandwich counter of the local deli with the late poet and playwright David Budbill. While we talked sandwiches not poetry or plays, food talk led me to *Judevine*, a stage

version of his poetry and, thus, pulled pork led to the mysteries of logging northern Vermont and the basis for Rusty DeWees' long-lasting stage character, "The Logger."

At the west end of Johnson, we discovered a bakery that made its own rolls, scones and other delicacies. Getting to know the owner, we discovered he was also a short order cook who, when he was not at the bakery counter, sat in his kitchen, questioning what we would like in our sandwiches. What began strictly as dessert became a give-and-take order, and we became regular customers.


Finally, I want to say a bit about food's ability to flavor communal connections. It happened in conjunction with our membership in a group of landowners in the Northeast Kingdom. Each of us owned property around a pond whose water had once been a source of electric power. The electric company had sold the lots around the pond, and the collective of landowners formed an association that governed its level and maintenance, such things as water quality, loons, moose, bears and fish, limitations on pond craft and any other matters that might affect things in and around the water.

Governing happened at an annual meeting of the owners when the group scrutinized what had happened the past year and planned for the upcoming one.

That was all fine and dandy, but what really mattered, once we had covered the agenda, was eating. Potluck brought people closer together than any or all of

the agenda items—baked beans created closer human interaction than milfoil maintenance. So, once again, food had a harmonizing effect on our lives.

I do hope the current pandemic will show signs of diminishing so that culinary matters will bring life back to our stomachs. If it doesn't, we will have to seek another galaxy. Aaah, restaurants of the universe may have to serve our spaceship! Science fiction author Douglas Adams knew this when he established the *Restaurant at the End of the Universe*.



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Sports

A Charlotte addition to All-State Field Hockey



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

In our Dec. 17 issue of *The Charlotte News* we listed the CVU women who earned honors as members of the Vermont All-State field hockey team. In doing so, we failed to include Charlotter Belle Brown, a Rice Memorial sophomore midfielder who is one of the “state’s most technically gifted players.” Her coach, Kelly McClintock, says she is “one of those players who gets her stick on the ground and comes up with red knuckles.” She also earned Burlington Free Press first team and Metro Division first team honors for the year. Belle, we apologize for our omission.

Local soccer All-Americans:

CVU’s Jesse Klein joined Milton’s Chance Rose as High School All Americans as selected by the United Coaches Soccer Organization. Both were also among six Vermont players earning All Region honors. Jesse was joined on that squad by her teammate Josie Pecor.

Kudos to local teams for 2020:

Beginning in January the CVU women’s basketball team—the “Big Red Machine”—buried Essex by 50 points to remain “not only unbeatable but nearly untouchable,” according to the Free Press.

The following month CVU senior Tali Giubardo overcame physical adversity from 15 months before to win the 2020 individual gymnastics title and lead the Redhawks to a team trophy.

In the summer baseball league, S.D. Ireland suffered only one loss in the shortened regular season and finished as the best in the Summer League tournament. The Ireland team consists largely of age-eligible CVU players.

Fall’s soccer finals saw both men and women from CVU come close but not quite on top in the state as the men lost to Essex in overtime and the women to South Burlington to break the Redhawk women’s 61-game win streak and their chance of winning a fourth straight state title.



CVU's Josie Pecor hounds the Wolves.

Photo by Al Frey

Gardening

Start pondering a pruning plan

Joan Weed
CONTRIBUTOR

As thoughts of the next gardening season are already coming to mind, I am reminded that we are approaching a good time for an important garden chore. You might think it’s something to do in a greenhouse or under lights in the basement, but no, this chore should and must be done outdoors.

March is the ideal time to prune trees and shrubs. This is when their skeletons and indeed “bones” are best noticed. The plants are still dormant and a few of the days are benign enough to venture outside for some bracing exercise. Tools for the job include secateurs, loppers and a handsaw. The diameter of the branches will help you choose the correct implement.

I recently had some professional tree surgeons take care of some dangerous, dangling limbs and also remove some pine trees. I would not have tried this on my own. For safety’s sake, it’s wise to choose the professionals for some jobs. Young trees or understory trees can be handled by backyard gardeners pretty easily.

One should be bold when it comes to pruning some shrubs. In our 20-plus years living here, our forsythia grove has been taken completely down to the ground at least twice. It returns in a few years, afresh with new growth. In between, I try to trim any extra-long branches to maintain shape while trying to keep a natural look. Lilacs are another stand-by that benefit from regular maintenance. The rule of thumb is to remove one third of the oldest trunks each year at ground level. Lilacs spring back with vigorous new growth after this

treatment. In fact, after the ’98 Ice Storm, one of our lilacs was flattened completely by a fallen tree. I thought it was a goner. After cleanup it sent out new growth—and you would be hard-pressed to notice it had been a victim.

Viburnum carlesii, or Korean Spice Bush, needs regular trimming. Azaleas also need to be kept in proportion with your garden design. Yews are another variety that can grow out of hand easily. Of these three and many others, one must be careful not to trim only new surface growth (unless you are aiming at topiary).

Reach into the plant and trim where the branch originates. If one trims only the surface growth you will end up with a green shell and no growth in the middle of the shrub. Search for crossing branches or branches aiming toward the center of the plant. Cut cleanly but leave a small collar of the limb in place (about 1/2 inch). Of course, any dead or diseased branches are noticeable now too. Good time to remove them.

You might notice young whips growing among your lilacs or alongside fruit trees. In the case of lilacs, you’ll want to leave a few select healthy ones to replace what you have removed. Alongside trees, trim the competing whips to the ground. Hollies and shrub roses have similar pruning needs. Look for outward facing nubs on the stem you are working on and cut at an angle about 1/4 inch above the nub. Imagine where you’d like to see a new branch form and grow.

Another kind of pruning is called coppicing. This is where you take a plant to the ground by trimming. I have done it successfully with cotinus, red-twigged dogwood and the aforementioned forsythia.



Late winter is the best time to prune trees and shrubs; now is a good time to start learning how to do it.

Photo by Joan Weed

It is important to know which shrubs can take a complete trim and which it is wiser to leave except for dead branches. The best way to learn is by attending a class or reading a book on the subject (with good diagrams) or studying other gardeners’ efforts. For example, rhododendrons are only pruned for shape or to remove dead limbs.

I hope you’ll try to manage those overgrown specimens in your garden. Be brave! Most shrubs can take a good trim now and then.

Town

Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

We are so excited to share that we are a recipient of American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries initiative. Stay tuned for details about plans

for community-wide conversations built on results from the Charlotte Resilience Assessment.

Looking for new books? Take a stroll down the library porch to see the titles on display. Check our Facebook page for the latest book details or join Margaret every Friday morning for a virtual browsing session (see details below).

Getting ready to garden? Sign up for the Charlotte Seed Library blog to stay up-to-date with the latest local gardening information: <https://charlotteseeditlibrary.org/>

Upcoming Programs at the Charlotte Library: Please contact the library at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for the Zoom registration links to our programs.

Coding Club

Wednesdays @ 3pm, beginning January 13

Get coding with Susanna and coding mentor Charlie! All levels are welcome to learn Scratch or hone their Scratch skills. Ready to take your coding know-how to the next level? We will have a breakout room with Charlie to work on different platforms. 4th grade and up.

Book Talk with Jesse Wegman Thursday, January 14 @ Noon

New York Times columnist and author, Jesse Wegman, shares the details from his latest book, *Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College*. "Wegman combines in-depth historical analysis and insight into contemporary politics to present a cogent argument that the Electoral College violates America's 'core democratic principles' and should be done away with..." Take a break from work or class and join us for this insightful and timely session.

Library Book Discussion: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin Thursday, January 14 @ 7:30pm

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died; his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in



its history; and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen...Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. These days, he can only see them as a sign of a world that is changing too rapidly. And then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore. It's a small package, though large in weight—an unexpected arrival that gives A.J. the opportunity to make his life over, the ability to see everything anew.

Book Chatter: The Gritty Mystery Friday, January 15 @ 10am

Meander: to take a winding or indirect course. We'll be doing just that! Join Margaret for a virtual stroll through the library collections. Focusing on a different topic or theme each week, she'll share new titles and some old favorites. There will be plenty of time to share your ideas and suggestions, too!

Mystery Book Group:

***Dead Men Don't Ski* by Patricia Moyes Monday, January 18 @ 10am**

The setting is the Italian Alps, where Henry Tibbett, on vacation from Scotland Yard, and his wife, Emmy, have settled in for some skiing. But their hopes for a holiday die when Henry uncovers an international smuggling ring involving some of the hotel guests. Then, a fellow guest who is alive when the ski lift leaves the top of the mountain is found dead when the lift touches bottom.

Craft & Chat

Tuesday, January 19 @ 2pm

Grab a cup of tea and your latest project and meet up with Susanna and fellow crafters for a relaxing hour of conversation and inspiration.

Men's Book Group:

***Oil & Marble* by Stephanie Storey Wednesday, January 20 @ 7:30pm**

From 1501—1505, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti both lived

and worked in Florence. Leonardo was a charming, handsome fifty year-old at the peak of his career. Michelangelo was a temperamental sculptor in his mid-twenties, desperate to make a name for himself. Oil and Marble is the story of their nearly forgotten rivalry.

Book Chatter: Martin Luther King's Legacy Friday, January 22 @ 10am

Meander: to take a winding or indirect course. We'll be doing just that! Join Margaret for a virtual stroll through the library collections. Focusing on a different topic or theme each week, she'll share new titles and some old favorites. There will be plenty of time to share your ideas and suggestions, too!

Seed Library Book Discussion:

***Seed Underground* Friday, January 22 & Friday, January 29 @ 11am**

Join Linda Hamilton, Charlotte Seed Library Co-Coordinator for a 2-part discussion about this essential book. Acclaimed author Janisse Ray draws us into the issues and the urgency of protecting food sovereignty through seeds, weaving together inspiring stories of ordinary gardeners who are doing the essential work of saving time-honored, open-pollinated varieties for themselves and to share with others. An important read for everyone who gardens, and in fact for everyone who eats! Copies of the book are available at the Charlotte Library.



For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for our monthly newsletter: Charlotte Library Newsletter.

The library building is closed to the public but books and other materials are available for porch pickup.

Porch pickup hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11 am to 6 pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday:

10 am to 2 pm

Please call or email to let us know what we can set out for you! Not sure what to read? We're happy to help select books for readers of all ages!

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

“Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness.”

~ R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*

“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”

~ Thomas Merton

This Week

— Blood Drive

1/19: A friendly reminder that the next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 1–6 p.m. at the Senior Center, although the building is closed for other activities. If you wish to donate urgently needed blood, please go to RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Strict health protocols will be followed for the safety of those participating in this event.

— New Course

1/14: Screen Writing for Fun, Part II with Mark Williams

Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:45.

Dates: 1/14 – 2/4 (Rescheduled from Dec.)

Work on creating the turning points in your movie’s story that propel the main character into action. Everyone’s movie is discussed supportively in class each week, and this helps build creative energy. Newcomers welcome. Fee: \$48 for the series of 75-min. classes.

Next Week—Courses

1/18: Conflict Resolution with Mark Williams

Monday afternoons, 1–2.

Dates: 1/18–2/22. (6 weeks)

Using role-playing and mediation exercises, participants in this 6-week class will learn practical skills, such as: how to calm an angry person down, how to empathize with a person with whom you disagree, and more. Fee: \$48. Please register by 1/15.

1/19: Better Balance: Session B with Laurel Lakey

Tuesday & Thursday mornings, 11–11:45.

Dates: 1/19–2/25. (12 classes)

Offered online in conjunction with Dee PT, this course is designed to improve your balance and reduce fall risk. It is appropriate for individuals of varied balance abilities; recommendations will be made to adjust exercise difficulty. Newcomers welcome. Fee: \$45. Registration required by 1/15.

1/22: Poetry Magic with Laurie McMillan

Friday mornings, 11–12:30.

Dates: 1/22, 1/29, 2/5 & 2/12.

We’ll play with exercises to loosen your

inner poetry magician. As poet Billy Collins says, “Poetry is for giving voice and reminding us there is much more to life than what I’m usually doing.” Join us on a poetry odyssey to inspire your writing. Fee: \$48 for the series of 90-min. classes. Please register by 1/20.

1/27: Coping with COVID with Karen Chatfield

Wednesday mornings, 11 a.m.–12 noon.

Dates: 1/27, 2/10 & 2/24.

Registration required by prior Monday. Join your peers to explore coping strategies and share methods you have used to deal with life during the pandemic. This group is designed to provide connections and support as we navigate “the new normal” together. Please note that this group is not intended to be a substitute for therapy or professional mental health treatment. Registration is required, but one need not attend every meeting. No fee.

1/27: Mindfulness Meditation Practice with Jill Abilock

Wednesday afternoons, 2:30–3:45 p.m. Ongoing.

You can’t always change what you experience in life, but you can change how you experience it. Mindfulness Meditation provides tools that help change *how* you experience things, increasing fulfillment and happiness, and reducing stress. Registration necessary. No fee.

1/27: Snowshoe Expeditions with Susan Hyde

Wednesday mornings. Dates: 1/27, 2/10 & 2/24.

For more information, please email Susan directly at: susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Please note that this activity may be restricted by the VT Dept. of Health.

How to Register for a Course

All courses are online—and all require registration in order to receive the invitation/link.

To register, send your name, mailing address and phone number to: CSCZoom@gmavt.net. Be sure to note the title of the course in the subject line of the email. You will receive confirmation that you are registered. Please send a separate email and registration information for each course.

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 title of the course in the memo line.

- For ongoing exercise courses, please pay at the *end* of each month for the classes attended. Unless otherwise stated, tally your attendance and figure \$5/class.

- For courses with a limited set of dates, kindly pay *prior* to the start of the course. Fees vary.

Please check the course description for the fee above, in the printed Winter Schedule, or visit the website CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. We are not able to confirm receipt of your check.

If fees present a hardship, don’t hesitate to request an adjustment by sending an email to CSCZoom@gmavt.net. We want everyone to be able to keep themselves healthy and engaged, especially during



this challenging time.

Questions? Need help with Zooming? Please email: CSCZoom@gmavt.net, or leave a message at (802) 425-6345.

Talks on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

These free, interactive events are online via Zoom.

Please note that they do *not* require registration. The Zoom invitation/link to the talks are posted on the website the day before: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The link also appears in Front Porch Forum for that week.

1/20: COVID-19 Update in 2021: What Now? with Jim Hyde

This session will provide a quick update on the prevalence of the “new” coronavirus variant, testing (screening, diagnostic and surveillance), and the latest on new vaccine development and vaccination progress here in Vermont. At least half of the time will be devoted to Q&A.

~ Jim Hyde is a Professor Emeritus of Public Health at the Tufts University School of Medicine and former Director of Preventive Medicine at the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health.

1/27: Bringing Portraits to Life with Jonathan Silverman

How do artists tell stories through portraits? This presentation explores the world of familiar and unfamiliar portraits from early Renaissance to the 21st century. By showing how artists from different genres paint and sculpt human expressions, moods and spirit, the presenter helps us understand historic and cultural context, enrich our sense of aesthetics, and reflect on our own identity.

~ Jonathan Silverman is a professor emeritus from Saint Michael’s College where he coordinated the arts education program. He maintains his artistic identity through ceramics and watercolors. An exhibition of his work will be displayed at the Senior Center in December and January.

2/03: Chocolate: Techniques & Recipes for Simply Spectacular Desserts with Chef Arnd

Join us for an interactive, live chef demo from The Residence at Shelburne Bay

Bistro. This will include tips, techniques and easy-to-follow instructions on how to create special desserts using chocolate as the key ingredient. Chef Arnd will explore the beauty and texture of different kinds of chocolate just in time for Valentine’s Day. For all you chocolate lovers this is one not to miss!

~ Arnd Sievers is a European Certified Master Chef who serves as the Culinary Services Director at The Residences at Shelburne Bay and Quarry Hill. He is from Hamelin, Germany, and has worked throughout the U.S. and internationally in fine hotels and restaurants.

2/10: Looking at The Night Sky with Jack St. Louis

2/17: Nepal: Through the Eyes of An American with Sandi Detwiler

2/24: Here’s Looking at You...Louise Nevelson! with Linda Finkelstein

Art Exhibits

The Senior Center’s monthly art exhibits are suspended until further notice.

Be careful. We are all in this together. The end is in sight.

For more expanded descriptions, as well as additional courses and talks, please visit CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The mission of the Senior Center is to serve those 50 and up; some course enrollments are limited, and if a course is not full, younger participants are welcome to enroll. Feel free to leave a message anytime at 425-6345; voicemail is checked frequently.

“It is not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit.” ~ J.R.R. Tolkien

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

BABIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Barney got to the scene right in time; this was his first time delivering a baby. “The rumor is that when he got in the bathroom the baby’s legs were already out,” Willa said. “I had no idea we were that close! He caught her out of mid-air, it felt like.”

Mullin said that Barney did an excellent job on his own. “I went to get some equipment, and I came back and Arron was holding a baby girl,” he said.

Though Barney, who was spending the day riding along with Mullin as part of the process to be hired as a crew chief, hadn’t delivered a baby before, he had participated in 80 hours of OB training as part of his paramedic training in Lake Placid, N.Y., where he grew up and still works as a paramedic. Though he had never quite participated in a delivery during that time, he said the outward calm he projected reflected his inner state. Mullin allowed him to take the lead without hesitation.

Willa said Barney and Mullin’s professionalism and skills helped make a scary situation feel manageable. “Arron jumped in there, and he was so cool as a cucumber, and ten minutes later we had a baby girl,” she said. “I was definitely freaking out, but Arron and Rob handled it so beautifully, and they made me feel like they had the situation under control.”

“It felt like slow motion, like getting ready to take off in a plane, where everything was set the way it needed to be,” he said. A lot of his

training involved keeping people calm and giving them support, he said, which is a valuable skill in a high-pressure situation like this. Though he practiced on mannequins and spent a lot of time in the classroom, he said, “You can only learn so much from a Powerpoint.”

Baby number one was born at 8:20 a.m., just 35 minutes after her first contraction. Mullin said they were dispatched from the station at 8:08 and took four minutes to reach the Lampman’s home in West Charlotte.

Shelburne Rescue was on the scene as well, and Mullin said he was grateful for their professionalism. “It went really, really well—with everything that could have gone wrong and didn’t... it was like clockwork.” Barney noted that, even though he had never met the Shelburne first responders, “It was like we had been working together for 15 years.”

After the first baby was born, Barney rode with Willa in the CVFRS ambulance to UVMMC, the baby rode in an assisting ambulance from Shelburne, and Eric followed in his own car. The second baby, a boy, was born in the emergency department with CVFRS still on hand. The girl is named Rhodes, a name the Lampmans had already chosen, but they thought they had a little more time to think of the boy’s name, and in the excitement of the week they haven’t been able to choose yet. Both babies by Tuesday night were getting ready to transition out of the NICU and back to their parents.

After acknowledging that Willa did the hard work of the morning, Mullin said that Eric de-

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served a lot of credit for his demeanor during the birth as well, and that both of them were a pleasure to help. “Eric was a trooper, both of them were great—very well mannered and very well behaved. He didn’t get in the way, he did what we told him to do—it was just a good, good call. It’s a great way to start out the new year.”

They are grateful for healthy babies—who ended up being born in two different towns—and the Lampmans are also grateful for CVFRS and Shelburne Rescue. “These guys deserve a gold medal,” Willa said. “They were so amazing... They’re really good at delivering babies. They can add that to their resumé. We are so grateful to our first responders.”

SIGN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It was a fairly sophisticated sign,” Bower said. “It would basically last forever out in the weather. It was a beautiful sign.”

A pineapple might seem slightly out of place at a B&B in a Vermont farm town, but Bower said the fruit is a well-known symbol of welcome. “The pineapple goes back to the days of tall ships plying the seas,” he said, “and sailors would land in exotic places and pick up exotic things to return with when they go home to friends and family. One of those was a pineapple, and through that process the

pineapple became a symbol of hospitality and togetherness. I liked that tradition.”

The Inn at Charlotte sign wasn’t large—Vermont law only allows businesses one sign, and it can only be six square feet total—but it meant something to Bower. He said slightly wistfully that he was joking when he called it a landmark; the sign, however, was definitely one of the clear indicators to travelers that they were indeed in Charlotte. “It’s a pity,” he said.

Bower was filing a police report this week and wasn’t feeling very optimistic that the sign would turn up again. He had hung on to his old business sign, so is thinking of spiffing it up

and putting it out, though he said business is at a bit of a standstill at the moment.

“Given covid circumstances, there’s no business,” he said. “No one is coming and quarantining for two weeks, and no one can afford to even stay at a B&B for 14 days, so I’m just trying to get by—the sign is not particularly necessary at this moment anyway. I’m taking my time, and when the weather gets right I’m going to sand down the old sign and try and fix it up.”

The sense of loss from having something treasured stolen is rarely about the monetary value or the thing itself. “It’s not a good

feeling,” he said. “It’s of no use to anyone, it’s not even iconic, even, in the sense of a Coca Cola sign or some cool old farm equipment sign—it’s the Inn at Charlotte. I don’t even know what good it does anyone. So that’s disappointing.”

Bower said the memory of working with Wells was special. “That was a good experience, but I can’t afford to make another one,” he said. He is a painter and sculptor, and works from his studio at the inn, and said that though he’s good at documenting his work, he never actually took a photo of the Inn at Charlotte sign. He hopes that if someone out there has one, they’ll let him know.

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A gift from the lake - Photographer Hank Kaestner wrote, "Just before Christmas I was at Thompson's Point doing the Christmas bird count and saw this amazing phenomenon called 'fog snow.' The lake water temperature was 40 degrees, and the ambient was 5 degrees, so the warm water in the lake evaporated upwards, then froze. With strong south winds that day, the fog snow was blown inland and covered everything along the point. It was beautiful. (That's Split Rock Mountain in New York in the background.)"

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