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The Charlotte News

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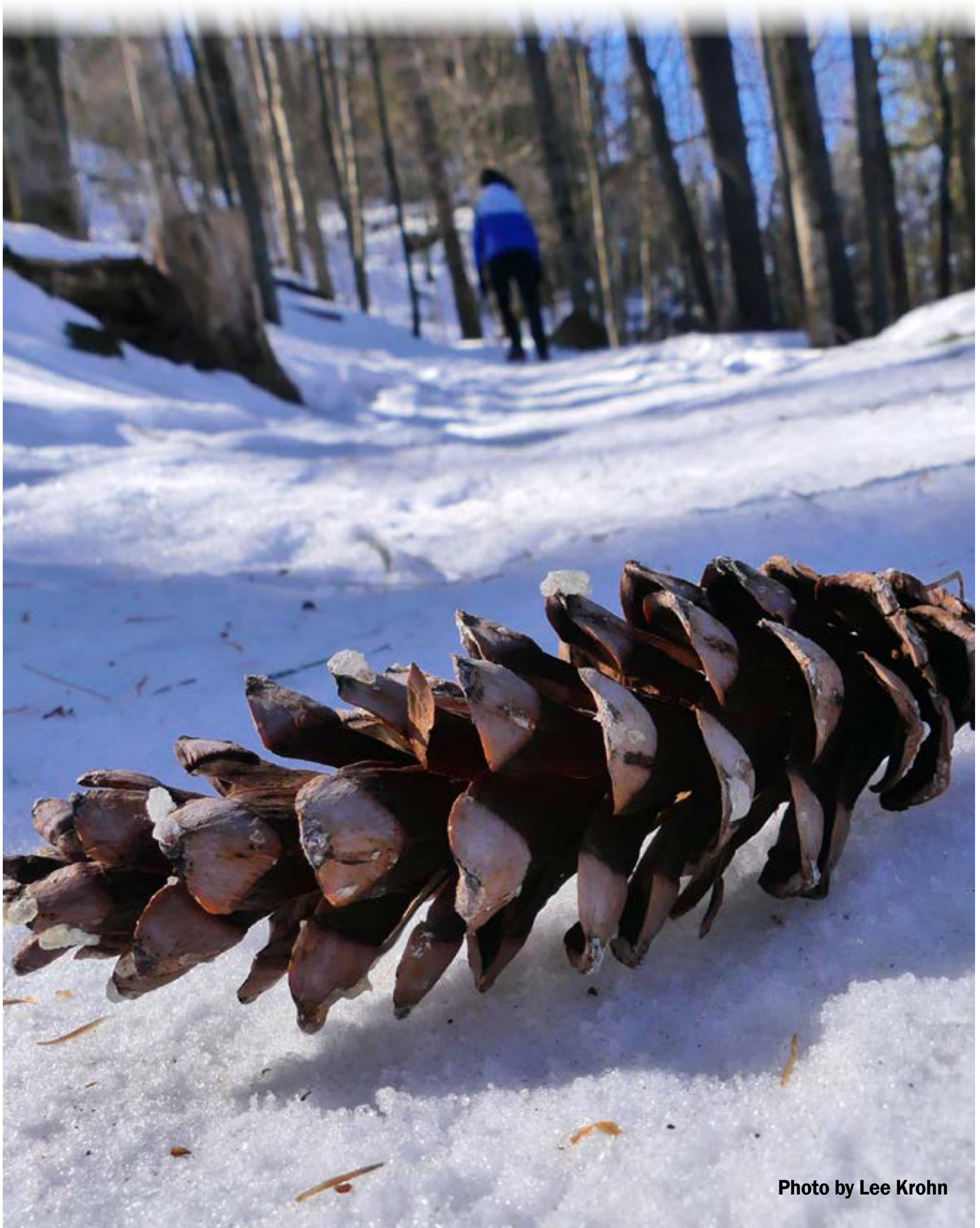


Photo by Lee Krohn

It's inevitable: Conflict of interest in a small town

Chea Waters Evans
EDITOR

The Selectboard this winter had to vote on whether or not to present Town Plan and Land Use Regulation amendments on the town ballot; two members of the board also owned property that would be affected should those amendments pass. A recent candidate for the town zoning administrator position was reportedly related to a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment; this person also owns a business within the East Charlotte Village. A current member of the ZBA is also on the Selectboard; multiple sources confirm that his presence on both boards is on the verge of being problematic, though it's not illegal. The publisher of this newspaper is the spouse of a member of the ZBA, who recently wrote a letter to the editor persuading voters to vote against the aforementioned amendments. That ZBA has been reported in this paper to have recent violations of open meeting laws and possible violations of their own conflict of interest policies.

It's all tangled up, but such is the nature of a volunteer municipal government in a town with fewer than 4,000 residents. Generations of families live here and work here, some town employees live in town, and the nature of Charlotte's municipal government is that interested citizens volunteer their time to keep the gears turning. It's inevitable that people will be related to each other or have businesses, farms or camps near commercial zones or proposed development.

Letters to the editor in *The Charlotte News* over the past weeks, and passionate posts on the neighborhood email service Front Porch Forum pointed the finger in particular at Selectboard members Carrie Spear and Frank Tenney, both of whom did not recuse themselves for the LUR and Town Plan amendment vote. Both said publicly that they didn't recuse themselves because they didn't think they had any conflict of interest.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a municipal support nonprofit, says on its web site, "Conflicts of interest inevitably arise in the workings of small-town government, and they should be avoided whenever possible. However, the presence of a conflict does not necessarily mean that a municipal official may not continue to act in a particular situation. The deciding factor should be whether the official is able to act impartially despite the presence of a conflict."

Spear and Tenney both decided they could act impartially; some people questioned publicly whether or not this was true, which leads to the next question: What can be done about it?

The VLCT answers this question succinctly: "An elected official may not be forced to recuse himself or herself or to resign if requested, even if a clear conflict of interest has been identified. Other individuals may express their opinions about the subject, and may privately or publicly admonish the elected official who fails to handle a conflict appropriately, but such is the extent of their

power over the situation."

The Selectboard began on March 8 their attempt to respond to Charlotters' requests for action. The town itself, for employees, officials, and boards, committees, and commissions, has a policy posted on the town website. The Planning Commission and ZBA also have policies posted on the town website.

Selectboard chair Matt Krasnow said during Monday's meeting that they have committed "to look at the conflict of interest policy, see if it can be improved in any way, and also look at specific instances and to kind of debrief on those from the past year. Because some of those are appointed positions, and

"The Selectboard recognizes that there is public concern about the existing conflict of interest policy, and the Selectboard will be soliciting input from the public about how to improve this policy, as well as researching the idea of having an Ethics Committee."

— Matt Krasnow

speaking with general counsel, they thought it would be a conservative idea to have discussions about appointed officials begin in executive session."

During executive session, the board is not allowed to take any action and because their discussion involved a particular individual appointed to a particular position, the results of their conversation remained private.

Upon their return, Krasnow said, "The Selectboard recognizes that there is public concern about the existing conflict of interest policy, and the Selectboard will be soliciting input from the public about how to improve this policy, as well as researching the idea of having an Ethics Committee."

New member Lewis Mudge will guide the effort, and Krasnow invited interested members of the public to contact Mudge with concerns. The Selectboard will take the issue up again at their March 22 meeting.



Baking the days away

Alex Bunten and his daughter, Edie, tackled the challenges of making breads this pandemic winter, including sourdough, maple walnut and no-knead. Bunten said he made them each a bread peel, too.

Photo courtesy Alex Bunten

Selectboard starts term with liaison appointments and a typo

Chea Waters Evans

A special Selectboard meeting on March 4 and a regularly scheduled one on March 8 got the new board off to a spring, already violating Chair Matt Krasnow's vow that he would try to keep the meetings to two a month—and with another special meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, it looks like weekly meetings are on the calendar for the near future at the very least.

March 4 kicked off with an immediate motion by Louise McCarren to re-appoint Krasnow and Vice Chair Frank Tenney to their positions for the coming year. Krasnow said he would "do better this year at keeping meetings on time, and limiting to twice a month "as much as humanly possible." A little sparkle of hope winked through at various points during the meeting; the Selectboard, in making plans for the future, discussed in-person municipal meetings and possibly gathering once more as a citizenry on Town Meeting Day.

While approving the rules for order, a yearly practice, McCarren said that while she thinks Krasnow does a good job of keeping people in line already, she wants to make sure that a focus remains and that "order and decorum be maintained," saying that during her time she has witnessed "difficult and unpolite interactions, either among people in the audience or between people in the audience and a board member... We really need to not have that happen—it's really destructive and not helpful."

The Charlotte News was once again designated the newspaper of record, with The Citizen and Seven Days serving as backup in case the paper's biweekly schedule doesn't provide an adequate warning time for certain legal notices. The board also agreed to post notices on Front Porch Forum as often as possible.

Liaisons

The Selectboard chooses members to act as liaisons between the board and other town boards, commissions, and committees. Their role is to act as the go-between and point

person. This year's liaisons are as follows: Krasnow and McCarren, Vermont State Police; McCarren, Senior Center, Recreation Committee, and library; Jim Faulkner, town lands, planning and zoning, CVFRS, the sand shed committee, the road commissioner, Trails Committee, and Thompson's Point wastewater; new member Lewis Mudge Conservation Commission and Energy Committee; Tenney will remain on road commissioner, sand shed, planning and zoning, and town lands; and Krasnow will remain with the park and wildlife refuge.

Typo

Joking that his math skills had been honed by a fear of noogies from Mrs. Lafayette, the woman who taught math to most Charlotters of a certain generation with light corporal punishment before that wasn't okay in schools, Krasnow pointed out there was a discrepancy between the cumulative budget amount printed in the town report and the amount printed on the ballot. The warning had the budget at \$3,475,774 and the ballot read \$3,457,774. The number printed

on the ballot was incorrect; state law allows the votes to stand from Town Meeting Day if the change was inadvertent and accidental.

Town salaries

The town hired Gallagher Flynn to analyze town employee salaries and the method by which those are determined; library salaries are the most recent impetus for a potential change, but last fall's departure of the assistant town clerk and treasurer and hiring of her replacement prompted the Selectboard to recognize that it's time to reevaluate the situation. On Tuesday March 16 at 7 p.m. they will have a public meeting to discuss the issue with town employees.

Zoning Administrator

The candidate who was previously being considered for the ZA position withdrew their application; Town Administrator Dean Bloch said that the town increased their reach when advertising the position around the state and said, "We do have several applicants," and noted that interviews will begin shortly.

Letter from the Editor Around Town

Thank you and see you later

Chea Waters Evans

Ask any of my friends and they'll tell you—I'm all in for extending the party. The host will be like, "Hey, can you stay for one more..." and I don't even know what they're saying because I've just plopped down my bag and I'm running to do a cannonball into the pool, or wrestling the cork out of another bottle, or shuffling the cards for another hand. Maybe they're asking me to stay for one more minute because they want me to take out the garbage, but I'm back in action.

Sitting around staring at my own face on Zoom for the last year has led to a lot of navel-gazing and googling what kind of eyebrows are on-trend these days. It's been a devastating one for many, and though I'm lucky in a million ways, including the fact that my mom made it through the pandemic okay, my life has changed profoundly over the last 12 months,

and I feel like I've grown a lot, not just in sweat pant size, but in other, internal ways.

This is my last issue of *The Charlotte News*. It breaks my heart to go—it was my dream job. I've loved every nature-photo submission, every secret text or phone call from brave people who needed to share information, the hot tips on everything from leash laws to municipal conflict of interest. I've appreciated all the emails and pats on the back in the grocery store, and I'm grateful for all the support and kind words I've received for the past two years from everyone who loved the paper and what I was trying to do here.

There are lovely writers who are kind people with big hearts who contribute to this paper, and the two women on staff work hard and deserve all the support they receive. Thanks again for all of your encouragement.

Congratulations:

to **Rose Lord** of Charlotte whose poem *Word magnets* earned placement in the *Burlington Free Press*' "Young Writers Project" in the paper's March 5 issue. In it, Rose suggests there are words in our vocabulary that we cling to throughout a lifetime—"Love and death and life" being three important ones. She says we also "watch and cry and dream and be" before our life ends. However, as defined, it has been "achingly gorgeous."

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **John Dean Clewley** of Dover, Mass., who passed away March 2 at the age of 84. A graduate of Middlebury College, he worked for General Electric in Burlington and taught physics at Trinity College while serving as a researcher in the chemistry department at the University of Vermont. He and his wife owned a camp at Cedar Beach in Charlotte.



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.
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- 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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It's a no for Articles 6 and 7, yes to Tenney and Mudge, budgets pass

Chea Waters Evans

The results were in, but not until midnight—there was a lot to count and a lot of write-ins. Town Clerk Mary Mead said Tuesday that the Australian ballot resulted in a record number of Town Meeting Day votes.

Article 1, regarding tax payment due dates, passed 1184 to 46.

Article 2, exempting the Charlotte Grange from paying property taxes for the next five years, passed 1047 to 172.

Article 3, approving the town budget, passed 997 to 225.

Article 4, approving \$62,000 raised by property taxes for the Trails Reserve Fund, passed 819 to 423.

Article 5, changing Town Meeting Day to the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March, passed 962 to 256.

Article 6, amending the Town Plan to increase the boundaries of the East Charlotte Village Commercial District, was defeated 859 to 389.



Volunteer Elaine Sharrow (feeling optimistic for spring in her flip flops), Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer Sy Koerner, and volunteer Jules Polk had a busy day running the polls on Tuesday.

Photo by Chea Waters Evans

Article 7, amending the LURs in the East Charlotte Village Commercial District, was defeated 885 to 365.

Articles 8 and 9, amending the LURs to make changes to accessory on-farm business regulations and change nuts and bolts language and updates, both passed, 741 to 363 and 841 to 255, respectively.

Article 10, allowing the road commissioner to use his sole discretion regarding percentages when applying road salt and sand, including the option for 100 percent salt, passed 1067 to 114.

Jim Laberge received enough write-in votes for each of the three cemetery commissioner positions available, so he will be able to choose which one he wants and the other two will remain vacant.

Robert Smith, library trustee, Meghan Metzler, Champlain Valley School District school director, Charlie Russell, town moderator, Moe Harvey, trustee of public funds, and Hugh Lewis, Jr., road commissioner, all won their races—they all ran unopposed. Mary Mead won her unopposed re-election bids for delinquent tax collector, town clerk and town treasurer. The former is a one-year term and the other two are three-year terms.

Frank Tenney was re-elected with 474 votes and will serve a three-year term on the Selectboard. His opponent Justin Bora received 299 votes, and a write-in campaign for two-year term candidate Mike Dunbar yielded 315 votes.

Lewis Mudge defeated Dunbar for the two-year term, 753 to 323.

Here are the Champlain Valley School District voting results:

Article VII Budget passed: Yes: 3701, No: 1446

Article VIII Fund Balance passed: Yes: 4378, No: 741

Article IX Buses passed: Yes: 3535, No: 1600

Board Member Elections:

Charlotte: Meghan Metzler elected to a three-year term (replaces outgoing Jeffrey Martin)

Hinesburg: Keith Roberts re-elected

Shelburne: Barbra Marden re-elected to a three-year year term

Williston: Josilyn Adams and Brendan McMahon both re-elected to three-year terms

Charlotte voters chose justices of the peace in November, but *The Charlotte News* did not at the time include a full vote count of all who ran; that information is below. The top 12 were elected.

1. Michael Krasnow	Democratic	1,765
2. Greg Cluff	Democratic	1,614
3. Lorna Jimerson	Democratic	1,456
4. Jill Abilock	Democratic	1,405
5. Seth Zimmerman	Democratic	1,365
6. Leo Laberge	Democratic	1,305
7. Robin Reid	Independent	1,109
8. Moe Harvey	Republican	959
9. Lucas Trono	Republican	931
10. Ed Stone	Republican	902
11. Patrice Machavern	Republican	888
12. Peter Trono	Republican	800
13. Lynne Caulfield	Republican	778

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Town

Voter vignettes from Town Meeting Day

Ethan Putnam
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

9:20 a.m.

On a frigid Tuesday morning Kendra Bowen came to the Town Hall to vote in person. A mom from East Charlotte, she believes participation is important for a functioning democracy. Without Town Meeting, Bowen said she felt more disconnected from the community and that she had to do more work to learn about the issues.

10:04 a.m.

Wearing a blue mask that matched his dog's sweater, John Howe was in a talkative mood. He didn't get a ballot sent to him and felt obligated to vote. When asked how he felt about not having the Town Meeting this year, he said he "liked to physically be together for Town Meeting" and that he felt "less informed" and was "sick of the Zoom meetings."



John Howe

Howe also said that he wished the town would change the system "where you go to Town Meeting and then vote at a different time."

On the controversial 6th and 7th amendments, Howe voted yes, saying, "The Planning Commission has worked so long and so hard on these issues and was trying to prevent the carpeting of the landscape with houses every five acres," and that "it moves us in the right direction environmentally." He praised Marty Illick, a member of the Planning Commission, for working so hard on the amendments.

10:13 a.m.

Susan Smith came to vote today because she thought she might see someone. She really missed Town Meeting Day, saying, "I felt sorta detached—I like hearing what people have to say," and that she hopes for a school meeting next year.

Smith said that there were difficult issues on the ballot this year with who to vote for and the proposed East Charlotte changes.

She didn't want her photo taken for the same reason many others have these days: COVID Hair.

10:19 a.m.

Joe Ng came to vote today to approve the new school budget. "The school needs more resources when it opens up to help catch up the students who have been left behind."



Joe Ng

Ng said he thought the Town Meeting was important but had a problem with the old voice vote system. "It's not a democracy, since people should have an opportunity to vote, and not everyone has time to take off for Town Meeting Day."

In the future Ng wants an in-person debate, but to keep the Australian ballot, saying "it would give everyone an equal chance." He also felt just as informed this year and said, "It's my responsibility as a citizen to seek out that information."

10:38 a.m.

Brett Towle pulled up in his pickup truck and waved hello.



Brett Towle

A UVM grad, Towle works at Horsford Gardens and Nursery and feels strongly about Articles 6 and 7. "The proposed new commercial and residential developments would be adjacent to our property—I don't believe rushing it through now is beneficial to the community." Towle also cited changing values and conflicts of interest as other reasons as to why he was opposed.

As a new resident of Charlotte, this was Towle's first year voting here. He said he didn't miss Town Meeting Day and said, "I had all the resources I needed," to be informed.

He intends to stick around and hopes to become more involved in the community, having recently applied to a seat on the Conservation Commission.

11:37 a.m.

Tina Helzer came to vote today after a round of tennis, braving the cold in ankle-length leggings.



Tina Helzer

She voted for Lewis Mudge and said she "missed having Town Meeting Day because it got the community more involved."

Helzer also felt less informed this year because of the lack of an in-person meeting but thought that on the East Charlotte Village Commercial District changes, everyone was well enough informed.

12:02 p.m.

John Congdon had a break at his worksite, so he came to cast his vote.



John Congdon

He voted for Articles 6 and 7 because he listened to the panel discussion between the Selectboard and Planning Commission. Congdon said the comment Selectboard member James Faulkner made about European development stuck with him: "The fact that they know how to cluster in a village and then leave more land open surrounding."

Congdon hopes that there is a process so that "the development can be done thoughtfully and aesthetically and result in a nucleus of economic growth."

On the topic of the Australian ballot, Congdon said, "It's a double-edged sword: it does restrict some of the community aspect, but then again there are many people that can't participate in the community aspect and so maybe we need to find community elsewhere."

12:13 p.m.

Sporting a tan Dickies coat, Selectboard member Frank Tenney came to vote for himself shortly after noon. (He won his seat.)



Frank Tenney

When he was asked about whether he missed Town Meeting Day, Tenney said, "It's always been fun to go." He supported moving Town Meeting Day to Saturday, a proposal that's on today's ballot. "I think it's hard for people to get here on Tuesday, especially if school is on."

Tenney said there wasn't anything he felt very strongly about voting for or against this year and that "there were a lot of things I didn't vote for at all."

After the interview he climbed into the cab of his bright red pickup and drove off.

Thanks, Carrie!

Staff report

Selectboard member and Spear's Corner Store owner Carrie Spear signed off for the last time as a public official last week. After serving two three-year terms on the board, she is moving on, but not without the thanks and appreciation of her colleagues. At both the Feb. 22 and March 1 meetings, she was lauded for her dedication and spirit.



Carrie Spear

Louise McCarren said she wanted to thank Spear for "all of her incredible hard work and all of her community support...and how important it is to the town." She noted that the "Town Hall of the East" will still be in full effect at Carrie's store and that she intended to keep stopping by to get the scoop on Friday nights.

The rest of the board and Town Administrator Dean Bloch echoed her thanks and acknowledged Spear's hard work. Board member Jim Faulkner said, "I have to say, it's going to be hard to replace Carrie, because nobody cares about Charlotte the way that she does."

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Letters to the Editor

Dear CVSD Community members and voters,

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support of the Champlain Valley School District's students and schools. The CVSD FY22 budget passed overwhelmingly. In this year, a year that has tested the creativity, patience and tenacity of each and every one of us, the community came together in support of public education.

As the CVSD board moves out of the planning and development phase of the budget cycle and into the implementation, rest assured the administration and the board are committed to increasing in-person learning.

While the voting process for this year is complete, I welcome you to continue to engage with us each month at the CVSD monthly board meeting. Meeting details, ZOOM log-in and agendas can be found: cvsdvt.org/Page/604 or reach out to me: kbowen@cvsdvt.org.

Wishing you and your families continued good health and happy spring.

Kindly,
Kelly A. Bowen
Chair of the CVSD School Board's
Finance Committee

Thank you from the Grange

To the editor:

A big thank you to Charlotters for voting to exempt the Grange from property taxes for the next five years. This makes a huge difference for us and allows us to focus on our programs and activities. While these activities may be limited in scope at the moment, we're busy planning and organizing so that we can hit the ground running when we can gather again—hope to see you soon!

Mike Walker

Report from the Legislature.....

Town Meeting recess marks halfway point for legislative session



Rep. Mike
Yantachka

As the Legislature prepared to recess for town meeting week, the focus continued to be on our number one priority: Vermonters and the coronavirus. The Vermont House passed and sent to the Senate an additional \$79 million Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Aid bill. H.315 provides critical assistance to working families and businesses struggling due to the pandemic by addressing health disparities, increasing social equity, and stimulating economic recovery.

The work my committee has been doing has been focused on getting high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved areas of Vermont. We ended the week by voting the bill (H.360) out of committee on a 9 to 0 vote. The bill now goes to the Appropriations Committee that will consider whether to recommend the appropriation we asked for.

Besides telecommunications, my committee also has jurisdiction over energy policy and the IT systems of the state. Leading up to the recess, Governor Scott recommended a \$200 million package of spending based on one-time money from unspent Coronavirus Relief Funds and better than expected state revenues. In the energy area, we concurred with the governor's plan to use \$10 million to assist low- and moderate-income consumers to share in community solar projects, including battery storage of energy. Folks who rent and homeowners who can't install solar panels on their property will be able to purchase or lease shares of large solar arrays and receive credit on their electric bills for the energy generated.

We have also been working with the Agency of Digital Services to fund the upgrade of several of our 40-year-old computer systems, including the Labor Department's unemployment insurance system that has had a lot of problems over the past year. We are concurring with the governor's recommendation of spending \$50 million to upgrade a dozen different systems.

The Vermont Legislature continues to operate remotely as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and will continue to do so at least until May 15, 2021. Conducting business

remotely is very different from meeting at the Statehouse because of the lack of personal interaction that often helps facilitate communication on important issues. Zooming is just not the same.

However, there is a silver lining to this dark cloud. As a result of live streaming of floor sessions and committee proceedings, it is now possible for anyone anywhere to sit in on a proceeding. If you have an interest in a particular issue or would just like to see how legislative business is conducted, I invite you to drop in at your convenience. Here's how.

Floor sessions take place at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 9:30 a.m. on Fridays. To view a livestream of a session, go to <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>. Scroll down to the bottom of the House or Senate sections where you will find a link to "Watch House/Senate Live Video." If you want to watch a session after the fact at your leisure, click on the same link and you will find recordings of previous sessions.

Committee meetings are where most of the work takes place. This is where bills that have been assigned to the committee are discussed and testimony from witnesses is heard. To view a committee proceeding, again go to <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>. In the sidebar at the right is a link to "Scheduled Committee Meetings." Clicking on the link will take you to a page that contains links to the committee pages and the published agenda for the week. On the committee page there will be a link to "Livestream" where either a livestream of a hearing or recorded hearings can be viewed.

The Vermont Statehouse is truly The People's House. As citizens of Vermont the work that goes on there is for the benefit of all and is transparent to all. At these times when democracy is under assault by lies, misinformation and conspiracy theories, we in Vermont have an opportunity to see the Legislature in action with our own eyes. Being engaged is a way we can all protect our democratic form of government.

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

Town

Newest Selectboard member is ready to work

Chea Waters Evans with Lewis Mudge

Lewis Mudge is the newest member of the Charlotte Selectboard and he took a minute to let us know what he’s into, what he hopes for, and what he wants to accomplish for the town and its citizens.

Tell us anything you care to share about your personal life--family, work, hobbies, etc.I live on Greenbush with my wife, Nikki, and our three boys, ages 7, 6 and 4. It’s a lot of work (and testosterone) for the matriarch. We moved to Charlotte from Nairobi, Kenya—a bustling city of over 4 million—in part to allow our boys the space and safety to grow, to reconnect with nature and instill a sense of community. We love going to the Congregational Church and our home life revolves around skiing in the winter, the lake in the summer and visiting family in Vershire (Orange County) or my wife’s family in Canada. Every fall I try to get as much time in the deer stand as family obligations will allow...sadly, it’s never enough time.

I am the Central Africa Director at Human Rights Watch, where I have been for over 10 years. I manage teams across the region as we focus on documenting and exposing serious human rights abuse.

Why did you run for Selectboard?

I saw an opportunity to do several things: to bring a new perspective, to represent the voices of those in town with young children, and to step up and try to help manage the town we all love. Ultimately, I just want to be a valuable contributor and hope to encourage others to serve on the Selectboard or other commissions and committees.

What are the top three issues or topics that you’re interested in working on over the coming years?

My immediate goal is to try learn as much as I can as fast as I can. I knew that serving on the Selectboard was to be a lot of work, but I must admit I already have a newfound appreciation for those who serve on it or who served on it in the past. Second, I think we need to better clarify our conflict of interest policy and address how conflict of interest is perceived. I think there should be some lessons learned from the past election on this. Finally, I’d like to lend a moderate and neutral voice to how the town envisions growth, whether it be addressing a greater density in the villages or in town-wide projects



In between sugaring, working, and hanging out with his kids, Lewis Mudge hopes to encourage community engagement in local government. Photo contributed

like a community center.

Articles 6 & 7, though they didn’t pass, clearly brought up a lot of passionate opinions in Charlotte about development and the future of Charlotte. What’s your vision or philosophy of growth as it pertains to the Town Plan?

The town’s voters were very clear on Articles 6 & 7; I think we need to recognize that. People told me a variety of things on the articles: they did not understand the changing acreage allotments, they were not happy that some landowners were also decision-makers who put this to a vote, they felt the reduction from five acres to one was excessive, etc. I think we need to adequately reflect those concerns. However, I do feel that the Town Plan, while not perfect, is still the right path forward for Charlotte and that we should strive to implement it as best as we can. I don’t want the town to be disconnected on five-acre minimum plots that are prohibitively expensive for would-be Charlotters to move to.

I also feel strongly we should avoid the urban sprawl that we see across other parts of the county. So it will be about a compromise, hopefully following respectful conversations, about what kind of town we are with regards to growth. Even though I’ve only been on the Selectboard a week, I’m already confident we have a good team in place to address

this.

What subcommittees or Selectboard projects are you going to work on?

Conservation goes hand in hand with hunting. Hunters can’t hunt if ecosystems and wild habitats aren’t protected. My wife calls hunting a “hobby,” but I call it a “way of life” and I’m thrilled that I will be working with the Conservation Commission.

I’m also very happy to be working with the Energy Committee. I’ve seen firsthand the effects of climate change in Africa and watched Irene ravage parts of the state from afar. I’ll be looking to work with the Energy Committee on building the town’s resiliency and also on ensuring that we do our part to address climate change.

Civic engagement has been a bit of a hit or miss in Charlotte in recent years, though this year, either despite or because of the pandemic, people have been somewhat more engaged. Why do you think this is, and what do you think the Selectboard can or should do to encourage Charlotters to participate in local government—being on a committee, or running for office, or asking for an appointment, or simply attending meetings?

I think this is a great question and it’s something I hope to address. Our town will only thrive if our town’s folks step up. I’d especially like to see some of our residents with younger children get involved. Those who haven’t grown up here came for a reason, and we all want to see this town remain such a special place to raise our kids. But it’s a hard ask when it’s a time-consuming volunteer position that exposes one to potential grief. I get it! But I hope that over the next two years I will be able to encourage some of our less-engaged Charlotters to participate. Frankly, if I can achieve that, even to some degree, then I’ll consider my time on the Selectboard a success!

Know someone interesting in Charlotte? We want to interview them and share their story. Email news@thecharlottenews.org The Charlotte News

Notice of vacancies and expiring terms on town boards and of town Official positions March, 2021

The following boards and positions currently have unfilled seats:

- Board of Auditors (1 seat; term ending March 1, 2022)
- Cemetery Commission (2 seats; terms ending March 1, 2022)
- Conservation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Energy Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Planning Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Trustee of Public Funds (2 seats; terms ending March 1, 2022)

The following boards and positions have seats with terms ending April 30, 2021:

- Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (3 seats; 3 year term)
- Conservation Commission (2 seats; 4 year term)
- Constable (1 seat; 2 year term)
- Emergency Management Director (1 seat; 1 year term)
- Energy Committee (3 seats; 2 year term)
- Green-Up Day Coordinator(s) (1 or 2 seats; 1 year term)
- Planning Commission (1 seat; 4 year term)
- Recreation Commission (3 seats; 3 year term)
- Thompson’s Point Design Review Committee (1 seat; 3 year term)
- Trails Committee (5 seats; 2 year term)
- Tree Warden (1 seat; 1 year term)
- Zoning Board (1 seat; 3 year term)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities please send a short statement explaining your interest and relevant background information by Friday, April 2nd to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at dean@townofcharlotte.com. If you have questions, please e-mail or call 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

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Education

Gap year option appeal increases during pandemic



Margo Bartsch
CONTRIBUTOR

When President Obama’s oldest daughter, Malia, took a gap year after high school graduation in 2016, many wondered, “What is a gap year and why take it?” At that time, fewer than three percent of graduating high school students who were accepted to college decided to take a gap year off before attending college. Fast forward to the 2020 pandemic: college freshmen who deferred for a year increased about five times. For example, Dartmouth College reported that 15 percent of the class of 2024 took a gap year.

With changes in the college living and learning dynamic with both online and hybrid learning, the gap year is becoming a popular alternative. Also, as the job market continues to shrink for recent college graduates, many are evaluating gap year alternatives such as fellowships or internships before applying to graduate school or beginning a full-time job. Now is the time to discuss a range of gap year options to be prepared for the college experience and professional opportunities

ahead. By the end of March, most high school students will be receiving their college acceptance letters. Evaluating the gap-year process for each school could influence the student’s choice of which college to attend. For example, the University of Vermont allows a newly admitted student to request that admissions defer up to two semesters off. However, both Barnard College and Columbia University in New York are less flexible: for fall 2020, they required that incoming freshmen re-apply (and potentially be rejected admissions) if they requested taking a gap year right before the start of the semester. The new application could include additional essays to reflect on how their education was disrupted and what the student accomplished during their gap year.

As the cost of college continues to increase for most colleges, many students can factor in the likelihood of online learning. The need for social distancing in cafeterias and dorms affects the overall campus social dynamic. Also, having enough space for social distancing in large lecture halls will likely continue to change many of the formats and processes of education. By working a year to contribute to college expenses and gain work experiences, the student can wait to attend college with the hope for a more traditional campus life.

In fact, even before the pandemic, many colleges encouraged taking a gap year. Middlebury College reported in the higher education publication “Education



Image by Wokandapix from Pixabay.com

Surge” last August that students who take a year off typically do better with their academic grades. A year off can build time-management skills, foster team dynamics across various roles, and expose a student to various academic interests for future careers.

While in college, there are also gap year options. For example, college juniors may consider taking a year off since many study-abroad programs have been canceled due to the pandemic travel constraints. Gap-year programs include the U.S. government applications for the Peace Corp, AmeriCorps and Green Corps. It is essential to review each program’s requirements and deadlines since this is a lengthy review process. Also, there are service-learning opportunities at non-profits such as Feeding America and local food banks. To gain hands-on exposure to an academic field, such as green energy,

a student can complete a training program to install solar panels. After the gap year, the student will have a real-world exposure related to professional fields.

For recent college graduates, the new buzz is participating in a fellowship. This is similar to a short-term internship, where an organization has opportunities to pursue career options connected with academic fields. Many fellowships can be paid and require college professor recommendations, an application process, and interviews. With the pandemic, many fellowships and internships are remote. Some recent graduates may choose to live in the geographic area of the organization so that they can meet co-workers and staff at outdoor local areas such as parks. This also gives a recent college graduate an opportunity to live in another city, have an independent lifestyle, and pursue a future career.

Taking a gap year should not be a last-minute consideration. As college acceptances trickle in or as college graduation nears, it is important to make a list of pros and cons of various gap year alternatives. Immersing yourself in an untraditional year can broaden your horizons with exposure to new interests that can become your life’s passion and influence your future professional goals.

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

Charlotters on the dean’s list

Staff report

- Saige Alpeter** was named to the fall 2020 dean’s honor list at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa.
- Genevie Lemieux** was named to the fall 2020 dean’s list at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I.
- Curren Simard** was named to the fall 2020 dean’s list at Community College of Vermont in Montpelier.

Winona Smith Scholarship opportunities open

Staff report

The League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund is now accepting applications for its Winona Smith Scholarship program.

Created in 1995 to honor the legacy of Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by an instructor.

Applications, due on May 1, can be completed online at <http://bit.ly/lwvscholarship>. Students

need to submit two essays, 500 words each, one on issues concerning voting rights and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher is also required.

The scholarship can be applied toward continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 1.

Town

Charlotter resilience survey results are in



Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTOR

The Charlotte Community Partners wrote a lot during the fall and early winter about the Resilience Survey, which was rolled out in November and ran into December. It gave Charlotte residents the opportunity to weigh in on how resilient they believed our town to be in five various areas. We were excited that 181 Charlotters participated in the survey, which was more than any other town in Vermont taking this journey had garnered. We now want to begin the process of sharing the results.

Back in April 2020, at the onset of our COVID-19 journey, a trio of concerned Charlotte residents, Cindi Robinson from the Food Shelf, Margaret Woodruff from the library, and Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen from the Congregational Church, put their heads together. They invited other organizations in Charlotte to gather by Zoom to talk about what was working in Charlotte, where the needs were, and how best to meet those needs and support one another in these new, untested pandemic waters.

This group, now known as the Charlotte Community Partners, has met twice a month since last April and includes representatives from Charlotte Central School, the CCS PTO,

Charlotte Senior Center, Transition Town Charlotte, Seed Library, Fire and Rescue, the Grange and others. With a mind toward learning if people thought our town was resilient and beginning the discussion of how to become more resilient if necessary, the group partnered with Vermont-based Community Resilience Organizations, which has run these assessments throughout the state. Mindy Blank, CRO director, guided us through the resilience assessment process, customizing the survey for Charlotte and adding a section assessing the COVID situation.

The results of the assessment/survey are descriptive only; they only highlight community perceptions of our town's ability to bounce back from challenges. The survey results do not prescribe or offer any answers or suggest any particular actions.

The five categories surveyed were Basic Needs and Services, covering food supply and equity, energy, health services, housing, etc.; Environment and Natural Systems, including land use, rivers/floodplains, natural areas, common spaces, and invasive species; Physical Infrastructure, including roads/transportation, emergency shelters, cell/broadband accessibility, public/private facilities, stormwater and waste management; Community Connections, including community planning, communication,

civic engagement, community spirit, self-sufficiency, awareness and education; and COVID-19, including questions around mutual aid/community support, schools/families, and personal well-being. Respondents ranked each section on a scale from one to five (one being not very resilient and five being very resilient) or Not Sure.

A few key insights from the various categories include:

Basic Needs & Services: Between 30% and 45% of the respondents have concerns about resilience around food equity, energy, health services and housing; in terms of personal health & well-being, 45% ranked our resiliency as a 4 or 5.

Environment & Natural Systems: Our town's environmental stewardship and land use received high marks for resilience; invasive species management, however, ranked not very resilient, with 29% marking it a 1 or 2.

Physical Infrastructure: Emergency shelter access received a lower grade as 46% of the respondents ranked it as a 1 or 2 and another 38% saying they weren't sure. Respondents also ranked cell service and broadband accessibility lower, with 39% of ranking it as a 1 or 2. Public/private facilities were ranked as being a 4 or 5 in resiliency.

Community Connections: Results received indicate that there is a fair amount of uncertainty (Not Sure) in the areas of Self Sufficiency and Awareness and Education. The results in Civic Engagement indicate that most respondents think that we are not very resilient with 38% scoring it a 1 or 2.

COVID-19: 73% of the respondents indicated they were doing well during this journey, but many were unclear about community resilience in the areas of mutual aid or around schools and families.

This is merely a glance at what the results show; the CCP is in the process of finalizing a full report including the raw data that we received. All of that will be sent to various town committees, commissions and organizations. Anyone or any group who would like to read it is invited to do so by requesting a copy or accessing via the website links for the Town and the Charlotte Library. In addition, further articles will appear in *The Charlotte News*.

The ongoing work of the CCP will be to try to engage various groups to stimulate discussion around the results with the hope of making, through collaborative community engagement, our beautiful town more resilient in all of the areas and welcoming to all.

Health

COVID-19 variant detected in Vermont

Staff report

Vermont health officials have confirmed detection of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7—the viral mutation first detected in the U.K. in the fall of 2020. This is the first lab-confirmed evidence of the variant in the state. The variant was detected in a specimen taken from a resident of Chittenden County.

The Vermont Health Department sends select samples from people who had already tested positive for COVID-19 to the Massachusetts Public Health Laboratory, Molecular Diagnostics and Virology program for genetic sequencing. The result has been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants and strains are not unexpected. Many emerge and disappear, but others can persist and even become the predominant

strain. The B.1.1.7 variant has already been identified in 49 U.S. states and territories. The CDC anticipates the more easily transmissible B.1.1.7 variant will become the dominant strain the country.

Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said confirmation of the variant in Vermont is a concern, but not a surprise. "This and other variants have been circulating throughout the U.S. for some time, so we expected to find evidence of it here. In fact, we are the last New England state where it has been detected."

Dr. Levine said what is notable about the B.1.1.7 variant is that it can spread even faster than the virus that has been in the state. "The good news is that medical studies indicate the current vaccines are effective against this strain, and Vermonters should have confidence in the vaccines available," said Dr. Levine. "We are moving to vaccinate people as quickly

as possible, and I ask everyone who is eligible for each phase to get vaccinated. But now that we know the variant is here, it is ever more important that everyone follow our guidance to prevent transmission—wear your mask, keep a distance of six feet from each other, and absolutely avoid crowded places. These steps continue to be effective against variants."

Dr. Levine also urged people to take advantage of the ample testing available. "Not everyone shows symptoms of the virus, and you can't know without testing if you have COVID-19. All these things are how we protect each other

and bring this pandemic to an end."

The samples sent for sequencing are de-identified for privacy purposes, assigned a number and sent to the lab in Massachusetts. As in all instances of positive COVID-19 test results, the individuals have received the appropriate guidance and recommendations by the Health Department for their care, quarantine and isolation, and contact tracing was performed.

For more information about new COVID-19 variants, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html.

Hi, Neighbor!

Jonathan Hart's newest venture



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Jonathan Hart doesn't take as many photos as he used to. That's because he's changed his vantage point from photographer to publisher. The proprietor of Amazing Vermont Photography has added a new business to his portfolio called Amazing Vermont Calendars.

Hart's love of photography started with a trip he took after college. "I drove across the country with a borrowed camera and bulk-loaded film and just started shooting," he said. "I was untrained and unskilled but it hit a chord for me." Upon his return, Hart joined the Coast Guard. With thoughts of attending college and then re-enlisting as an officer, he took a photography course at Loyola University.

In the end, Hart opted not to follow a military path. He studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology and subsequently had a number of photography jobs in Chicago and Boston, opening studios in both cities and doing shoots for advertising agencies, design studios and private clients. After moving to Vermont, his clients included Orvis and DR Power. Deciding to spend more time outdoors, Hart began leading bike trips, first for Vermont

Bicycle Tours and then Sojourn, while also facilitating team building for Outward Bound.

Hart returned to his photography roots when he launched Amazing Vermont Photography and Amazing New England Photography, hoping people would view his images the same way they listened to a beloved piece of music. "If you listen to a piece of music that takes you away and causes you to have emotions or feelings, you want to listen to it again," he said. "If I can create an image that causes you to feel something like that, then I have succeeded."

When Hart retired from professional photography he thought about reprising the road trip of his youth and headed out on four expeditions with another photographer whom he describes as a mentor. "We were shooting in national parks," Hart said "but the mission was to aim my camera and my thinking, and renew my love of photography around the possibility of creating fine art photographs."

In late 2019, Hart learned that Vermont Life would no longer be creating their iconic calendars. He took a deep breath and printed 3,000 calendars with his own photographs to make up for that loss. "I sold 2,500 and gave 500 away," he said. "People were appreciative, but I thought it was a one-time thing until my daughter told me she was having twins." It was at that

point that Hart decided to embark on a new commercial venture so he could help her financially.

Hart decided that for 2021 he would create four different calendars. He took an even deeper breath and printed 12,000: one general landscape wall calendar, one wall calendar with photos of barns, a weekly planner, and a pocket calendar. The timing, however, wasn't great.

"I got them into 64 stores," Hart said, "but because of Covid, tourism and retail businesses tanked." Hart considers himself lucky to have been able to sell almost 8,000 calendars.

Hart is already at work planning his 2022 calendars. "I realized that the mission of Vermont Life was to celebrate Vermont and Vermonters, not Jonathan Hart," he said, "so the 2022 calendar will feature local artist reproductions and other photographers. Everything is made, designed and printed in Vermont." Instead of a pocket calendar, Hart is considering another wall calendar that will be entirely in black and white.

Despite the Vermont-centric nature of his work, Hart hasn't given up the thought of traveling more for his photography, and once he receives his second Covid shot, he's planning on driving cross-country to shoot. "I miss taking photos," he said. "I spend so much time trying to figure out how to run the business. I drive almost every day on dirt roads and back roads, using my eyes to bring back something I'm missing, which is carrying my camera and shooting."



Jonathan Hart. Photo contributed

Hart is pleased to have the opportunity to bring the work of other artists to the forefront. "I've gotten to know quite a few artists at big tent shows, farmers markets and craft shows," he said. "I feel like artists are at the same point where farmers were ten years ago in that we need to bring more attention to what we do." Hart is happy to be able to do something that raises the profile of other artists while also helping his daughter with her now ten-month-old twins. "We'll try to sell enough to get by," he said "and raise some visibility for local talent."

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Opinion

Help Vermonters get financially literate

John Pelletier

All Vermont public school students are supposed to be taught personal finance, but I would bet that many parents would have a hard time finding a young person who has learned about credit scores, investing or compound interest. And there probably are even fewer students learning about personal finance during the pandemic, as teachers rightfully focus on core subjects.

My hope is that all that will change in the next school year. In 2018, the Vermont State Board of Education adopted the JumpStart National Standard on K-12 Personal Finance Education, a 52-page document outlining what every Vermont student should know about personal finance by kindergarten, 4th, 8th and 12th grades. Prior to making this change, Vermont students were only required to learn very modest amounts of personal finance content.

The state board recognized that the new standards could be taught in a stand-alone course, or integrated into math, language arts, social studies classes, etc. They understood that this topic could be brought to the classroom in an interdisciplinary manner. Honoring our Vermont traditions, the state board left how to teach this topic up to local control and decisions of our school districts.

But all of this is new to most teachers, curriculum directors, school administrators and parents. So how can we help Vermont educators successfully bring this important topic into the classroom?

The first step is training teachers, and beginning this week, The Center for Financial Literacy and Champlain College Online, in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Education, is offering free online, on-demand financial literacy professional development training for all Vermont teachers, more than 8,000 educators. This training is being made available to all public and private school educators.

Beginning March 3, Vermont teachers can learn how to teach personal finance in seminars that will be available asynchronously through May. Educators can complete all or just some of the seven hours of professional development available on the topic. The first 400 educators (elementary, middle and high school) to complete the training will receive a \$50 Amazon gift certificate. All educators will have 90 days to achieve that—until May 31. Professional development credit will be given for each one-hour session completed.

With a trained corps of teachers, we can reach many of the more than 80,000 students in Vermont who will then have a solid foundation for financial success in their careers and lives.

We believe this subject is so important to our future that we would have broadened the scope of this free training to reach even more Vermonters. Thanks to the virtual nature of the program, we encourage participation by parents (especially those who homeschool their children), employees and volunteers at nonprofit organizations, professionals in after-school programs, and other educators in state or local agencies (e.g., prison educators, social workers, Gear-Up tutors) and those working in community action agencies and restorative justice programs.

If we want our kids to learn how to manage their finances, we need qualified, confident teachers to show them how. We need financially literate adults who can provide our young people the knowledge and skill to manage financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial wellbeing.

The pandemic has reinforced how important this topic is to all of our citizens' financial success. Prior to the pandemic, in 2019, the Federal Reserve Board conducted a survey of adults that noted that almost 40% of American adults wouldn't be able to cover a \$400 emergency with cash, savings or a credit-card charge that they could quickly pay off. That means that 4 out of 10 adults are clearly financially fragile and just one economic shock from dire consequences.

Together, we can ensure that all future Vermont high school graduates benefit from this learning. Then they will be financially prepared for the workforce, the military or college, because each of these paths will require them to think about money each day—how to make it, spend and save it.

So I sincerely hope that thousands of Vermonters involved in education take advantage of this free, online training that they can plug into at their convenience. Our teachers have been among our heroes during the pandemic, here is another chance for them to shine.

If any Vermonter would like to participate in all or some of the free, online and on-demand training, register by going to bit.ly/3uzBcm2

John Pelletier is director of the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College.



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Sports

Five Redhawk women hoopsters celebrate Girls Senior Night

Edd Merritt and Tom Giroux
CONTRIBUTORS

March 2 saw the lady Redhawks honor five teammates playing their final years at CVU and carrying on the winning tradition. A dominating victory over St. Johnsbury Academy, 55-23, helped matters. The five are Maddie Reagan, Josie Pecor, Cathy Gilwee, Jade Leavitt and Maddie Mfochive.

Their classmates set up humorous posters around the gym, with lines such as “Have No Fear #2 is Here,” “Make Your Swishes Come True,” “21 Will Get It Done,” “Josie P Will Hit That Three.” And they did, jumping out to a 6-0 lead in the first quarter. The Hilltoppers followed, however, in the second period by hitting seven unanswered points and bringing the game within three points, 16-13. Coach Otley switched her defense to a 1-2-2 zone which held St. Jay scoreless for the remainder of the first half.

The win followed a previous victory for the women, 57-31 over Rice.
The junior varsity also remained without a loss by outscoring the Hilltoppers 40-31 behind Kate Boget, Merrill Jacobs, Charlotte Sisson and Nina Zimakas.

On Monday, the women bested Rutland, 47-29, with much of its offense coming through the hands of familiar players—Cathy Gilwee, Josie

Pecor, Shelby Companion, Elise Berger, Chloe Snipes and Maddie Mfochive. Addie Hunter’s rebounding and Maddie Reagan’s playmaking helped the Redhawk cause.
Following a slow start, the Redhawk JVs picked up for a 43-16 win over the Raven JVs. Seven of 10 CVU players scored, led by Samara Ashooh with 11. The win leaves them undefeated like their varsity counterparts.

For men hoopsters it was a win over Wolves but a loss to Green Knights
The last Friday in February saw CVU men outscore South Burlington by 14 points in the second half to lead the determined Redhawks to a convincing 58-40 victory over the Wolves. Coach Osborne’s deep bench proved to be a major factor with all 14 members of the roster seeing some action.

Ethan Czarny provided an early offense for CVU. Ten Redhawks saw playing time in the first quarter, even though they ended the period with only a one-point lead, 11-10. Ethan Murray, Devon Rogers, Logan Vaughn and Alex Provost gave CVU a four-point lead at halftime. Charlotte’s Deng Dau scored five points, and his town-mate Zach Doane helped create a 40-31 score after three periods and before the Redhawks outscored the Wolves 18-9 in the final stanza.
The JVs had a tight game with CVU leading 18-16 after two periods. They went on to win

38-29 and maintain an unblemished record.
On Saturday, March 6, CVU ran into a hot set of Green Knights, losing to Rice, 53-29. Devin Rogers and Ethan Czarny led the Hawks with eight points apiece. While both teams used tight defenses in the opening period, the Redhawks went back to a man-to-man in the second quarter, and Rice ran to a 20-12 lead at halftime. The Knights, however, blew the Hawks away in the second half to remain unbeaten. The game was between the two top seeds in the state, and the Redhawks look toward an opportunity for revenge in the playoffs.

The CVU junior varsity suffered its first loss of the season to Rice, 42-39. CVU did cut the lead to two with only a little over a minute left to play. But that was as close as they would get.

CVU gymnasts are a potent bunch
The Redhawk gymnastics team has been overpowering in its meets. Take its match on Feb. 27 in which, as a team, it bested South Burlington 117.1 to 89.5. The Hawks won all but one exercise, with Ruby Opton taking the All-Around title and Rory Anderson third. Ruby earned that spot with victories in the vault, the beam and floor exercises. She placed second in bars.

Skiers master the slopes
The CVU Alpine teams continue to perform well on the slopes—particularly the women. Olivia Zubarik, Dicey Manning, Ella Lisle,



Devin Rogers hits for two. Photo by Al Frey

Charlotte Couperthwaite, Kate Kogut and Ellie Ramirez-Richer seem to dominate the top ten individuals, while Peter and Sean Gilliam and Seth Boffa finish in that group among men.

Into The Woods
The science of snow

Ethan Tapper
CONTRIBUTOR

While we ended up with more snow than we know what to do with, this winter started slowly. If you’ve been following our forest management project at the Andrews Community Forest in Richmond, you’ll know that we struggled with warm weather and soils that didn’t freeze until far later than usual.
For loggers, the wintertime is like the summertime for farmers, or the spring for sugar makers—a short period of time when they make a disproportionate amount of their yearly income. As forest managers, this is when some of our best work gets done—when we can manage our forests to be more diverse, resilient and complex while produce local renewable resources (wood) with minimal impacts to soils. When, like this year, we have

warm, wet weather into January, it challenges our ability to do this important work.
Forest management is certainly not the only activity that benefits from colder, snowier winters. Most of us in Vermont rely on skiing, snowboarding, skating, sledding and other winter spots to combat the winter blues. When we can’t do these things, it diminishes both our quality of life (fun) and the jobs and economic activity supported by these winter recreational activities.
There is an overwhelming body of research showing that our winters are becoming milder, that our snowpack is decreasing, and that these trends will continue as our climate changes. While this is certainly an economic problem and a quality-of-life problem, it also is having a number of negative effects on forest ecology.

Research by Dr. Pamela Templer and others has illustrated the many ways that having less snow harms forests. For trees, one main issue is the loss of the insulation that snow provides. This causes freezing to penetrate more deeply into the soil, damaging tree roots and diminishing trees’ ability to take up nutrients and forests’ ability to store carbon. It is also linked to substantially slower growth in a number of tree species—most notably sugar maple. The melting snowpack also helps rehydrate trees as they emerge from dormancy in the spring.
Decreasing snow depth also impacts a variety of our native critters. The subnivean zone is the habitat within the snowpack, where small mammals like mice, voles, shrews and ermine live out the winter, protected from extreme winter temperatures. Small mammals support many important functions in forest ecology,

including (but certainly not limited to) feeding animals like owls, foxes and bobcats.
Lower snow depths are not a problem for all wildlife; white-tailed deer, whose populations are limited by winter severity, benefit from warmer winters with less snow. Unfortunately, as most other New England states have already realized, deer overpopulations are a massive biodiversity threat. By selectively browsing young trees and plants, they lower diversity, encouraging non-native invasive plants.
Aside from addressing the root causes of climate change (which stretches far outside the forestry realm), what can we do? From a quantitative perspective, we can manage our forests to sequester and store lots of carbon.

SNOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

By far the most important thing we can do in this respect is to keep forests as forests, protecting them from conversion, development and fragmentation. We can also manage forests for carbon sequestration and storage by leaving some big trees in the woods, leaving lots of dead wood on the forest floor, avoiding large-scale disturbances and leaving some areas unmanaged.

We also need to protect our forests’ ability to be healthy, to provide amazing wildlife habitat for species under tremendous stress, and to sequester and store carbon by encouraging resilient, adaptive forests: forests that are able to stay healthy amidst the many stressors of a changing climate. We can do this actively, using forest management to help our relatively young, simple forests become more diverse

and complex, and addressing threats to forest health and diversity like deer overpopulation and invasive exotic plants.

In a broader sense, we can mitigate climate change by thinking critically about where our resources come from. Forest management can’t solve all our problems, but done well, wood is an example of a resource we can be proud of, one that can be produced while encouraging the health and resilience of our ecosystems. Using local renewable resources rather than non-local, non-renewables is a powerful way to take charge of our climate impacts, lowering our effects on peoples, critters and ecosystems across the globe—and protecting our beautiful snow.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, or (802) 585-9099. Stay tuned to what Ethan’s up to at: <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

Out Takes

Musings on our connection to nature



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

I’m growing tired of the
big city’s lights
*Tired of the glamour; and
tired of the sights.*
*In all my dreams I’m
roaming once more
Down to my home on the
old river shore.*
Miss the Mississippi and
You—Jimmie Rogers

A couple of books got me thinking about how we depend upon and how we share a relationship with nature. One was Philip Caputo’s *The Longest Road*, a story of his drive from the southernmost point of America—Key West, Florida—across the continent to the northernmost Alaska coastline on the Arctic Ocean and then back again, a round trip of over 16,000 miles. One way it meant driving from a point “seventy miles north of the Tropic of Cancer” to another one, “twelve hundred miles south of the North Pole.”

The journey was a way of helping the author answer a question he had been posing for some time: “What keeps this land a country?” He comes to the conclusion that the answer is conflict.

He poses conflict as a universal trait. “Conflict is what holds a star together,” actually a tension “between gravity, which pulls a star toward collapse, and thermonuclear fusion, which releases tremendous energy that sends the star’s matter expanding outward.” It is humanity’s willful desire—maybe the necessity—to connect itself to the physical nature of our planet.

The other book may not seem to seek this same connection. However, its study and history of a place I’m familiar with were engaging. Titled *The Islander: Coming of Age in the Apostle Islands*, it looks at a part of our planet, Lake Superior, the great *gitche gumee*, the greatest Great Lake, once a place central to my family’s history. Dissecting this largest body of fresh water as a major feature of our American continent, I wonder whether one of the earth’s feature substances, water, does connect with humanity to augment what we do in terms of living our lives. And, if it does so, how?

The islands rest off the northern tip of Wisconsin. My father’s family called Duluth, Minnesota, home. It was about 15 miles west of the Apostles. In addition to hanging near the southwest arrowhead of the lake as a youngster, I spent several weeks each summer on Isle Royale, north and east of the Apostles, closer to what is now Thunder Bay,

Ontario. Considering entire Lake Superior our domain, we periodically visited the Apostles as though we were fulfilling our roles as “Lake Monsters.”

My dad used this trip to help him feel he was getting away from his regular corporate duties and the routine of his job. I’m sure Caputo’s book had yet to be written, but I’m also sure that my father would have shared the author’s connection physically and emotionally with the Great Plains and deserts where the author found himself alone in a physical landscape in which his presence was the only connection between nature and humanity.

Another central body of water, the Mississippi River, is an artery running through our countryside. Interestingly, this major outflow begins in Lake Itasca, a small glacial lake, only 25 to 35 feet deep, in northern Minnesota. Fed by several small streams, the “Mighty Mississippi” begins its southward flow, 2,340 miles, to the Gulf of Mexico. It is not, however, until the river connects with the Ste. Croix near the twin cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul that it becomes a true arterial flow of commercial traffic going all the way to New Orleans.

Water of this magnitude provides a conduit for much of our country’s commerce through its mid-section.

Given our recent exploration for water on Mars as an indication that our neighboring planet may have had and, in fact, may still contain some form of life, supports the theory that water is the blood of living nature, at least in earth’s solar system. And, humanity takes advantage of its quantity and flow to bring prosperity to a major portion of the planet.

However, now that we have a natural resource supporting life on the planet, we are confronted with the possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations bringing life from outer space as well. The universe is vast and goes well beyond our system. Astronomer Avi Loeb in his book *The Extraterrestrials* says that his contemplation of the birth stars led him to wonder “how civilizations might eavesdrop on one another.” His eye of space is something he calls Oumuamua, the first interstellar visitor from somewhere in the vast galaxy. He and fellow investigator Matias Zaldarriaga decided to eavesdrop on extraterrestrial radio signals that seem to emanate from an oblong cigar-shaped rock that had never before been seen as an interstellar object. It did, by the way, disperse radio signals that make NPR’s look newborn.

Gardening

Let’s get this garden started! Choosing grow lights

Nadie VanZandt
CONTRIBUTOR

With the lengthening daylight and the many seed catalogs arriving in your mailbox, it’s hard to ignore the promise of spring. Are you planning to grow your own vegetable and flower transplants this year? You may find that shopping for grow lights for indoor gardening can be mind boggling.

When navigating the numerous options in lighting products, you may encounter confusing terminology. Don’t let this intimidate you. When choosing a grow light system for your indoor garden, you only need to understand a few basic principles.

Once seeds have germinated and the first true leaves emerge, light begins to play a vital role in the growth and health of seedlings. Outdoors, plants get energy from sunlight to produce their own food, a process known as photosynthesis.

Successful indoor gardening depends on grow lights that closely imitate sunlight to trigger photosynthesis without generating too much heat. Your seedlings will thrive under a quality, energy-efficient, full-spectrum light that’s evenly distributed over your growing area.

To identify a quality full-spectrum light, look at the Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) and Color Rendering Index (CRI) information on the product label. CCT, measured in Kelvins (K), describes the color of the light source in terms of warm (yellows) and cool (blues) colors. Natural light has a CCT rating of 6500K, so a light bulb with a rating near 6500K is ideal for grow lights.

CRI is used to evaluate how well the light compares to visible sunlight. The maximum CRI rating of 100 corresponds to the natural light from sunlight. Good full-spectrum lights for indoor gardening have a CRI rating above 85, but the closer to 100, the better.

Be sure to buy enough fixtures to evenly distribute the light over the entire area. For seedlings along the perimeter to thrive, they should receive the same amount of light as those in the center. Plants require a certain amount of light, so the distance between plants and grow lights makes a difference. That distance depends on the strength of the light generated by the light source (incandescent, fluorescent or LED).

It is important to purchase adjustable light fixtures so you can change the height above



Seedlings will do best when grown under quality, energy-efficient, full-spectrum light that’s evenly distributed over the growing area.
Photo by Beret Halverson

your seedlings as they grow. If you see browning on leaves and leaf edges, it may indicate that your lights are too close to the plants. On the other hand, if your seedlings are lanky, your lights may be too high. For optimal results, follow the height recommendations

provided by the light manufacturer.

Your seedlings will need 16 to 18 hours of light a day at 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. You can find inexpensive, programmable timers at most hardware stores. Plants require periods of darkness, so don’t keep the lights on continuously.

Also, your seedlings may suffer if exposed to high amounts of heat, so it’s important to select light bulbs that do not dissipate too much heat. Fluorescent grow lights—T5s with high CCT and CRI ratings—have proven suitable for growing seedlings. However, T5 HO (High Output) lights give off heat that could damage your seedlings. Hanging a small, inexpensive thermometer at canopy level will help to monitor the temperature.

Although pricier, LED grow lights have better CCT and CRI ratings, are more energy efficient and more durable than other lighting technologies. They are worth considering.

Good lighting is indispensable to growing your seedlings indoors. With a little homework, you can start your gardening season with a bang!

Natalie Van Zandt is an Extension Master Gardener Intern at the University of Vermont.

Classifieds

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

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Wednesday, Feb 3
15:51:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
8:40:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Thursday, Feb. 4
14:25:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
12:25:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Friday, Feb. 5
16:41:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Saturday, Feb. 6
10:41:00 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
9:05:00 Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)



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gdarling@gmavt.net

Charlotte Fire and Rescue Log

February 2021

6:03:00 Patient Evaluated, Released (AMA)
Sunday, Feb. 7,
6:09:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Monday, Feb. 8
13:54:05 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
13:35:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Wednesday, Feb. 10
15:12:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
12:58:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Thursday, Feb. 11
16:11:33 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
10:52:06 Standby-Public Safety, Fire, or EMS Operational Support Provided
Saturday, Feb. 13
5:36:00 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
Sunday, Feb. 14
5:20:00 Agency Assist
Tuesday, Feb. 16
17:05:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Wednesday, Feb. 17
16:40:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
9:55:00 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
6:38:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Monday, Feb. 22
10:03:43 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Tuesday, Feb. 23
6:54:00 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)
Thursday, Feb. 25
16:48:49 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
3:05:00 Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS
Friday, Feb. 26
13:18:11 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS
Saturday, Feb. 27
10:33:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS

Town

Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Take & Make for March

Felt Ball Garland: Spruce up for springtime with a mini garland you can make yourself. Wool roving, twine and needle supplied in this kit for older children and adults.

Book Mark Kits: Make a whimsical marker to track your reading progress. Packets available in the entryway on our Take & Make cart.

Upcoming Programs Online

Please contact the library to sign up for programs at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org or 425-3864.

Coding Club 2021 Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

All levels are welcome! Learn Scratch, a block-based visual programming language, or sharpen your Scratch skills. Ready to take your coding know-how to the next level? We'll have a breakout room with Charlie, our coding mentor, to work on different platforms. 4th grade and up.

Book Chat Fridays at 10 a.m.

Join Margaret for a virtual stroll through the library collections, highlighting a different theme or topic each week.

Guided Autobiography Workshop
Tuesdays at 7 p.m., March 10 to May 12
Guided Autobiography offers a facilitated process through which to explore, reflect upon and integrate one's life story. Useful for adults navigating times of transition in life, or simply as a means to embark on a deeper process of self-discovery, this is a personal journey taken up in the company of supportive comrades. Each week, participants will write a two-page story on



a particular life theme. Through the process of sharing one's own and responding to others' stories, participants can find new perspective, appreciation for their own strengths, discover creative and previously overlooked opportunities, and experience a sense of connection with others. Although sessions include resources or creative tools to explore one's history, writing skill is not a focus for this group. Limit: 6 participants.

Mystery Book Group: A Beautiful Blue Death by Charles Finch Monday, March 15, 10 a.m.

On any given day in London, all Charles Lenox, Victorian gentleman and armchair explorer, wants to do is relax in his private study with a cup of tea, a roaring fire and a good book. But when his lifelong friend Lady Jane asks for his help, Lenox cannot resist another chance to unravel a mystery, even if it means trudging through the snow to her townhouse next door. One of Jane's former servants, Prudence Smith, is dead—an apparent suicide. But Lenox suspects something far more sinister: murder by a rare and deadly poison. The house where the girl worked is full of suspects and, though Prudence dabbled with the hearts of more than a few

men, Lenox is baffled by an elusive lack of motive in the girl's death. Print copies available for porch pick up at the library and the ebook is available via Libby for Charlotte patrons.

Men's Book Group: The Overstory by Richard Powers

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

The Overstory is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paean to—the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers' twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late 20th century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe. Copies available for porch pickup at the library and ebook via Libby for Charlotte patrons.

Environmental Art: Images to awaken our relationship to nature Wednesday, March 24, 7-8 p.m.

Join Jonathan Silverman, professor emeritus at St. Michael's College, for this engaging and inspiring look at the connections between art and ecology. In this session we witness how artists have used their skills, imagination and commitment to raise ecological awareness. A wide range of two- and three-dimensional environmental artist works ranging from paintings to photographs to site-specific sculpture will illuminate the human colonizing of the natural world, spark insight on the resilience necessary to alter our relationship to nature, and invite our own creativity and art making to engage in ecojustice. This program is part of our Resilient Communities Grant funded by the American Library Association. "Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond

to Climate Change" is a pilot program of the American Library Association.

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 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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
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Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER
DIRECTOR

Will there really be a “Morning”?
Is there such a thing as “Day”?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?

Has it feel like Water lilies?
Has it feathers like a Bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?

Oh, some Scholar! Oh, some Sailor!
Oh, some Wise Men from the skies!
Please to tell a little Pilgrim
Where the place called “Morning” lies!
~ Emily Dickinson, “Out of the Morning”

It’s probably safe to say that there will be
a morning—and it is just over that hill.
Coming soon.

Courses starting soon

Directions for **How to Register** and **Payment** appear at the end of this article and also in the upper right corner of the new Spring Schedule.

3/15 - Book Discussion Group: *Walking Each Other Home*

Mondays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Dates: 3/15, 4/5, 4/26 & 5/17.
This facilitated group began with a discussion of *Walking Each Other Home*. It has just started *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death* by Joan Halifax. The group now welcomes newcomers. No fee.

3/23 & 3/30 - Watercolor Basics Workshop (online) with Lynn Cummings

Two Tuesday mornings, 9–12.
Dates: 3/23 & 3/30.
Register by 3/16. Fee \$72.
Have you been away from watercolor painting for a while, or maybe you’ve never painted in this fun and exciting medium? We’ll explore basic terminology, various ways of using your brushes, mixing watercolors, and several techniques in this 2-part, online workshop.

Questions? Email: lynn.cummings@uvm.edu. Maximum 12. Registration and payment must be received by 3/16 to hold your spot.

4/1 - Exploring Your Spiritual

Autobiography with Carole Wageman
Thursdays, 1–2:30 p.m.
Dates: 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29 & 5/6.
Register by 3/30. No fee.

4/8 - Screen Writing for Fun with Mark Williams

Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Dates: 4/8–5/13. (6 weeks) Register by 4/6.
In this class, you’ll discover how to develop a basic storyline and create a logline description. We’ll discuss story structures such as the Three Act Structure: What disaster forces the main character into action? What flaw in the main character sends them into hopelessness? What neglected or underestimated strength saves the day? At the end of the course, you’ll think about workflow for writing your first draft of a feature film. ~ For 12 years, Mark wrote and filmed his own original movies, entering them in competitions. One of them won first place at the Vermont Film School Festival, 2016.
Please register by 4/5. Fee: \$58 for the series of 75-min. classes.

4/14 - CONFLICT RESOLUTION with Mark Williams

Wednesday mornings, 11–12.
Dates: 4/14–5/19. (6 weeks) Register by 4/12.
This fascinating and useful topic can benefit anyone because we all encounter conflict. Using role-playing and mediation exercises, participants in this 6-week course 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. ~ Mark Williams is a licensed couples counselor; however, please note that this course is not intended for couples.
Please register by 4/12. Fee: \$48 for the series.

And don’t forget to consider CSC’s wide range of ongoing exercise and health courses—these can be joined at any time during the season: **Chair Yoga Essentrics™, Gentle Yoga, Pilates, Pilates PLUS, Tai Chi for Beginners and Mindfulness Meditation Practice.**

Talks on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

These talks do *not* require advance registration and are always free. The Zoom invitation/link to the talks are posted on the website the day before at: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The link also appears in Front Porch Forum for that week.

3/17: Composting for Everyone with Natasha Duarte

~ Confused about the new “compost law”? Join Natasha, Director of the Composting



Association, to get your questions answered. Composting supports healthy, resilient communities and the environment. Learn a simple technique for successful backyard composting as well as what options you have if you aren’t interested or able to compost at home.

3/24: Preparing Your Advanced Directive with Tina D’Amato, DO

~ This interactive presentation will cover how to prepare this important document that helps communicate your medical wishes at end of life. We will clarify differences between DNR/DNI and “full code.” We will review the Vermont Advanced Directive Form, clarify its wording, and show how to register the form once complete. We will also spend some time on how to update your advanced directive, if changes need to be made to the original document. ~ Dr. D’Amato is a family medicine physician working at Charlotte Family Health.

3/31: The Power of a Power of Attorney with Leah Burdick, Esq.

A legal Power of Attorney document can be a powerful tool to safeguard your financial well-being, but it can also lead to serious consequences if not done correctly. This talk will explain the ins and outs of what a Power of Attorney document is, how it is created, and what it means to be a named agent in a Power of Attorney under Vermont law. ~ Leah Burdick, Esq., is an Elder Law attorney within the Elder Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. Her practice areas include advanced planning for aging, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, housing, and individual rights.

4/07: Covid Update . . . The First Hundred Days. . . How’s It Going? with Jim Hyde

~ With only three weeks to go before the end of the first hundred days of the Biden administration, we will look at what progress has been made in gaining control of the pandemic nationally and in Vermont. The focus will be on vaccination rates, access to testing and control of community spread of coronavirus. There will be time for questions and discussion. ~ 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.

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: PO 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.

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.

Art Exhibits

The Senior Center’s monthly art exhibits are suspended until further notice. They shall return!

Keep up the good work. The end is almost 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.

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

The Charlotte News understands that the pandemic has hit the restaurant industry particularly hard, and we would like to do our part by highlighting locally owned area restaurants. Hold on to this handy guide and call them for a great meal!

The following businesses provided us with their most updated information.

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