

*Your nonprofit community news source since 1958*

# *The* Charlotte News

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 | VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 21



A new captain at the helm of Darling's Boatworks.  
Read more on page 9



## Tragedy on Lewis Creek

Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday Marty Illick and her husband, Terry Dinnan, drowned while boating near their Lewis Creek home in East Charlotte, a neighborhood in which they had lived for over 40 years. Marty and Terry were well known in the community for their contributions to it.

Marty helped form the Lewis Creek Association in the 1990s and served as its executive director, a capacity through which she contributed numerous articles to *The Charlotte News*. She also served on the board of the Charlotte Land Trust (CLT) for over 20 years. She spearheaded the CLT work in conservation of the Burleigh Farm on Spear Street and was involved actively in maintaining a large section of its agricultural land that linked with surrounding forest. She also worked to conserve about a mile of riparian frontage of land along Lewis Creek. Currently she was serving as a member of the Charlotte Planning Commission.



Terry Dinnan and Marty Illick

Photos contributed

Terry was a retired stone mason who, with his partner, owned a limestone quarry in Essex, New York, for over 25 years. After selling the quarry land several years ago, he donated his profit to help establish the Essex Quarry Nature Park there.

A third member of their boating trip was their three-year-old grandson who, wearing a life jacket, managed to make it to shore and was found safe inside their truck near their home.

## Community Center Committee moves forward

Ethan Putnam  
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

A majority of Charlotte residents say they would use a community center if built, but there is still a long road ahead before the town can break ground. On April 7, the Charlotte Community Center Committee met again so that the subcommittees could update each other on the progress they had made so far.

The Community Center Committee has four subcommittees: a site subcommittee that is focusing on finding a site for the center, an operations subcommittee that is working on understanding expenses, a program development subcommittee that is working on future programming at the center, and an engagement subcommittee that's been tasked with sending out surveys, keeping the community updated and fundraising.

Since receiving the results of the survey sent out by the recreation commission in December, the Committee has been working to answer questions posed by the town such as "what would it look like?", "what would

it contain?", "how much would it cost?", and "where is it going to go?"

The survey indicated that 55% of respondents were interested in a community center, and 58% said they would use the center weekly.

Survey participants indicated that they wanted an indoor aquatics facility in the new community center, as well as a group fitness space and possibly sport courts. Other suggestions ranged from a hot tub to a "maker space" to a classroom for community events.

The main sources of funding for construction the survey indicated as popular were private donations, grants and corporate sponsorships. The funding streams for operation and maintenance that were popular were also private donations and corporate donations and sponsorships.

One proposed location is the Burns property, a 54 acre town-owned parcel of land situated between Route 7 and Greenbush Road. Other properties have been proposed, such as

SEE **CENTER** PAGE 7

## A new tree champion



Charlotte has a new silver maple champion! The tree, located on the property of Lauren and Dmitriy Akselrod at 1355 Church Hill Road, measures 181 inches in girth at breast height before branching off into three large trunks; with the left side trunk added, the tree measured 224 inches at breast height. Pictured left to right are Lilah, Nathaneal and Amelia Akselrod, with their dog, Stella.  
Photo by Vince Crockenberg

## Selectboard discusses a better planning process



Nancy Richardson  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Selectboard April 12 meeting proceeded speedily through a daunting list of items. These included interviews for various town committees, applications for liquor licenses, a lease at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, and a replacement window at the Senior Center. The members approved an application for the use of town roads for the Tour de Farms bicycle ride in September.

Considerable time was spent reviewing proposed extensions of the Town Link Trail. A path from the edge of the Mack property moving to the Burns property, then progressing in three different possible pathways to Greenbush or Ferry road, was discussed. This proposal would depend upon gaining landowner easements. Part of the pathway would extend into forested land. Robin Reid suggested caution about disturbing this wooded area. Matt Krasnow recommended that the Selectboard conduct a site visit and that conversations be held with neighboring landowners and others before final decisions are made.

Similar issues arose concerning the Beach Master Plan. Bill Fraser-Harris, chair of the Recreation Committee, stated that the committee is overwhelmed by the many activities being proposed for the beach area. Current plans identify pickle ball courts, tennis courts, a large number of additional parking spots, a playground, a pavilion, cooking areas and perhaps a skate park.

Bill pointed out that parking is now inadequate; including the proposed activities in a plan would exponentially increase the number of visitors and the parking required.

Sue Smith asked that the board take a step back and determine "how many people can be in this park without disrupting the beauty of what we have now?" Jim Faulkner suggested that the Selectboard make a site visit, with the various proposals mapped out, and then explore how to proceed, including zoning issues.

The agenda proceeded to the discussion of whether the town should institute a Development Review Board (DRB). A majority of Vermont towns now have DRBs to facilitate planning and decision making. Questions have been raised about the inefficiency of the town planning process. Eight years (and counting) have been consumed in presenting Town Plan amendments for a public vote.

A DRB would take over some functions of the Zoning and Planning Boards. Frank Tenney noted that the DRB would be taking over a good portion of the Zoning Board's work, and that means it would have to conduct many meetings. Jim Faulkner responded, "This process must work because 75% of Vermont towns have instituted it." Matt Krasnow suggested that the Selectboard contact the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for advice. Jim Faulkner proposed that a small committee of representatives from Zoning and Planning work with him to study the issue and present the pros and cons to the Selectboard at a meeting soon.

The meeting ended with a proposal on Conflict of Interest. The Selectboard's Rules and Procedures would be amended to prohibit members from holding simultaneous positions on other town committees, commissions or boards. Lewis Mudge has developed language to this effect. He said he would present it for a vote at the next Selectboard meeting.



Town

# Charlotte Sustainable Living Network joins Green Up Day again

Ruah Swennerfelt  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE SUSTAINABLE  
LIVING NETWORK

Do you have old stereos, VCRs, boomboxes, etc. that are just cluttering your house? Are you wanting to be sure they don't end up in the landfill? Then we have a solution for you!

Charlotte Sustainable Living Network (formerly Transition Town Charlotte) will once again coordinate electronic waste collection at CCS in conjunction with Charlotte's Green Up Day, Saturday, May 1 at Charlotte Central School from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. In addition to the importance of cleaning up the waste we find on our road sides, the electronic collection eliminates thousands of pounds from ending up in our Vermont landfill. As you probably know, only one landfill currently services the State of Vermont. It's located in Coventry and one day will be full! Anything we can do to reduce waste or recycle may extend that termination date.

Even though it's not legal in Vermont to throw away what is recyclable, many people still are filling our landfill with electronics. Good Point Recycling from Middlebury collects the electronics and



Louis Cox helps carry a donation. Photo contributed helps make sure that they are recycled.

We can collect all electronic devices—computers and their components, DVD recorders, VCRs, stereos, phones, record players, radios, TVs, laptops, video machines, microwaves, small kitchen electronics, and their various cords and

## Green Up Day 2021!

Clean up Charlotte's roadsides!  
Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at  
Charlotte Central School

1. Sign up for a route: -on website, at the event, or call 425-2100 (before May 1)
2. Get bags: -at the library starting April 24 or at the event
3. Clean up your route.
4. Return bags to CCS: please don't leave bags on the roadsides.

All participants get a raffle ticket for a Vermont designed Plant Pack© backpack for picking up trash.  
All details on CharlotteVTGreenUpDay.com or call 425-2100.

chargers. We cannot accept appliances such as air conditioners, stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers.

Thanks for making this collection such a success in prior years. Please share this information with your neighbors. Let's keep Vermont clean and beautiful. Contact me at 802-922-2259 with questions.

# Planning Commission revisits smart growth goals

Nancy Richardson  
CONTRIBUTOR

At its April 15 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the Smart Growth standards that the state, regions and towns across Vermont have adopted. Smart Growth principles support patterns of land development that focus housing and business in town and village centers. The principles seek to provide accessible communities with a range of affordable housing. These standards have been adopted by Charlotte and are included in the Town Plan.

Regina Mahoney from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission presented a review of housing development in Charlotte from 2010 to 2019. The data show that nearly all of the housing built during that time period are single-family homes in rural areas of town. In fact, only 4% of new residences were constructed within town centers. Mahoney said, "Smart Growth is not happening in Charlotte."

Bill Stuenkel observed that other towns may have public water and sewer that Charlotte does not have. The lack of municipal systems limits the ability of the town to have multiple dwellings per lot. Mahoney did offer Westford as an example. Its village has no public water or sewer, but it nonetheless passed the zoning regulations that would enable development of affordable housing in structures with four dwellings on one lot.

A discussion followed on what went wrong in the rezoning initiative in the East Village. Mahoney reviewed how other towns had gone about the process of envisioning what might be possible, presenting photos and drawings to public forums, and using feedback to perfect the design of projects. She emphasized that the process must move quickly from envisioning to implementing. In East Charlotte, a community envisioning process took place in 2010, but it was at least eight years before the rezoning process commenced. By that time

many had forgotten the planning process and Smart Growth goals, and a negative publicity campaign was successful in derailing the initiative.

Marty Illick stated that she would look to the CCRPC to help Charlotte chart a pathway forward with specific recommendations. Mahoney had mentioned that the town might apply for a grant to assist in community forums. Peter Joslin stated that we are now in a brainstorming mode on how to move forward and are hampered by the fact that we are a rural town with little publicly owned land. He questioned what would be a realistic timeline.

Kelly Devine thought that Charlotte might be

## Visualization Strategies

### Accomplished Smart Growth projects in several towns



Small Home: Barre, VT



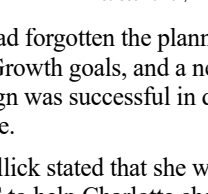
Reduced Setbacks: Williston, VT



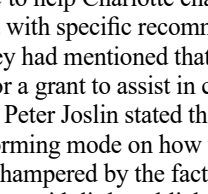
Small Lot 4-plex: Winooski, VT



Mixed Use: Groton, VT



Detached ADU: Burlington, VT



Attached ADU: Corinth, VT



Cottage Infill: S. Burlington, VT



Duplex: Shelburne, VT



Adaptive Re-Use: Putney VT



Mixed Use: Fairfax, VT

farther along than brainstorming the initial idea. "We had a good plan. It was presented in a manner that was difficult to understand. The ability to have renewed public conversations was limited by the pandemic. Everything was uncertain." Devine stated that instituting a grant process requires a lot of public capacity, which is limited in Charlotte right now. Peter Richardson commented that the problem was not the plan. "This was a good plan. The problem was the lag time and the marketing of it. The opposition was successful in derailing the plan. We should not put it aside, but need



## The Charlotte News

### Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is:

- to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town affairs, and,
- to source stories of interest from our neighbors and friends.

*The News* is a forum for the free exchange of the views of Charlotte residents and community volunteers on matters related to the town and the people who live here.

### Editorial independence

The editor makes final decisions on stories that are published 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 are independent of all sources of financial support, including support given through our affiliated 501(c)3 organization, The Friends of *The Charlotte News*.

### Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

Consistent with our mission *The Charlotte News* publishes letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries submitted by our readers. All such materials are subject to review and approval by the editor in accordance with the following standards and requirements:

- The views expressed in letters or opinion pieces are those of the author, and are not endorsed by either the board or the editorial staff of the paper. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor will be clearly labeled as such.
- The *News* strives to stay clear of conflicts of interest. If an actual or perceived conflict arises or becomes known at a later date, it will be fully disclosed.
- While letters or opinion pieces may endorse political positions or candidates for public office, the paper always remains objective and impartial in such matters.
- All submissions are strictly monitored for personal attacks, score settling, blatantly false information and inflammatory language. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission that is deemed contrary to the paper's standards.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
- Efforts will be made to publish submissions in their entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording, but minor editing may nonetheless be necessary. Contributors will be notified before publishing, if in the editor's judgment, significant changes are required, or the submission is rejected.
- Submission requirements:
- Letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries should be emailed to [news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org) as attachments in .doc format and must contain the writer's full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, contact phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
- All published letters and opinion pieces will include the writer's name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

### Editorial Staff

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**Copy editor:** Beth Merritt

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Report from the Legislature ..... Around Town .....

Upping the recycling game



Rep. Mike Yantachka

Green Up Day is right around the corner—of the calendar, that is—and Vermonters will head out to the roadsides to pick up the refuse of winter. Based on my past experience, there will be bottles and cans as well as fast food containers, vehicle debris and plastic bags. The litter certainly does accumulate around here, but the number of beverage containers on roadsides in states without bottle deposit systems, like Pennsylvania, is considerably higher by my observation when I visit family there.

In 1972, Vermont passed its first bottle deposit bill as a way to clean up litter along our roads. Since then, it’s become a successful statewide recycling program that allows Vermonters to redeem beer bottles and soda cans for a nickel per container. Bottle drives provide a fundraising source for Scout troops and class trips, too. Glass liquor bottles, with the exception of wine, were added to the deposit system in 1990. In 2019 the law was changed to require the unredeemed deposits, about \$1.5 million annually, to be returned to the state for deposit in the Clean Water Fund. While bills have been introduced over the last two decades to expand the deposit system, they have been unsuccessful. A step in that direction took place last week, however, with the Vermont House passing H.175 with a 99 to 46 vote. H.175 updates this landmark environmental law by expanding the redeemable list to include plastic water bottles, wine and hard cider bottles, and containers for all carbonated and non-carbonated beverages, except for dairy products, plant-based “milk” products, and non-alcoholic apple cider.

Right now, the bottle bill covers only 46 percent of the beverage containers sold in our state. Plastic water bottles are the second-most littered piece of trash in Vermont. Furthermore, broken and contaminated glass contributes to contamination of recycled paper and cardboard, is difficult to handle and expensive to dispose of, which can lead to dumping. Containers redeemed under the



bottle bill are more valuable for recycling because they are cleaner and far more likely to be remade into new containers. By passing H.175, we will increase the number of recycled containers in Vermont by an estimated 375 million per year.

According to a recent poll, 88 percent of Vermonters support the bottle bill, and 83 percent support updating it to include more containers. Expanding the bottle bill makes sense because it:

- increases recycling rates and reduces litter;
- supports the closed-loop economy by making more bottles back into bottles;
- reduces costs to solid waste management districts by reducing the volume of glass in our recycling bins;
- increases the handling fee for redemption centers to cover the added work associated with sorting these products;
- boosts the economy by creating more jobs than curbside recycling; and
- generates more revenue for the Clean Water Fund.

Getting back to Green Up Day, Saturday, May 1, this year, you can help by joining your neighbors and adopting a section of Charlotte’s roads. Sign up at the Green Up Charlotte website, <https://sites.google.com/view/charlotte-vt-green-up-day/home> and pick up a few green bags to fill.

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

Congratulations:

to **Kathleen McKinley Harris** of Charlotte who tied for third place in the Weybridge Haiku Competition that focused on the COVID epidemic theme. Twenty-six writers submitted entries.

Kathleen’s Haiku was titled “Visit this Pandemic Year in July to First Season Greenhouse.”  
Joy in nature’s green. We two, we’re alone. Roped-off greenhouses entice.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Joseph Lane, Sr.** who died last month in the McClure Miller Respite house in Colchester at the age of 89. Joseph was born in Charlotte and lived on his family’s farm on Church Hill Road for a number of years before moving elsewhere in the Burlington area. His surviving family includes Joseph’s son Jeffery and his wife, Eileen, of Charlotte. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, those wishing to make donations consider doing so to St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 160 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, VT 05403.

is extended to family and friends of **Marcia Nappi** who lived in Palm Beach, Florida, at the time of her passing at age of 86. She and her husband, Bob Nappi, lived in Charlotte for a period of time. When she died, the Nappis were in the process of preserving and developing a section of the Kwiniaska Golf Course in Shelburne. Bob survives her along with a son and a daughter. The family asks that those wishing to make donations in her memory consider giving to the MGN Family Foundation, c/o UBS, 3801 PGA Boulevard, Suite 1000, Palm Beach, FL 33410.

is extended to family and friends of **Marty Morrissey** who died March 30 at the age of 83. Marty was actively involved with the Charlotte Senior Center, both as a musician

(He was a founding member of the Highland Weavers who performed Celtic music in New England for more than 35 years and released eight recordings.) and as a hiker, gardener and teacher of t’ai chi whose name appeared frequently on the center’s calendar.

is extended to family and friends of **Brigid Rita Landler** of Charlotte who died at home at the age of 86. Born in Carickmacross, Ireland, she earned a bachelor’s degree from University College Dublin. She and her husband, Paul, who survives her, moved to Vermont in 1970 and to Charlotte in 1989, where she volunteered at the polls on Election Day and served on the board of SCHIP, the nonprofit resale shop. A funeral mass will be held for her at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in East Charlotte on May 15. The family asks that those wishing to donate in her name consider giving to the Humane Society of Chittenden County.

The Charlotte News

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Ads Deadline: Friday, April 30

May 20, 2021

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Ads Deadline: Friday, May 14

## News from *the News*

# We're hiring a new editor

John Quinney  
INTERIM PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

We have launched the search for a new editor for *The Charlotte News*. Preferably our candidate will have several years reporting experience, ideally at the local level; hands-on experience managing a small newsroom in a collegial, professional and efficient manner; and a reputation for attracting, managing and retaining volunteer writers.

Key responsibilities include:

- plan and edit the paper
- ensure coverage of town meetings and newsworthy issues
- manage production staff, community writers and freelancers
- contribute bylined stories

The full job description is available at [www.charlottenewsvt.org/about](http://www.charlottenewsvt.org/about). We're asking applicants to send a resume and three writing samples to John Quinney. We will consider applications in the order received, with a deadline of April 30.

We'd very much appreciate your help in spreading the word among your friends and colleagues.

We are fortunate to have three savvy and experienced volunteers joining me on our search committee. Melissa O'Brien knows the paper well from her time as a former editor. Elizabeth Bassett has played many roles at the paper over the years and currently pens our "Outside" column. Steven Goldstein lives in Shelburne, and for many years served as the Washington Bureau Chief for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

### In other news

Our former editor, Chea Waters Evans, is now working for a local news organization, The Charlotte Bridge. Chea and the Bridge board have kindly offered to share her work with us and we may publish some of her stories in the paper and on our website. That decision will be up to our new editor. The *News* will continue to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town affairs and to source stories from our neighbors and friends. That's our mission; it's printed on the masthead of every issue of *The News*.



### Moving forward: Board launches Governance Committee

I'm pleased to announce the launch of our governance committee. The committee's focus is on improving the effectiveness of the *News* board. Over the next six weeks, we will develop:

- a matrix listing the skills and experience to be represented on the board
- a conflict of interest policy for board members
- simple processes for board nominations, onboarding new members, planning and managing meetings, decision making, board training
- brief "job descriptions" for officers and members
- board committees and their responsibilities
- updates and additions to the bylaws
- a board calendar

We are thankful to board member Bob Bloch and to community members Lane Morrison and Tim Volk for agreeing to join us in this important work. Our thanks also to the seasoned business and nonprofit leaders

who have offered insights from their deep and extensive experience. We are especially grateful to Hinesburg resident Bill Schubart, who has offered to provide informal feedback on our work and guidance on issues that are common to the boards of many nonprofits. Bill knows these issues inside and out from his years of service as a member or leader of many nonprofit boards, including Vermont Journalism Trust, VPR and Fletcher Allen Healthcare.

*The Charlotte News* and the work of staff, board and volunteers should be judged by the service we provide to the Charlotte community: by the content of the paper that arrives in your mailbox every two weeks, our weekly e-newsletter and our frequent website posts. But behind the scenes, we must ensure that our newsroom is well managed, that freelancers and volunteers feel appreciated, that we produce timely, fair and fearless reporting on town affairs. At the board level, we must have in place processes and practices that support thoughtful and informed oversight of the organization.

That's why the work of our editorial and governance committees is so important. Keep an eye out for updates in the paper and in our newsletters.

# Teamwork and an unsung hero

Gay Regan  
CONTRIBUTOR

Last year was marked by wonderful teamwork between the board of *The Charlotte News* and The Friends of The Charlotte News. And our Charlotte community was tremendously

generous as both organizations worked together to raise money for the paper. We are so very grateful for this support from our community.

The paper and website are our face to the

community, and finding, supporting and retaining writers from the community is vital. But producing the paper also takes a lot of behind the scenes volunteer work and the quiet, steady teamwork that often goes unnoticed. By working together—board, staff, writers and volunteers—we were able to survive a year of COVID-19 and to enter 2021 in a strong financial position.

Much of the credit for our improved financial position goes to Ted LeBlanc, our board treasurer. I would guess that many of our readers don't know much about Ted and his accomplishments, so I will share how he has conserved and augmented the funds that we all raised together.

Ted LeBlanc is the unsung hero in this article.

Ted joined the board as our treasurer in March of 2019 after a 46-year career predominantly in the shipping and transportation industry. Before retiring, Ted ran his own company, Global Maritime Transportation Services, which specialized in pricing software and services for ocean carriers. Ted grew up in Montreal, Canada, but was a world business traveler and had offices in New Jersey, Florida, Toronto and London. In 2015 he became a U.S. citizen; he also holds Canadian citizenship. One of his joys in retirement is playing the guitar in a trio with Mike Walker of Charlotte and Patti Shannon of Essex. He is married to Jane Kearns and they have three grown children and one grandchild.

In 2020, Ted helped to augment our paper's funds with three grants totaling more than \$28,000. He said in our interview, "In every case, we needed teamwork in order to garner the grants." The first grant opportunity was offered by Independent News Network (INN) through their NewsMatch initiative and discovered by Vince Crockenberg. Based on the gifts of our Charlotte donors, we received a \$15,000 NewsMatch grant, the maximum available. Ted's contribution was preparing the reports, responding to questionnaires and carefully accounting for every check and PayPal transaction.

The second and third grants came through the Small Business Administration and provided a total of \$13,740. This Payroll Protection

Program award started as a loan and became a grant. The other grant came through an Economic Injury Damage Loan. Ted worked through the application process for both and submitted the paperwork.



Ted LeBlanc

Ted has also saved our paper a lot of money. He spoke of his philosophy for savings within an organization. "When you look at an operation there is always a two-pronged approach: the revenue side and the expense side. In evaluating the expenses, it's important to cut expenses but not affect operations." Other than payroll, rent and printing are the paper's two largest expenses. Ted ran a Request for Proposal (RFP) for printing the paper. As a result, Ted and Anna Cyr, our managing editor, decided to switch to a different printer, allowing for better quality print along with annual savings of approximately \$5,000.

He also saved the paper the costs of an office. Around early spring just before COVID-19 was closing things down, Vince Crockenberg approached our landlord, Andrew Thurber, to say that we would not be renewing our lease for office space in his building. Andrew graciously waived the remainder of our lease. Savings from insurance and rent was about \$6,000. Everyone connected to the production of the paper was now working from home. These moves allowed for a smooth transition into the year of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Earlier this year, Vince and Mike Russell applied to the IRS for a new nonprofit 501(c)(3) designation, working many hours to complete this complicated process. Ted prepared the financial projections to support our application. A new organization, TCN, Inc., would fold the two current organizations (The Friends of the Charlotte News and *The Charlotte News*) into a single operation to allow fundraising and advertising within the same framework. Ted and Susan Jones,



Town .....

Vermont proving to be a refuge from a changing climate

Kellyn Doerr

COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Forest fires, flooding and extreme weather—all are exacerbated by rising global temperatures, experts say. But increasingly to some, Vermont is an ideal place to escape.

Vermont’s population will see a dramatic increase over the next few years due to climate refugees migrating to Vermont according to a 2020 article by the Vermont Natural Resources Council (<https://vnrc.org/pandemic-rush-to-vermont-highlights-future-climate-migration-issues>). Climate refugees are those who are forced to flee their homes due to changes in their immediate environment, according to the article.

Vermont is known to be a great place for climate refugees, as it seems to have been shielded from climate crises so far, according to the VNRC. It’s home to an abundance of lakes, mountains, rivers and more than enough room for people to be outdoors as well as a longer growing season. It is also important that Vermont is not on the coast and has an abundance of groundwater, according to the article.

CBS Sunday Morning reported in a January 2021 article (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-refugees-the-quest-for-a-haven-from-extreme-weather-events>) that the Cashman family moved from California to Vermont to escape the wildfires in the Golden State.

“It’s beautiful, it’s green, it’s not dry, there’s no fires that I know of,” said Jen Cashman, according to the article. “The community embraced us immensely with our children. And I knew. I said, ‘We made the right decision! We made it!’”

Risa Delappe Estep is another self-identified climate refugee from California who has been living in Charlotte since November 2020. Isolation and at-home orders due to COVID were already putting her and her family on edge, Estep said. But, in 2018, when the air quality in California was so bad—to the point of not being able to go outside for a 10-day stretch following the birth of their daughter, Josie—that was the final straw.

Estep lives in Charlotte’s Ten Stones community. Established in 1989, the group describes themselves as a “multi-generational cohousing community... We have no common creed other than a desire to live cooperatively, ecologically, and economically.”

Ten Stones owns 87 acres of land, 10 of which have houses; the rest of the land is commonly owned. There are no “requirements” to live in this community, and just like any house in any regular community, anyone can buy one.



Fire in Mendocino County California.  
Photo by Bob Dass

Estep recalls looking for a home in Burlington with her husband Greg, but nothing ever caught their eye. Once they saw a home was available at Ten Stones in Charlotte, she said she knew immediately that’s where they wanted to live and raise their daughter.

“It does feel like the future here will be really good and a much higher quality of life,” said Estep.

She notes that she immediately felt more at home at Ten Stones and in Vermont, wanting to take part in the nature-loving culture Vermont has and the communities’ pledge to work together to take care of the land.

“We like the focus of living with less impact and being in tune with the seasons and feeling connected to other people with a shared vision.” Estep says how welcoming and warm her new neighbors have been to her and her family, like when they sang outside their house for her daughter’s birthday.

When the pandemic hit, things stayed relatively normal, thanks in part to an abundance of space.

There was a community house that had to be shut down, but the residents have found other ways to celebrate and feel unified. They have their community meetings on Zoom, gather at the firepit, hang on the “green” and sing songs together outside.

“They are an exceptional group of people,” said Estep.

Vermont leaders have long sought to make the state a welcoming and safe place for refugees of all kinds. In 2020, Mayor Miro Weinberger wrote in a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State, stating: “Refugees are a vital and valued part of our community, and we have been proud to welcome many people fleeing situations of persecution and great upheaval to our small city.”

TEAMWORK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

our bookkeeper, are readying the books for this change, although our application is still pending with the IRS.

Early in 2020, Bob Bloch and our fundraising committee purchased new software, Little Green Light, so that our sister organization, Friends of the Charlotte News, could keep better track of gifts and more easily stay in touch with our donors. Ted worked with the Friends to load the data. Suzanne Davis, chairman of The Friends, wrote about Ted, “He was instrumental in getting me up to speed on so many levels. His support on the technical side was invaluable.” She went on to say, “Teamwork and coordination between

the two entities (the Friends and the *News*) is crucial. Ted and all the members of the board that I’ve worked with have been wonderful. It’s a great team.”

Ted is a “behind the scenes” team player. Around Christmas time, however, we sometimes find him in a more heroic role, disguised as Santa Claus. Whether as treasurer or Santa Claus, he plays an important role in our community. But he is not alone. The town and this 60-year-old paper are fortunate to have contributions from hundreds of Charlotte volunteers who take photos, write articles, deliver papers, fundraise and give money, advertise on our pages, serve on the board, or work with the Friends of the Charlotte News. We are so very grateful to each of you.

Town

Results of the Resilience Survey are in



Trina Bianchi

As we see some light at the end of the very long COVID tunnel and spring emerges in our brave little state, life is looking way better than it did two or three months ago. People are getting the vaccine, protocols are being lifted, and we are starting to see some normalcy return to our lives. At the same time, I'm guessing I'm not the only one who during the past year has rethought what life is all about and am now thinking about a "new" normal with some shifting of priorities. Sometimes a forced break from the daily routine makes us realize there are more important things to consider, and changes to be made as a result are found to be truly positive.

We also need to take stock and make sure that, when the next pandemic or crisis hits, as a town we are even better prepared than perhaps we were for this one. To that end, it's time to take the results of the Resilience Survey that many of you completed and come together to talk about these and the ideas people have about making changes, doing things differently and/or adding enhancements in our town.

The Charlotte Community Partners (CCP) are taking a couple of steps to start this ball rolling. Recognizing the importance of everyone who wants a vaccine being able to actually get the vaccine, through the dedicated efforts of Jim Hyde and Susanna Kahn, we now have a program called VaxHelp 05445. This is designed to help Charlotte residents

The section below is from the actual survey with the results for the COVID-19 section.

COVID-19 Pandemic						
Category & factors of very resilient systems SCORE: How do you think your community resilience rates in each of the following categories? 1 = not very resilient 5 = very resilient	Score					
	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
<b>Mutual aid &amp; community support</b> Community networks have been easy to connect because pre-planned actions made it easier to act during the pandemic, and they are efficient at meeting community needs; community members are all supported, housed, fed, have medical care, and all basic needs are met	13 7%	39 22%	43 24%	38 21%	5 3%	43 24%
<b>Schools &amp; families</b> Options are clear and safe for students, parents, teachers and school staff; students are supported with necessary technology, transportation and learning supplies; teachers are supported with options for safety and assistance with teaching in new ways; all parents are supported by employers and have accessible options for childcare	6 3%	21 12%	32 18%	51 28%	17 9%	54 30%
<b>Personal well-being - how are you doing personally at this point in the pandemic?</b> Feeling healthy, safe and supported; have stable housing, food, water and medical care; social and emotional needs are being met in safe ways; personal/mental/emotional/spiritual resources are accessible and being utilized	4 2%	5 3%	28 15%	69 38%	64 35%	11 6%

register and/or sign up for a vaccine, answer questions about getting the vaccine, and provide transportation to anyone needing a ride to their appointment. Three easy ways to access VaxHelp:

- By phone: 802-425-3864 (Charlotte Library)
- By email: VaxHelp05445@gmail.com
- You can click on the online link through the Charlotte Library website.

If you don't need help in getting the vaccine, but you know someone who does, let them know that assistance is available and totally free. We have volunteers ready, willing and able to help you get the protection you need from this virus.



The next step CCP has taken is to sponsor a series of community conversations over the next three months. Each discussion will focus on one of the five survey categories and will be an open conversation of all interested residents. Sessions will take place by Zoom; all residents are welcome and invited to attend.

If you did not have the opportunity to take the survey, now is your chance to add your voice and ideas to the discussion. This is an incredible opportunity to talk about what you love about our town, what you don't like or don't feel meets the needs of your family, what you think could be done better or differently in our town—this is a once in a lifetime chance for everyone to have a voice in making Charlotte an even better place to live and raise a family.

Participating in these discussions does NOT commit you to anything—it is simply a fabulous opportunity to be able to talk with other Charlotters interested in making our town the best place to live. Not sure what some of the categories are about? Not sure how they affect you and your family? Not sure what you might have to offer to the discussion? Plan to come, if only to listen. You might be surprised that you have a lot to offer and have suggestions no one else has even thought about. ALL voices have value. ALL

residents have ideas and opinions. These open discussions are THE place where voices, ideas and opinions can and will be heard.

We hope you will put the first session on April 28 on your calendar. Watch for dates of the others to be scheduled and join these discussions. Change happens when people care enough to participate! If you truly care about our town, you'll come!

All events will take place at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The link can be found on the Charlotte Library website (that's the easy way!) or go to <https://bit.ly/convo05445>. As the other dates are scheduled, we will publish them here, put them on the Charlotte Library website and in Front Porch Forum.

- Scheduled:** April 28 COVID-19
- Scheduled:** May 17 Basic needs and services
- Scheduled:** June 1 Environment and natural systems
- Week of June 14** Physical infrastructure
- Week of June 28** Community connections and capacity

Prior to each session, we will share in our *Charlotte News* column the survey section being discussed next along with all the results. As you may recall we had 181 respondents. Both the actual number of surveys for each category are noted along with the percentages.

We hope to see you at the Zoom discussions—we DO want to hear from YOU! In the interim, stay safe, stay well—enjoy the ever-changing landscape that spring in Vermont brings us.

PLANNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to get a better grasp on a communication and education program.”

Alex Bunten, a community member, stated, “I can’t believe that you are going to re-examine a proposal that was voted down by the community 2-to-1, and jam it back on.”

Mahoney suggested that what is needed is a visualization process that links Smart Growth goals to photos and drawings of how projects will appear. A community forum would present these drawings and get feedback, and an improvement in plans would be based on feedback. Each step of implementation should be presented to the public. When this is accomplished, a speedy process should take place.

The Planning Commission will invite the Richmond town planner, Ravi Venkataraman, AICP, to a May meeting to describe Richmond’s “accordion” planning process that successfully resulted in the zoning alterations that support affordable housing.

In a separate but related issue, the commission discussed a recent initiative by the Selectboard

to study the implementation of a Design Review Board. DRBs have been instituted in most Vermont towns and villages as a means of providing more efficiency in the planning and the zoning permitting process.

According to town planner Larry Lewack, the DRB simplifies the permitting process, eliminates the Zoning Board’s regulatory function, and enables the Planning Commission to devote its time to future planning. When asked if Charlotte is too small a town to implement this system, Lewack recalled his experience with the DRB in Bolton, a town smaller than Charlotte. The Bolton DRB included architects and others familiar with design review issues, and the system was implemented very successfully. Chair Peter Joslin stated that, “I know nothing about this system or who would oversee it, but I am open to learning more.” Joslin has been asked to join a three-person committee chaired by Jim Faulkner of the Selectboard to study the feasibility of implementing a Design Review Board system in Charlotte.

Contributor Nancy Richardson is the spouse of Peter Richardson, who was quoted in this article.



Town .....

# Zoning board loses two members, third departure possible

Ethan Putnam  
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

The future of Charlotte’s zoning board is unclear after two board members announce their departure and Frank Tenney, who is both the vice chair of the town selectboard and head of the zoning board, is being pushed to step down from his zoning board role.

On April 14, Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Vice Chair Stuart Bennett and board member Matt Zucker both sent emails to the selectboard indicating their desire to no longer continue on with their roles. Bennett told the selectboard he would not continue in his role as vice chair and member of the board after his term expires this month, while Zucker cited “personal reasons” as for why he was resigning. Zucker’s term was scheduled to end in 2023.

Further adding to the shakeup within the board, members of the selectboard have discussed encouraging Frank Tenney, who is both the Vice Chair of the selectboard and chair of the zoning board, to step down from his role as ZBA chair.

The move comes after new language was proposed which would amend the Selectboard rules to not permit any member of the Selectboard from also holding a position on any other board,

commission, or committee. The change was proposed by Selectboard members Jim Faulkner and Lewis Mudge.

This news comes after over a year of previous issues involving the board. ([www.charlottenewsvt.org/2021/01/14/zoning-administrator-town-agree-to-part-ways/](http://www.charlottenewsvt.org/2021/01/14/zoning-administrator-town-agree-to-part-ways/)) In December of last year, the former Zoning Administrator, Daniel Morgan, formally separated from the town after months of discussion about his performance and terms of employment. Past violations of open meeting laws, possible conflicts of interest, and other issues with permits have added to the ZBA’s challenges.

Other developments have made the future of the board unclear. Along with the likely departure of three of the six currently serving members, the Selectboard is considering plans to create a Development Review Board which would take over some of the responsibilities of the zoning board and Planning Commission.

Shelburne has had a DRB since 2007, which took over the responsibilities of their zoning board and Planning Commission.

Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.

## CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the former flea market, but the committee has been told by the selectboard that they need a member of the selectboard present when engaging with private landowners. Recreation Director Nicole Conley said she couldn’t disclose any of the presumptive properties at this time.

Prior to the April 7 meeting, the committee planned to unveil three different plans for the community center. One would include everything that people asked for in the survey, one would include some things that people asked for, and one would be a cost-effective approach that only includes the

necessities.

During the meeting however, the committee debated whether they should only be looking at two different plans, or if they should have a phased-in approach, where new features are added over time.

The Committee is planning on providing a package that outlines all of the work they have done over the past months to the town at the end of the summer. They will meet again on May 7.

*Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.*

Lilac beginning



Photo by Quinn Sunderland



Hi, Neighbor! .....

Katherine Knox: Riding out the pandemic among her sheep



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

Katherine Knox purchased her first lambs in 2007, when she got sidetracked on a trip to Fletcher by a girl walking a Jersey cow on Spear Street. Soon, more lambs and other farm critters took up residence at her home in Charlotte. Knox christened her operation Hands and Heart Farm, a name she still finds fitting. “As more time goes by,” she said “it really expresses who we are.”

Knox is a part-time reading specialist at Hinesburg Community School, and when the pandemic struck, she and her colleagues were sent home just days before the lambing season began. Her college-age daughters also came home. “It reminded me what a difference it makes having many hands,” Knox said. “I counted my blessings on a daily basis with the land and the animals and being together as a family.”

Knox raises Border Leicester and Romney sheep. The Border Leicesters are sheared every six months and the Romneys every eight months. “I try to plan the shearing around the seasons,” she said “so the fleece stays as clean as possible and the sheep are as happy as possible.” The sheep are sheered before the start of the summer so they stay cool. In the winter they wear coats to keep the hay out of their fleece.

Knox skirts, spins, cards and cleans the wool herself. Initially, she just used it to make blankets, but lately, she is doing more with yarn. “I’ve been having a lot of fun trying out different weights of yarn,” she said. Recently, she has begun adding Merino wool to her farm’s output. “The Border Leicester wool gives it shine,” she said. “The Romneys give it bulk, and the Merino adds another layer of softness. When I have a particularly stressful day at work I can think about the wool and it fills my soul.” Some of the yarn is sold at Must Love Yarn in Shelburne and Norwich Knits in Norwich.

There is a theme to the names of every year’s batch of lambs, and this year’s grouping is named for spices from Aleppo to Oregano. Last year’s lambs were named for trees, and several from that brood remain at the farm. All the lambs are halter-trained during the course of the summer so they get used to being handled.

Knox is proud that Hands and Heart Farm is entirely off the grid. The family just added a new solar array to complement the panels on the barn roof. They also have a small wind turbine. “We have a backup generator,” Knox said “but we haven’t needed it since we put in the newest panels. Hands and Heart Farm is committed to practices that protect the environment, improve land management, and foster animal well-being.”



Katherine Knox holds Ginger (dark) and Kukicha (white). Cuteness overload! Hello Kukicha.  
Photos by Phyl Newbeck

The farm is a family affair. Knox’s daughter Faith is a UVM student who lives at home. “She’s invaluable,” Knox said. “She has a keen eye and spends a lot of time with the lambs and notices if there is something off.” Faith’s sister Lark attends school in Baltimore, but she also chips in. “She’s very tech savvy,” Knox said. “She created the website and keeps it updated.” Knox’s husband, Brian Thompson, recently retired from IBM. He got a commercial driver’s license and drives for Premier Coach but keeps his schedule open in the mornings so he can help with barn chores. “Sometimes it’s the only time of the day that we have to talk,” Knox said “so it’s been really nice to have that time together.”

Knox enjoys her work as a reading specialist, but is happy that it’s only part

time since it gives her more time with her animals. “I have the best of both worlds,” she said. “I love the students I work with and love my professional life, but then I get to come home and put on my grubby farm coat and I love what I do with the animals.”

Hands and Heart Farm is on land that was farmed in the past so Knox is happy to be able to maintain its agricultural heritage. “I’ve been very grateful to have had the animals and this farm during a period when people were isolating,” she said. “Every sheep has a name and we have a relationship with every sheep. They make me laugh and I take a lot of pride in raising them well. That’s one of the reasons I don’t want to get too large. I don’t want to lose that connection with the animals.”



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## Businesses

# A new captain at the helm of Darling's Boatworks

Olivia Carolyn Hagios  
CONTRIBUTOR

What could we possibly love more in a small town than a family business that's carrying on to its next generation? Not much, I'd say, and this is precisely what is happening at Darling's Boatworks right now. For the past 40 years, Pam and George Darling have run their boat repair business side by side from their shipyard workshop on Ferry Road in Charlotte. Now the family business is being sold to their son, Sam. Sam didn't always know that he wanted to take on the business though. As any kid would, he put in many hours at the shop throughout high school and college during summers. After graduating from Massachusetts Maritime, he sailed commercially for three years, but he began longing to return home to Vermont to be around family and started to seriously consider running the business.

I met with Sam and George to discuss this transition, as well as to understand how the boat business was faring from the impacts of the pandemic. Many businesses have either sunk or swum this year, and Darling's Boatworks has thankfully continued to swim strong. They described to me how many families found themselves homebound last year and in search of activities that would take advantage of Vermont's pristine nature. This resulted in an abundance of new boat owners. Now, as these families prepare for another summer of staying close to home, Sam and George say that they have been busy preparing

an influx of boats of all shapes and sizes for the upcoming season. As Sam was giving me a tour of their indoor workshop, I was struck by how smoothly they were able to manage multiple large boats in the space they had and asked if it ever gets tricky handling them all. He responded by praising how their amazing and flexible crew, who, like family, work wonderfully together as a unit to handle the large crafts.

Darling's Boatworks isn't just restricted to the shipyard on Ferry Road though—they also work in large part out of Point Bay Marina in southern Charlotte. During the summer, the community at Point Bay will often see Darling's Boatworks trucks coming and going as they not only work with customers' boats at the marina but also enjoy setting sail out on the lake themselves when the day allows it. Although these two locations are the primary heart of their boat repair business, Sam and George also described how they find themselves taking day trips over to other marinas to work individually with a customer's boat every now and then, "The relationship that we have with our customers is really important to us," says George, "We will go troubleshoot and get them going again."

They have always worked with a broad range of boat types at Darling's Boatworks and will continue to throughout this transition. "We have a really strong team right now and feel confident about moving forward," Sam says in regard to taking on the business. After talking to those at Darling's Boatworks,



FROM THE COVER - Left to right: George and Pam Darling and their son Sam Darling.

Photo contributed

their passion for their work becomes crystal clear. They describe boats as being like cars, in that their owners don't enjoy repairing them themselves, which ultimately works out well for the team, who each enjoy the art of carefully treating a boat in need of repairs. Whether they're working with fiberglass or wooden hulls, repainting or varnishing, they thoroughly enjoy taking the time to work closely with each boat and get them shipshape for time out on the water.

*Olivia Carolyn Hagios is a life-long reader and writer who graduated from CVU high school last spring and is now majoring in English at UVM. During her time as an at-home freshman this year, she has been working hard on her writing in the forms of poetry, short and long stories, and is now beginning to dabble in local news articles. She is very excited to be working with The Charlotte News and eager to continue writing.*

## Cookie Love is for sale

Robert Bloch  
CONTRIBUTOR

Opening day came on Friday, April 2, and like many opening days in the past, the weather seemed to be too cold and dreary for what was to transpire. No, I am not talking about opening day for Major League Baseball, which occurred on April 1. I am talking about an opening day of far more significance to many Charlotters.

Yes, the opening day of the Vermont Cookie Love creemee window in North Ferrisburgh. Opening day at the Cookie Love creemee window had a different feeling this year, because the good cheer about the opening was dimmed somewhat by the uncertainty of the news that Cookie Love was for sale.

After 14 years delighting people of all ages with wonderful cookies and creemees, co-founder and owner Paul Seyler has decided to put the business up for sale. As Paul puts it, "Despite the steady growth, success and fun we have had building Cookie Love, we just decided that it was time to do something else. I hope that a new buyer will find new ways to grow Cookie Love, perhaps franchising the concept to enable people in other parts of the country to enjoy some cookie love."

Paul and his former partner, Suzanna Miller, started Cookie Love in 2007. Both were foodies of sorts from New York City. Paul had built a career in fine dining working in a variety of "front-of-the-house" jobs in many top restaurants, rising to become sommelier at some of New York's finest establishments, including Union Street Café and Per Se, the New York outpost of Chef Thomas Keller's French Laundry in California wine country. Suzanna's passion was baking desserts, so, when they decamped for Vermont in 2007,



Paul Seyler says "cheers to creemees."

Photo contributed.

something in and around food made sense. They started Cookie Love at the Shelburne Farmers Market, selling baked cookies and frozen cookie dough. Over the next year or so they added numerous retail accounts, their own retail location on Route 7, and later, an online venture marketing gift boxes of cookies.

But the world changed most significantly for Charlotters in May 2009 when Cookie Love opened its now-iconic creemee window at the North Ferrisburgh store. Most people find the occasionally longish lines and premium pricing well worth it because the award winning creemee product is sooooo good. The secret: more butterfat—10% versus the average creemee's 4%. That, plus the all-natural flavors and other ingredients and the smiling folks manning the window make for a great Vermont experience.

Paul and his sister Martha, who joined Cookie Love in 2013 when Suzanna stepped away, and is credited with more than doubling sales, intend to keep operating Cookie Love at the same high level, so there is no need to worry about the for-sale sign. Maybe it will prove to be a great opportunity for somebody local.

## The Red Onion is off to a great start

Robert Bloch  
CONTRIBUTOR

It is often said that the three most important success factors in retailing are location, location and location. This is even more true for restaurants. So, when the Red Onion's prime location on Church Street became a dead location in the wake of COVID 19, owner Mickey West contemplated shutting down after almost 35 years in business. Then, one afternoon, on the drive down Route 7 to her Charlotte home, she noticed the for-rent sign on Mike Dunbar's newly completed Charlotte Crossings development. After a few meetings with Mike, his positive energy (and reasonable rent) helped convince her to give it a try. Mickey admits that at the time, she thought of the move as a "crap shoot".

Mickey re-opened the Red Onion at Charlotte Crossings with son MacKenzie West-Poss in January, 2021, as a breakfast/lunch spot with a menu of soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts much like the revered Red Onion on Church Street. Their success formula is painfully simple — "serve really good food fast".

About the opening, Mickey states bluntly, "I almost died that first few weeks" as volume quickly grew to over six times what she had projected. Mickey brought on two more employees and now has things going well with operations.

At the Red Onion, operations means that they make everything on site, fresh daily — including all breads, soups, salads and of course, the cookies and other baked goods. Mickey hasn't had the time to determine



MacKenzie West-Poss.

Photo contributed

what percentage of her business is from Charlotters, versus Route 7 traffic, but it just keeps growing. However, she has noticed that she sells a lot more desserts in Charlotte.

When asked about future expansion plans, Mickey says she has a few ideas, but for now is focused on continuing to keep her customers happy and her life somewhat in balance.



Sports

CVU one of five U.S. high schools recognized for inclusive environments



Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

Champlain Valley Union High School was recognized through a virtual celebration by ESPN and the Special Olympics Program for being a “Unified Champion School.” Others were in New Mexico, Iowa, Delaware and Minnesota.

Sports are a major field of activity for Unified Schools. “A unified sports team involves students with intellectual disabilities who we call athletes and students without intellectual disabilities who we call partners,” according to Missy Shiner Shea, CEO of Special Olympics Vermont.

CVU’s unified teams include basketball, bocce, bowling and soccer.

Both Congressman Peter Welch and Senator Patrick Leahy congratulated the Redhawk community for its strong “commitment to supporting the health and development of all athletes.”

CVU has been working with Special Olympics Vermont for 22 years.

Redhawk senior Eliza McLean said on WCAX local sports news that Special Olympics made her “extremely

comfortable.”

State champion CVU men’s lacrosse brings in new coach

Tom Garvey replaces Dave Trevithick after his 14 seasons as Redhawk LAX coach. Dave’s shoes will be hard to fill. He guided the Hawks to nine Division I state titles.

However, Garvey comes to Hinesburg from a lacrosse hotbed in Maryland, having himself earned All-American stature at Johns Hopkins.

He began CVU’s workouts as has been its history, with practices on the school parking lot. The interscholastic season rests now in the hands of the pandemic.

All-star teams dominate spring high school sport news

According to Saturday’s *Burlington Free Press*, the Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl between football teams from Vermont and New Hampshire is still on schedule for August 7 at Castleton University. The Green State team includes four CVU players: Isaac Bergeron, Seth Boffa, Shane Gorman and Will Murphy.

Hockey Coaches’ all-league teams

Women’s hockey all-league teams as selected by the coaches include three CVU/MMU players, Karina Bushweller, a defense person, and two forwards, Riley



Athletes and a partner in Special Olympics run.

Photo by Al Frey

Erdman and Tess Everett. Alicia and Katherine Veronneau are academic all-stars.

On the men’s side, CVU’s Jack Averill was named Division I first-team goalie, and Cam Saia is a third-team forward.

Coaches name several Redhawks to D-I all-league basketball team

Inspired by coach of the year Mike Osborne, CVU’s Devine Rogers made the coaches’ all-league team for 2021.

Assistant to Center Director

15-20 hours per week, flexible schedule on varying weekdays. Must enjoy working with seniors, be organized, detail oriented, flexible, outgoing, and have intermediate computer skills. Responsibilities include managing data and information; recruiting/training Center volunteers. Full job description at [CharlotteSeniorCenterVt.org](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVt.org). To apply send cover letter and resume by May 1 to [charlotteseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteseniorcenter@gmail.com) or to Charlotte Senior Center Board, P.O. Box 207, Charlotte, VT 05445. On-site start in early June. Center is currently offering courses remotely with full reopening scheduled for later this year.



## Sacred Hunter

# A celebration of the earth providing us with wild sustenance



Bradley Carleton

Oh, to wander the woods after a spring rain! What wonderful awakenings await? The sight of forsythias blooming in the sunlight penetrating the forest floor with unbounded exuberance.

The tiny buds on the trees tell us of new life after what has been perhaps the darkest winter in decades. As we sat huddled by our woodstoves, isolated from society and wondering if this terrible pandemic would ever end, each in our own way, prayed for the birth of spring to wash away our fears and anguish.

I believe that this spring carries with it a hope unlike any previous spring in our lifetimes. It sings of daffodils and tulips lighting up our gardens. The symphony of peepers at night and early morning birdsong brightening the dawn. A walk in the woods brings us fresh perspective.

The pungent aroma of ramps surrounds the west-facing slopes of the foothills. Wild onions. Wild leeks. Or, if you have embraced the local colloquialism, ramps. A celebration of the earth providing us, once again, with wild sustenance. The ramp is a fragrant wild onion that the Abenaki called “Winooski” meaning “land of the onion.” This magnificent edible is to be harvested with intention and respect. First, you will smell it as you wander through the woods. Then you may curiously dig up the roots of the broad green leaves in clusters.

But before you do, consider this: the ramp takes a full seven years to reach maturity. That means that if you take even 1/10 of the total population, you will lose the entire patch within 10 years. The juveniles will not be able to keep up with your harvest. So, again, harvest with intention and respect. That said, if you have a half acre of ramps, you will probably never run out of mature plants—if you don’t tell everyone about the location.

My ebullient little tribe of academic misfits knows the rules and we enjoy harvesting and eating these culinary treats. If you have never roasted a ramp with a little olive oil and coarse sea salt, you are in for a most delectable experience. When caramelized, the sugars in the roots are one of the sweetest flavors your palate will ever know. But let us not forget about the leaves! Put in a Cuisinart with half a

tablespoon of olive oil, some roasted pine nuts (or walnuts) and some finely shaved Reggiano parmesan, these greens will make one of the most exquisite pestos you will ever enjoy. Put on pizza, bruschetta or even on fish, the fragrant spread will add zest and aroma to any dish.

After harvesting and processing our ramps, hunters will want to take the next step to adding some wild protein to their meal. My suggestion? Wild turkey! There is a youth turkey hunting weekend for those 15 years or younger this coming weekend, April 24 and 25, provided those youngsters have passed a Hunter Education course certified by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and have a regular hunting license, a turkey license and a Youth Turkey Tag. Youths must be accompanied by an adult who has also successfully passed a Hunter Education Course and possesses a license. Also, any novice who had purchased his/her first license in the last 12 months and has that hunting license, a turkey license and a Novice Turkey Tag, may hunt this weekend from half an hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. These hours are only for youth and novices. Regular turkey season for all licensed hunters begins Saturday, May 1, and runs through May 3, each day from half an hour before sunrise until 12 noon and allows for two bearded birds to be taken.

If you have never sat at the base of a tree and had a conversation with a gobbler who was fired up to seek you out, it is one of the greatest adrenalin rushes I have known. The gobbler, or “Tom,” will listen to your gentle clucks, putts and mellifluous purrs and retort with such violent abandon that it frightens one to think of what it might be like to be attacked by one. But the purpose of the dialogue is to seduce the male into believing that he has found the love of his life and he is driven to such extremes as to leave his own flock of attendant hens

and seek out this demonstrative siren. The hardest part is yet to come.

As he screams his virulent love for you, he is looking for you with the keenest eyesight of all game species. It has been said that a turkey can see a mosquito moving from 100 yards away. I am not sure if that is true or not, but when I have a mosquito feeding on my forearm and a big Tom in range, I will gently pump my fist to feed the nasty insect, just to pump him up so he will leave me without me having to swat at him. A wily Tom will stare you down, and if you are not totally camouflaged and perfectly still, he will turn tail and walk away. But when they come in, screaming and strutting with their full fans on display, dragging their wings and making “spitting sounds,” you had better be ready, because there is no time to raise your gun now. That should have been done 30 minutes ago when he first answered. Now the time of truth has arrived. The shotgun bead is placed on the target and we wait for the ideal moment. He raises his head. Bright red and blue with white carbuncles and a dewlap hanging over his beak. He looks right at me, and I at him. I take a deep breath through my nose and pray for a clean shot. Long live the King. Tonight, we shall dine on fresh turkey with caramelized ramps.

*Bradley Carleton is Executive Director of Sacred Hunter.org, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.*



Bradley Carleton with some fresh wild ramps harvested with love.

*Photo contributed*

### Volunteer EMS and Volunteer Firefighter Needed



CVFRS is always looking for new faces. If you ever wondered about or had any interest in giving back to your community, fire fighting or emergency medical services, we encourage you to contact us at:

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Education .....

Adulthood begins with getting a summer job



Margo Bartsch  
CONTRIBUTOR

The classic rite of passage to adulthood, currently known as adulthood, begins with getting a summer job. The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines adulthood as “behaving like an adult, specifically, to do the things—often mundane—that an adult is expected to do... including things like having a job.” Although it may not seem as glamorous as planting trees in foreign lands, it is a chance to help out and be part of a team in our local community.

College applications include an activity listing with specific drop-down activities that include a paid job. The Dartmouth College and Middlebury College acceptance letters describing their incoming class of 2025 include “demonstrating remarkable resilience, creativity and adaptability” (Dartmouth) and “speaking to their grit and determination” (Middlebury). The University of Vermont aims for its students to “have their sights set on getting in, digging in, and changing the world.” All these characteristics are earned by having a job.

First, acting local begins with reaching out to small businesses in our communities. Think about running into high school students bagging groceries, being a camp counselor, or working at a farmers market. These are all jobs that show insight into the teen’s work ethic and teamwork. Being

on time shows dependability and working together shows responsibility.

Life’s lessons from work include learning from a range of ages and personalities. This flexibility and positivity are similar to college life that includes interacting with roommates, professors and team members from various backgrounds and different perspectives. The appreciation gained for overcoming difficulties, adjusting to a range of tasks, and moving a process forward is all part of a good day’s work. In the future when applying for college internships, many organizations encourage listing all sorts of jobs, not just academically focused, to show a commitment to responsibility and continuity.

Another job to consider is working with small businesses to improve their online presence. With the global pandemic, technology connected us all with school, family and businesses. Teens are especially adept at engaging with social media and online networking. Summer is a great time to approach local businesses to share ideas to help them improve their website content,

search engine optimization and social media branding.

Students can build portfolios to highlight before and after stories of how their recommendations helped to boost online engagement and results. Also, teens can improve their overall technological skills in earning Google certifications and learning other online platforms. These skills are bigger than just a hobby or talent: technology enhances work productivity.

Finally, being an entrepreneur is the perfect first step to being your own boss. Especially with age requirements for work permits, starting a business in your local neighborhood is helpful to others and shows initiative. Think about necessary chores that can be of value to others, such as gardening, cutting lawns and cleaning garages. These everyday lists are a chance for a teen to create a great business opportunity.

The popular TV show, *Shark Tank*, features successful entrepreneurs. They listen to small business presentations and invest their own money in great ideas. Marc Cuban, the owner of the NBA Dallas

Mavericks, always shares the story that he got the entrepreneurship bug at age 12 by selling garbage bags around his neighborhood to buy new basketball shoes. His dad insisted that he get a job to afford what he wanted. Cuban continued working at a deli, laying carpet and giving disco dance lessons at sorority and fraternity parties. With future job interviews, students can share the ups and downs of starting their own businesses as memorable impressions that form trust and respect.

Summer is nearly three months to spend with friends and enjoy the outdoors. Adding a job to the schedule broadens a teen’s experiences and builds character. Colleges recognize the valuable lessons of pushing out of your comfort zone and contributing to our local communities. Plus, there’s nothing like saving your earnings to buy something special for the future. Just think about the pride you will feel when you contribute toward college expenses or bring that new bike to campus.

The college admissions process evaluates a range of activities and interests that define a student both in and outside the classroom. Having a job puts a teen on the road to adulthood, making them more poised for success in college and beyond.

*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.*





Education .....

Mr. Rene Sanchez hired as the Champlain Valley School District Superintendent

Bonnie Birdsall  
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The CVSD Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that Mr. Rene Sanchez has accepted our offer to become the next superintendent of the Champlain Valley School District. “This is an amazing time for our district,” said Board Chair Angela Arsenault. “We’ve been expertly led by Superintendent Elaine Pinckney for the past 15 years, and we’re poised to benefit from both the deep respect Mr. Sanchez has expressed for CVSD, as well as the fresh perspective he’ll bring to our schools and systems.” He will begin on July 1, 2021.

“As a lifelong learner, I’m excited to become the educational leader for Vermont’s largest district and to work with families and communities and businesses to make sure we’re in a place where we can help all students achieve,” Mr. Sanchez said upon his acceptance.

Rene comes to the district from South Bend, Indiana, where he is the Assistant Superintendent for Operations. In this role, he directs the human resources and transportation departments for a district with more than 16,000 students and a total budget of over \$173 million. “My focus was providing training for new teachers in equity, literacy and Universal Design for Learning,” he said. He also led the district’s successful cross-functional COVID-19 response team. “Inspiring innovation and empowering our district’s potential was the goal in Indiana.”

Rene has a proven commitment to equity. One example is the creative solution he spearheaded to address the digital divide. Even before the pandemic, he led an effort to equip a group of school buses with Wi-Fi so students with long commutes or late-night rides following sports and other extracurricular activities can complete schoolwork during their trip. This positioned the district to respond quickly to the connectivity challenges of remote learning during the past year. All district buses (over 200 in total!) became roving

Wi-Fi providers, traveling to students in need to deliver both internet service and food. These communication hubs remain parked in designated neighborhoods throughout the school day.

We asked what drew him to the Champlain Valley School District. “I’m intrigued by board and district initiatives supporting diversity, equity and inclusion. I’m excited about CVSD’s focus on personalized learning, proficiency-based learning, multi-tiered systems of support, and social-emotional learning. Knowing that we’re looking after every student and meeting them where they are is an educational philosophy that I share,” he said. “I welcome the opportunity to help the five towns grow together post-consolidation and become a stronger unified district.”

“My strength is designing from the beginning so that we reach all students—even those in the margins. My style complements CVSD’s existing approach ensuring that all students can successfully transition from elementary to middle school to high school and then on to college or career or whatever their pursuit of happiness is.”

On a personal note, Rene’s wife, Jean, is originally from Vermont and a UVM graduate. They have three children and three dogs. Rene loves to cycle, cook, read, fish, golf and work in the garden. “We’re happy that our children are going to grow up in Jean’s home state. We are thrilled to be closer to family and many of Jean’s college friends, who still live in the area.”

We welcome Rene and his family to the district and look forward to welcoming them to Vermont later in the year.



Mr. Rene Sanchez

Rodriguez named Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Bonnie Birdsall  
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Liliana (Lili) Rodriguez has been appointed Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for the Champlain Valley School District. Dr. Rodriguez will begin her leadership duties on July 1, 2021. Rodriguez’s role will be to work as a part of the CVSD leadership team to lead and direct the district’s diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work.

Dr. Rodriguez brings a wealth of experience to CVSD. She received her B.A. with honors in psychology from Williams College and her M.S. in clinical psychology and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has been a lecturer at Williams College. She previously served as an educational consultant, as well as a mental health and substance abuse counselor, for Hampshire College and Berkshire County, Mass., before returning to Williams in 2006 to serve as Director of Diversity Recruitment. She went on to be the Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Development at Swarthmore College. Her most recent experience is that of Vice Chancellor of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence at the University of Denver.

She has spent the last 20 years providing DEI training to students, staff and faculty at the institutions she has served, as well as to nonprofit leaders, K–12 educators, and several executive boards from a variety of organizations. She believes that we cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach to this work any longer. As Dr. Rodriguez stated in her letter expressing interest in the position, “Individuals need to be met where they are and compassionately walked toward greater understanding. The field has changed radically and the challenges faced are complex but achievable with a firm commitment and innovative ideas. I think I can draw on my work in higher education to be a valuable resource in K-12 education. I genuinely want to help.”

Dr. Rodriguez says that she is thrilled to join CVSD and is excited to get started.



Dr. Liliana (Lili) Rodriguez



Outdoors

Volunteers to remove aquatic invasive species and improve wetland health

By Kate Kelly  
LEWIS CREEK ASSOCIATION

Have you heard about all the non-native invasive species in Lake Champlain? These include 50 species of plants, animals and pathogens that were introduced to the Lake Champlain Basin. Some were planted because they had pretty flowers. Others got here through ballast or bilge water from boats. These non-native species (species that were not present at the time of European settlement) can, in some cases, spread and take over (becoming invasive) because they have no natural predators. This can cause a major problem for ecologically rich natural areas, not only for our native plants and animals that get choked out by these intruders, but also for people who like to recreate on the water. Plants like water chestnut, European frogbit and Eurasian watermilfoil can grow so thickly that they are difficult or impossible to boat, swim, or fish in. Some of the aquatic invasive species you’ve likely heard about (like zebra mussels) can be difficult to control. Others, like European frogbit, are more easily removed in order to limit their spread.

Lewis Creek Association (LCA) has been working closely with the Vermont Department of Environmental

Conservation and the Lake Champlain Basin Program since 2009 to monitor and remove European frogbit, water chestnut, yellow iris and flowering rush in Town Farm Bay in Charlotte and in the LaPlatte Natural Area in Shelburne. These two areas are very diverse ecologically, and many people recreate there, making control of non-native invasive species critical.

When frogbit was first discovered in Town Farm Bay, there was over 50 percent cover throughout the wetlands. The LaPlatte Natural Area had lower frogbit levels to begin with due to earlier detection. Lewis Creek Association (funded by the towns of Charlotte and Shelburne) organized groups of volunteers, such as the Charlotte Land Trust, Lake Champlain boat launch stewards and other interested community groups, to rake frogbit off the surface of the water in these areas. Through this work, the percent cover has been reduced from 50% to 5% or less annually and held there.

This spring, LCA will be leading volunteers again to remove frogbit. Matt Gorton, a conservation biologist from Starksboro and an expert in aquatic invasive species, will lead groups (likely in June and July, to be determined soon) to remove frogbit in Charlotte and



Roberta Nubile helps clean up aquatic invasive species. Photo by Kate Kelly

Shelburne. These expeditions are great fun—all the equipment is provided, so all you have to do is show up and be able to paddle in a canoe or kayak, rake plants off the water surface, and put them into a bucket or laundry basket on your boat. While paddling, your leaders will help identify as many animals and plants as possible—you’re almost sure to

learn something new out there. If you’re interested in joining LCA for an enjoyable paddle while making a difference in the health of your local wetland, contact Kate Kelly (LCA Program Manager) at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com. Even better, get a group of friends together, and sign up together to make a difference.

Alpenglow sunrise hits the Adirondacks



Photo by Susan Sim



Outdoors

April fools and truths



Elizabeth Bassett  
CONTRIBUTOR

April Fools Day has come and gone, but April’s weather continues its foolish unpredictability. In keeping with that spirit, herewith is April’s True or False.

1. Vermont experienced its first tornado this spring, in Middlebury.
2. The largest organism on earth is a blue whale that can grow to 98 feet in length and weigh 173 tons.
3. Long-distance migrating birds navigate using the stars.
4. Bloodroot is among the first spring ephemeral wildflowers.
5. Trees communicate with one another via underground networks of fungi.
6. Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria blooms, can kill adult swimmers.
7. A meteor burned up over the Northeast Kingdom in March of this year.

And the answers are:

1. False. While the National Weather Service confirmed an EF-1 tornado in Middlebury in late March, a number of tornadoes have swirled through Vermont in the past. David Ludlum’s *The Vermont Weather Book*, published in 1985, lists 17 tornadoes between the years of 1782 and 1970, including several in Burlington.
2. False. Using different measures, two contestants vie to be the largest organism on earth.

A fungus, the honey mushroom, *Armillaria ostoyae*, lives in the Malheur National Forest in Oregon, occupying a total of 2,385 acres, the equivalent of 1,350 soccer fields or 3.7 square miles. Most of its tissue lies about three feet underground in the form of root-like mycelia. The honey mushroom is known for its glowing surface, caused by bioluminescent bacteria.

In terms of biomass, an aspen named Pando is the champ. Living in Fishlake National Forest in Utah, Pando—Latin for *I spread*—covers 108 acres and has approximately 47,000 stems. Thought to weigh in at 6,600 tons, Pando is the heaviest organism on earth. Aspens grow by cloning, thus stems that appear as separate trees are all part of the same plant.

3. True, but incomplete. Animal navigation is complex and multi-faceted. Birds flying many thousands of miles without stopping to eat or sleep must fly by day as well as at night, sometimes in clouds and other times in sun. Academics continue to study the combination of directional tools that migrators use, including landmarks, compass orientation, magnetism and flying toward a fixed spot or a light. It’s complicated.
4. True. Sharing the stage with hepatica, spring beauty, early meadow rue and coltsfoot, among others, bloodroot is an early bloomer. Its name comes from the color of the fluid in its stem and roots. A member of the poppy family, its white petals surround yellow flowers at the center of each bloom.
5. True. While skepticism greeted early research, scientists have now proven, by tracing radioactive carbon dioxide, that even trees of different species share molecules through underground networks. The trees are connected by mycorrhizal fungus, its thin filaments connecting their roots. This topic is central to the popular novel, *The Overstory*. This spring Knopf will publish *Finding the Mother Tree* by the scientist largely responsible for this research, Dr. Suzanne Simard.
6. Not true, if the adults pay attention. More frequently children and dogs, who are more likely to submerge their faces while swimming or playing in water, are victims of these toxic algae blooms.
7. True. A fireball moving northeast was spotted over the Green Mountains on the evening of March 7, disappearing south of Newport shortly thereafter. According to LiveScience, the bright fireball sped into the atmosphere just before sunset at about 42,000 mph, releasing an explosion equivalent to 440 pounds of TNT. NASA Meteor Watch suggests that the mass likely weighed 10 pounds and was six inches in diameter.

While this meteor was larger than those typically seen over Vermont, each November the Leonid meteor shower puts on a spectacular show of shooting stars. Clouds may obscure it, however, as November is a cloudy month in northern Vermont. According to *The Vermont Weather Book*, every 33 years the Leonid shower fills the heavens with thousands of meteors. During the Great Meteor Shower of November 13, 1833, “some were awakened from sleep by the glare and the superstitious thought that the end of the world had come.”

NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
TO BROWNFIELDS REUSE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION ACT PROGRAM

Please take notice that Jackson Hill Partners LLC whose mailing address is 86 Lake Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as Spear’s Country Store in the town of Charlotte. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Charlotte Town Clerk’s Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to James Donaldson, Site Manager at (802) 477-2632 or at james.donaldson@vermont.gov.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: James Donaldson, Site Manager.

July 2020



Into the Garden .....

Town .....

Who's in the garden?

Food Shelf news



Joan Weed  
CONTRIBUTOR

It seems pretty crowded out there if you're familiar with all the popular cultivars in commerce today. Ever wondered who all those people named in plant circles really are? For instance, "Robert" of Herb Robert geranium? "Miss Willmott" of 'Miss Willmott's Ghost'? "Joan Senior" of daylily fame? "Nora Barlow" Colombine?

Usually, the names attributed are honorifics. Some are relatives or spouses of the namer and some honor the finder or identifier. When John Tradescant the younger was touring the young country that became the United States, he found a beautiful tree in bloom in Georgia. He knew it was new to botanical circles and named it after an illustrious American, Ben Franklin. The Franklinia tree is now extinct in the wild, but fortunately some material was saved to propagate it and all current examples are derived from that one plant.

Aqueligia "Nora Barlow" is an unusual rosy columbine with ruffly petals. Nora was the granddaughter of Charles Darwin. It was she who championed his name and efforts after his death.

Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, has not only a blue lilac named after him, but a popular tea rose. Speaking of roses, you'll find many named after celebrities in the arts as well as popular culture. Some well-loved are Beverly Sills, Julia Child, Gertrude Jekyll and a longtime favorite, Queen Elizabeth II.

Fuchsia was named after Leonhart Fuchs, a physician and herbalist of renown, who also made beautiful woodcuts of many plants but, interestingly, never saw a fuchsia. Sir Joseph Banks accompanied Captain James Cook on his voyage to the Pacific and preserved

many specimens. There is a small yellow rose named after him (Banksia) as well as a protea (National Flower of South Africa). He introduced many plants and ventured on several other journeys at his own expense. He served as the leader of the Royal Horticultural Society and well as other scientific groups. His efforts form the base of collections in the British Museum and British Museum of Natural History.

Miss Ellen Willmott was an eccentric heiress who used her considerable fortune to buy plants and gardens to put them in. One story that goes round about Miss Willmott is her love for Erygium giganteum, a silvery, prickly bloom. She carried seeds for it in her pockets. If a garden she visited lacked it, she sprinkled the seeds here and there. Since it mysteriously popped up where it hadn't been planted, it became known as "Miss Willmott's Ghost."

The Douglas fir was named after David Douglas, a Scotsman who traveled extensively in the Pacific Northwest and introduced many native western plants to England and Scotland. He came to an ignominious death after being gored by a bull on the Hawaiian Islands.

Lately you may have noticed that some of the names you were familiar with have changed. As frustrating as this is to the gardener, the new appellations are generally more accurate because of our ability to study their DNA. Identifying plants has become a much more exact science because of this.

We've hardly touched the surface of characters inhabiting our gardens. I hope you've been enlightened and might be encouraged to learn more. Some good resources are: *Stearns Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners*, *Who Does Your Garden Grow* by Alex Pankhurst, and *The Naming of Names* by Anna Pavord.

**Announcement from Peggy Sharpe, Food Shelf Secretary**

The Charlotte Food Shelf is now accepting paper goods—paper towels, Kleenex-type tissues, paper napkins and toilet paper are all welcome.

Items can be left on the covered entry hall at the back of the Congregational Church on Wednesdays (our distribution day) or at the drop box for the Food Shelf at the library.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of our community Food Shelf.

**Announcement from Karen Doris, Food Shelf President**

We are planning for healthy snacks for the kids this summer: snacks and non-perishable lunch items. We would definitely appreciate donations to help with this important program for kids. For some ideas, take a look at the picture.

**Reminder**

Vermont continues to sprint to the finish line with its vaccination rollout. On Monday, April 19, Vermont opened up COVID vaccine registration for everybody 16 and older. Appointments can be made through the Health Department website [health.vermont.gov](https://health.vermont.gov) or by calling 855-722-7878. This includes clinics run by the Health Department, National Guard, Costco, Walmart and Hannaford. You can also register at Walgreens, CVS, and Kinney Drugs.

Please note: Appointments are required. Clinics cannot accept walk-ins. You will make your second-dose appointment at the time you receive your first dose.

Charlotte's VaxHelp volunteers are here to help.

- Do you have questions about the vaccine?
- Need help signing up for a vaccine?

Need a ride to a vaccine site?

Three ways to contact VaxHelp:

- By phone: 802-425-3864 (Charlotte Library)
- By email: [VaxHelp05445@gmail.com](mailto:VaxHelp05445@gmail.com)
- Sign up for the vaccine on the Library porch.

There is a Chrome book available to use during library hours with links to sign up for the vaccine, vaccine information and to get assistance from VaxHelp.

Get vaccinated and celebrate Spring!

**Our public library working to bring more spring celebration**

Get inspired to start your own garden with a Garden Starter Kit provided by the Charlotte Seed Library! Kits contain a few seeds each of



Here is a sample of items we welcome for Summer Kid Snack Bags. Photo by Karen Doris

a mix of popular vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. Come on in and pick one up!

**Keeping safe**

The Food Shelf continues to take precautions to help everyone keep safe. Anyone who has a fever or cough—or symptoms that might seem like a cold—should not come to the distributions. Also, don't come if you have been in contact with anyone who has these symptoms. Instead, call 425-3252 and leave your name and number. You will receive a call back and we will come up with an assistance plan. We need to help families and volunteers stay safe.

**Financial assistance**

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

For emergency food, call John at 425-3130.

Check the Food Shelf website for more information of different types of financial assistance and eligibility. Applications are available at the Food Shelf and online. The website also contains information about other Vermont resources offering further assistance: [charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf](https://charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf).

The Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc. is a nonprofit organization supported by the Charlotte Congregational Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and the Charlotte community. Our organization is run by volunteers, and all donations made to the Food Shelf go directly for nutritious food and assistance to our neighbors in Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh.

Checks may be mailed to Charlotte Food Shelf and Assistance, P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445.

We offer our thanks to all who find many ways to offer assistance.



# On Books ..... *Brood*—more than just chickens



Katherine Arthaud  
CONTRIBUTOR

I have never owned chickens. And I’ve not been tempted to do so until recently, when it seemed that every third person I knew was getting them. It wasn’t just my imagination, for indeed, during the coronavirus pandemic there has truly been greatly heightened interest in raising chickens. Take it from Nancy, owner of the Cackle Hatchery in Lebanon, Missouri, which has been swamped with orders: “We can’t answer all the phone calls, and we’re booked out several weeks on most breeds.” Seems there are two main reasons for the surge, both pandemic related. One, with food availability not always a sure thing, chickens give people more food security. And two, spending so much time at home, often with kids, what else are we supposed to do? I mean, why *not* get chickens? Which are, interestingly, the exact words my son Dylan used during the early days of COVID. He kept at it until I sagely reminded him that no one in our household eats eggs. That pretty much shut it down.

But I am not a stranger to chickens. In fact, I grew up with them. Though the chickens were not actually mine. Rather, they belonged to my sister Sharmy. What happened was, when my family built a barn on our property, back when I was like 12, we kids were told that we could each choose an animal to raise. This was beyond exciting. I wanted a cow but ended up settling on goats. Dinah, who had for years wanted a monkey, chose a pig. And Sharmy, the youngest—well, you know where this is going—Sharmy was kind of coerced into choosing chickens. I think the truth of the matter is, my parents wanted eggs. So... while Dinah and I were snuggling with Millie and Piggy, Sharmy was doing her darnedest to bond with six Araucana chickens. I don’t remember her ever complaining, though in hindsight that is a little hard to fathom. The eggs were nice, once they were cleaned (they came in different colors), but her chickens never struck me as particularly friendly. I would say that last bit is an understatement.

If *Brood* by Jacki Polzin hadn’t been chosen by my book group, I probably wouldn’t have picked it up. But that would have been a tremendous loss for me. Though it reads like a memoir, *Brood* is a novel. But you forget that, because it so subtly, delicately and effectively evokes the person of the narrator, whose name we never learn but whose soul is somehow dimly yet profoundly exposed to us over the course of a year of tending to a small brood of chickens. Which, I get it, might strike you as less than scintillating. But I honestly couldn’t put this book down. Not because it’s a thriller but because it is enchanting and, in a uniquely gentle and unassuming way, pulls you in. *Brood* has been compared to *H is for Hawk*

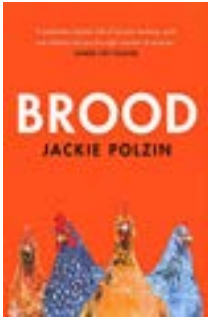
and *Gilead*, but to me it is more reminiscent of Elizabeth Strout’s *Olive Kitteredge*—because of the way the narrator has such a distinctive voice and presence and, like Olive, is crusty, laconic, obdurate, uncordial, yet heroic—and because, like Strout’s later novels, *Brood* reads almost like poetry. One wants to read it slowly, savoringly.

I guess if you have a tender heart, raising chickens is not always easy. It certainly wasn’t easy for *Brood*’s narrator, in Minnesota, where winters are colder than cold and summers sweltering. Plus, there are predators, disease, bad luck and intra-chicken dynamics, which can be brutal. “Life,” writes Polzin, “is the ongoing effort to live. Some people make it look easy. Chickens do not. Chickens die suddenly and without explanation.” Though this may sound flippant, this chicken tender is anything but. She becomes profoundly connected to her brood. It wouldn’t be a stretch to say: she loves them like family.

When I first began this book, I thought it was going to be funny. “Here,” I placed the fair egg ... in Helen’s palm. Her fingers did not soften to the shape. “What should I do?” she asked.

“Cook it, eat it,” I said. “I mean now. What should I do now?” She did not hold the egg but allowed the egg to rest on her flat hand, was only tolerating the egg for, I suppose, my benefit. The egg was not especially clean. The cleaner an egg looks, the more likely a visitor will accept the egg with grace and hold it in a manner befitting an egg, a force equal but opposite to the weight of the egg applied by a cupped hand, creating perfect balance and suspension in midair. “Is it cooked?” she asked. “It’s warm.” She had seen me retrieve the egg from the straw, the straw worried down and out and up at the sides in the precise counter-shape of a nesting chicken, a bed of straw so primitive as to predate fire, and yet she wondered out loud.

“It’s fresh,” I said. “It’s warm because it’s fresh.” “Has an egg ever hatched in your hand?” Though this book is, yes, wryly funny on occasion, there is longing and sadness clucking softly between the lines. Relationships with humans are scanty, but much is suggested. And there is a deep, echoing, almost aching intimacy evoked by the narrator’s musings on home, coop, work, marriage and loss, and in the hint of hope for what is yet to be known and lived. This book is brilliant. Heartrending, compelling and poetic, I didn’t want to part from this nameless woman and her backyard brood any more than she wanted to part with her four feathered charges. Like a Japanese ink painting, much is conveyed by few strokes. This book is about a lot more than chickens.



## Preemptive measures taken with Charlotte trees



Ash logs on Thompson’s Point Road, near the intersection with Black Willow Road, from trees cut down last week as part of Charlotte’s preemptive ash tree removal program.  
Photo by Vince Crockenberg

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# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik  
SENIOR CENTER  
DIRECTOR

“I’ve never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.”

~ Mark Twain (*Samuel L. Clemens*)

“Everything I know I learned from my cat:  
When you’re hungry, eat.  
When you’re tired, nap in a sunbeam.  
When you go to the vet, pee on your owner.”

~ Gary Smith, *Cat Naps*

Life is often not as simple as we would like. Despite the announcements that senior centers in Vermont may open again, there are still many guidelines and restrictions that centers throughout the state are grappling with. Published information about what applies to private individuals does not necessarily apply to public group settings. Opening plans need approval and will require considerable adaptation, which will guide our return to what used to be “normal.” Things will be changing soon, though. And, we can be thankful that last year we had no idea just how long this would go on.

### 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.

### 4/26 – Book Discussion Group: *Walking Each Other Home*

Mondays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Dates: 4/26 & 5/17.

This facilitated group began with a discussion of *Walking Each Other Home*, and we are now reading *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death* by Joan Halifax. The group now welcomes newcomers. No fee.

The following course is new and does not appear in the Spring Schedule. Art instruction in an online format has proven to be not only doable, but enjoyable for everyone.

### 5/4 – Watercolor—Spring Splash 2021! with Lynn Cummings

Tuesdays, 12 noon–3 p.m.

Dates: 5/4–5/25 (4 weeks)

Registration & payment by: 4/27.

Fee: \$144 for the series.

We’ll cover a variety of spring-related subjects and try some unconventional techniques in this class for students with watercolor experience. Get ready to have fun experimenting while painting with the fresh, exciting colors of spring! Class will be held online via Zoom. Upon registering, email the instructor for the supply list: Lynn.Cummings@uvm.edu.

### 5/7 – Italian for Continuing Beginners with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 1–2 p.m.

Session B: 5/7–6/4. (5 weeks)

Register by 4/30. Fee: \$40.

You’ve studied a bit of Italian? Are you beginning to put sentences together and carry on basic conversations? Do you spend your free time watching Italian movies and singing along with your favorite Italian songsters? Then this class is for you!

### 5/7 – Italian—Intermediate with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Session B: 5/7–6/4. (5 weeks)

Register by 4/30. Fee: \$40.

If you’ve studied Italian, but if your knowledge of the language is rusty, then this class is the right place for you.

### 5/7 – Italian—Advanced with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 4–5 p.m.

Session B: 5/7–6/4. (5 weeks)

Register by 4/30. Fee: \$40.

Join this class to strengthen your knowledge of Italian through conversation and grammar updates. Class is conducted almost exclusively in Italian.

### 5/7 – Italian for Total Beginners with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Session B: 5/7–6/4. (5 weeks)

Register by 4/30. Fee: \$40.

You’ve never studied Italian? Now is the time to begin your study of Italian—and have fun along the way!

Questions about these Italian courses?  
Contact the instructor at: nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com



### Talks on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

These talks do *not* require advance registration, are always free—plus, they now include a closed captioning option for those who are hearing impaired. 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. // Can’t make it on Wednesday? Talks are recorded and posted for two weeks afterward on the website.

### 4/28: Conservation of Your Heirlooms with Rick Kerschner

Objects Conservator Rick Kerschner will evaluate your heirloom’s condition online and advise on how to preserve it, whether conservation treatment is necessary, and how to find a qualified conservator. Join the meeting using the Zoom mobile phone app; place heirlooms on a table so all sides can be easily viewed using your phone. This virtual platform enables viewing furniture, paintings or other heirlooms difficult to transport. He cannot address value. ~ Richard Kerschner is Conservator Emeritus, Shelburne Museum.

### 5/05: The Electoral College: A Disaster for Democracy with Jesse Wegman

The framers of the Constitution battled over it. Lawmakers have tried to amend or abolish it more than 700 times. To this day, millions of voters, and even members of Congress, misunderstand how it works. There is a way we can at long last make every vote in the United States count – and restore belief in our democratic system. ~ Jesse Wegman is a member of the *New York Times* editorial board, where he has written about the Supreme Court and legal affairs since 2013.

### 5/13 (Thurs.): “Live Free or Die” in China with Tao Sun

Learn about the tragic story of a U.S.-educated English literature scholar who went back to China just after the Communist Party came to power. In his autobiography, Prof. Wu tells of being imprisoned and publicly shamed after being labeled as an “ultra-rightist.” Targeted because he was outspoken, he liked to repeat the slogan, “Live Free or Die.” Heavy-handed political control by the party/state was partially responsible for the spread of coronavirus in China and beyond. ~ Dr. Sun is associate professor of public communication at UVM and a former news editor in China.

### Art Exhibits

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

We can do it! Don’t stop now. Keep up the good work.

For 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.

### How to Register for a Course

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

To register, email 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. The invitation/link for the course will be sent to you by the instructor the week that classes start.

**Payment** - If there is a fee, kindly pay by check (made out to CSC) and send to: P.O. Box 207, Charlotte, VT 05445. Be sure to note the full title of the course in the memo line of your check.

- For ongoing exercise courses, please pay at the *end* of each month for the classes attended. Unless otherwise stated, tally your attendance and figure \$5/class.
- For courses with set dates, please pay at the start and note fee listed in the course description.

If fees present a hardship, please inquire about a scholarship 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.

**Charlotte Senior Center**  
(802) 425-6345  
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

# Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

### Climate Resilience Hub

April 22 is Earth Day, a fitting time to announce that the Charlotte Library is now an official "Climate Resilience Hub," as designated by CREW (Communities

Responding to Extreme Weather). This is a national network of over 60 organizations, building grassroots climate resilience through inclusive and hands-on education, service and planning.

"Together, we are working to equip families and communities with the resources and capacity to prepare for and respond to local climate changes equitably, sustainably and collaboratively."

Here at the library, we look forward to continued partnerships to help maintain and build Charlotte as a sustainable and resilient community. We welcome your thoughts and ideas for future programs and resource sharing.

As part of our CREW efforts, we are serving as a pickup location for Green Up Day bags, beginning April 24. Thanks to CharlotteVTGreenUpDay.com for making the bags available.

In addition, we are now a home to a battery recycling program. You can drop off undamaged single-use and rechargeable batteries in the library lobby area. Look for the Call2Recycle box in the library entryway.

Lastly, check out our window display of Earth Day resources and information. We have a host of new books as well as a list of the eco-friendly tools you can check out to use.

### Take & Make for April

DIY Terrarium: Get your green thumbs ready and make a mini terrarium for your desk or countertop.

### Upcoming Programs Online: Questions?

Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)  
Phone: 425-3864

**Citizen Science Month:** April is Citizen Science month, and the Charlotte Library is highlighting ways your family can share and contribute in scientific research. Don't miss our last program next Wednesday! Got Bats? Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department ([vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com))

### Wednesday, April 28, 6 p.m.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department needs your help monitoring summer bat activity around the state to help them make informed decisions about the welfare and long-term conservation of these important mammals. Alyssa Bennett, the Small Mammals Biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, will share with us her knowledge and lots of great photos of the bats of Vermont and how you can help monitor their populations as a citizen scientist! Click here to join the meeting: <http://bit.ly/3ICBxQS>

### Book Chat

#### Fridays, 10 a.m.

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

### The New Heirloom Garden Book Discussion Friday, April 23, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

What is an heirloom garden? Award-winning Vermont author and kitchen garden designer Ellen Ecker Ogden leads us through the process of creating and enjoying a home food garden with an eye toward both beauty and productivity. This is the second session, and all are welcome to join. Register in advance for the Zoom link.

To borrow a copy of the book from the Library (with the option to buy), contact [seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

### Film Discussion:

#### Priced Out

#### Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Facilitated by Jessica Hyman, Fair



HousingProject, CVOEO with Introduction by Lydia Clemmons, Clemmons Family Farm

Lydia Clemmons of the Clemmons Family Farm, one of the few African-American-owned farms in Vermont, starts us off with an update on the farm and strategies the family is using to hold onto the farm even as property taxes rise and pressure mounts to sell. Jessica Hyman then facilitates a

discussion of the documentary Priced Out: Portland's History of Segregation and Redlining. Please consider watching Priced Out (1 hr.) and Out of the Ashes, Born Again (6 min.) prior to the discussion. Both are available free on YouTube.

This event is part of April Fair Housing Month in collaboration with the Clemmons Family Farm, Fair Housing Project of CVOEO, and Pierson Library.

Please register in advance for the Zoom link.

### Coming in May:

- *How to Eat Book* Discussion
- Virtual Tour of the Museum of Everyday Life
- Take & Make Piñata Kits

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 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 Director Named to Leadership Institute

The Charlotte Library is pleased to announce that Margaret Woodruff has been selected to join in the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Outstanding in Their Field Leadership Institute as part of the 2021-22 cohort. Beginning in August of 2021 this group of 30 library professionals from around the country will engage in residential, online and conference experiences spanning 18 months to deepen their understanding of and commitment to professional values while they gain practical managerial skills.

ARSL's Leadership Institute is unique because its students are selected from only small and/or rural libraries. Often these are "accidental librarians" who have no formal education in librarianship (in the form of a master's degree in Library and Information Science) and few local resources for library-specific professional development. These folks came into their leadership positions from a wide variety of backgrounds and may already be in a position of authority, or they may be looking ahead to a transition of power within their organization. However they got to where they are today, they're ready to expand their professional capabilities and grow as institutional and community leaders. Key priorities for this institute are to develop strong rural and small library leaders, give them tools to strengthen the communities they serve, and empower them to add their voices to national conversations about libraries.

As the premier organization representing rural and small libraries, ARSL recognizes the uniqueness of these libraries and is committed to providing professional development that builds capacity and excellence within this community of practice. This program is funded by a generous grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Science.

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# Give us a brake, turn on your lights, do the reach

## *Our annual reminder about safe cycling*

Vince Crockenberg

Each spring bicyclists return to Charlotte's roads, and in this COVID year they seem to be out in greater numbers than ever. According to *Bicycle Retailer and Industry News*, bike sales in 2020 were up 50 percent over 2019, and parts and supplies have been in short supply at bike shops nationwide. Tim Mathewson of Little City Cycles in Vergennes says, "I've got 50 bikes in line for a tune-up right now. I haven't seen anything like it since the oil embargo in 1973."

All of which means that now is a good time for our annual reminder to both drivers and cyclists about how to share our roads safely.

Cycling is dangerous. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 1,024 cyclists were killed in 2018, the last year for which such statistics seem to be available; 682 of those deaths were the result of motor vehicle crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 55,000 cyclists were injured seriously enough in 2018 to file a report; vastly more were injured less seriously. Males accounted for 87 percent of cycling deaths, and the most dangerous hours to ride are between six and nine p.m. So, here again are a few reminders for how motorists and cyclists can share the road safely.

### **For motorists**

**Give us a brake.** Two situations pose particular dangers to cyclists. The first is when a car is coming from behind us in our lane and another is coming toward us in the oncoming lane, and we're all going to meet at the same spot in the road. The second is when we're slowly laboring up a hill and into a curve. In either situation, there is no good outcome for the cyclist if the motorist coming from behind misjudges the space available for passing.

Please slow down and let oncoming traffic get clear before passing us, and wait for us on blind curves and hills. You'll delay your arrival by only a few seconds, at worst a few minutes, and the time you'll invest in slowing down is well worth the aggravation and expense of the ensuing legal procedures and the multiple years of increased insurance that can come in the wake of an avoidable accident.

**Turn your lights on.** Most cyclists ride with a small mirror attached to their handlebar or bike helmet. It's far easier for us to see you coming from behind us in our mirrors and to make the appropriate adjustments in our riding,

like getting into single file, if your lights are on. This is particularly true if your car is a dark color. Darker cars blend into the asphalt and are almost invisible in our mirrors until they are fairly close behind us. Not so, however, if their lights are on.

**If you're hauling a trailer...** Twenty years ago I was knocked off my bike and into a hospital when a driver pulling a hay trailer passed me and swerved back into my lane too soon. Last year, my wife, who was riding in front of me on Hawkins Road in Ferrisburgh, almost got hit by a boat trailer when that driver pulled too quickly into our lane after passing us. Vermont law requires motorists, when passing cyclists, to "exercise due care, which includes reducing speed and increasing clearance to a recommended distance of at least four feet." That four-foot clearance applies to both the vehicle and the trailer. Violations are subject to a civil penalty of \$200 or more. My best guess is that the boat trailer missed my wife by about 12 inches.

And if you want to warn us that you're coming up from behind, give us a few light taps on your horn when you're still some distance behind us. A sustained blast when you're relatively close could startle us into losing control.

**Do the Dutch reach.** Vermont law states that "No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle on the side nearest to moving traffic unless it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of traffic..."

The easy way for a driver to avoid "dooring" the cyclist is to open the door using the hand farthest from the door. By reaching across your body with your right hand, your torso and head turn toward the door, which enables you to scan the side mirror and, by twisting only a bit more, look behind you for oncoming traffic before opening the door.

For everything you need to know about the Dutch reach, including several short videos, go to [dutchreach.org](http://dutchreach.org).

### **For cyclists**

For cyclists there is one overriding rule: Ride defensively. Wear bright clothing. Be constantly alert to road and traffic circumstances and anticipate the actions of pedestrians and vehicles. NHSTA's rules of the road include the following:

- Ride with the flow, in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey street signs, signals and road markings, just like a car.
- Assume the other person doesn't

see you; look ahead for hazards or situations to avoid that may cause you to fall, like toys, pebbles, potholes, grates, train tracks.

- Do not text, listen to music or use anything that distracts you by taking your eyes and ears or your mind off the road and traffic.

Vermont State Law requires that bicycles be equipped with a white light on the front, visible from 500 feet away, and a red reflector on the rear, visible from 300 feet away. A red, illuminated rear light is also helpful, but should be used in addition to a rear reflector, not as a replacement for it. While a helmet is not required in Vermont, wearing one will significantly lower your risk of brain injury or death if you're in an accident.

In Vermont, bicycles are considered vehicles and must signal (unless it cannot be done safely) before turning, decreasing speed, or stopping:

- To make a left turn: extend your left hand and arm horizontally.
- To make a right turn: extend your left hand and arm upward, bent at the elbow.
- To indicate a decrease in speed or a stop: extend your left hand and arm downward.

A particular peeve of motorists is coming up on cyclists riding two abreast. Cyclists are, however, legally permitted to ride two abreast unless doing so impedes traffic. The penalty in Vermont for impeding traffic or for riding more than two abreast is \$100.

Charlotte's roads are for drivers and cyclists alike to enjoy. Let's all be safe on them.

*The Vermont Legislature is currently considering bills to classify, label and regulate electric bike use and to fund incentives for electric bike purchases, highway improvements for high-use bicycle corridors, and signage on bike paths. Look for updates in future issues of The News.*

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