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# The Charlotte News

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Greenbush Road at Kimball Brook Farm in  
North Ferrisburgh. *Photo by Lee Krohn*



## Selectboard approves Andrew Zins settlement agreement



Mara Brook  
EDITOR

Selectboard approves Andrew Zins settlement agreement

At the Selectboard special meeting May 27 members emerged from executive session with a motion to approve a settlement agreement with Andrew Zins.

“We had a very long and robust discussion about this settlement agreement,” Selectboard member Louise McCarren said. “And what the town is getting is a very high level of security that open space will be provided for this property, because we will have a court order that will be filed with the land records.”

The Selectboard held an executive session during its May 24 regular meeting to discuss a proposed settlement with Zins, but after returning from a breakout room Krasnow stated the board was “not ready to make any decisions or actions in relation to the Zins settlement agreement.”

Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow said he believed the signed settlement agreement “will be part of the public record.”

### Selectboard continues charging station discussions

The Selectboard continued discussions at a May 27 special meeting regarding resident Carol Conard’s request for a personal electric vehicle charging station on North Shore Drive. Conard previously agreed to provide a sketch detailing measurements for the 240-volt plug to be installed on Thompson’s Point across the road from her camp.

At the May 24 Selectboard meeting, member Louise McCarren requested written confirmation from Green Mountain Power that the distribution lines at Thompson’s Point were robust enough to accommodate additional future charging stations. McCarren said she had since received confirmation and had provided a copy to Town Administrator Dean Bloch.

Frank Tenney questioned that while the license

agreement is “between the Town of Charlotte and the landowner,” in this case Conard is leasing the land.

Krasnow said his understanding was Thompson’s Point leaseholders leased the land, but the building and all of its effects were owned and free to be sold on the free market.

Selectboard member Jim Faulkner asked if anyone knew what the pedestal for the charging plug would look like. Conard said she didn’t imagine it would be “very large or obtrusive.”

Faulkner said a plug containing 240 volts is “a dangerous item” and “that’s on town land out there, so we want to make sure it’s secure.”

Conard said she thought the plug would have “some type of a clamshell cover with a lock, for safety as well as for my protection.”

McCarren moved to approve the charging station, contingent on finalization of the pedestal and Faulkner’s inspection for safety.

### The Selectboard unanimously voted to approve Conard’s request.

Mowing woes: The Selectboard fields complaints about new contractor

At the special Selectboard meeting on May 27, Town Administrator Dean Bloch said new contractor Dylan Guilmette had “gotten things under control” in the wake of complaints from community members of inadequate mowing and weed whacking in the town parks and fields.

“He did have a slow start, but he has been working at it, and I haven’t received any other complaints,” Bloch said.

Vanessa Knowles, who called in to participate in the discussion, said, “I was at the Town Beach today and I sent [Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow] some pictures, and around the tennis court, the playground and around the trees there was no weed whacking at all.”

Knowles described the weeds as “very long.” She said she sent Krasnow photos of “all three fields,” none of which had been weed whacked.

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 3

## The Selectboard, Clemmons Family Farm grapple with scoping study

Mara Brook  
EDITOR

Concerns surrounding a scoping study that proposed placing the Town Link Trail along the Clemmons Family Farm property line were again raised by Lydia Clemmons and others at the May 24 Selectboard meeting.

Clemmons, who manages the Clemmons Family Farm for her parents, expressed concerns at a previous Selectboard meeting that placing the trail near the black-owned, historic 148-acre property could make the farm a target for racially motivated hate crimes.

Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow said language in the scoping study was revised following “concerns from some community members that the language was not accurately reflecting their intent and their concerns.”

Clemmons “was great enough to help participate” in editing the document, Krasnow said.

Selectboard Member Lewis Mudge said he was puzzled by the additional language in the document.

“Basically, we’re saying we recognized the Clemmons family’s concerns with regard to racism, [and] we’re crossing our fingers that in the next couple of years racism is going to get resolved and we can move forward,” Mudge said. “But we’re not going to sort out systemic racism in the next few years.”

Charlotte Trails Committee Chair Bill Regan said the language was provided by the Clemmons Family Farm.

“We were accepting it at face value and not proposing that we change it,” he said.

Clemmons explained the document’s original language proposed moving the trail away from the farm if racial tensions in the region failed to improve. In an attempt to “compromise”

SEE **CLEMMONS** PAGE 2

## Vermont Public Places honors Charlotte’s World War I Monument and flower plantings



Charlotte’s World War I Monument and flower plantings are maintained by Ted Roberts and Beth Sytsma of Charlotte. The Vermont Public Places awards program recently recognized their efforts with an honor award.

*Photo courtesy of the Vermont Public Places Awards program.*

### Staff report

The Vermont Public Places Awards program, designed to shine a spotlight on public places and spaces, recently recognized 11 noteworthy projects.

The biennial awards program honors projects that promote positive public uses and benefits by creating, preserving or enhancing exterior or interior public space, green corridors and networks of spaces. Nominated projects can be either completed or in the conceptual or master plan stage and may include components such as community or transportation planning, public recreation, historic preservation or urban and community forestry, among others.

The American Institute of Architects Vermont, Vermont Chapter of the American

Society of Landscape Architects, the Vermont Planners Association and the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program co-sponsored the awards. Recipients were selected by a jury of prominent Vermont planners, landscape architects and community and urban forestry professionals.

Merit Awards were presented to projects that are enriched by planning or design or that increase awareness of the benefits of creating public spaces and/or connecting downtowns, village centers or city neighborhoods to natural areas devoted to conservation, recreation and working lands. Projects receiving Honor Awards met those same criteria but had a significant feature or stood out as being exceptional overall. All recipients will receive a certificate and be recognized in a special online ceremony on June 8 at 7 p.m.

## Search for Zoning Assistant Continues

Mara Brook  
EDITOR

At a Special Selectboard Meeting on May 27, board members discussed continuing efforts to hire a planning and zoning assistant for the town.

Previously, the zoning staff, or clerk, position was filled by the zoning administrator. But due to community concerns last year about town officials wearing too many hats, the town decided zoning administrators would no longer be permitted to double as zoning board staff.

At a previous meeting, the board agreed to increase efforts to advertise the administrative position in the hope of attracting more applicants.

“We do have an applicant who we’re planning to interview,” Town Administrator Dean Bloch said. “And I have received a few applications,

I did talk to one applicant today who I think is worth interviewing.”

Bloch said the next step is “to have a small committee do some interviews.”

In the past, interviews were conducted by Zoom, but Bloch said now “it may be possible to do them in person.”

Vice Chair Frank Tenney said he noticed on Front Porch Forum that the Town of Hinesburg was also looking for an administrative assistant for 20 hours a week and “maybe there’s a possibility we could cost share, because [the job] had about the same pay rate we did.”

Selectboard Member Louise McCarren said she knows an applicant who applied for the zoning staff position “and she’s very qualified and great.” McCarren quickly added she was “not promoting” the applicant, “but we at least have one really good candidate which is very encouraging.”



# Town

## CLEMMONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the town and work within the original text, Clemmons said she shifted the emphasis, proposing the trail be placed far from the property until the threat of racism no longer exists.

“Hope for the best, plan for the worst,” Clemmons said. “God, I wish things would get better, but I’m not going to assume that they will, and I’m not going to therefore map out a trail next to the only black owned farm in the town. I’m going to instead map away from that farm.”

Charlotte Trails Committee member Margaret Russell said she felt it was “important to state” that the trail was already being moved 740 feet away from the Clemmons’ property line.

“We are already doing that, so I guess I don’t know what it means to include that language in the scoping study,” she said.

After asking if she could “put my property owner hat on for one minute?” Russell said people were currently coming onto her property “from two different places on Lake Road, from the train station, and from Ferry Road” because “nobody knows where the easement is.”

Russell said she and her husband Mike “have some urgency to nail down the easement.”

Krasnow asked Russell if she was looking to change the location of an existing easement on her property. She said she was.

“The existing easement is along the Clemmons Family Farm,” Russell said. “Right now, the actual easement goes along their southern edge of their farm, and we are looking to move it to the south end of the property away from their farm.”

Clemmons said her family was not aware of an easement along their property line.

“It’s quite possible that a warning went out and my parents, who are elderly, didn’t notice it,” she said. “But we would love to know how that easement came to be in the first place.”

Margaret Russell said the current easement was created when a previous owner subdivided the land.

“When Mike and I bought this property 25 years ago we had to accept the easement as a condition of purchase,” she said. “So, it’s been on the books a long time.”

She added the Clemmons’ farm is “a big property” and the new easement is “a long way away from the property line.”

Clemmons disagreed.

“I don’t consider 740 feet a long way away,” she said. “We don’t like that easement where it is right now, and we also don’t like that easement 740 feet away.”

Resident Paul Plante said a “simple solution” would be for the town to “relinquish their easement on the Russell property. Just give it up if you’re not going to use it.”

Mike Russell said although Plante’s suggestion “makes some sense,” that he and Margaret “believe in public trails.”

“We want to have people using our property in a way that’s controlled and safe and respectful for everybody who might be impacted by it,” he said. “We bought our property knowing there was going to be a public trail through it.”

Selectboard member Jim Faulkner said in light of the Russell’s request to move the easement, the couple needed to sit down with the trails committee and map out the new location “so the select board has something they can work with.”

Michael Russell said he would provide



Clemmons Farm

Photo contributed

an updated version of the map to Town Administrator Dean Bloch “pronto.”

Krasnow asked Clemmons if she was satisfied with the new language in the document.

“Well, again, I was trying to reach a compromise,” Clemmons said. “If I were being an autocratic person, I would say the text should keep that public trail as far away from the Clemmons Family Farm boundaries as possible.”

Krasnow said he supported adding the more pointed language.

“I don’t think it would be unreasonable to have one sentence at the end to note there is a preference to have the trail located as far away as feasible,” he said. “I think that’s a reasonable sentence to include at the end of the compromise paragraph.”

Mudge said he found it “kind of strange” that the town was “putting Lydia in this position where she says she has to compromise.” He asked if the option to place the trail by the Clemmons’ farm could be removed from the study and instead include a recommendation to keep the trail “as far away as possible from the Clemmons Family Farm.”

Regan said the final recommendations in the study already included options for the trail “to go along Ferry Road and all the way along Lake Road, which is about as far away from the [Clemmons] property as you can get.”

Faulkner cautioned the Ferry Road to Lake Road option would involve “creating a sidewalk.”

“I think the idea is, we’re trying to make a nature-type trail,” Faulkner said. “And if we go down Ferry Road down to Lake Road, it’s basically just a sidewalk. Was that the intent of the trails committee?”

Clemmons said she thought the issue had less to do with where the town wanted to place a trail and more to do with where it wanted to place its priorities.

“The value of keeping trails off road and the value of enjoying the beautiful landscape of Charlotte needs to be balanced with, how much do we value this black-owned farm, this cultural heritage site and the only one we have in Charlotte?” she said. “How much does that weigh against this couple of miles of trail along the road?”

Clemmons said if the town were discussing “a wild species of plant or an animal” everyone would be “doing their best” to protect it.

“You have this rare black-owned farm that’s a historic farm for the community, serving marginalized underrepresented artists in Vermont and bringing community together across racial differences, which I think in these

“We want to have people using our property in a way that’s controlled and safe and respectful for everybody who might be impacted by it.”

— Mike Russell

times is even more important than before,” she said. “If there were 20 black owned farms in Charlotte, maybe it would be a different discussion.”

Mudge said he thought the issue presented the town with an opportunity.

“If we all agree this is the least viable [option] then let’s make it the least viable,” he said. “Look what happened in Richford this month. We could be the town that decides right now that this is what the Clemmons family says and we’re going to go with it.”

Clemmons said, “as a side note,” she thought it would be “a wonderful gift to the community” for the farm to organize a program “where we invite our black artists to share some of their experiences.” She quickly added that the spirit of the program would not be one of hostility.

“If you know anything about the farm, everything we do is done with love and positivity,” she said. “We wouldn’t do a sharing where it’s all, ‘we hate white people.’ It would be sharing the story as a way to help you understand and to build empathy as a community.”

Clemmons noted there were “some horrible stories out there, a couple of artists have recently been in the local news, black women both of them, Kiah Morris and Celine Davis.”

Planning Commission member Bill Stuno said while he was “very sympathetic to Lydia’s situation,” he wanted to mention that “trail access to properties as a function of promoting crime or vandalism has not been supported by any studies.”

With four minutes left for the agenda item, Krasnow said a third public hearing would likely be necessary to further fine tune and approve a final document.

“Hopefully at the June 14 meeting, which is the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting,” Krasnow said.



## 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.

### 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 labelled as such.
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- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
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- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
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- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

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SELECTBOARD  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ferry Boat Trail was “only half done,” she reported. “And the other half is probably about two feet high and was never done.”

The trail across the street had not been mowed yet, Knowles continued.  
“And I could continue.”

Krasnow encouraged Knowles to contact Bloch with any complaints.

“The Select board can’t take action on behalf of the town outside of a public meeting, but Dean is authorized to make managerial decisions in between open meetings,” Krasnow said.

Tenney said he had also observed “things that weren’t done, things in the ball field, there was a lot of trimming that wasn’t done, there was some leaves in the park that weren’t picked up.”

He said while the rain likely made mowing more difficult, he thought some things “could have been done better.”

Charlotte Park Oversight Committee Co-Chair Susan Smith agreed.

“It was wet in the beginning and Dylan was new to the town, so we gave him a lot of leeway,” Smith said. “But it’s been dry for quite a while now, and the mowing has not been caught up at the park, the weed whacking has not been done and I’m wondering what kind of capacity Dylan has to do this job. Does he work alone? Does he have enough time to put on the job?”

Bloch told Smith that “this is actually the first I’ve heard that you’re dissatisfied, so I’m surprised you haven’t raised this to me in the past. I’d be happy to work with Dylan, and I hope with you, to rectify any problems.”

Smith said she thought Dylan was “a sincere person,” but “I just wonder if he has enough capability in his company to do this work.”

Bloch said in his experience “it takes about a year to iron out the kinks” with a new contractor.

“We’ll give him a few months and if it doesn’t work out, we’ll move on,” he said.

Town applies for Village Center Designation

At the special Selectboard meeting on May 27, Town Administrator Dean Bloch updated the board on the town’s application for a Village Center Designation.

Bloch said the application is submitted through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development which offers “various programs for different sized communities and neighborhoods.”

A brochure with information about the program is available on the town’s website, Bloch said. He noted Mike Russell and Mike Walker were instrumental in helping with the application process.

“It’s important to understand this (Village Center Designation) is not a change in any local regulation,” Russell said. “It’s not a zoning change, it’s a state designation that provides benefits both to property owners who have structures within areas that are designated as Village Centers as well as town entities that apply for grant money.”

Russell said to obtain a Village Center Designation a town has to demonstrate it has “a confirmed planning process and that our land use regulations are deemed consistent with the level of regulation that the state agency feels is necessary.”

“It’s kind of a no brainer for the town, there’s really no downside to it,” he said.

Russell said one of the reasons they “made a push to do this now” is that the Charlotte Grange Hall on Spear Street in East Charlotte “is an example of a building that will benefit greatly from this designation, because it will be eligible for tax credits for code compliance façade restoration and other grant monies.”

Mike Walker confirmed they are “in the process of restoring the Grange Hall and available grant funding is going to end up paying for all of that work.”

Walker said they have met with the Preservation Trust of Vermont and with the Dept. of Historic Conservation about grants, both general and specific.

“The feedback we received was the town was leaving money on the table by not having this Village Center Designation,” Walker said. “That’s why I started inquiring about it.”

Principles for designating a village center include that it must be anchored “by an existing use consistent with purposes of the Village Center designation,” Walker said. He said Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church has both a civic and religious use, which is one of the uses “encouraged to be located and nurtured within a Village district.”

Steve Denton’s commercial contractor’s yard and farm operation was “another example of the use that’s encouraged and is intended to be supported by a Village Center designation,” he said.

Walker said it might “seem odd” that the entire intersection of Charlotte Hinesburg Road and Spear Street is included within the designated area, “given that the northwest corner of the intersection is preserved open space in agreement” between the developer and the Town of Charlotte.

“We’ve been assured that it is part of the underlying designating criteria that the entire intersection be included, whether the properties in the intersection can benefit from the designation,” Walker said.

“As a citizen I wanted to support the effort,” Bill Regan said. “I think it makes sense for the town, and then if I put my Trails Committee chair hat on, I think I’d back it for that reason too, in case any of that grant money would become available that might benefit the trail project.”

Selectboard Member Lewis Mudge asked if the Village Center designation could be used “to tackle the speed limit in East Charlotte.” Walker said no.

“It’s not regulatory in any way,” he said.

Bloch said if the Selectboard motioned to approve the resolution and to submit the application “I’ll place this in the Town Clerk’s office for your signatures.”

Faulkner made the motion and Krasnow seconded, with the board unanimously voting to approve.

Selectboard amends rules of procedure

The Selectboard discussed amendments to its rules of procedure at a special meeting on May 27. The rules were revised in response to community concerns raised last year about conflict-of-interest issues related to Selectboard members serving on other town boards.

The amended rules would require Selectboard members not to serve on other boards, while newly elected members would be asked to relinquish any other seats they held—with a few exceptions.

“There’s two committees that require by statute Selectboard member participation,” Selectboard Member Lewis Mudge said. “So, I’ve tweaked the language to reflect this [rule] is for standing boards.”

Charlotte Fire and Rescue Services (CFRS) was one such committee, Mudge said.

Vice Chair Frank Tenney asked how someone running for a seat on the Selectboard who also held a seat on another board would be informed that “they have to get off the other board.”

“Either they should know that or maybe when somebody puts their hands up to run for Selectboard, (Town Administrator) Dean (Bloch) says, “OK, but if you get elected, you’re going to have to give up this,” Selectboard member Louise McCarren said.

Tenney said he just didn’t know “what the process would be.”

“If someone wants to run for the Selectboard, we can pass them out our rules of policy and procedures and say, just an FYI, this is what the policy and procedures are for the Selectboard,” Selectboard member Jim Faulkner said.

“You know my feeling about this, this was just brought up to get me off the zoning board,” Tenney said of the new rule.

Tenney previously served on the Selectboard and the Zoning Board of Adjustment simultaneously until questions arose last year about potential conflicts of interest in relation to a zoning application filed by Carrie Spear. (Tenney’s brother is Spear’s neighbor.) Tenney stepped down from the ZBA in April.

“I don’t want to let that hang Frank, that’s not the case,” Mudge said. “I have had numerous people tell me both in running and in being on the Selectboard that they would like to see less changing of the hats. I won’t lie and say your name was never mentioned, but the intention was not simply to get you off the ZBA.”

“Whether the intent was there or not, that is what happened,” Tenney said.

“The Selectboard, based on a lot of feedback from last year, was presented with two options: either respond to the feedback or not respond to it,” Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow said. “And this is the way the Selectboard has been thoughtfully responding to the feedback it received from the town over the last three months.”

Krasnow said, while Frank was asked to choose on which board he wanted to remain “once this policy was passed—which it hasn’t been yet,” that everyone serving on the Selectboard in the future “will be asked to make the same decision.”

“I was asked [to leave the ZBA] before this was even brought up,” Tenney said.

“I have something to say,” McCarren said. “I have been on many, many boards. And I will say that Frank Tenney is a major contributor to this board, and I am so humbled by being able to work with him. He’s smart, he’s hardworking, he’s knowledgeable and he’s connected. Just one person here saying how much I value what he has done.”

McCarren said Tenney should “never” feel the new rules of procedure are “personalized” to him.

“This is just what we had to do,” McCarren said. “And just to repeat, I have been on many, many boards and you’re the best.”

Krasnow said he would add that “Frank has been an invaluable member of the zoning board for many years, and his leadership on that board was very valuable for everyone in town. His knowledge of the zoning regulations is pretty much unmatched, and his leadership was very strong on that board.”

Krasnow described Tenney’s departure from the ZBA as “a loss to the town,” but said it was a decision the Selectboard was “asked by its residents to make.”

“I’m sorry Matt, I just don’t agree,” Tenney said.

Faulkner asked if it was the board’s opinion that CFRS “should not be on this list that we have for this new rule. I just want to make sure that everybody understands that we do have a Selectboard member on that board.”

“I’m still on the ropes,” Mudge said. “If you want to send it to the lawyer, I’m fine to do that. By no means do we have to vote on this now-now.”

“I’m OK either way,” Krasnow said. “I think if we leave it off and it becomes an issue, we can always add it, and I’m OK with adding it now, as well.”

“I would like to resolve this tonight,” McCarren said.

“I’m not going to try to wordsmith it now, but I can add it,” Bloch said. “It’s not a town board but it does receive town funding, so I can make that change with any comments for you and then have it available for signature.”

McCarren motioned to adopt the amendment to the Selectboard rules of procedure.

“All in favor, say ‘Aye,’” Krasnow said.

“You know I’m opposed,” Tenney said.

“Yep,” Krasnow said. “Four to one.”

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Energy Committee (3 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & 2023)
- Trails Committee (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & 2023)
- Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2023)
- Zoning Board of Adjustment—Alternate (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Board of Auditors (2 seats; elected positions; appointments to Town Meeting 2022)
- Trustee of Public Funds (2 seats; elected positions; appointments to Town Meeting 2022)

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

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# Report from the Legislature

## 2021 Legislative session adjourns



Rep. Mike Yantachka

The Vermont Legislature wrapped up a historic session that took place 100% remotely from January 6 to May 21. While 2020 began normally and then abruptly shifted to remote operation in reaction to the spreading coronavirus,

which caused the session to run into September, the 2021 session started smoothly in January and ended on schedule in May. Per tradition, the budget, a.k.a. H.439 “the Big Bill,” was the last bill passed. This Fiscal Year 2022 budget, a \$7.34 billion package of investments that prioritizes the people of Vermont, passed unanimously 148-0.

H.439 strengthens systems and services that increase physical and mental health and well-being. It invests heavily in broadband and connectivity for rural communities. It invests in childcare to increase affordability and accessibility. It makes a massive investment in increasing affordable housing stock for low- and middle-income Vermonters. It prioritizes climate change, clean water, and begins to center racial and social equity in more of our investments. And it begins a process of resolving our public pensions crisis.

This budget incorporates state General Funds, CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal dollars in creating an equitable recovery plan that invests in people—leaving no Vermonter behind—and rebuilds the economy in all 14 counties. Of the

\$1.2 billion provided to Vermont by ARPA, the Legislature has appropriated \$581 million and reserved the remaining \$600 million for future use.

Of the many things we learned from this experience, one is that we are not only dependent on each other, but that today’s society relies heavily on technology for our mutual resilience. We also learned that lack of access to that technology has left many Vermonters less secure and more dependent than they were when 2020 began.

Last year we talked about how providing access to high-speed broadband to every Vermonter would cost upwards of \$300M, and how it would take a decade or more to accomplish that. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, we have been given an extraordinary opportunity to shorten that time frame by an order of magnitude. By appropriating \$150M in this budget to encourage Communication Union Districts and municipalities to work cooperatively with existing internet service providers, we are making the accomplishment of that goal possible in just a few years. At the same time we will be creating many well-paying jobs and training the workforce to fill them.

With the weather turning nicer and the COVID precautions easing, I hope opportunities for in-person meetings will be increasing. In the meantime, I welcome your emails (myantachka.dfa@gmail.com) or phone calls (802-233-5238). This article and others can be found at my website (MikeYantachka.com).

## Around Town .....

### Congratulations:

to **Ava Rohrbaugh** whose poem, “A wall over,” appeared in the May 21 Young Writers Project in the *Burlington Free Press*. Conversations, Ava says, “are well-wrapped candies.” Sometimes, however, they “fall too quickly” and lie like “shattered jam jars on the floor” waiting for you to piece back together.” Sometimes these conversations remain “not yours a wall over.”

to **Quinn Sunderland** whose picture of a white spring blossom earned “Photo of the Week” honors in the same issue of the *Free Press*.

to **Rose Lord** and **Annika Gruber** whose poems followed a week later in the Young Writers Project.

Rose contemplated the “Enigma of the heart,” beginning by saying what a seemingly simple thing this part of our anatomy is. “It’s just an organ carrying blood. It swells, it squeezes, and it performs its job.” However, on further thought, Rose sees the heart as a musical instrument, an element of a symphony that reaches a crescendo. Hearts are more than we give them credit for. They are, in fact, complicated things.

Annika wrote of “Peace.” She says that we gain peacefulness lying on our backs, letting the “worries in our heads flee from this place.” Letting the “feelings in our hearts slowly gain space.” And “it’s OK to pause and just take a breath, because we are all human, and we all deserve rest.

### Obituary:

**Daniel O Moran**, of Port Angeles Washington, formerly of Charlotte, passed on to join his beloved mother, Flo, on May 22, 2021. Dan was born on July 9, 1958, the son of Harold “Chubby” Moran and Florence Laramee Moran. He was the much loved husband of Cecile Trahan Moran, a brother and an uncle.



Daniel O Moran

Daniel was a computer programmer extraordinaire for IDX, the United States government and a number of private companies. When there was a program to be created or a problem to be solved, they called Daniel. He built several homes with Ceal and filled them with his much loved Boston terriers. For many years Flo, Chub, Ceal and Dan shared a beautiful spot on a hill in Charlotte lovingly referred to as “Windview.”

He was friend to all—with a generous spirit and a hand up to those who needed it.

He fought a courageous battle with stage 4 kidney cancer for many years and was hopeful to the very last day, always telling us: “Don’t worry about me.”

He leaves behind his wife, Ceal, his father, Chub, his sister, Karen Lafayette, and brothers, Timothy and Sean, many special nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

The family will receive visitors from 11:00 to 1:00 Thursday, June 17, 2021, at the Ready Funeral Home in Essex Jct. (Mountain View Chapel 68 Pinecrest Dr.)



Town

# Charlotte welcomes new ZAWendy Pelletier

Following years of turnover in the ZA office, Pelletier says she’s in it for the long haul.

Mara Brooks

Zoning Administrator Wendy Pelletier had only just settled into her new role when she faced what she called her biggest job challenge so far: side effects from her second COVID-19 vaccine.

“It really made me sick,” said Pelletier, who lives with her husband in Essex. “I was willing to write off two days [of work], but when it took me an entire week to get better, I was not happy.”

Pelletier’s impatience to roll up her sleeves and get to work was understandable. Following the departure of former ZA Daniel Morgan in January and the resignation of four longtime ZBA members in April, Pelletier’s arrival on April 26 signaled a welcome start to a new era at the zoning office.

“There’s quite a lot to do,” she said. “So now, we’ve just been cranking through applications, trying to do site visits, just a lot of running around.”

Pelletier, a transportation engineer by trade, retired from VTrans in 2020 after 12 years. She and her husband have two children, both CVU graduates. The family previously lived in Hinesburg for 15 years.

“My daughter loved horseback riding in Charlotte,” she said.

Pelletier said her engineering background made her a good fit for the role of ZA.

“At VTrans, I worked with consultants, towns, maintenance districts, and regional planning groups to plan, design and construct bridges, trails and other transportation improvements,” she said. “I’m detailed-oriented, with broad experience in design and project management and applying codes and statutes.”

Pelletier said for a small town, Charlotte has a surprising amount of zoning activity.

“It’s quite an active town, which I guess I expected, but maybe not to this degree,” she said. “That keeps things from being boring, and there’s a lot of residents who are active on the boards. It’s lovely to see people are inspired to contribute and care that things get done and done properly.”

Despite the turnover that has plagued the ZA office in recent years, Pelletier said she is optimistic about her future with the town.



Wendy Pelletier Photo by Katie Pelletier

“That’s just history as far as I’m concerned,” she said. “I would certainly hope to serve in this position for the long haul.”

Her personal appreciation for the bucolic town doesn’t hurt.

“Charlotte is spectacularly beautiful, especially in my favorite season of spring,” she said. “The rural character is so peaceful, and the residents are so interesting, with such diverse histories and interests.”

Pelletier said the town is currently searching for an administrative assistant to serve as a liaison between her office and the ZBA. Selectboard chair Matt Krasnow recently told *The News* the ZA will no longer be allowed to double as ZBA staff.

“It will be our new assistant who works directly with them (the ZBA),” she said. “I am focused on reviewing and processing the numerous applications in the queue and providing answers and information for our residents who call in or stop by the Town offices. I enjoy working with the public to find ways to advance projects.”

In her spare time, Pelletier said she likes to dabble in the arts—specifically, painting.

“I like to watercolor and I like to do some stained-glass work,” she said. “I’m inspired by local artists, and I’ve taken classes with some. I’ve met quite a few lovely artists here in Vermont.”

# Grange on the Greens

The Charlotte Library and the Grange are pleased to present Pete Sutherland and Oliver Scanlon on Thursday, June 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Grab a pizza, sandwiches or other goodies from your local stores and head on to the Town Green. Music will start at 5:30 p.m. along with displays from farmers, food producers and community groups. The event is free and is made possible through generous sponsorship by Pease Mountain Law. Please register in advance at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grange-on-the-greens-tickets-154021483403> to ensure we can manage numbers and have proper distancing. Masks will be required when moving around at the event, although once seated in a pod, they may be removed.

The link to register can also be accessed from the Grange and Library websites.

Pete Sutherland is a warm-voiced singer, songsmith and accomplished multi-instrumentalist, with potent originals, age-old ballads and fiery fiddle tunes. He “covers the map” and shines with a “pure spirit which infuses every bit of his music, and cannot fail to move all who hear him.” —American Festival of Fiddle Tunes.



Musician Oliver Scanlon with Pete Sutherland will play on the Green Thursday, June 10. Photo contributed

Joining Pete is his talented protégé Oliver Scanlon playing fiddle, viola, mandolin, foot percussion and vocals.



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## Sports

# Redhawk Catherine Gilwee is Gatorade's Basketball Player of the Year



Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

CVU senior Catherine Gilwee has been named the Vermont high school girls' basketball Player of the Year for the past season despite the fact that two state tournaments were called off due to the coronavirus. Catherine led CVU to a 9-0 season record, following 30 wins over the previous two years.

Basketball is not her only attribute. She has maintained a 4.22 grade point average in her academic work and has served on the school's Athletic Leadership Council, coached youth soccer and counseled voluntarily for a group devoted to "eliminating stigmas surrounding mental health issues." Catherine will be headed to UVM in the fall and looks forward to playing for the Cats basketball team.

## Redhawk track teams capture Burlington meet

The D.G. Weaver Athletic Complex was the site of a track and field meet May 21. Both men's and women's teams from CVU won top honors, defeating seven other schools. The women led the top five ahead of U-32, Essex, Burlington and South Burlington. The men defeated the

same institutions with the exception of Vergennes replacing South Burlington.

## "Battle of the Bucket" goes to the Redhawks

The annual "Battle of the Bucket" between CVU and Essex men's lacrosse teams was fought in the middle of May, and the bucket stayed in CVU's display case. The game was the second of the season between these two long-term rivals. Both games went in CVU's favor, the second 10-8. In that contest Alex Leonard led the Redhawks with 5 goals and 2 assists followed by Colin Zouck's pair of goals and single tallies by Sean Gilliam, Nolan Shea and Shane Gorman. Goalie Jake Bowen was called upon for 7 saves.

## First men's LAX loss at the hands of Woodstock

CVU men's LAX hosted visiting Woodstock, hoping to capitalize on the "Battle of the Bucket" and extend the Redhawk record to 13-0. Unfortunately for the Hawks it did not happen, as Woodstock topped CVU by 2 goals, 8-6. Although the loss was considered an upset over CVU who has won seven state Division 1 championships, Woodstock has only two losses on its record this season

and a history of being one of the oldest lacrosse powers in Vermont.

The Redhawks got back on the victory path with a 7-6 win at Middlebury on Saturday. Shane Gorman, Sean Gilliam and Colin Zouck each had 2 goals, and Alex Leonard hit the game-winner in overtime.

## Redhawks in the statewide tennis tournament

The state high school tennis tournament for individuals kicked off last week with a number of CVU singles players and doubles partners getting a run at titles. Among the women, Lindsay Beer made it to the semifinals, winning two of three sets before losing in two. The women doubles pair, Tabitha Bastress and Addison Mauer, were defeated in the quarterfinals.

Among the men, the doubles team of Ben Sampson and Henry Bijur won their quarterfinal match before losing to a Stowe pair in two sets at the semifinal level.



CVU Varsity Boys Lacrosse earns a double OT 13-12 win over Essex HS in the annual "Battle for the Bucket". Photo courtesy CVU Varsity



Catherine Gilwee lays in two against Rice.

Photo by Al Frey



## News from *The News* .....

# It's official – *The Charlotte News* is now a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization

John Quinney  
INTERIM PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

For several years now, we've used two organizations to publish and sustain the paper. Our donors send their tax deductible gifts to Friends of the Charlotte News a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization which in turn, makes grants to *The Charlotte News*, the organization that publishes the paper.

Here's the history.

In January of 2001, *The Charlotte News* was awarded 501(c)4 status by the IRS. We had applied to receive 501(c)3 status, which would have allowed the organization to receive tax deductible donations from the public. However, our application was rejected, because advertising revenues made up most of the paper's income.

In response, we set up Friends of the Charlotte News as a 501(c)3 organization that helps support the paper through fundraising, promotion and local initiatives. The Friends makes grants to *The Charlotte News* on a monthly basis to help pay writers, editors and production staff, to purchase new office equipment and to support other business expenses. The Friends of the Charlotte News and *The Charlotte News* itself are independent organizations, and no officer or director of the Friends has any influence over content published in *The News*. Those decisions are made by our editor.

This arrangement served our purposes for 20 years, but maintaining two organizations, two boards, two bank accounts, and so on, was a bit cumbersome. So, in November 2019, when *The Salt Lake Tribune* became the first daily newspaper to be awarded 501(c)3 status by the IRS, we paid attention. In their application, *The Tribune* was able to show that their survival depended at least as much on donations as it did on advertising.

The story at *The Charlotte News* is similar. Our advertising revenues now cover about 60% of our needs; the balance comes from community donations.

In October of 2020, recognizing that the IRS was now likely to be more receptive to applications from nonprofit community newspapers, the Board of *The Charlotte News* created a new organization, TCN, Inc., (doing business as *The Charlotte News*) and reapplied for the much coveted 501(c)3 status. The time-consuming application was prepared by three people: board member, Vince Crockenberg; our treasurer, Ted LeBlanc; and our attorney, Michael Russell.

In a letter from the IRS dated May 4, we learned that their hard work had been rewarded, and TCN, Inc. was a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

This development allows us to merge the volunteers in the Friends and *The News*, to create a single board of directors, a slimmed down management team and more efficient accounting and fundraising processes. Your tax deductible donations may now be sent to TCN, Inc., doing business as *The Charlotte News*.

Rest assured, you will keep getting the paper in your mailbox every two weeks, our weekly e-newsletter in your inboxes, and website posts updated every week. As we have for 63 years, we remain committed to our mission:

- to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town affairs, and,

- to source stories of interest from our neighbors and friends.

And *The News* will continue to provide 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.

We are deeply grateful to you, our readers, friends, neighbors, volunteers, advertisers and donors, the community that nurtures and sustains *The Charlotte News*. Thank you.

### Is it time for you to give back?

Some years ago, I attended the annual volunteer's night, hosted by the Selectboard at town hall. The room was filled by Charlotte volunteers, serving on the dozens of committees, commissions and boards that contribute so much to the civic life of Charlotte. It was an impressive turn out, strong evidence if any was needed, of the essential roles played by town volunteers.

For 63 years, *The Charlotte News* has also attracted and relied on volunteers who send us articles and photos, serve on committees and the board, support our fundraising efforts, provide copy editing and proofreading services, and mail and distribute papers. It is a spirited, committed, good humored and interesting group of Charlotters. Without them, we wouldn't have a paper.

If you're looking for an opportunity to give something back to the town, please consider volunteering at *The Charlotte News*:

- We're looking for a treasurer to replace Ted LeBlanc who will be stepping down shortly. If you have experience with financial management, budgeting and accounting, and are able to contribute around 15 hours a month, please send me an email at [john@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:john@thecharlottenews.org).
- In the weeks and months ahead, we'll have opportunities available on board committees and the board itself. If your work or volunteer experience includes board governance and leadership, website development or social media, fundraising, advertising and marketing, journalism or publishing, I'd love to hear from you at [john@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:john@thecharlottenews.org).
- Charlotte is home to many talented writers and photographers. If you're among them, perhaps you'd like to see some of your work published in the paper? If so, please contact Anna Cyr, our managing editor at [anna@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:anna@thecharlottenews.org). Keep in mind the modest budget that we have available to pay our freelance writers.

In addition to our wonderful employees – Mara Brooks, Anna Cyr and Christy Hagios – this issue of the paper was brought to you by: Beth Merritt, Edd Merritt, Mike Yantachka, Janet Yantachka, Peter Richardson, Nancy Richardson, Phyl Newbeck Matt Zucker, Mike Walker, Trina Bianchi, Joan Weed, Kimberly Findlay, Deirdre Holmes, and Lee Krohn.

Thank you to everyone listed here for bringing us this paper, and to those who give so much of their time and talents as members of our committees, our advisers and board.





# Congratulations CCS Graduates



Hadley Auster



Maddie Bergeron



Miles Bergeson



Charlie Buchwald



Henry Bushey



Ryan Byrne



Erin Caldwell



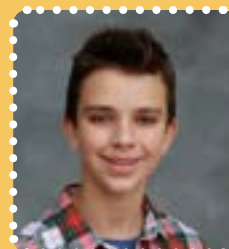
George Charlson



Silas Cohen



Joaquin Cowart



Alex Cummings



Ajak Dau



Holden Diesi



Cole Eggleston



Ronan Evans



Aliza Flore



Dylan Frere



Ray Hagios



Will Kallock



Ruby Kohn



Makenna Leggett



Holly Lian



Matthew Lollis



Alden Looft



Lander Magoon



Libby Manning



Zane Martenis



Anderson McEnaney



Gabe Merrill



Shana Mester





Elizabeth Nostrand



Whitley Pidgeon



Abbey Pitcavage



Jonathan Postlewaite



Ayden Reynolds



Olivia Santos



Payton Shattie



Julian Sicotte



Kate Silverman



Hannah Stein



Abigail St. George



Carlynn Strobeck



Vega Tariyal



Gabe Taylor



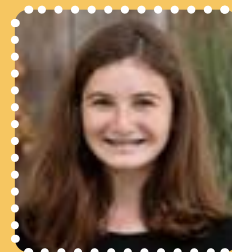
George Taylor



Maria Thurber



Daniel Tuiqere



Charlotte Ziter

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# Town

## And the survey says...



Trina Bianchi  
CONTRIBUTOR



As we have recently discovered with the debate in Washington, “infrastructure” is one of those words that means a million different things to a million different people. In the context of our recent community Resilience survey, infrastructure was defined as encompassing roads and transportation, emergency shelter capacity and access, cell and broadband access, stormwater and waste water management. Quite the wide array of subjects!

And all of that is now up for discussion: Physical Infrastructure, Tuesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. at <https://bit.ly/convo05445>. The link can also be found on the Charlotte Library website. Everyone is welcome to join to talk, discuss or simply listen. We hope you will take the time to add your voice to the conversation!

Our survey respondents generally had positive perceptions about roads and transportation, cell and broadband service, and storm water and waste management. However, most interesting was the very high proportion of respondents who “weren’t sure” or “had no opinion” on many of the topics. This was especially true in the case of “emergency shelter” capacity where 38% replied were unsure how to respond. This suggests that perhaps we need to do a better job of informing our community about these aspects of our infrastructure in Charlotte. This writer would also question whether or not Charlotte truly does have good cell service.

So, if you have questions around some of these areas, mark your calendar and join us on June 15. You can do it from the comfort of your couch or deck with your beverage of choice! The survey, including all the questions, description and responses for this section, is in the included table. Bring your questions, observations and concerns. It should be a lively discussion.

The community discussion on the Basic Needs and Services held on May 18 was well attended, and a lot of thought-provoking information was forthcoming. Hosted by Cindi Robinson, Margaret Woodruff and Mike Yantachka, it was noted that the survey showed that many people weren’t sure around our resilience in terms of energy and public safety, indicating perhaps the need for more

The section below is from the actual survey with the results.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - Strong and protected roads, bridges, culverts, utilities, public & private facilities & services						
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>Roads &amp; transportation infrastructure</b> Infrastructure is in good condition; public and private culverts/ditches monitored and maintained; alternate routes and plans for main roads and vulnerable roads if disruptions occur; many accessible and affordable transportation options; robust bike infrastructure used frequently; efficient, electric public transportation	13 7%	40 22%	52 29%	49 27%	20 11%	7 4%
<b>Emergency shelters</b> Sufficient, well-located, safe shelters that serve all neighborhoods with water, food, a place to sleep, and critical energy sources for at least 3-5 days; options for pets and farm animals included in shelter planning; information widely advertised and known; restocking mechanisms and protocols in place	53 29%	31 17%	21 12%	3 2%	5 3%	68 38%
<b>Cellular service &amp; broadband accessibility</b> Cell service and broadband accessible throughout community via multiple providers; all residents who want to be are connected; free high-speed wireless available downtown; backup hotspots available centrally during outages	36 20%	34 19%	57 31%	27 15%	10 6%	17 9%
<b>Public &amp; private facilities (schools, library, fire station, senior center, etc.)</b> Facilities are accessible, well-located, and are well-utilized as key places in the community; buildings are weatherized and free of toxins; town has action plans for disasters or disruptions; meetings/activities are held in many locations	4 2%	14 8%	34 19%	75 41%	42 23%	12 7%
<b>Stormwater management</b> Town has updated infrastructure and uses green infrastructure to reduce stormwater; residents, businesses and town participate in watershed-wide stormwater strategies; local and state regulations require new developments to include waste water reduction and green stormwater plans	12 7%	15 8%	48 27%	38 21%	8 7%	60 33%
<b>Waste management</b> Townwide approach is accessible and affordable for all residents and includes waste reduction mechanisms; covers trash, recycling, compost, upcycling and hazardous materials; disposal options are properly used; well-sited and maintained public bins; town is meeting goals to reduce waste in all sectors; has robust, neighborhood-scale compost infrastructure; successful education programs	7 4%	45 25%	43 24%	28 15%	12 7%	46 25%

effective communication in these areas about what resources were available in Charlotte.

Renewable energy was a definite focus of this discussion with observations that none of our town buildings are equipped with solar, prompting the question of whether Charlotte, as a town, was committed to renewable energy. Suggestions for improvement around energy resilience might include town-owned solar and off-site solar that could be installed on town land, offering residents another option for renewable energy at their own homes. Charlotte does have an Energy Committee. The committee currently has two openings and invites interested individuals to consider inquiring about joining. The group has work that can be done but needs additional members to make it happen.

The Energy Committee is working diligently on a website for Charlotte that will soon be live and will provide information around incentives and available programs for residents to access to learn how each of us can become more energy resilient and also reduce our demand for energy. Obviously, each of us reducing our demand on the energy system helps not only our own individual resilience—and power bill—but also helps us as a community.

The discussion then moved to the subject of housing. What was voiced was how we, as a community, have lost some of the diversity

that was here in past decades and questioned whether or not we are losing residents due to lack of affordable housing. This brought forth the question about whether or not Charlotte is truly committed to creating a diverse community and, if so, how do we make housing more affordable? One suggestion was if we truly want to create a town with socio-economic diversity, less expensive land needs to be made available to develop, which could be done by reducing land requirements in specific areas in towns, perhaps in village centers, for housing. The results of the recent vote to change the Land Regulations in East Charlotte would indicate that perhaps we, as residents, are not committed to trying to increase the diversity in our town. Perhaps a question for all of us to ponder is: What kind of town **do** we want to live in and what are each of us, as individuals, willing to accept to make that happen?

Public safety and emergency response were discussed next, and the question posed was what would happen in Charlotte if we experienced a touch-down tornado like Middlebury did earlier this year. Chris Davis explained that the town does have emergency management plans for various emergencies, and those plans are reviewed and updated regularly. What Chris explained—and I think we all have come to realize—is that storms today are not like storms of yesteryear. They are more frequent and can be more destructive. We need to be prepared for this “new normal.” While there is a book outlining procedures and protocols for all the various emergencies, the goal is to have the book available so that anyone could access it in an emergency. Chris admitted that housing or shelter in an emergency is currently a challenge with no easy answer, which is something that does need to be addressed. One suggestion was that if the town had solar with battery backup on the town buildings, that might be a start to a solution.

Water quality was next on the list. Lively

discussion ensued around the idiosyncratic quality of the water in our town—from sulphur, to iron, to E. coli issues combined with quantity and depths of wells and the lack of availability of good quality drinking water for people without access to same in their own homes. In years long past, CCS was a source, with an outside spigot, of good quality drinking water for folks, but that availability was eliminated years ago for various reasons. It was concluded that this was yet another issue that needs to be addressed in our town.

These community conversations hosted by the Charlotte Community Partners are designed to give all of our residents the opportunity to voice their concerns, opinions and ideas on the various subjects addressed in the Resilience Survey. This group has met twice a month since last April and includes representatives from CCS, CCS PTO, Senior Center, Transition Town Charlotte, Seed Library, CVF&RS, the Charlotte Grange and others. With a mind toward learning if people thought our town was resilient and beginning the discussion of how to become more resilient if necessary, the group partnered with Vermont-based Community Resilience Organizations, which has run these assessments throughout the state. It’s now time to discuss the results.

Do you have questions or comments? Feel free to get in touch beforehand: Margaret Woodruff: [margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org) Kevin Goldenbogen: [revkevimg@gmail.com](mailto:revkevimg@gmail.com)

In the interim, stay safe, stay well and we encourage you to get vaccinated! If you need assistance in getting the vaccine, VaxHelp05445, is here to help. Access [VaxHelp05445@gmail.com](mailto:VaxHelp05445@gmail.com) or by phone at 425-3864 (Charlotte Library). With more and more people vaccinated, we can start to enjoy a real Vermont summer, seeing friends and family! 15,000 more Vermonters needed to hit the 80% Governor Scott is looking for to open Vermont—let’s do this!

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# Memorial Day remembrance

On Memorial Day, flowers and a flag adorn the plaque commemorating Fred St. George, the only Charlotte native to be killed in Viet Nam. The plaque is located at the Town Beach.  
*Photo by Lee Krohn*

## Into The Woods ..... Managing forests for pollinators

Ethan Tapper  
CONTRIBUTOR

In recent years, there has been an increase in interest in managing our yards and meadows for pollinators. Simply put, pollinators are the creatures that help our flowering plants reproduce by carrying pollen between flowers—60 to 80% of Vermont’s plants, including many of our food crops, require the assistance of pollinators. While many people think of pollinators as critters of wildflower meadows, most require healthy forests to thrive.

Many different species pollinate plants—bats are a pollinator of bananas, for instance—but when we talk about pollinators we’re usually talking about bugs. In scientific terms, “bugs” are *invertebrates*, animals without spines, a category that includes everything from crayfish to spiders, insects and snails. About 90-97% of all the species on earth are invertebrates; 1.25 million known invertebrate species (as many as 30 million may actually exist), compared to 60,000 species of vertebrates (what most of us would call “animals”). Vermont is home to about 21,000 species of invertebrates, compared to 58 species of mammals; “bugs” represent a massive share of our local and global biodiversity.

While the Eurasian honeybee, perhaps our most-celebrated pollinator, is not native to North America, Vermont is home to about 300 species of native bees, many of which are important pollinators of both wild and domestic plants. Vermont’s bees and butterflies get the lion’s share of the credit, but equally important pollinators are flies, beetles, slugs and moths.

In fields and yards, we can improve pollinator habitat by encouraging a diversity of plant species, mowing less, and planting or encouraging native annual and perennial plants. We can introduce more complexity by planting native shrubs like dogwoods and viburnums, which provide habitat for pollinators in addition to other wildlife species like songbirds. Excellent resources about managing for pollinators in open areas abound, but a good place to start is with the Xerces Society ([xerces.org](http://xerces.org)).

In focusing on yards and meadows, most people don’t realize the profound importance that forests play in maintaining pollinators on our landscape. While some pollinators, like the monarch butterfly, spend most of their life in the open, most of Vermont’s pollinators are

completely reliant on, and adapted to, forests. These pollinators may *visit* your yard, but they *live* in the woods. Many species of bees, for instance, nest in tree cavities, rotten wood and in leaf litter, and a huge number of moths and butterflies rely on native trees to complete various parts of their life cycle. Forests also need bugs; in addition to helping plants reproduce, pollinators perform other critical ecosystem roles like acting as decomposers and feeding larger species like songbirds.

To protect and enhance pollinator habitat in the woods, the answer is a mix of good forest stewardship and addressing biodiversity threats. Vermont’s dynamic forests support a wide variety of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants that occur on different sites at different stages in forest development. Managing Vermont’s relatively young, simple forests to be more diverse and complex provides opportunities for a wider range of flora to thrive, in turn providing a more diverse array of niches and habitat opportunities for pollinators. We need to recognize the importance of tree mortality in providing growing space for diverse plant and shrub communities, in addition to creating features like dead wood, critical habitat for pollinators like our wood-boring bees. Managing forests for complexity can also help make them more adaptive and resilient in a changing climate, ensuring that there is habitat for pollinators into the future.

Providing habitat for pollinators involves much more than the flowers in your yard; any threat to forests is an existential threat to pollinators. Protecting forests from fragmentation and development is critical to pollinators, not to mention to forests’ ability to clean our air and our water, provide habitat for wildlife, and to sequester and store carbon. When we think about protecting pollinators, we need to expand our efforts to include things like controlling the invasive exotic plants and addressing deer overpopulations, both of which can have a massive negative influence on diversity in our forests.

In providing habitat for pollinators, as with many other things, forests are behind the scenes, subtly and unpretentiously making the world work. They are what allow us to enjoy beautiful native wildflowers and the food in our gardens and farmers markets. To protect pollinators we need to think beyond the meadow.

*Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at [ethan.tapper@vermont.gov](mailto:ethan.tapper@vermont.gov) or at (802) 585-9099.*



# Hi, Neighbor!

## Julia Beerworth: Music as a family affair



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

About ten years ago, Julia Beerworth and her sister-in-law Anna Pepin began singing together at holiday functions. "We played for fun at home," Beerworth said "and then we decided to try some

local bars. I think our first performance was open mic at Radio Bean." When she was younger, Beerworth had been drawn more to the songwriting aspect of music, but in college she began playing guitar and singing. When she and Pepin started playing music together, people referred to them as the Beerworth Sisters and the name stuck. Two albums later, the duo continues to enjoy recording and performing together.

The two women have similar musical influences, including Bob Dylan, Patty Griffin, Neil Young, Iron and Wine, Mandolin Orange, and Emmy Lou Harris. "We enjoyed playing together," Beerworth recalls "and we wrote a couple of songs together, but we're both teachers and mothers of three so we don't get to play that often and we don't do a good job of promoting our music." The duo's first album, *Simple Things*, came out in 2012, and *Another Year* was released last year. Beerworth also has a solo album called *October Blossom* that was released in 2018.

The two exchange leads on their albums,



Above: Julia Beerworth.  
Left to right: Anna Pepin, Julia Beerworth and Colin McCaffrey.

Photos contributed

but Beerworth said Pepin has more lead vocals on the second one. Both were produced by Colin McCaffrey who has a studio in Montpelier and is an instrumentalist on most of their songs. "Colin is a great friend and inspirational musician," Beerworth said. "We've always loved working with him."

The women describe their music as being influenced by their personal experiences, highlighting their roles as mothers, daughters and sisters-in-law, and referring to it as "a mix of indie-folk and country with an earthy flare." Beerworth said that phrase is meant to convey that their music is down to earth. "We don't put a lot of crazy background stuff in it," she said. "It's very simple and there's not a lot of dress to it."

Recently, the Beerworth Sisters' music



found a much wider audience when four of their songs were purchased by Netflix for use on the series *The Ranch*. Netflix became aware of the music through Beerworth's brother-in-law, Jeff Hahn, a Shelburne-based musician, originally from Charlotte. "We had some stuff on YouTube," Beerworth said. "It was really terrible, but they saw it and asked Jeff about us." Netflix purchased one song from Beerworth's solo album, two from *Simple Things* and one from *Another Year*. "That was really exciting and surprising," Beerworth said. Their music has also been featured on Kenny Chesney's "No Shoes" radio show.

"We haven't played out together since COVID shut everything down," Beerworth said. "We also haven't had that much time to get together and practice. In a way it's been nice because we've talked about music together and exchanged voice memos and tried to do things in a non-traditional way." Nevertheless, she is eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to practice and play with her sister-in-law again.

A resident of Charlotte since 2012, Beerworth has one child at the Charlotte Children's Center and two at CVU. She used to teach at CVU and is currently finishing her third year of work at Vergennes Union High School. Beerworth has taught kids from pre-school to her

current high school class. "Pre-school is the hardest level to teach," she said. "It's the most underpaid, but they deserve the most money. I loved it but I'm glad I'm teaching high school now."

Although she is currently teaching a civics class, Beerworth tries her best to incorporate music into the curriculum and will be accompanying her students on guitar while they sing at the end of the year concert. Beerworth has always played music and sung to her students. "There is music playing when they enter the classroom and that helps set the mood," she said. "I played Bob Dylan on his 80th birthday and some of them didn't know who he was."

Beerworth admits the connection between teaching history and making music may be tenuous but she enjoys both facets of her life. "I don't know how they're connected," she said "but I know that I love making music and I love teaching kids." The pandemic has allowed her some additional time for thought. "I have certainly had time to reflect on how precious time is, how important family and friends are, and the beauty that comes with slowing down," Beerworth said. "These have all impacted my recent song-writing and I'm looking forward to performing out again."



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*In The Garden* .....

# The beautiful peonies



Joan Weed  
CONTRIBUTOR

Seems in Vermont it’s almost a requirement to have a display of peonies on the homestead. Most commonly the choice is the old-fashioned herbaceous variety. We anxiously await the bright red nubs that poke from the cold soil each spring. They are just about to bloom in our town.

These days there are more choices available for the garden. Peonies originate in Asia and are beloved in Japan and China particularly. The best are bred there. As well as herbaceous, there are tree peonies and intersectionals. Tree peonies produce on hard wood stems; herbacious peonies come up each spring on new stems. The intersectional, also known as Itoh peonies, produce blooms on new stems every spring and are a marriage of the two mentioned varieties. Itoh is the name of the man who bred the first intersectionals. The advantage of Itohs is fresh, new, shiny foliage each spring and sturdy stems that don’t need supports. The blooms are huge and fragrant. My first and favorite so far is an Itoh called Bartzella. It is yellow, a rare color for a peony. There are others in coral, bright red, blended colors, and white. Itohs bloom slightly later than herbaceous.

Tree peonies are awkward shrubs but worth the effort for their lovely tissue-petaled blooms that come just a few weeks ahead of herbaceous varieties. They only need pruning to remove old stems and any dead wood. Mine have never gotten very large but produce well each year.

There is one other kind of peony that blooms earliest and looks quite different. It’s called the fern-leafed peony and has very fine lacy foliage. The blossoms are bright red. These live for years and don’t increase much by my experience.

Among my favorite herbaceous plants are Sorbet, with its rim of soft pink petals and puff of white with yellow stamens. Festiva Maxima is pure white with tiny streaks of red on some petals as if a paint brush had been flicked on the bloom. Sarah Bernhardt is a beloved pink puff of petals. A white with central mound of gold stamens is called Gold Rush. All of these benefit from a support ring placed early in the season so as not to pierce the roots. These don’t like to be planted too deeply or they will not bloom. Fall is optimal time for establishing new plantings or transplanting older specimens. Peonies require very little care if they like where they are planted and can live for decades. Full sun is an advantage, but partial shade works too.

If you’d like to start a planting of peonies, look for arrivals of bare root plants in late summer or buy potted and perhaps blooming peonies right now at local nurseries.



Bartzella



Tree peonies



Peonie bud



Fernleaf



Herbaceous

*Photos contributed*

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# Town

## Charlotte Fire and Rescue Log

**Saturday, April 3, 2021**  
14:45:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
3:13:00 Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)  
7:12:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Sunday, April 4, 2021**  
22:55:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Tuesday, April 6, 2021**  
11:54:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
10:22:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**  
18:37:00 Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)  
**Thursday, April 8, 2021**  
17:18:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
14:51:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Friday, April 9, 2021**  
17:10:09 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Sunday, April 11, 2021**  
21:37:00 Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)  
20:05:00 Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)  
15:41:00 Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)  
**Monday, April 12, 2021**  
12:57:42 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
10:25:43 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
15:22:00 Canceled (Prior to Arrival At Scene)  
12:24:00 Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**  
21:02:00 Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required  
10:51:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Friday, April 16, 2021**  
9:35:00 Agency Assist  
**Saturday, April 17, 2021**  
10:27:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Sunday, April 18, 2021**  
13:23:00 Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required  
**Monday, April 19, 2021**  
22:09:09 Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)  
13:58:30 Standby-Public Safety, Fire, or EMS Operational Support Provided  
12:21:30 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

15:50:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**  
5:03:00 AM Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required  
14:57:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Thursday, April 22, 2021**  
21:22:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
8:20:00 Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)  
**Friday, April 23, 2021**  
13:16:00 Canceled on Scene (No Patient Contact)  
**Saturday, April 24, 2021**  
18:21:38 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
9:22:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Monday, April 26, 2021**  
10:58:39 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS  
**Thursday, April 29, 2021**  
12:56:00 Patient Treated, Transported by EMS

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## Out Takes

### Looking back over the years



Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Oh, no, no, no*  
*I'm a Rocket man*  
Rocket Man – Elton John, Bernard Taupin

As our late Vermont congressman Jim Jeffords used to declare before he discovered things that surprised him, “Jeezum crow! Imagine that!”

Well, “Jeezum crow! Imagine that I have been out of high school for 60 years!” Yes, it’s true, and I received as proof an invitation to my 60th reunion to be held this September.

Not that I plan to attend, but the notice made me review a substantial time period that shaped my life—what one might call an “individualizing” experience. High school was a significant part of this experience.

Besides that, I was a Rochester (Minnesota) “Rocket,” and we knew we were the best of the southern part of the state, far superior to our arch rival Austin “Meat Packers” whose “Spam” could not stand up to our space blasters.

Well, this is where I decided I would start reviewing my life, noting the people and places, twists and turns, stumbles and recoveries, dumb moves and fewer smart ones—none of these things that at the current

stage of my life I could change and point myself in a different direction. Besides, reunions bring you back together with witnesses who make you answer the question, “No, did I really do that?”

As a start, let me preface my comments about my reunion by saying something about my wife’s reunion that I attended with her in Connecticut. As I recall, it was her 50th, and I didn’t know a soul from her class. What I did discover was that a reunion’s primary purpose is to review in lurid detail the things you did together as teenagers, so if you weren’t around in that era of the group’s history, you were not part of the gathered clan. One other of the clan’s partners joined me in not knowing a soul in the class outside of his wife. He and I spent our time at the affair talking baseball.

As one nears the end of a lifetime, things such as this call to reunion set one to thinking about the elements that created what is termed a life. Some of these elements are unique, some not so. Some make you wish you could have built upon them. Some you wish you could have buried. Often a person’s own life history gives a picture of that person’s country or a portrait of the world at a point in time. For example, if I were to share these elements of Edd, I would have to place world events that I was involved with on the table. These certainly would include Vietnam and three years of my life in a war zone. They would bring together the middle class aura of the Upper Midwest with big city climate of New York, education mixed with work and, oh yeah, marriage and family throughout.

Music also became a major element in my life. It was an acoustic mirror of the events I

wanted to incorporate into my life. I hit the big city and became Manhattan Transfer’s “cool, cool kitty.” I was part of Woodstock Nation, one of Joanie Mitchell’s half-a-million strong, singing along with Grace Slick, Country Joe and the Fish, Carlos Santana. We managed to find a parking space next to Ken Kesey’s “Magic Bus.”

Music is not just a bunch of voices and instruments, however. It is for many humans an important part of life in and of itself. As I consider its impact on me, I believe it adds a context to things that would otherwise simply be goings-on. These things may be as simple as traffic on Broadway, surf city, the corner store or whiskey in the jar.

But, reunions recall friendships, too. In my case, having left my hometown only to return for a brief spell 20 years later, by then married and with two sons, Rochester formed just the beginning of a lifetime to be lived and completed elsewhere. Vermont has been the ideal setting, offering a natural beauty plus communities within which one can become involved in developing and maintaining.

It has taken me 60 years to reach the point in life I’m at. Looking back and asking, “Has it been worth it?” I can only answer that it is probably too late to change things now.

This has been my life—lived well or poorly, it has been lived, and I thank the Rockets for getting me off to a good start. Collectively we formed a space ship of distinction, be it sports or schooling. Slouch, Moose, Mouse, Hooter and Moldy Mort, Beaver says, “See you across the grand divide. Save me a home brew.”



## Education

# Summer reading lists: Ugh or opportunity?



Margo Bartsch  
CONTRIBUTOR

“No more pencils, no more books ...” is a classic limerick to signal the end of the school year. This idea of a summer break from reading was less concerning in earlier generations when books were more integral to the learning process. In today’s world, only 15 percent of high school students read long-content books, compared to 60 percent from the 1980s, as reported in *The Wall Street Journal*. This alarming statistic emphasizes that students do not know the importance of establishing good reading habits and, consequently, risk not being as successful in their future academic and professional pursuits.

In *The Wall Street Journal* interview, Dr. Jean M. Twenge, a psychologist from San Diego University, describes Generation Z, born between 1995 and 2012 as the “iGen,” having grown up with the iPhone. Twenge touts the importance of books to counterbalance the downsides of social media and smart phones. With summer approaching, now is the time to develop a reading list. Books can help improve short attention spans, increase tolerance of diverse viewpoints, and foster independent thinking.

First, books can boost attention spans in contrast to social media’s fleeting images and click-bait headlines. Twenge laments, “Complex ideas require sustained attention. The idea that you’re going to be patient and sit down to read a book for two hours and do nothing else is kind of mind-blowing to an iGener.” Critical thinking skills are developed when a student digs beneath the surface to consider the broader message. The website, Five Books, compiles a list of critical thinking books to explain the process of constructing analysis and making informed decisions.

Increased attention correlates to critical thinking skills. For example, with the SAT and ACT essay component of the exams, critical analysis is part of the scoring. The student’s written essay should include identifying key elements of a reading passage (SAT) and various perspectives (ACT). By reading fiction and non-fiction, the student’s writing can reference historical precedent and literary examples.

Reading a range of genres can help the student become more tolerant of diverse views.

Twenge explains that some in the iGen are “eager to see offense everywhere.” She points out the increases in the percentage of students who believe that controversial speakers should

not be brought to campus. Twenge says, “It’s not just a perception. That’s what they say themselves—that they are less comfortable with those situations.” Reading books from authors with unique life experiences and academic philosophies allows for debate and discussion.

In high school and college, students can participate in clubs that encourage listening to opposing ideas. Joining Model United Nations, Debate and Moot Court can help students research facts and present arguments. These first-hand experiences help students recognize that there are two sides to every story. The University of Southern California’s Library Guide website lists books that focus on the art of an argument and advocacy skills. While in settings with many different opinions, the student can be poised to engage in conversations that are both convincing and respectful.

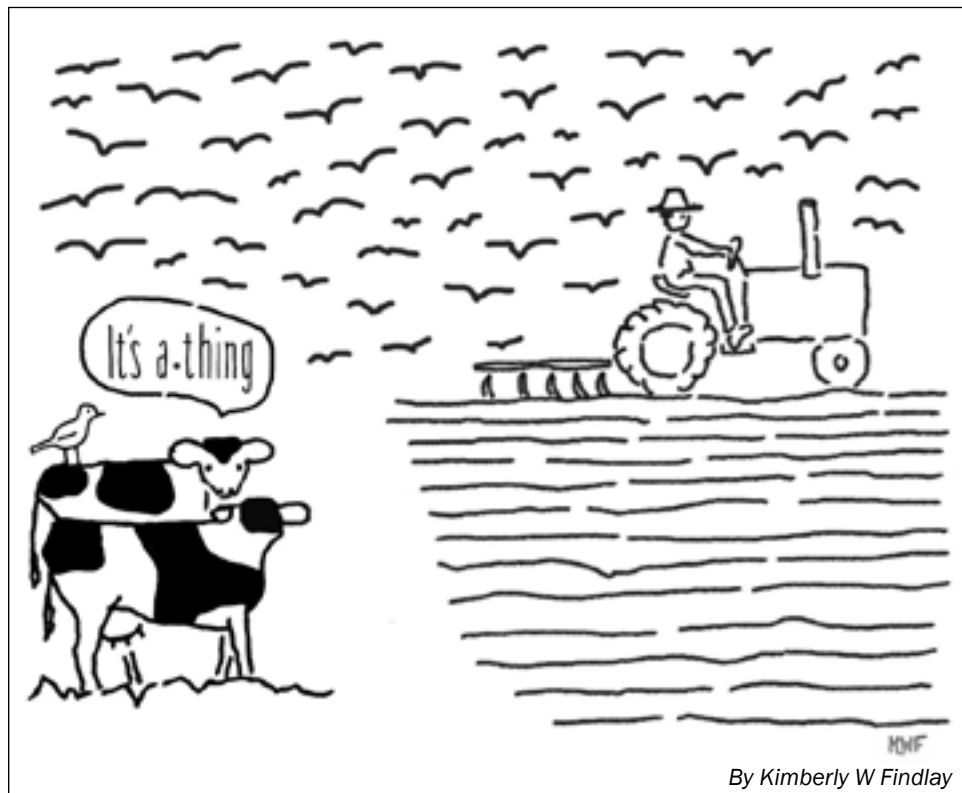
Finally, books help us develop independent thinking to become less negatively impacted by social influences. Twenge describes social media as “a punishing social competition with peers... that can be very stressful.” Reading books focused on developing empathy can help students put themselves in someone else’s shoes, understand their feelings, and later guide personal action. For example, Maya Angelou, the esteemed author, screenwriter and civil rights activist, wrote the poem “Still I Rise” that chronicles her life of abuse and discrimination. Adding Angelou’s collective work to a summer reading list can give readers hope to persevere against adversity, which is a hallmark of independence.

The Harvard Kennedy School compiles a reading list on racial equity and anti-racism. Learning from experiences outside of a student’s specific circumstance can help the reader apply valuable lessons to their own lives and community. For example, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, share the stories of questioning inequities, fighting for justice, and gaining independent thought.

Books provide academic knowledge and insightful perspective in an incredibly technology-connected world. The pandemic has forced many of us to reevaluate old habits and appreciate new priorities. Exploring summer reading lists can remind students that books are classics that have not gone out of style.

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.

## Town



By Kimberly W Findlay



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# What's in the Charlotte Museum?

*Charmingly diverse collection brings rich history to life*

Matt Zucker  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's a heavy, round black iron ball, about the size of an orange. The ball sits silent and unmoving on the glass countertop at the Charlotte Museum.

"Grapeshot," says Dan Cole, local historian and president of the Charlotte Historical Society. "During the War of 1812, some Charlotte residents were apparently hollering at British troops sailing up the lake to Otter Creek." The British troops decided this constituted aggressive action by members of their former colony "and put grapeshot in their cannon and unloaded on the townspeople."

Records show that little damage was done that day, and many of the cannonballs landed in farm fields and emerged at haying time. The museum's cannonball lives on as part of a diverse collection of historical items and records preserved in the Charlotte Museum, the tiny red brick, Greek Revival building on a small flowered plot at the intersection of Hinesburg and Church Hill Roads.

Preserving items and records that represent and record Charlotte's history is the mission of the museum. Charlotte Historical Society members manage the museum's collection, share the history with visitors during a handful of days each year, and help the occasional school child with a report for history class.

"We make ourselves available to pass on history to newer generations," says Kathleen McKinley Harris, a Historical Society member for four decades. Charlotte's history is significant, says Harris, "because whether or not we are aware of it we are influenced nearly every day by the rich history that is all around us."

The museum building sits in a spot that itself is awash in Charlotte history. Dan Cole is happy to take visitors across the small green in front of the museum where he bends back cedar limbs and points out the remains of the town well and pump that created a natural center for the original Charlotte settlement that formed in the area in the late 1700s. He points out the stone steps a few feet north that led at one time to the Washington Hotel, a public house that boasted 10 fireplaces. (In 1948 the tavern was purchased by the Webb family and transported to the Shelburne Museum, where it lives on as the Stage Coach Inn.)

The museum was originally constructed as the Charlotte Town House (i.e., meeting house) in 1850. It sat in the center of what was then a busy commercial stop on the main stage line between Montreal and southern New England and New York. The Town House eventually became



Charlotte Historical Society President Dan Cole on the front steps of The Charlotte Museum, at the intersection of Church Hill, Museum and Hinesburg Roads.

Photo credit Matt Zucker

by local heroes (and land speculators) Ethan and Ira Allen to former members of the Vermont military. Charlotte residents in the Allen and Keeler families trace their histories to Ethan Allen.

But with time and commercial expansion as well as a growing population, Charlotte's focus turned domestic. A current exhibit at the museum documents the growing community's commitment to education in the late 1800s. The exhibit shows Charlotte divided into 14 school districts in 1880 with 13 common schools (and an annual town school budget of just over \$2,100). The exhibit's shelves include school photographs, class rosters, and textbooks carried by Charlotte's schoolchildren over the decades, such as *Swinton's Language Primer*, its aged pages bound in dusty gold and green leather.

In the late '40s, Charlotte Town Hall had moved to a larger building, and the Town House was rededicated as a museum, originally intended to honor armed services members.

Today, the building's walls and shelves are lined with items ranging from the historically significant to the charmingly ephemeral: From a late 19th Century U.S. flag with 38 stars that flew over Cedar Beach, and photos and paintings of local notables like Louisa Howard Spear to wood taps for syruping, ceramic bottles, sewing supplies, and a Bible carried by Lucius C. Pease in the mid-1800s.

One highlight is a collection of Abenaki baskets and accessories held in its own glass display case. The baskets were made from sweetgrass with split ash and natural dyes by the Obomsawin family on Thompson's Point. The family, led by Simon Obomsawin, an Abenaki woodsman originally from Quebec, settled in Charlotte in 1875. The Obomsawins made and sold baskets, snowshoes, sleds, furniture and other items to summer campers and local residents. "We're proud of the Abenaki basket collection," says Cole. "We believe ours is the best collection in the area."

Throughout the building are various items donated by local families over the years that reflect daily life in the town. There's an old iron stove including an early humidifying vessel. A grandfather clock. A photograph of the members of the Masonic Temple. Cole points out examples of fine handwork, including crocheted lace, needlework and fine embroidery done by local residents.

The museum's collection has already outgrown its modest space. Cole pulls back a curtain in the back of the museum to reveal teetering stacks of items, including the entire print archives of *The Charlotte News* and decades of the town's business ledgers. (A neatly handwritten entry from 1956 shows that Theodora Meader was the town's highest paid teacher with an annual salary of \$261.93.)

"The Museum shows that Charlotte has had



The Charlotte Museum (undated photo) showing the old Route 7 up the hill to the west of the building.

Credit: "Look Around Hinesburg and Charlotte, Vermont" by Lilian Baker Carlisle, Chittenden County Historical Society, 1973

Charlotte's official Town Hall where town business was conducted—although the building was too small to house the town's records, which had to be carried home at night by the town's clerks.

Despite being named for Sophia Charlotta von Mecklenburg-Strelitz, England's queen and wife of "Mad" King George III, the town had an active role resisting the British in the Revolution and subsequent War of 1812. Museum records document Vermont military activity in the surrounding areas—including the sale of property



a rich and interesting life,” says Society member Molly King (who traces her family to local resident Wilson Williams, one of the townspeople noted for firing a musket from the Charlotte shoreline at British troops in the War of 1812). With the collection of items from everyday life in Charlotte, “you get to see how people really lived,” says King. “It gives you a different way of seeing. It’s fascinating.”

A mid-19th Century sleigh sits in a corner, a two-passenger “cutter” complete with sleigh bells and a small footwarmer that was filled

with charcoal from a stove. “I love that sleigh,” says King. “I like to think what it must have been like to travel that way with skirts down to your ankles, bundled up against the cold, with your feet warm and the sleigh bells ringing.”

*The Charlotte Museum will re-open post-pandemic and plans to welcome in-person visitors on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. starting in July and August. For more information contact Dan Cole at colelogcabin@gmavt.net.*



The Charlotte Masons (who met in what is now Friendship Lodge #24 on Church Hill Rd). Seated left to right: Henry Newell, Dr W.H.H. Varney, Henry Leavenworth, John Thorpe, Mort Allen; Standing left to right: Millard Muzzy, Dr. Fred P. Stoddard, Will Dean, Powell Read, Charles Russell, Alonzo Stearns, Horace Saxton, Dick Edgerton, Stoddard Martin.

*Photo credit: Charlotte Historical Society Collection*



Left: A display of domestic objects used in Charlotte residences in the late 19th century on display at The Charlotte Museum.

Right: Baskets and household accessories made by the Obomsawin family, who settled on Thompson’s Point in the late 1800s. Part of a display of craft work by Charlotte’s Native American residents.

*Photos credit: Matt Zucker*



Charlotte Historical Society President Dan Cole shows the Museum’s British cannonball fired at boisterous Charlotte residents during the War of 1812.

*Photo credit: Matt Zucker*



The Washington Tavern circa 1948 as seen from the steps of the (now) Charlotte Museum. The Tavern was dismantled soon after this photo was taken and lives on as The Stage Coach Inn at The Shelburne Museum.

*Photo credit: Charlotte Historical Society Collection*





# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik  
SENIOR CENTER  
DIRECTOR

*"In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude."*

~ Cynthia Ozick

When I mentioned this almost exactly a year ago, it was just a little premature. But now, it seems we really are in the technicolor beginnings of the *The Wizard of Oz*. We munchkins are cautiously emerging from our hiding spots under the flowers and toadstools. While we are not quite at the point where we can celebrate and sing the 'Ding Dong' song about the coronavirus, that time is getting closer. Maybe the right song is closer to *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

The Senior Center is about to begin a slow—but steady—re-opening process in June. It will be happening in stages and with a just few groups this month. Activity groups and instructors will be contacted separately about their return dates. Priority is being given to those groups that have not been able to gather on Zoom.

At this time, we ask that individuals who have *not* been fully vaccinated (for any reason) to wear a mask and maintain a 6-foot distance from others when inside the building.

If you are *not* vaccinated and do *not* wear a mask (for any reason), we ask that you delay your visit to the Senior Center until the mask guidance from the VT Dept of Health changes.

Limited meals be might starting in July with special arrangements. A more regular schedule will depend on the creation of new, volunteer cooking teams. You will know more as soon as plans are firmed up. We look forward to seeing you very soon!

### Courses Starting in June

#### 6/08 – JUNE HIKE #1

with Teri Fitz-Gerald

Destination: Audubon Vermont near Huntington

Meet at the Center at 8:30 a.m.; we should return by 1 p.m. To register and for more information, contact Teri directly at tfg417@

gmail.com. No fee.

#### 6/09 – BETTER BALANCE

with Laurel Lakey

Wednesday mornings, 11–11:45. Dates: 6/9–7/28 (8 weeks).

In collaboration with Dee Physical Therapy, this 8-week course is designed to improve your balance and reduce fall risk. Newcomers welcome. Register by 6/7. Fee: \$30. (Please pay at the start; directions at end of article.)

#### 6/11 – KAYAKING for WOMEN

Destination: Green River Reservoir with Nancy Stead and Mary Silverman

For more information, please email Susan Hyde directly at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Registration required. Maximum is determined by leaders. Paddlers need to provide their own boats for all trips. No fee.

#### 6/23 – CONFLICT RESOLUTION

with Mark Williams

Register by: 6/18. Fee: \$48.

Wednesday mornings, 11–12. Dates: 6/23–7/28 (6 weeks).

Using role-playing and mediation exercises, participants in this 6-week course will learn practical skills.

#### 6/23 – BOOKS OF THE WORLD

with Steve Goldstein

Register by: 6/18. No fee.

Wednesday afternoons, 4–5:30. Dates: 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4 & 8/18.

In five twice-monthly sessions, you will travel around the world reading and discussing novels by international authors.

#### 6/25 – ITALIAN – 4 different courses for all levels.

Register by: 6/18. Fee: \$48.

Fridays, at various afternoon times. Dates: 6/25–7/30 (6 weeks).

See complete course listings on website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

For expanded course descriptions see the printed **SUMMER SCHEDULE**, or 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.

Ongoing classes continue year-round. Check out the website and consider signing up for an online **EXERCISE** or **HEALTH** course—these can be joined at any time during the season: **Chair Yoga (M, W); Essentrics™ (W, F); Gentle Yoga (M); Pilates (Th); Pilates PLUS (Tu); Tai Chi for Beginners (Tu, Th); and Mindfulness Meditation Practice (W)**. And, if a course is offered twice a week, you can opt for participating on just one of those days, if you wish.



#### Talks at 1 p.m. – Wednesdays

These free talks are continuing online throughout the summer. They do *not* require advance registration and closed captioning is included. The Zoom invitation/link to each talk is posted on the website the day before at: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. // Can't make it? Talks are recorded and posted for 2 weeks afterward on the website.

#### 6/09 at 1 p.m.: CHINESE MEDICINE & ACUPUNCTURE: ANOTHER WORLDVIEW

with Molly Fleming, N.D., L.Ac.

This talk will introduce you to Chinese medical theories and how they allow us to understand the body and its functions in a whole different way: It truly was the first 'wholistic' medicine. Acupuncture will be demonstrated, and its use for treating many conditions will be discussed. Bring your questions for a lively interaction. ~ Dr. Fleming is an acupuncturist in Burlington who has integrated Chinese medicine with naturopathic medicine for nearly 40 years.

#### 6/16: SHAPE-NOTE SINGING: ORIGINS & RESURGENCE with David Rosenberg

Shape-note singing was America's first music craze, and after two centuries, it is still going strong. It's called 'shape note' because the musical notes have distinctive shapes and names. Where did this music come from? How does it sound? Who sings it? This program will explain and demonstrate the social and spiritual appeal of shape-note singing. ~ David has been singing bass in shape-note groups for 12 years, since he retired from teaching at Middlebury College. He is coordinator of the Middlebury Shape-Note Singers and chair of the 40th Vermont All-Day Sacred Harp Singing for March 2022.

#### 6/23: ETHIOPIA TRAVELS: HISTORY, CULTURE & SCENERY with Sheri and Rich Larsen

#### 6/30: BIKING in the DOLOMITES with Don Porter

#### Art Exhibits

The Senior Center's monthly art exhibits are planned to restart in August with three artists exhibiting. As before, there will be special viewing times. Stay tuned.

Start getting ready. The plan is to once again have the **ANNUAL SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY ART SHOW** in September. The last one was in 2019—two long years

ago. (Seems longer.) And the hope is that everyone has continued making art during that time. More details and dates coming soon.

#### Plant Sale

The Senior Center **PLANT SALE** last Saturday was a great success! Thank you plant shoppers and plant donators! And a big thanks also to the organizers and helpers who made it happen again: Sukey Condict, Susan Hyde, Roberta Whitmore, Wally Gates, Polly Price, Jacqueline Bartelsman, Rose Baslow, Janet and Lane Morrison, Beth Merritt, Windsong Kervick and Carrie Spear. (It takes a village.) Another small step toward getting back to the Before Times.

Not totally out of the woods yet—but skipping down the yellow brick road.

#### How to Register for a Course

All courses are online (except for those outdoors)—and require registration in order to receive the invitation/link. To register, email your name, mailing address and phone number to: CSCZoom@gmavt.net. (Note: This is an email address, not a website.) Be sure to type in the title of the course in the subject line of your 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 the class starts.

**How to Pay** – If there is a fee, kindly pay by check (made out to CSC) and send to: CSC, 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 per class hour. (This price will continue through the summer months.)
- For all courses with specific starting and ending dates, please pay at the start and note the fee listed in the course description.

Questions? Need help with Zooming? Please email: CSCZoom@gmavt.net, or leave a message at (802) 425-6345. The physical building of the Senior Center remains closed until further notice.

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

### 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:

**www.cvfrs.com**



# Town Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

### Library Reopens June 7!

We are delighted to announce that the Charlotte Library will open to the public on June 7. We look forward to welcoming you into the library to browse

and to check out materials. Please note that we will continue to follow safety guidelines and that porch pickup will remain an option for getting books and other materials from the library. We can't wait to see you! Please refer questions to Margaret Woodruff, [margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

**Grange on the Greens:** A partnership between the Charlotte Library and Charlotte Grange to celebrate local music, food and farms.

### Thursday, June 10, 5 to 7 p.m., Pete Sutherland & Oliver Scanlon

Grange on the Greens kicks off with folk musicians Pete Sutherland and Oliver Scanlon. Pete is a warm-voiced singer, songsmith and accomplished multi-instrumentalist, known equally for his potent originals and his intense recreations of age-old ballads and fiery fiddle tunes. Joining Pete is his talented protégé Oliver Scanlon playing fiddle, viola, mandolin, foot percussion and vocals. Sutherland "covers the map" and shines with a "pure spirit which infuses every bit of his music, and cannot fail to move all who hear him." —American Festival of Fiddle Tunes.

### Farmer displays and food, 5–7 p.m. Music begins at 5:30 p.m.

Numbers are limited to ensure distancing, pre-registration required at [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Masks to be worn when not in your marked circle!

**Event sponsor:** Pease Mountain Law  
**Series sponsors:** College Essay Coach, Mow Electric!

### Community Conversations Session #4: Physical Infrastructure Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m.

CCP joins with the Charlotte Emergency Management team to host a conversation about the physical features of our town, from roadways to emergency shelters. Join us to share your thoughts, accolades and suggestions!

The Charlotte Community Partnership\* is taking the next step using the data from the Resilience Survey we conducted in November and December to foster a series of 5 community discussions. Discussions focus on 5 survey categories: 1) COVID-19, 2) Basic Needs and Services, 3) Environment and Natural Systems, 4) Physical Infrastructure, and 5) Community Connections and Capacity. We hope you will add your voice to the discussion!

*\*This group has met twice a month since last April and includes representatives from CCS, CCS PTO, Senior Center, Transition Town Charlotte, Seed Library, CVF&RS, the Grange and others. With a mind toward learning if people thought our town was resilient and beginning the discussion of how to become more resilient if necessary, the group partnered with Vermont-based Community Resilience Organizations, which has run these assessments throughout the state.*

### Men's Book Discussion: Robert E. Lee and Me Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.

In a forceful but humane narrative, former soldier and head of the West Point history department Ty Seidule's *Robert E. Lee and Me* challenges the myths and lies of the Confederate legacy—and explores why some of this country's oldest wounds have never healed. Print copies available at the circulation desk. Join the meeting.

### Library Book Discussion: A Long Petal of the Sea Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.



From the author of *The House of the Spirits*, this epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home. Print copies available at the library circulation desk. Please register in advance.

### Mystery Book Group: The Big Both Ways by John Straley Monday, June 21, 10 a.m.

Rattled by the gruesome accidental death of a coworker, Slip Wilson quits his job at a logging camp and decides to make a clean start in Seattle. But along the way, he rescues a woman and her young niece from their car in the ditch, and his life takes a hard turn. The woman, Ellie Hobbes, is an anarchist with big dreams. But first, she has to take care of that pesky dead body in the trunk of her car...Print copies available at the library circulation desk.

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 until June 7; books and other materials are available for porch pickup.

**Porch pickup hours:**  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Please call or email to let us know what we can set out for you! Not sure what to read? We're happy to help select books for readers of all ages!

**Library Contact Information**  
Margaret Woodruff, Director  
Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian  
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864  
Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)

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