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The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 09



Pick of the crop!
Photo by Lee Krohn

2nd Annual Jack-o-lantern display on the Town Green



Jack-o-lanterns will be lit at dusk on Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31, so be sure to have your carving done in time to be included in the display.

The display on the Town Green (located next to the library) offers a great opportunity for a community Halloween experience even if you don't have any trick-or-treaters!

For more information on how to participate, see the library article on page 19.

Photos contributed

Selectboard holds four executive sessions during meeting

Employee salaries and "potential litigation" discussions held from public view

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

At their regular meeting on October 11, which lasted more than four hours, the Selectboard went into executive session for four different agenda items.

The first item listed on the agenda was "Request to revise compensation for certain Library employees based on tenure with the town."

The item was not listed as an executive session on the meeting's agenda.

The motion to go into executive session was made by Selectboard member Matt Krasnow to discuss "contracts and labor agreements with employees."

"We're talking about salaries, we're talking about performance, and we're talking about individuals," board member Louise McCarren said.

After some discussion, Town Administrator Dean Bloch was not allowed in the executive session after he told the board that he was not employed with the town at the time salaries were established for the library employees.

"I have not been involved with previous executive sessions, but I have been involved in discussions with the parties," Bloch said.

The board proceeded into an executive session with Charlotte Library Board Trustees Jonathan Silverman and Nan Mason. All parties emerged from the executive session after 20 minutes.

Chairman James Faulkner announced that nothing was accomplished in the executive session due to technical difficulties.

Both Silverman and Mason participated by Zoom, while the rest of the board, except for Krasnow, were present in the Town Hall.

"Our agenda is full, and we just spent 20 minutes trying to connect," Faulkner said. "We are going to schedule another time for this particular item." But, the board did not schedule when the discussion would be held.

Afterward, Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Mead questioned the board's need to go into an executive session.

"Everybody's salaries are very public," Mead said. "It's published in the town reports. It's no secret about anything. Why can't it just be a regular discussion?"

"Under Vermont statutes, we can go into

Selectboard ratifies Krasnow resignation, Faulkner officially new chair

Krasnow said town attorney advised board to ratify Sept. 27 vote with new motions

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

At its regular meeting on Oct. 11, the Selectboard again passed two motions accepting former chair Matthew Krasnow's resignation and electing James Faulkner as the new chairman.

The board passed similar motions at its Sept. 27 meeting.

Krasnow has served as chair of the Selectboard since March 2014. At the annual town meeting in March 2020, Krasnow was elected to a

three-year term.

At the Sept. 27 board meeting, Krasnow announced that he intended to step down as chairman because he and his wife were expecting a child and he was contending with increased professional responsibilities.

At the Oct. 11 meeting, Krasnow announced that his wife gave birth to son Micah on Oct. 8.

"I will probably be doing meetings on Zoom for the foreseeable future," Krasnow said.

Krasnow then led the board into two separate motions: the first motion was for the board to accept his resignation and the second was to elect Faulkner as the new chairman.

Krasnow gave no explanation for why he decided to separate the motions after refusing to do so on September 27. However, he said a

resident had emailed him requesting that Town Attorney David Rugh look into the process of the board appointing a new chairman.

"The town attorney gave me a call and he let me know that what we did [at the Sept. 27 meeting] is kosher," Krasnow said, regarding his initial two-part motion. "There's no guidance in the Selectboard rules of procedure about what to do with a mid-session resignation. We called an audible, and it's permissible. [Rugh] said that with any unusual situation, just like an emergency meeting that's called, the best thing to do to solidify any doubt would be to ratify any action taken at the next regular Selectboard meeting, which would be today."

Krasnow said that the language for both

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Selectboard to decide on Development Review Board at Oct. 25 meeting

Unwarned motion to adopt a DRB catches board members off guard

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

After almost seven months of debate and discussion between town committees and boards, the Selectboard is scheduled at its Oct. 25 regular meeting to decide if the town will have a Development Review Board (DRB).

A large majority of the towns in the state now have a DRB for planning and decision-making for potential developments in town. But in recent months, the idea of a DRB in Charlotte has been strongly debated, with members of the municipal government coming out both for and against the establishment of the board.

At the regular meeting on Oct. 18, after two hours of hearing from residents and town officials on both sides of the fence, Board



Member Matt Krasnow made a motion to establish a DRB for the town.

Krasnow's motion, which he said was from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, stated that "[I]t is hereby resolved by this board that it shall establish for the town of Charlotte, effective October 18, 2021, that the Development Review Board which shall consist of five members and shall have the authority to exercise all of the functions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment as set forth in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, and shall further exercise all development review functions performed by the Planning Commission pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117."

Krasnow's motion went on to state that the five members of the Development Review

Board "shall serve for terms for three years with individual appointments to the DRB to occur on October 25."

The motion provided that "all matters presently pending before the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be completed [by the board], and upon completion of all pending matters, [the board] shall cease to exist. All land use matters presently pending before the Planning Commission shall be completed by the commission."

The motion was seconded by Chairman James Faulkner.

The Oct. 18 agenda did not warn that the board would decide on a DRB; it listed only a third public discussion of the possibility of establishing the board.

Krasnow's motion was questioned by Selectboard Member Lewis Mudge, who asked if the board could legally vote on a

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Town

Questions raised about proposed subdivision at 125 Lake Road

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

During their regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7, the Planning Commission continued a public hearing on a planned nine-lot subdivision for 125 Lake Road.

Plans for the subdivision were originally submitted by property owners Jim Donovan and Patricia O'Donnell in November 2020.

The parcel is located in the Rural Zoning District; however, the Conservation Zoning District cuts through the property for 100 feet on either side of Holmes Creek.

The project proposes nine lots subdivided from 124.14 acres.

While lots two through eight will have development potential for residential units, the first lot, totaling 44.4 acres, would be designated for farm use.

"That lot will be, at the behest of the Charlotte Land Trust, a place for a future farmer and an agricultural lot," Donovan said at the meeting.

Donovan said that he and O'Donnell have been working on a conservation land sale to the Land Trust.

Donovan said that Lot #9, which is 74 acres, would remain a conserved open space through an agreement with the town.

The lot includes Holmes Creek, along with shrub and forest areas of the parcel.

While residents of the subdivision will be permitted to walk and hike the open space, it would be closed to other residents to limit access to Clemmons Family Farm property, which is located to the south of the parcel.

"Seven other individual lots [that will be developed] will have nine individual wells, but they all will be connected to a common septic system that is located on an adjacent parcel that is to the north," Donovan said. "In preparing the proposed subdivision, we worked to conserve as much of the agricultural portions of this parcel as possible, while also retaining the forest, and leaving the wildlife habitat undisturbed, along with minimizing the visual impacts to the surrounding roads, the surrounding properties, and the town park to the east."

He said that the proposed plan preserves about 95 percent of the site for agricultural

"Please know that we are not against development. Charlotte needs low-income housing. Landowners have rights. But development needs to be in line with the goals set forth in our town plan and voted on by Charlotters."

— Sharon Mount
Resident

use or wildlife habitat.

"This will leave about five percent of the site for developing into residential lots," he said. "We will have a homeowners association that will manage all the common areas of the property, along with roads and the septic system."

Donovan said that the property will not offer affordable housing.

"Because we want to market these lots as relatively low-priced for the Charlotte market, and because we have reduced the number of lots from what we originally proposed, we are no longer able to offer any housing deemed as 'affordable' by zoning regulations," Donovan said. "However, we are trying to market these lots for a relatively low-end market for Charlotte."

"We've done a little review about what lots cost in Charlotte, and they are \$200,000 and upward," O'Donnell said. "We are looking to [sell the lots] below \$200,000. We would like it to be below \$150,000 [per lot], but we don't know until we know the full development costs and until we can get a little bit further with discussions with the Land Trust about what we might be able to sell the farm lot and development rights for."

Donovan said that the two co-owners will be selling the subdivision lots but will not be selling houses for the lots.

"The buyers are going to build houses on the lots," Donovan said. "We are planning

to have restrictions from the homeowner's association as to how big a house you can build. You are not going to get large houses on these tiny lots."

O'Donnell said it was his understanding that, as owners of the land, "we need to build out and pay for the group septic system and potentially bear the cost of drilling the wells ourselves."

During the public comment session of the meeting, resident Sharon Mount, whose property neighbors the Donovan-O'Donnell property, read her letter to the commission into the record.

"We have brought a postcard that depicts the field we are discussing," Mount said. "Others may be aware that in the National Geographic 1967 centerfold, this area was chosen to be the most scenic view in Vermont. A quote from the Charlotte Town Plan, Chapter 1.2, reads as follows: Charlotters value their town as a highly scenic rural community that seeks to provide community services at a scale that complements their small rural and agricultural community. We are not Shelburne. We are not Williston. And we are not Hinesburg, where Jim Donovan and Patricia O'Donnell are involved in a 31-unit resident subdivision development."

Mount said that both she and other residents are concerned with potential increased traffic to the neighborhood, along with the potential impact of nine new wells on the town's water supply.

"But mostly, we are concerned that allowing this type of development opens a faucet, a floodgate for further housing developments which will forever change the nature of Charlotte," Mount said.

"Please know that we are not against development. Charlotte needs low-income housing. Landowners have rights. But development needs to be in line with the goals set forth in our town plan and voted on by Charlotters."

On the town's website, there are letters both for and against the proposed subdivision.

Peter and Carrie Fenn wrote a letter to the commission supporting Donovan and O'Donnell's plans.

"This subdivision is clearly a carefully-thought-out use of the land, designed to maximize conservation while increasing density," the couple wrote. "By conserving the large majority of the property to be used for agricultural purposes, and creating a small, clustered neighborhood, the property can maintain its beauty and economic vitality, while providing much-needed housing for Charlotte and Vermont. We applaud the care and diligence Mr. Donovan and Ms. O'Donnell have taken in planning this subdivision."

The public hearing was continued to the next regular Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m.

"This is a big project, so this might take a while," Commission Chairman Peter Joslin said.

Peter Joslin resigned as chair of the Planning Commission on Oct. 12.



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.
- The News strives to stay clear of conflicts of interest. If an actual or perceived conflict arises or becomes known at a later date, it will be fully disclosed.
- While letters or opinion pieces may endorse political positions or candidates for public office, the paper always remains objective and impartial in such matters.
- All submissions are strictly monitored for personal attacks, score settling, blatantly false information and inflammatory language. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission that is deemed contrary to the paper's standards.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
- Efforts will be made to publish submissions in their entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording, but minor editing may nonetheless be necessary. Contributors will be notified before publishing, if in the editor's judgment, significant changes are required, or the submission is rejected.
- Submission requirements:
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- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
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Town

REVIEW BOARD

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motion that was not publicly warned. Chairman Faulkner assured Mudge that the motion was legal. Vice-chair Frank Tenney was not persuaded. “First of all, I haven’t seen this document before,” Tenney said of the motion Krasnow read from Vermont League of Cities and Towns. “I can’t vote on that until I read it myself. This is a total surprise to me.” “I would appreciate processing some of the stuff that I’ve heard,” Mudge continued. “I’ve never been one way or another on this issue

because I don’t know much about zoning. I would like to take another week [to decide].” The motion was tabled to the Oct. 25 meeting. During the meeting, and before Krasnow’s motion, members of the town’s Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment spoke about the proposed DRB. Planning Commission Member Bill Stuono told the board that he opposes a DRB. “There have been two misconceptions that have been bandied about, one of them is that the Planning Commissioner has no time to do plans,” Stuono said. “We definitely have the time. We always talk about zoning changes and we went two months without

any applications. If you want us to do more, or quicker, we can do that. The other thing is that it keeps getting mentioned that we need to separate the legislation from the judicial. There’s nothing in the statute that says we need to do that. This is land use, this is not legislation.” However, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chairman Lane Morrison sent a letter on behalf of the zoning board in support of the proposed DRB. Morrison wrote that the board believes that a DRB would be a “more effective model” than the current Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission system.

In his letter, Morrison wrote that a DRB would “ensure the highest quality development review for applicants, the town, and interested parties in terms of consistency, fairness, and professionalism.” He also wrote that a DRB would “support and improve the development review process with ongoing training for staff and volunteers,” and would “reduce staff and volunteer turnover by having the development review process be a positive experience.” More letters from residents and town officials concerning the proposed DRB can be found on the town website under Selectboard, Oct 18 meeting packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

executive sessions for contracts, labor relations and agreements for employees,” Faulkner said. “We’re just following the law.” Further along in the meeting, the board went into three additional executive sessions that were listed on the meeting’s agenda. The board went into executive sessions for “personnel issue update” and “potential litigation.” No further details were listed on the agenda about the items, and the board did not take any action after the two executive sessions.

The last executive session at the meeting, listed as “Legal consideration for moving to a Development Review Board,” lasted for more than an hour. “For this one, the town attorney gave a two-part motion to offer attorney-client considerations,” Krasnow said. He then read a two-part motion to go into the executive session. “I move to find that premature general public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communications regarding the issue of potentially moving to a DRB would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial

disadvantage by potentially waiving the attorney-client privilege,” Krasnow said. The motion was seconded by Faulkner and approved unanimously by the board. “I move to have an executive session to consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Selectboard and invite the town attorney to join,” Krasnow said in his second motion. Bloch was invited into the executive session. The executive session, which lasted over an hour, resulted in no decisions made by the board.

FAULKNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

motions was created by Rugh. “Is there a reason why the rest of the board didn’t get this correspondence with the lawyer?” Selectboard Vice-Chairman Frank Tenney asked. “No, it’s available to you,” Krasnow said. “Well, I didn’t know you did it (communicated with the town attorney), so I wouldn’t have known,” Tenney told Krasnow. “It’s pretty standard,” Krasnow said. “And then if people want any correspondence, they are available.” Board member Lewis Mudge asked Krasnow if the board already approved similar motions at the Sept. 27 meeting, “what would ratifying them actually do?” “I don’t know, I’m just repeating what the town attorney said,” Krasnow said. “It is ratifying any motions that have passed and solidifying beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Selectboard affirms the decision made at a

previous meeting.” When it was time to vote, Tenney voted against both motions, just as he did at the Sept. 27 meeting. “I have no problem with Jim [Faulkner] being chair, but I am not changing my vote,” Tenney said. In response to questions regarding town

policies and procedures, attorney Rugh said the town has not authorized him to speak with *The Charlotte News*.

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The Charlotte News is looking for a volunteer to deliver the paper to 10 locations in and around Charlotte. The route takes about an hour and your time is only needed once a month on a Thursday. Help us spread the news! If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Anna at anna@thecharlottenews.org.



Around Town Congratulations:

to **Eva Mazur** of Charlotte whose poem, “A magnificent sunset,” appeared in last Friday’s Young Writers Project in the *Burlington Free Press*. In it, 13 year old Astrid focuses on the magnificence of the sun setting, its “flooding colors,” its time and space in the sky. Her friend Ryan joined her in her amazement at the event.

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Town

Town Report will continue being printed—for now

Despite rising printing costs, town resists the urge to go digital

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

Printed copies of the annual town report will be produced for at least one more year after the Selectboard approved a printing contract with Repro Printing of Winooski at their regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 11.

After some discussion, the board approved a contract for the company to print 1,400 copies of the 2021 annual report for \$5,695.

The company added an option for printing the town's 2021 and 2022 annual reports at a cost of \$5,438 for each year, but the board chose the option of printing only the 2021 report.

In November 2019, the board approved a two-year contract with the company to print the town's 2019 and 2020 reports at a cost of \$4,060 for each year.

With its estimate for services, Repro general manager Mary Dearborn wrote a letter to the board that said prices are increasing due to a worldwide paper shortage.

"[T]he last 18 months have certainly been interesting and trying on all of us. We are now starting to see the consequences of a worldwide shutdown, and lack of workers from the pandemic," Dearborn wrote. "There is now a *worldwide* paper shortage which is hitting the United States especially hard."

Paper has become scarce as domestic mills "struggle to keep up with production," Dearborn said. "Imported sheets are either sitting in shipping containers in the middle of the sea *if* the overseas mills are even able to produce the stock."

Dearborn said the company's paper supplier informed her that "if we don't order the millions of sheets needed to print town reports now, he can almost guarantee that it will be rationed come January—if it's even available at all. Along with a diminished supply chain, prices are skyrocketing."

Dearborn wrote that the company has saw a 25 percent increase in the cost of paper, with more increases expected before the end of the year.

Before they approved the contract, the board debated whether to continue printing the town reports or cease printing altogether in favor of a digital format.

Town Administrator Dean Bloch said that, by Vermont law, the town's budget audit is required to be sent to all residents. "The other potential thing is whether or not it could be mailed or if people could just pick it up," Bloch said. "That would save the town in postage."

"If townspeople want these documents, then it should be easy for them to get them," board member Louise McCarren said.

Board member Matthew Krasnow said that residents enjoy having the town's report printed.

"I know my parents always had a special spot on their bookshelf for every town report since 1977," Krasnow said. "There is something about having a paper report that creates continuity for people. It also, as it has been explained to me, is the responsibility of the shareholders. The taxpayers are essentially the shareholders of how this institution operates. Like other investments, sending out paper documents reporting on the finances and the happenings of any financial institution is still pretty commonplace in the digital age. We haven't pivoted away for that."

Krasnow added, "Looking at \$5,000 for \$3 million seems like a pretty low impact to

guarantee that the information is in every household that pays property taxes."

Krasnow added that if the town wanted to cut back on spending, it could put a note in this year's report asking residents if they would rather have a digital version of next year's town report sent by email.

"Another idea is: let's cut the town report in half, and that would save the printing costs," he said. "Let's sharpen our reports and have them be one paragraph per committee."

"There's huge value for this document getting to everyone's house," McCarren said.

"But I have seen people get the town report and throw it right in the recycling bin with my own eyes," Board Member Lewis Mudge said. "Financial institutions are moving to where you have to opt in, not opt out, if you want [the report] mailed to you. If you want it mailed to you, you have to check some boxes. I'm happy to [print the report] this year. But it's not about cost savings, it's about getting ahead of the curve because we are going to be eventually moving to paperless."

The board unanimously approved the proposed contract with Repro Printing.

Selectboard debates financial policies and procedures, decides nothing

Shaw Israel Izikson
CONTRIBUTOR

Purchasing policies and procedures were debated at a special Selectboard meeting at Town Hall on Oct. 4, but no official decisions were made.

The purpose of the special meeting, according to Chair Matt Krasnow, was for the board to discuss how to improve the process for developing the town's fiscal 2022-2023 budget.

As the meeting began, board member

Louise McCarren said one obstacle the town has faced in developing a fiscal budget is that sometimes committee expenditures are not fully listed in the committee's budget.

"One of the things I am thinking about is that the townspeople should be able to scroll through a committee's work and be assured that this is their budget, and these are the things that they are going to spend it on," McCarren said. "If it needs to change, then there's an avenue to change [the budget, by coming] back to the Selectboard."

Krasnow said town committees should format their proposed budgets to reflect how their budgets are being spent.

"I found myself in the position a few times this year of seeing things on the warrants that were not presented during budget season," Krasnow said. "An inordinate amount of time was spent on trying to piece it together, figure it out and have discussions during an already busy year."

Selectboard member James Faulkner said another problem committee members have been dealing with is when members use their own money to pay for items.

Selectboard member Lewis Mudge agreed.

"I don't think anyone wants to use their own money to pay for an expense, especially in a volunteer capacity," Mudge said. "I'm sure all of us at work pay for expenses. I use my credit card at work because I just need to do it and expedite things."

The board members then debated when

it would be appropriate for committee members to make expenditure requests from the Selectboard, and the appropriate use of the town's credit card for items needed by committees.

Trails Committee Chair William Regan told the board he would be happy to abide by whatever procedures the board puts into place.

"The only thing I would ask for is some flexibility," Regan said. "In the case of the Trails Committee, we have minor expenses. A sign gets knocked down in a storm or we run out of doggie poop bags. Presumably, the Selectboard does not want to spend its time approving doggie poop bags. As long as there is some flexibility for the budget. Unexpected expenditures are quite different from the new projects envisioned in the budget."

Krasnow suggested that the town amend its purchasing policy so a committee's purchasing agent would be authorized

News from *The News*

Your invitation to join a vibrant community

John Quinney
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

In the course of our lives, we’re members of many communities.

I hope you will consider either joining or renewing your membership in *The Charlotte News* community. Your invitation will arrive in your mailbox in ten days; it’s our year-end fundraising appeal.

We join communities to be with people who share our interests, values, or goals. In these communities, we enjoy the benefits of friendship, of personal and professional growth, of working and playing together, and achieving goals we hold in common.

Over the years, my life has been enriched by those who shared my interest in and passion for the game of squash, for ecological design, organic gardening, tango, renewable energy, documentaries, and New Zealand.

I’ve also been a member of *The Charlotte News* community for many years. In 2020, there were 600 of us. We donate our time, serve on the Board, advertise in the paper, staff the newsroom, report town news, write stories on a diverse range of topics, and make financial gifts.

The Charlotte News community is not homogeneous. We hold diverse political views and affiliations. Some of us are employed, other are stay at home parents; some are retired, and others run their

own businesses. We may have kids in school or in college, or be in full on grandparent mode. We may be Catholic, Congregational or agnostic. We hold different opinions on a wide range of town issues.

**We hold in common
our belief in the power
and value of local,
nonprofit, community
journalism, and so we
give our time, talents
and money to support
our local paper.**

Nancy Wood is our founding member. Together with an energetic crew of 33 kids as the volunteer staff and a few adults guiding their efforts, she was responsible for the first issue of the paper. It was published on July 17, 1958, when her horse Sox was for sale. In July 2017, Nancy wrote, “It pleases me to know that my own stubborn horse contributed to starting this paper that now, 60 years later, still chronicles the stories of our town.” Today, Nancy volunteers her time and talents as an Advisor to *The News*.

Beth Merritt is another longstanding community member. In early 1994, Beth was part of the group that worked with James Lawrence when he took over as editor to keep *The News* from being taken private. Later on, she was one of the proofreaders who met on Sundays wherever the paper managed to find space around town—one editor’s dining



View from Mt. Philo.

Photo by John Quinney

room table, the Congregational Church basement, *The News* office on Ferry Road. Now Beth copy edits and proofreads online at home, a much different experience.

In 1994, Elizabeth Bassett was submitting occasional columns about volunteering on the Rescue Squad, when James Lawrence asked her to join the paper’s group of volunteers. Over the years Elizabeth has served as co-editor, regular contributor, board member, and columnist. Today,

Elizabeth writes our popular “Outdoors” column, a gift she first gave the paper way back in 2009.

If you’re an active member of *The Charlotte News* community, like Nancy, Beth, Elizabeth and many others, you have our sincere thanks; if not, please respond to the fundraising appeal that will arrive in your mailbox in 10 days or so – and thanks so much for considering *The Charlotte News* as you plan your year-end giving.

POLICIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

by the Selectboard to make purchases in certain categories: up to \$1,000, and from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

The discussion then turned to whether committees should designate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in their upcoming budget requests. Krasnow said the town has until 2024 to commit to where to spend its ARPA funds and until 2026 to spend the funds.

“Just to manage expectations, any budget requests for ARPA funds should be aspirational,” Mudge said. “We shouldn’t be waiting for waiting’s sake, but I don’t think [ARPA fund spending] will be settled by this budget season.”

About 30 minutes into the meeting, Charlotte Park Oversight Committee (CPOC) Co-Chairman Susan Smith questioned the Selectboard on the purpose of the discussion.

“I just wonder if there’s been some sort of problem that you are trying to fix?” Smith asked the board. “Is that why you are doing this? It seems complicated.”

Board members told Smith that they wanted to create parameters for expenditures by committee members.

“I think it’s important to realize that townspeople should be able to see these committee budgets and know where their money is being spent,” McCarren said. “I don’t think that has been carried out sufficiently.”

“I think you should weigh in with how much you value your committees, because

they are doing free work,” Smith said. “Maybe just talk to the people who are having problems with their budgeting instead of making it more difficult for everyone by making them have to put in more time.”

“Whenever we had to change our budget, we have had nothing but a positive experience with it,” CPOC Co-Chair Jessie Bradley said. “We have come to the Selectboard and have done what Matt [Krasnow] said. The board has been responsive to us. We have had issues but have not been held up. We’ve got a lot of cooperation and good communication.”

Town Clerk Mary Mead said that the real issue is budget expenditures for what she calls “big ticket” items.

“To be honest, we’re talking about beaver deceivers for the park, which they needed and should have come before the Selectboard probably because it wasn’t in the budget that anyone anticipated,” Mead said. “We are also talking about electric bikes for the Energy Committee. C’mom guys, let’s just be honest here. It’s the big-ticket items and it’s not poop bags for the Trails Committee. The Trails Committee has a small operating budget, and they can buy signage, poop bags, mailings. They don’t have to come before the Selectboard for \$75 for whatever.”

Forty minutes into the meeting, and following comments made by Smith, Bradley, and Mead, Krasnow said, “I’m going to have to step away for a bit.”

Krasnow left the meeting and did not come back, despite promising to return.

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Matt!

Matt Krasnow is an incredible asset to the Town of Charlotte. For the past eight years he has served on the Selectboard and as Chairperson for the last 3 1/2 years. As family and job responsibilities grow for Matt, he has decided to hand over the leadership based on a Selectboard vote to Jim Faulkner.

Being on the Selectboard is not for the faint of heart. It requires dedication, time and an understanding of the issues and supporting regulations. Matt is an excellent speaker, being able to decipher, interpret and convey the sometimes complex information at the board meetings in this era of in-person and zoom attendees. His various responsibilities, home, job and town, convey the ultimate of multitasking while maintaining diplomacy and transparency.

Thank you for your endless support to the community. Your work is appreciated, and I hope you will continue to serve as a member of the Selectboard in the years to come.

Lane Morrison

Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Former Selectboard Chair

Thank you, Peter Joslin

Thank you, Peter Joslin—not just for your 17 years of dedicated service on the Planning Commission, but also for your thoughtful description of the discussion we need to have as a community about “Where have we been, where are we now, and most importantly, where are we going?”

Our current five-year Town Plan describes in detail where and what we have been and outlines what we assumed to be answers for

where and what we want to be in the future. The Planning Commission and dozens of volunteer citizens spent years researching and defining these goals. The plan was discussed at public hearings, fine-tuned and passed by a large majority of voters. Yet, there continues to be the sense that consensus has not been reached.

So thank you also, Peter, for promising to continue to be part of this important discussion.

*Nancy Wood
Charlotte*

Support for Donovan subdivision

I'd like to add my support for the planned subdivision proposed by Jim Donovan and Patricia O'Donnell at Lake and Greenbush Roads.

Jim and Patricia have gone to great effort to carefully plan the proposed residential lots to fit gracefully within their property while maximizing the land's potential agricultural use and conserving its natural beauty and views.

Jim and Patricia have been publicly transparent throughout the process and listened to feedback. They've worked closely with local zoning and conservation agencies. They've made sure their plans are aligned with the town's land use regulations and stated direction for residential development.

I am grateful that Jim and Patricia are making this effort. Our entire community stands to benefit.

*Matt Zucker
Charlotte*

Opinion

Agoraphobia in Charlotte? Leadership, governance and opportunity

Bill Schubart

The recent community kirmish, around Evergreen Family Health no longer coming to Charlotte, sheds light on deeper issues roiling the town some are now calling “Charnot.”

Governed by a Selectboard, Zoning Board and a variety of committees on which locals volunteer to serve, Charlotte charts its path forward.

My own hometown, Hinesburg, was similarly managed for years but last year made a town-wide decision to hire a town manager to bring professional town management and to reduce the inevitable interpersonal conflicts in community board service.

By and large—judging by local conversations—the results have been well received by the community and the business of our Selectboard has not been

compromised, but rather, streamlined. They now focus on the overarching principles and strategic issues affecting the town, while the town manager reports to the Selectboard and oversees the day-to-day practical issues that make the town function.

Community service, like philanthropy, can be altruistic or self-serving. Having lived in Vermont towns most of my life, I'm familiar with town governance.

Citizens often run for a local board to “make change” they believe is needed: eliminate sex ed in the schools, zone out mobile homes, better fund the fire department or library, etc.

After a few years of board service, they either quit in frustration or develop a true sense of their job description—service to community rather than to self-interest or narrow one-issue advocacy.

The conflicts of interest, claimed and real, that have roiled Charlotte politics for the last few years belie a similar confusion about “community service.”

For a nation, a community or a family to function properly, each member must understand compromise, believe in the commonweal—the good of the whole community—and be willing to put down the axe they're grinding and set aside their own self-interest.

In the case of the proposed health center renovation project, as I understand it, the issue of the adjacent wetlands required and

got regulatory review and was deemed not significant, as the extended parking lot would impinge on an area of about 10 by 20 feet, the size of a generous living room.

To me, the remarkable opportunity here was that the project would have utilized and upgraded an existing abandoned space in the downtown cluster. The issues of increased traffic and light pollution are frankly neighborly inconveniences when the downtown core already includes an existing store, post office, senior center, children's center and fire department.

The value of having a small community health center centrally located in a populous town is hard to underestimate. There are many less wealthy towns that would love to have such a facility, especially given our ageing population and the current access challenges in our regional hospital systems.

Perhaps the discussion in Charlotte is not whether the town would benefit from an accessible, affordable family health center, but rather how it might improve its governance architecture to minimize the conflicts between privilege and need, and to ensure the well-being of the entire community.

Hinesburg benefited greatly by its decision.

Bill is an advisor to the Charlotte News, has worked on numerous civic projects, and chaired and served on many non-profit boards.

Share Your Voice!

Budget Season Gets Underway

We invite all members of the CVSD community to join us and engage in the budget development process. This budget will be presented to voters on Town Meeting Day, March 1, 2022.

STEP 1

Share your thoughts on our Thoughtexchange through October 31
<http://bit.ly/CVSDBudgetInputOct2021>

STEP 2

Join us for the upcoming Virtual Community Budget Forum. October 27, 2021 7:00pm (Zoom information will be available on our website)

STEP 3

Mark your calendar to attend School Board Budget meetings! Visit the Budget page on our website for more information.



Contact us:
cvdschoolboard@cvsdvt.org
www.cvsdvt.org/budget

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Opinion

Why a DRB is right for Charlotte and its future

Peter Joslin
FORMER CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

“What’s broken?” and “If it ain’t broken, don’t fix it” have been typical reactions from the fear of change and are the wrong questions we should be asking. Unfortunately, most of the discussion of the pros and cons of a DRB (Development Review Board) versus a PC/ZBA (Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals) has been lost in the weeds instead of looking at the big picture. As stated in the Vermont Institute for Government, “Planning is the process of designing a community’s future. Zoning is the process of regulating the proposed uses of property to fit with the design.” And, from the Vermont Planning Information website: “In its most basic form, planning is the art of understanding how things are in our communities today, how we’d like things to be tomorrow, and then figuring out how to get there.” Based on my 17 plus years of service, the Planning Commission spends the overwhelming majority of its time with development, not planning. We should—and need—to answer these critical questions:

- 1. Where do we want to be in five to 10 years?
- 2. How much development do we want and where?
- 3. Should the overwhelming majority of development continue to be in rural areas?
- 4. What is the impact of rural development on farming and its future?
- 5. Do we want a more diverse community in which folks of

- various income levels and ages can become part of the town fabric?
- 6. How (or should) we address our aging population?
- 7. Should the town consider providing some level of wastewater and water in the east and west villages?

It is my opinion that we, as a town, do not know where we want to be in the future. And in order to find this out, the Planning Commission’s sole purpose should be focusing on these questions. Let the Planning Commission plan and the DRB handle all development review and permitting. This approach would enable the Planning Commission to legislate and the DRB to regulate.

Whether or not Charlotte should move to a DRB or not should be decided by the Selectboard, not a town-wide vote. We elect the Selectboard to make such decisions, so let them make them. Yes, there are details to be worked out, but first comes the decision as to what is in the best interests of the town, its residents and the future.

My hope is for a vibrant and healthy Charlotte. To me, this means moderate, healthy growth, enabling people of various income levels to become part of the town fabric. To achieve this, and to retain the open land and farms that we cherish, will require creative ideas enabling more focused growth in the town centers and hamlets. This is what the current Town Plan stipulates. Unfortunately, over 95 percent of the growth has been, and continues to be, in the rural district, which is contrary to the Town Plan.

Town

Hazard mitigation planning for Chittenden County

Larry Lewack
CHARLOTTE TOWN PLANNER

This is your community’s plan!
To have value, the plan must represent the current needs and values of the community and be useful for officials, stakeholders and citizens. Consider the critical importance of mitigation to:

- protect public safety and prevent loss of life and injury;
- lessen impact to existing and future development;
- prevent damage to a community’s unique cultural, historical and environmental assets.

Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere and any place.
They cause loss of life, damage buildings and infrastructure, and have devastating consequences on a community’s economic, social and environmental well-being.

Hazard mitigation planning is a process that identifies hazards and their risks to your community and assesses the vulnerability of people, property, the environment and the economy to one or more hazards. The end result is a comprehensive mitigation strategy that presents recommended sustained actions to reduce disaster-related damages and minimizes long-term community risk to the hazards.

In June 2021, Chittenden County municipalities initiated a collaborative planning effort to develop the 2022 update of the Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional

Hazard Mitigation Plan. The benefits derived from the planning process and the recommended mitigation actions that will ultimately be implemented will significantly improve community resilience and sustainability.

Over the next several months, staff of IEM, an international disaster and crisis management firm will be working with emergency management, planning and public works staff of your local municipality to update your municipality’s local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Your knowledge on local hazards is critical to good planning: participate in our online survey!

- Take the survey: surveymonkey.com/r/KLB6RMX to provide your opinion on local hazard events and their impact on you, your family and the community. The survey will be open from Oct. 1 through Oct. 30.
- Contact your local city or town officials to learn how to provide comment on the draft municipal Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure it reflects your experience and concerns.

If you have questions, contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 802-861-0133 or Leroy Thompson, IEM Senior Planner at leroy.thompson@ieminc.com or 850-570-9867.

To view the current mitigation plan for your community please visit: ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan/

Calendar Events

We welcome appropriate community event listings with a maximum of 100 words. Print fees may apply to community events outside of Charlotte.
Email your events to ads@thecharlottenews.org.

Friday, October 22
St. Peter’s Public Fish Dinner
Take Out - from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
St. Peter’s Parish Hall, Vergennes
\$10 per person, \$5 children under six. Beer-Battered Fish, Zesty Wedges, Coleslaw, Mixed Vegetables, Roll & butter, and a Chocolate Chip Brownie. Please call to make your reservations: 877-2367.

Saturday, October 23
Art party at the Inn at Charlotte
Artists, poets, dancers, musicians, family and friends, the Art party at the Inn at Charlotte will be Sat. Oct. 23 (raincheck: Sun. Oct 24), 4 p.m. till late, potluck. We welcome anyone to arrive early to help set up. If you have been to a party here before, you know what the deal is— responsible fun, bring your talent, and we will try to give you an opportunity to share it. There will be live music and a painting exhibition.

Saturday, October 30 & Sunday, October 31
Second annual jack-o-lantern display on the Town Green
We are doing it again! A night of trick-or-

treating and a festive pumpkin display. The display offers a great opportunity for a community Halloween experience even if you don’t have any trick-or-treaters!

*New this year, we will have at least one pumpkin-carving session on site at the library on Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
We are seeking donations of pumpkins and votives which can be dropped off at the library.
Need a pumpkin? Pick one up at the library to carve at home OR carve it on site during the carving session.

Jack-o-lanterns will be lit at dusk on Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31, so be sure to have your carving done in time to be included in the display! Please contact Jessica Sriver jess.sriver@gmail.com if you would like to help or if you have any questions.

Town

CVFRS practice with intentional burn

Nancy Wood
CONTRIBUTOR

Thick smoke rose high above a house burning on Holmes Road on Saturday, Oct. 16. The intentional burn was set by the Charlotte Fire Department, supervised by Chief Dick St. George and other officers. Volunteer fire fighters and trainees from Charlotte, Hinesburg and Shelburne had the opportunity to practice their skills and equipment facing smoke and flames. The owner intends to replace the house, built in 1942, with a new one.

Photos by Nancy Wood



Town



CVFRS, Chief Dick St. George



East Charlotte Tractor Parade is big attraction for locals, visitors

Gail Callahan
CONTRIBUTOR

As tractors thundered up Spear Street from the Nichols farm Sunday, spectators along the parade route greeted the machinery with applause and whoops of joy.

The 21st Annual East Charlotte Tractor Parade took place in Charlotte with slightly more than 70 tractors. Prior to the 1 p.m. kick-off, drivers ate a sumptuous lunch at the Nichols farm, sponsored by parade organizers and the Charlotte Grange.

Parade Co-Grand Marshall David Nichols sat behind the wheel with the Rev. John Zuccaro of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church at his side.

Behind them, tractors came in an array of sizes and colors. Some towed trailers loaded with festive fall and Halloween décor, while others carried a host of people, smiling as they drove up to the Hinesburg Road intersection.

Children ran around the Spears Store lawn, and some families brought blankets and snacks to munch as they listened for tractor sounds. Donald Davenport sat a few feet away from Spear Street's edge with his family. The Massachusetts resident eagerly awaited the event. "My twin granddaughters invited me," said Davenport. "We're waiting to see it. I hear it's fabulous."

A few feet away from Davenport, Megan Goyet and her family also waited for the event's start. "Our son loves tractors," said Goyet. "We know a couple of people in the parade."

Carrie Spear, who has worn an array of town service hats, founded the parade. In years past, the event featured lawn games and other family-friendly activities, but the arrival of COVID made a slimmed-down event a necessity, Spear said.

Spear donned a pink traffic vest and mingled with spectators. She's aware of the vast amount of work it takes to hold the parade, and she's thrilled to be part of it. "We want the farmers to feel appreciated. There's no competition. I know what made this event, and it's because everyone is equal and it's open to anyone."

Spear said the event relied on word of mouth for advertising, as it had when it first started. It also landed on the East Charlotte Facebook page.

An endless amount of enthusiasm spilled out for the parade. Liz Royer came with her two-and-a-half-year-old son Eli and Maria Godleski. Eli donned a John Deere hat, sitting snugly in his stroller.

Royer enthusiastically noted, "I've been coming here for 10 years. This is my fall event."



Parade founder Carrie Spear



L to R: Maria Godleski, Eli, 2 1/2, and Eli's mom Liz Royer wait for the Tractor Parade



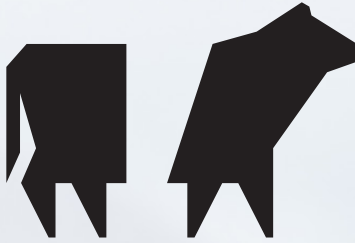
Twins, Delilah and Lillian Brown, age seven, wait for the parade.



Above: Parade Grand Marshalls Rev. John Zuccaro of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and Co-Grand Marshall David Nichols



Charlotte Girl Scout Troop 30066 worked hard at their September troop meetings planning a special way to honor farmers. They chose the theme "The Four Seasons of Farming" and started brainstorming ways to represent the many different types of farmers who work so hard for all of us every day. They pulled all their thoughts together and decorated a wagon to enter into the Charlotte Tractor Parade.
Photo by Cindy Bradley



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Hi, Neighbor!

Jan Cannon: artistic expression in many forms



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

An outsider looking at Jan Cannon's career might see several distinct segments, but Cannon believes there is a thread that ties them all together. He initially worked in film before moving on to pottery. From there, he returned

to the video camera as the creative force behind films focusing on sustainability. But these days he spends more time with his still camera, photographing the natural world just outside his Charlotte home.

In the initial phase of his career, Cannon was based in South Florida, shooting and editing a few feature films, as well as doing commercials and documentary films. "I did a little bit of everything," Cannon recalled. "It was a very informal group, and it was a really great time in my life." In 1981, Cannon moved to Boston where he worked for a film company before becoming an editor at WGBH. "Prior to leaving that job I got interested in bonsai," he said. "So I wanted to make pots for my plants." Soon, pottery took over as Cannon's primary artistic expression and he fell in love with clay. While his wife, Lee McIsaac, completed her Ph.D. at Yale, Cannon became an artist in residence at the school and then taught at other locations in New Haven. When McIsaac was hired to teach Chinese history at UVM, Cannon established his Charlotte studio.

"I consider filmmaking and pottery to be the same thing but with a different medium," Cannon said. "I think I'm a much better filmmaker and photographer for having been a potter. That gave me a different sensitivity in moving the camera. I have a more sensitive touch than I might have had

otherwise from having done clay, which is a very responsive media."

After two decades as a potter, Cannon decided to pivot back to films. "I had said a lot of what I wanted to say through clay," he said. "It wasn't as driving or compelling as it had been." Cannon's new focus became working on sustainability issues. His first film, *Radically Simple*, was about Jim Merkel who wrote a book called *Radical Simplicity*. Cannon also filmed Bill McKibben's walk from Ripton to Burlington and made movies about folk artist William Accorsi, beekeeper Todd Hardie, and Hinesburg nature writer and educator Bernd Heinrich.

Although Cannon thoroughly enjoyed filmmaking, he has put it aside because of the economics. "You commit a year to doing something," he said, "and you don't make any money." Although he is occasionally hired to do camera work, he has mostly put down the video camera in favor of still photos. "The image is everything to me," he said. "Making a film is just a reason to put images together."

Nature has been a central theme in Cannon's work, and he combines macro photography work, often of spring ephemerals, with wider vistas. "We don't live in this epic Montana open sky country with broad contours," he



Jan Cannon and his studio.

Photos contributed



said. "Here we are constrained by the trees and forests that don't give us the large swaths of light. There's a discipline in confining myself to the woods by my house. Still photography is just the beauty of the place where we live." Cannon said he works intuitively. "Beauty is the great motivation," he said. "I'm trying to experience and realize beauty and be a channel for the expression of it."

COVID meant that Cannon's daughter, Jordan, a second year Ph.D. student at Harvard, spent two years studying from home. She gently chided her father about the work that would be involved in cleaning up his estate if something happened to him, so he allowed her to set up an Etsy page. "She's very organized and verbal and does the

things I don't care to do," Cannon said. "But thanks to her I got to organize my pottery." Some of Cannon's work had already been purchased by private collectors and displayed at the British Museum and the Crocker Art Museum in California, but this is giving him the opportunity to reach a wider audience.

"The pottery was totally out of my mind," he said. "It's neat to revisit it, and I'm enjoying sharing it because it does no good sitting in the top of my barn." Cannon relishes the opportunity to entertain visitors to his studio. In addition to periodic open studio dates, he takes visitors by appointment and is more than willing to welcome those who drop by if he is there. "I love to share my work with people," he said.

Sports

Redhawk golfers drop to second in the state



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

It has been three straight years that the CVU men have come in first in the Vermont State High School Golf Tournament. That streak ended this year as Burr & Burton came in with the low team score over the Manchester Country Club

course. As close as possible would be one way of describing the win for B&B, as their team score of 329 bettered the Redhawks' 330 by only a single stroke.

The individual medalist was Austin Giroux of North Country, who shot a 69, three strokes below the course's par 72 for 18 holes. Bryce Bortnick's 80 led CVU, followed by Zack Vincent's 82, Jason Douglas' 83 and Connor Maloney's 85.

The previous week B&B women won their state title as well.

Redhawk women's soccer stays undefeated

A week ago, Wednesday, CVU women's soccer team bested Colchester 3-2 to gain a ninth win against no losses and two ties. It was Colchester's first loss of the season. Three separate Redhawks hit the net: Chloe Pecore, Ava Barron and Emma Crum. The pair of

CVU net-minders were only called upon to make one save.

Field hockey beats Rutland 3-0

Miranda Oppenheimer, Sophie Madden and Ava Bartlett scored second-half goals for the Redhawk field hockey team, while shutting out Rutland. The Hawks also fired a good number of penalty corner shots (28).

CVU soccer men lose in overtime

Mount Mansfield scored with just over eight minutes to play in the first overtime period to defeat CVU 4-3. The Redhawks had scrambled to tie the score at 3 with just 54 seconds to go in regulation. Tyler Wuthrich, Fritz Wetzell and Riley Gauthier hit the net for the Hawks. Striker Holden Batchelder was named one of the top 10 players in the state by the *Burlington Free Press*.

Destito one of top quarterbacks in the state

CVU's football quarterback was noted as one of the top 10 in the state at that position by the *Burlington Free Press* recently. The success of CVU's football record so far is due in good measure to the scope and the accurate throwing of junior quarterback Max Destito. He passed for 289 yards against Middlebury in the sixth week of the season, leading the Hawks to a 35-14 win. Essex is on tap.



Redhawk spike through the defender.

Photo by Al Frey

Health Matters

Better balance is possible

Laurel Lakey
CONTRIBUTOR

Most people discover that they become increasingly unsteady and less confident with their balance as they get older. Everyday movements that once felt like a breeze can somehow start to feel more challenging, causing many people to avoid activities that were once enjoyable. If you find yourself identifying with these changes, there is good news. Just like a muscle that can get stronger with a regular strengthening program, your balance can improve with the right selection and regular practice of targeted exercises.

To better understand which exercises can help improve your balance, it is helpful to learn about the three main components that comprise your balance system. The first part is your visual system. The ability to see your environment and respond to it accordingly is incredibly helpful in maintaining your balance; this is why it can be more challenging to walk to the bathroom in the middle of the night when it is dark and you can't see well. The second part is your vestibular system, which resides in your inner ears. Every time you move your head, fluid inside of the inner ear shifts around, sending information to your brain regarding your head position. Your brain gathers this information and responds accordingly to help you stay steady. If you have ever experienced a loss of balance when turning your head suddenly, this is because your brain wasn't able to respond quickly enough to your change in head position. The last component is your proprioceptive system, which entails tiny receptors in your joints and muscles that take in information about your body position and relay this to your brain. To better explain proprioception, sit in a chair and close your eyes. Reach your arm up and down a few times and pay attention to how it feels to move your arm and hold it in different positions, even though you can't see it. Your ability to sense your arm moving through space and holding different positions, without the aid of your eyes, is the result of your proprioception.

Just like a muscle that gets weak without being used, your balance system needs to be engaged in order to stay strong and avoid decline. The goal is to find ways to challenge the different components of your balance system in the right parameters without overdoing it. The following exercises have been shown through scientific research to help improve your balance and reduce the risk



Image by Siggy Nowak from Pixabay

of a fall. If you choose to try the exercises at home, go slow and start with the most basic option before trying something more challenging. The objective is to find an option where you are wobbling around a little bit and that requires your full focus and attention to perform. If you are still as a rock and find your attention drifting to other matters, then the exercise is too easy. On the flip side, if you are constantly losing your balance and having to grasp a stable surface strongly with both hands to perform it, then it is too hard.

The first exercise is called narrow stance. Start by standing next to a stable surface, such as a heavy chair, table, countertop, etc. Place your hands on the stable surface and bring your feet tight together, touching if possible. If this does not seem to challenge your balance, try to lighten your touch on the stable surface. If it is still easy, challenge yourself to take one or both hands away from the stable surface. If this is still easy, you can try to cross your arms against your chest while trying to stay steady. Try to hold your balance for 30 seconds and repeat two times.

The second exercise is called staggered stance. Start with your feet in narrow stance and slide one foot forward so that the outside edge of one of your big toes sits against the inside arch of the other foot. Just as you did with narrow stance, start with your hands on a stable surface and progress through each of the more challenging hand options as

seems appropriate. Remember, you should be wobbling around a little bit, but not so much that you must keep coming out of the foot position to avoid completely losing your balance. Once you find an appropriate level of challenge, hold for 30 seconds, and repeat twice on each side.

The last exercise is single leg balance. This is the most challenging of the three exercises and usually requires using your hands on a

stable surface for some time before it becomes manageable to go hands-free. Place your hands on the stable surface and lift one foot off the floor. Continue to try to find an option where you are wobbling around some, but able to keep one foot off the floor. Hold for 30 seconds and repeat twice on each side.

These exercises are safe to perform daily, but you should try to get to them a minimum of three days a week to make progress. It usually takes around six weeks before people start to see notable gains, so be patient and stick with it. The reward of feeling steady and confident in your movement again is well worth the time and effort.

Laurel Lakey is a Physical Therapist Assistant at Dee Physical Therapy in Shelburne. She lives in Charlotte with her husband, toddler daughter, dog and farm animals. You can contact Laurel by emailing her at laurellakey@deept.com

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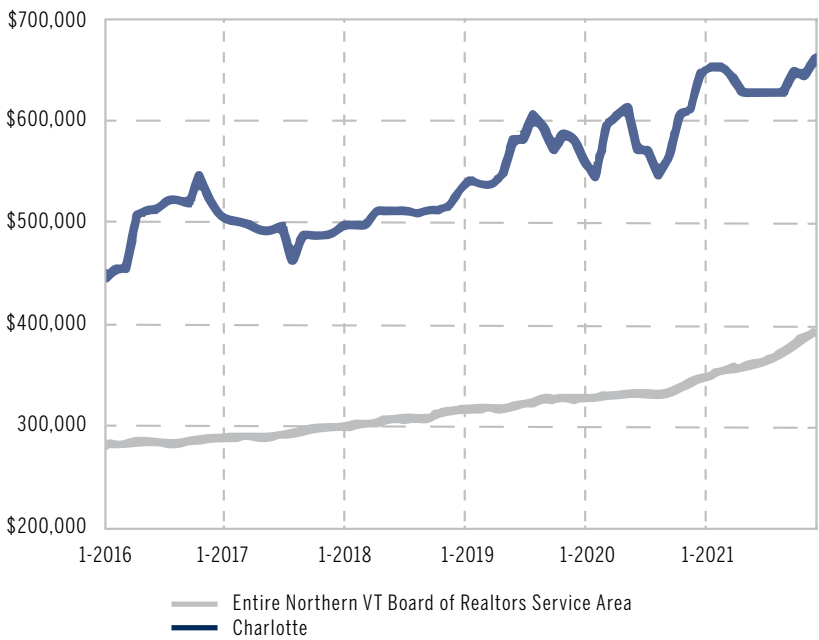
SOLD! 2346 Greenbush Road



SOLD! 436 Claflin Farm Road

Check out this graph of sales information for Charlotte and the increase in home values since 2016.

(Information supplied by the Northern Vermont Board of Realtors)



Source: MLS Covering Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties



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Town Navigating the blues



Photo by Varun Kulkarni from Pixabay



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

*Well, I don't want
nobody who won't dive
for dimes*

*I don't want no
speedballs 'cause I
might die tryin'*

*Throw me a line, show
me a sign*

'Cause there's a fat man

in the bathtub with the blues

*I hear you moan, I hear you moan, I hear
you moan*

"Fat Man in the Bathtub"
- Lowell George & Little Feat

I've long been interested in the role music plays in our culture, its historical basis, its racial context, its physical implications for human beings. Looking into the blues style provided me with a basis for tying a number of these matters together.

Singer Steve Earle says that the blues are his friends because he knows he can always count on them, and no matter what happens in his life, he'll never lose them.

What are these things we call "the blues?" Where did they originate? Do they have a racial history? How did they become such an important element in our country's culture?

Although little is known about the exact origin, the blues seem to have been born in Africa, which ethnomusicologist Gerhard Kubik calls the birth bed, aka the "cradle of the blues." To be slightly more specific about regional origin, according to filmmaker Martin Scorsese, West Africa produced the DNA of the blues. A tribe from that region, the Jola of Senegambia, focused on a lute-like instrument, the akoting, to provide the musical basis for the blues and was the instrumental link between African and African-American music.

White America seems to think of the blues as the musical reflection of slavery in this country. There is a close comparison between it and "field hollers."

Field hollers were assumed to have laid the foundation for the blues. They were the way the slaves in the South expressed themselves musically, and an interpersonal communication among those tied together in chain gangs. Historian Kubik traced field hollers back to the Muslim slaves who came

here from West Africa.

Although field hollers were common, the "spiritual" was another influential precursor to the blues. Given its basis in religious belief, the spiritual carried a positive tone that the working beat of hollers did not. Spirituals drew upon religion. Spirituals attempted to bring heaven to earth, as the blues played upon a less positive nature of mankind. "Don't give me Heaven, because I've got the Blues."

In the early decades of the 20th century, the blues were taken over by prominent women singers. Mamie and Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Victoria Spivey were among the better-known female vocalists who sang the blues.

Perhaps ironically, country music and the blues prospered in the southern United States. The two genres promote different lifestyles, however. One is race-based music, the other is hillbilly, and those who espouse the latter may have contributed to the racism described by the former.

Then there is the adoption of the blues by white musicians. Rowland Salley wrote a song titled "Killing the Blues," recorded by John Prine, and later by Robert Plant and Alison Krause. Mose Allison sang about the white man stealing the blues. Minnesota musicians Dave (Snaker) Ray, (Spider) John Koerner and Tony (Little Son) Glover cut an album called "Blues, Rags and Hollers" that contained several songs that fell into the blues category.

These white musicians adopting blues as their musical tongue gave a certain credence to the blues musical style without destroying its multiracial-based character. It fits in more than one social sphere of humanity or one culture. Anyone can sing the blues.

The blues have long been the basis for feelings. They have a history, coming to this country with the slave trade, and they gave slaves a musical expression of their racial inequality in a non-Black America.

This basis again connects music to culture through a physical design. However, that is another study.

So, while that "fat man in the bathtub with the blues" may be moaning over his situation, he is only dejected enough to chase that situation down the street. I hear him coming now, singing the words of Johnny Cash, who urges us to use music wisely: *Get rhythm when you get the blues!*

Fun Facts

The ingenuity of idioms

Norm Riggs
CONTRIBUTOR

My mother, a hardscrabble Kansas ranch girl with little formal education, spoke in idioms, pithy historical sayings, many of which made no sense. They contained a general truth that wasn't clear from the words. In contrast, my father, an astronomer, spoke in precise literal terms; he was a scientist.

Growing up poor during the Dust Bowl of the Great Depression, Mom's sayings resonated with color, earthy humor and wisdom. I learned the gist of her sayings but didn't know the source.

There are thousands of idioms that define a condition or situation. They reflect what she called the "good old days" when life was hard but purer and simpler. Here is a sampling of some of her sayings and their meaning:

- "They didn't have a pot to pee in." Urine was used to tan animal skins, so families used to pee in a pot. Once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this, you were "p poor." If you were so poor that you could not afford to buy a pot to pee in, you were considered the lowest of low.
- "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater." Don't throw something good out when trying to get rid of

something bad. Baths were taken on Saturday night so that everyone was fresh for church on Sunday. Mom, the oldest of five children, pumped and hauled the water for a large tub that was heated with coal. Dad came first, then mom, then the kids, with the oldest coming first. The baby came last. By then the water was so dirty that you couldn't see the baby.

- "It's raining cats and dogs." Prairie houses had thatched roofs with thick straw. When it was cold, the only way cats and dogs could get warm was to congregate on the roof. In a sudden heavy rain storm the roof would get slippery and they would slide off.
- Sometimes the family would have the luxury of pork, which would make them feel quite special. Dad would "bring home the bacon." When guests stopped by they would visit and cut off a little to share, hence the saying, "Chew the fat."
- Lead cups were used to drink ale and whiskey. Sometimes the combination would knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. They were laid out on the kitchen table, and the family would gather around and eat and drink and



- see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."
- Some people were so poor that they could not afford a slate floor, so they spread straw on the floor to cover up the dirt. They were "dirt poor."
- People would bury their dead in coffins, but when the coffins were reopened, one in 25 were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realized the person was buried alive. So they would tie a string to the corpse, lead the string through the coffin and tie it to a bell. Someone would be assigned to sit out at the graveside the first night—"the graveyard shift"—and listen for the bell. Thus, someone was either "saved by the

- bell" or considered "a dead ringer."
- "The pot calling the kettle black." This idiom first appeared in the Spanish novel *Don Quixote*. Don't criticize someone for an issue that you yourself are guilty of. The expression refers to a pot criticizing a kettle being black with soot when both are dirtied by the same cooking fire.
- "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." The best way to tell a horse's age is to look in its mouth. When given a horse as a gift, this was considered rude—like looking for the price tag on a gift. When someone does something nice for you, be grateful and don't try to evaluate its value.
- "Hit the hay." In the 1800s, mattresses were often filled with hay. Before going to bed, people would hit the hay to fluff it up and chase any bugs away.

And now, dear reader, I would encourage you to email me no more than three idioms that you heard growing up in your family which aren't clear from the words. I will collect them and feature some in a subsequent article. Please include your name. riggsns@comcast.net

Sources: *50 Terms in Rural America*; *The Idiotic Joys of Idioms*; *36 Classic Sayings Every Man Should Know*; *Wikipedia*; my own recollections.

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Town of Charlotte
NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS
October 19, 2021

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Planning Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2024)
- Energy Committee (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & 2023)
- Board of Auditors (1 seat; elected position; appointment 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 or call 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

Outdoors

Lazy (smart and responsible) gardening



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

Vermont gardening guru Charlie Nardozzi recently published a book called *No-Dig Gardening*. In its October e-newsletter, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies recommends Leaf It Be, “a low-intensity yard maintenance practice that fosters more biodiversity by providing winter homes and food sources for invertebrates, birds and other winter residents.” Translation: don’t obsess about raking! Heather McCargo, founder of the Wild Seed Project and sister of Charlotte’s Diana McCargo, proposes a no-dig method for growing potatoes that outfoxes the Colorado potato beetle.

Want to get lazy, have a productive garden, sequester carbon and support biodiversity and pollinators? Read on.

A layer of autumn leaves will provide food and shelter for pollinators and their predators (birds) and protect the ground from erosion and desiccation. Don’t abandon the rake entirely, as a deep layer of leaves can smother a lawn. Use some of the accumulated leaves for mulch (more on this in a moment); the balance can serve as a protective layer for the grass beneath it. By spring, remaining leaves will have dried up and perhaps blown away—they can often be mulched into a lawn with the first mowing. Among the insects in various life stages that overwinter in leaf litter are bumblebee queens, the pupae of Luna moths, and larval Isabella tiger moths in the form of wooly bears. Resist the urge to shred any leaves that you rake. Insect eggs, larvae and adults shelter in the leaf litter. Just pile them

where you want them—a compost heap, next year’s potato patch or on your no-dig garden.

There are reasons beyond sloth to consider no-dig gardening. An intricate web of life unfolds in the soil. Fungus networks help plants to access nutrients in a symbiotic relationship with a plant’s roots. These mycorrhizae or fungi can be jeopardized by digging. By not tilling, a gardener leaves this structure intact. Mulching preserves moisture and fertility that can be lost to erosion from wind and water. The richer soil that results can sequester more carbon, reducing the amount released into the atmosphere.

Worms will turn the soil for you, creating air and water passages that support healthy plant growth. As the mulch layer decomposes, it adds organic material to the soil in a continuous process. Each year I heap up several feet of leaves, kitchen waste and grass clippings on my veggies, yet the mulch level remains constant, a few inches above the soil level. During the summer of 2020 when little rain fell, my plants, growing in water-retentive clay beneath a thick carpet of mulch, needed little or no additional water.

A few caveats: make sure to save seeds from plants that volunteer in a traditional garden. Because these seeds don’t reach the soil and germinate, volunteers that I’ve counted on for years—dill, coriander, annual poppies, arugula—did not germinate. Another point that may be intuitive: this is not a gardening style for folks who want tidiness—my garden looks fairly chaotic. But when the tomatoes fill a bucket and bright stalks of ruby chard tower above the mulch, the satisfaction of having a productive garden, with little need to weed or water, is pleasant



If you have a piece of ground that is rarely mowed, consider transforming a section of it into a potato patch.
Photo by Couleur from Pixabay

Potatoes in the wild

If you have a piece of ground that is rarely mowed—perhaps it’s brush-hogged once or twice a year—consider transforming a section of it into a potato patch. A parcel of mowed lawn would work as well. First, in the fall, cover the area with a thick layer of newspaper—no glossies—about six pages thick. Then cover the newspaper with leaves, lots of them, up to three or four feet deep. They will settle over the winter. If the wind barrels across your yard, anchor the leaves with a few branches. In the spring the leaves will have compressed to a thick, soggy layer. Plant potato eyes through the leaves—they will rest on the newspaper. Soon leaves will appear and roots will penetrate the rotting newspaper into the

earth below. Harvesting is like an Easter egg hunt. Just reach through the leaves—likely to be dry and crumbly by mid-summer—and grab the potatoes. It’s unlikely that the Colorado potato beetle will find the potatoes, as their eggs are in the soil of the vegetable garden. Move the potato patch to another spot each year, far enough to evade the beetles. It worked for me!

Summer may be in the rearview mirror, but cyanobacteria blooms persist in Lake Champlain and other lakes across the state. Warm water, nutrients and calm days are producing blooms more frequently and later in the season than just a few years ago. Be careful with pets and anyone still swimming in late October.

Happy fall!

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Into the Woods

Bugs in the woods

Ethan Tapper
CONTRIBUTOR

Forests are complex, intricate and nuanced—and also massive, expansive and interconnected. To be responsible forest stewards we need to both zoom out to understand our role in a giant landscape and zoom in to recognize the tiny pieces and parts that make forests work. We must (somehow) hold both realities in focus as we take care of our forests.

This month I want to zoom in to talk about *invertebrates*. Simply put, invertebrates are organisms without spines, an incredibly diverse group of critters that includes everything from insects to sea sponges, squids, slugs and worms. What most people call “bugs” are arthropods, a sub-group of invertebrates that includes insects, spiders and even lobsters.

Invertebrates are an incredibly adaptive and resilient bunch, having been around since before the dinosaurs. In terms of sheer abundance and diversity, they stand alone: of the approximately two million known species on earth, about 97 percent are invertebrates (900,000 species are just insects), with somewhere between eight million and 30 million species still undiscovered. Besides accounting for a huge proportion of our biodiversity, the sheer amount of bugs on earth is startling: there are around 200 million insects for every human on the planet, about 300 pounds of insects for every pound of human. To put this in perspective, the combined mass of all the humans on earth is about equal to that of all the ants, or the mass that all the spiders on earth eat in one year.

In Vermont, there are more than 20,000 known species of invertebrates, compared to 58 species of mammals. These invertebrates support our ecosystems in countless ways, mostly unseen. They are what biologist E.O. Wilson calls “the little things that run the world,” subtly working behind the scenes to make our world work.

Invertebrates are the base of the forest food



Giant ichneumon wasp.

Photo by Gary Sturgis

web, directly and indirectly feeding larger wildlife. Moth and butterfly caterpillars, for example, are critical sources of protein that songbirds rely on to feed their young in the spring. Caterpillars and other bugs often have close, co-evolved relationships with one or a few different tree species, and so diverse forests are critical to providing habitat for them and the species that eat them.

Invertebrates are also decomposers, turning organic material like wood into soil. Soils are largely biological in nature—their physical and chemical composition a result of being passed through the bodies of countless tiny organisms, transformed by mites, springtails, nematodes and more. A handful of forest soil may contain thousands of invertebrates of hundreds of different species, not to mention millions or even billions of organisms, if you include bacteria, protozoa, algae and fungi.

Invertebrates perform a huge number of other essential functions. Some—especially flying insects like flies, beetles, or Vermont’s more than 300 species of native bees—are

pollinators, helping more than two-thirds of Vermont’s plant species reproduce. Others, like ants, disperse the seeds of some of our native spring wildflowers. The list goes on.

Not all is good with bugs in the woods. Some invertebrates are non-native tree pests, such as the emerald ash borer (EAB) and hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA). Some non-native bugs that are celebrated in agriculture—the Eurasian honeybee and earthworms—can be problematic in our ecosystems. Non-

native invasive plants like honeysuckle, buckthorn and barberry take over forests, providing habitat for only a tiny fraction of our invertebrates. For many reasons, invertebrates are going extinct at an incredibly fast rate, with as many 100,000 species lost since the 1600s and 40 percent of known invertebrate species thought to be under threat of extinction.

Invertebrate habitat is as diverse as they are. They live in rotting wood, in soil, in the leaves and branches of young, healthy trees and the complex bark of big, old trees. On a large scale, the most important thing we can do for invertebrates is to protect our forests from fragmentation and loss, managing for diverse, intact, connected landscapes. On a smaller scale, we can manage for complex forests, encouraging different sizes, ages and species of trees while also leaving some big “legacy” trees, dead-standing trees, and lots of dead wood on the forest floor, and dealing with biodiversity threats like non-native invasive plants.

Great things come in small packages. As strange as it seems, healthy populations of bugs are critical to the integrity and the resilience of our forests and the beauty and function of our world.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to at: <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

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Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.

Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.

Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.

Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance."

—Yoko Ono

New courses

11/3 - Chair Yoga with Tiny Sikkes

Wed. mornings, 10-11 a.m. Fee: \$10 per class.

This Monday class is adding another section on Wednesday.

(Please see the website for the description.)

11/5 - Meditation with Charlie

Fri. mornings, 7:30-8:30. Fee: \$10 per class.

Dates: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19.

Come meditate with us on Friday mornings. Nardozi teaches a simple method of meditation where we sit quietly, eyes closed, and focus on the breath, a mantra, or on watching our thoughts. Classes will include some *pranayama*, or breathing techniques, that are safe and effective, a guided meditation and a simple chant. All are welcome, no experience necessary.

This course is starting late in the season, so only the November dates are listed. However, it will continue through the winter and will be listed in the Winter Schedule for the same day and time.

Other courses

Courses are already well underway for this season, although exercise courses can be joined at any time, and Mindfulness would welcome a newcomer to the last class on Tuesday, 10/26.

Mindfulness for Life with Jill Abilock

Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-2:30. No fee.

Walk-ins are welcome. Last class is 10/26.

You can't always change what you experience in life, but you can change how you experience it. Mindfulness Meditation provides tools that help change *how* you experience things, increasing fulfillment and happiness, and reducing stress.

Exercise – Ongoing Courses

These are ongoing throughout the year—and you can join at any time. Exercise courses take place in our spacious Great Room. Some courses utilize chairs, others use mats, some

use weights. There is something for everyone. You're invited to come and check out a class one time—for no charge. And you may check out several different classes. Stop by and fill out an address form.

Course descriptions can be found in the printed Fall Schedule or on the website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. Registration and payment is in-person or by phone (425-6345). You are always welcome to call with questions or stop in.

Chair Yoga – Mon., 9:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga – Wed., 10 a.m. - NEW

Gentle Yoga – Mon., 11 a.m.

Pilates Plus – Tues., 8:30 a.m.

Strength Maintenance – Tues. & Fri. 11 a.m.

Essentrics – Wed. – 8:30 a.m.

Pilates – Thurs., 8:30 a.m.

T'ai Chi for Beginners – Thurs., 10 a.m.

(This is now back on Zoom.)

T'ai Chi - Advanced – Thurs., 11 a.m.

Essentrics – Fri. – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Talks & Events at 1 p.m.

All Wednesday talks and events are now in-person. Masks are required for everyone who plans to attend. Please note that registration is necessary these days, so that we can manage the audience size. You can call from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sign up.

10/27: Fudge Fest in the Café

This plan changed a little bit, as we now have enough people to make fudge.

Now, we are looking for a few volunteers to prepare and bag the caramel popcorn and to cut and wrap the fudge. There are two shifts from 10-12 and 12-2. Pizza and salad will be provided, so be sure to sign up in advance.

11/3: An American Family in the Evil Empire with Steve Goldstein

In the time of Gorbachev, *glasnost* (openness) seemed to beckon, so you packed up your family and dog and took the Moscow correspondent post for a large U.S. newspaper. But, even with reforms, daily challenges remained: the Soviet economy; taps on your telephone, apartment—even your car; gasoline in the drinking water; domestic staff from KGB Temps; medical care dating from Dr. Zhivago; and those so-called "honey traps" designed to discredit your reporting.

~ Steve Goldstein is a former Moscow and Washington Bureau Chief for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

11/10: Immigration Challenges: The Road Ahead with Greg Smith

Join us for an impartial review of Trump Administration immigration policy changes and initial responses of the Biden Administration. We will look at what the road ahead might be for immigration reform, asylum challenges at the border, and refugee challenges globally.

~ Gregory Smith, formerly Associate Director of U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service,



A few students from Chair Yoga class: Rosemarie Cartularo, Lisa Hudkin, Tiny Sikkes, instructor.

Photo by Carolyn Kulik

also served as INS Regional Immigration Attaché at multiple embassies.

Lunch schedule

Our meal schedule is currently in flux due to a shortage of volunteer cooks. Monday lunches are continuing; Wednesday lunches are suspended indefinitely.

Please call in advance to be certain that a Monday lunch will be offered on the day you plan to come. Reservations are not required.

The next Monday lunch is Oct. 25. Suggested donation is still just \$5. Mealtime is 11:30-12:30. Take-out may be requested.

Monday Menus

10/25

Mulligatawny Soup
Crudites platter
Pita bread
Pig's cake

11/1

Menu TBA

Menus are also posted on the CSC website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. Our café is spacious and airy, and our porch has tables with big sun umbrellas. Call in for a take-out order.

About Thanksgiving

If you were wondering about our much-anticipated and well-attended Annual Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, we are very sorry to say that it will not be held this year due to ongoing concerns about COVID. We certainly hope that things will be different next year.

Art News

The October & November Art Exhibit

During these two months, Jonathan Silverman's "**Visual Dancing: The Interplay between Intent and Spontaneity**" will be on display. His artwork ranges from landscape and abstract watercolors and pastels to functional and non-functional pottery inspired by Japanese aesthetics. His work explores juxtapositions of color, balance, form and movement that illustrate the dance between intent and spontaneity.

Since the exhibit space is also used for classes, the best times to see the exhibit are:

Tues. & Wed., 2:30-4 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri., 12:30-4 p.m.

Please call to check for other days/times.

About volunteering

Ever thought about volunteering? There's a special spot for you—whether you are available once a month for a couple of hours, or on a weekly basis. This is a great opportunity to meet other people, make new friends and to be part of our community. Contribute your ideas for courses or activities, or lead a group, perhaps. Stop in to find out more.

Notes on masks

If you'd like to visit or join an activity, there are some mask requirements to keep in mind. Plus, some activities, like bridge and mahjong, are requiring participants to be fully vaccinated because they take place over long periods of time and in close proximity. Please do call to check if you want to join a new activity.

Here is where things are now at the Senior Center:

If you are

Fully vaccinated -

No mask required—but strongly encouraged. Social distancing advised.

Not vaccinated -

Mask required. Social distancing required (six feet).

Not vaccinated & not wearing a mask (for any reason) -

Kindly do not plan to visit at this time.

We ask that you come back after the mask guidance for the Senior Center is updated.

Questions? New to the area? Thinking about volunteering?

Stop in and say hello—we love to show people around. We are located at 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte across from the Post Office. Hours are M-F from 9-4. Or give us a call us at 425-6345. Residents from other communities are always welcome. Our mission is to serve those over 50.

To learn more about the Senior Center, other courses and upcoming Monday menus, please visit our website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Town

Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Happening at the Library

Library Book Sale: through October 30

The annual Charlotte Library Book Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Charlotte Library,

has been a popular and highly anticipated event since its modest start in 1995. As with many of our cherished activities, the pandemic has caused us to reimagine the book sale with an eye to safety, so we will be attempting a mini book sale to be held in the new program room during the month of October.

Shopping Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday, noon to 2 p.m.

Donation Hours: Wednesday & Saturday, noon to 2 p.m. (please limit to two boxes per drop off)

Build to Launch: A STEAM Exploration Series

Join the all-new LEGO® Space Team and their NASA Artemis I team counterparts for a 10-week interactive digital learning adventure. With each episode, students will find themselves in the shoes of NASA engineers, scientists, and of course, astronauts. Through open-ended lessons, students will get hands-on and solve the same types of problems the Artemis I Team faces as they build towards launch!

The Charlotte Library is a learning center for this program. Because the library is currently not hosting groups in person, sign up for weekly online links for this self-directed program for your student to participate from home. The Library has some Lego Education Kits to check out. They are not made specifically for this program, but perhaps could be used for some of the lessons. Please contact Cheryl Sloan, youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org for more information.

Library Programs

Of Wheelmen, the New Woman and Good Roads: Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920

Tuesday, October 26 at 7 p.m.

Luis Vivanco explores the early history of the bicycle in Vermont, tied to important changes in industrial production, consumerism, and new cultural ideas about auto-mobility and effortless speed. A Speakers Bureau program from the Vermont Council on Humanities. Register in advance.

Second Annual Jack-o-Lantern Display on the Town Green Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31

Halloween is Sunday, October 31—just around the corner!

We had a grand gathering of jack-o-lanterns last year, thanks to the many community members who carved and dropped off their jack-o-lanterns at the library. We are doing it again and hope to get as great a turnout! Last year we began the night of trick-or-treating at the festive display, as community members pointed out their contributions and admired the work of others. The display offers a great opportunity for a community Halloween experience even if you don't have any trick-or-treaters!



*New this year, we will have at least one pumpkin-carving session on site at the library on Saturday, October 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We are seeking donations of pumpkins and votives which can be dropped off at the library.

Need a pumpkin? Pick up a pumpkin at the library, starting October 25, to carve at home OR to carve on-site during the carving session.

Jack-o-lanterns will be lit at dusk on Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31, so be sure to have your carving done in time to be included in the display!

It will be fun to see how this comes together. Please contact Jessica Sriver at 802-318-3228 if you would like to help or if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for your participation and town spirit!



Photo contributed

Book Talk: *On Being a Vermonter and the Rise & Fall of the Holmes Farm, 1822-1923*

Tuesday, November 2 at 7 p.m.

David Holmes, author of *On Being a Vermonter and the Rise and Fall of the Holmes Farm, 1822-1923*, will discuss this new book, just published by the Center for Research on Vermont and the White River Press.

The multi-generation Holmes farm was located on Lake Champlain just south of the Holmes Covered Bridge in Charlotte and featured one of New England's largest

apple orchards and the breeding and racing of Morgan horses. The farm ended with foreclosure after 101 years of existence. The book is the only case study of a Vermont farm over this span of time and reflects an important chapter of Vermont and Charlotte history.

The presentation will provide insights into the founding of the farm, life on the farm and in Charlotte, and the challenges and stresses that led to its demise in 1923. Rare photographs from the early 1900s are included in the presentation. Register in Advance.

The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence Wednesday, November 3 at 7 p.m.

Join Charlotte resident and best-selling author Jessica Lahey to discuss *The Addiction Inoculation*, a comprehensive resource parents and educators can use to prevent substance abuse in children. Based

on research in child welfare, psychology, substance abuse and developmental neuroscience, this essential guide provides evidence-based strategies and practical tools adults need to understand, support and educate resilient, addiction-resistant children. Register in advance.

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

Library Contact Information

Margaret Woodruff, Director
Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian
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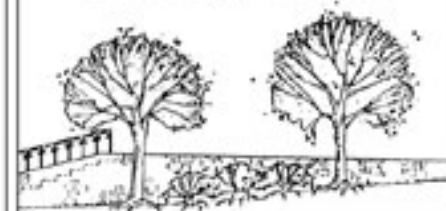
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