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**Charlotte News**

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**Fall's Morning Sun**  
*Photo by Lee Krohn*



## Selectboard approves forming DRB

*Vice Chair votes against motion, says change is "too fast"*

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

During a four-hour meeting, the Charlotte Selectboard approved the formation of a Development Review Board (DRB) on Monday, Oct. 25.

The approval came after four months of often intense debates between residents and town officials over whether or not the town should establish a move from its traditional Zoning Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission (ZBA/PC) model to a DRB/PC structure.

"This is the fourth public meeting that we've talked about this," Chairman James Faulkner said, at the beginning of the meeting. "That being said, we have spent quite a bit of time and money trying to figure this out."

When asked during public comment, neither Chairman Faulkner nor any member of the board would specify how much money the board spent on implementing a DRB.

At the previous regular meeting on Oct. 18, board member Matt Krasnow made a motion for the town to establish a DRB.

The motion was tabled until the Oct. 25 meeting for the board to conduct a further review on the motion.

However, at the Oct. 25 meeting, Krasnow withdrew his original motion, which he said was from the Vermont League of Cities and



Towns.

Krasnow instead made a new motion, which is not available online in the meeting packet on the town's website.

*(Transcript for the motion is in sidebar on page 3).*

"Since last week, the town attorney has been looking at crafting a more specific and thorough resolution for the town," Krasnow said. "The one that I presented for a motion for discussion last week was a boilerplate [motion]. Jim worked with the town attorney to come up with something specifically crafted for Charlotte. He sent it out to the Selectboard when it was ready."

"We've had three days to look at this," Vice Chair Frank Tenney said in response. "I received it, but there are a lot of things on it that weren't discussed and there are things I would like to say."

The board proceeded to spend the next seven minutes debating how to withdraw the previous motion, which they eventually did after a motion from Tenney and a second from Krasnow.

Krasnow's motion was seconded by Faulkner, who said that the Dec. 15 date for the establishment of the DRB would be advantageous for the town in having "plenty of time" to vet applications for membership to the board.

However, Vice Chair Tenney said the town was moving too fast in establishing the DRB.

"When we did the West Charlotte Village Wastewater, we went through and got an advisory motion to look into it," Tenney said. "We didn't do that with this. [With the West Village Wastewater], we formed a board and went through the whole process. Now we have septic in the West Village. It was a process that took time. I don't remember when any of us came together and decided how many members are going to be on this board, where they are coming from, and how to choose the people that are going to be on this board. I am worried that things are moving a little too fast for what's going on."

Tenney said, "I would like to see something happen a little bit more open." He suggested that the Selectboard put the question about whether or not the town should form a DRB to residents through a town vote.

He also added, "You are trying to push something through that hasn't been discussed as a board" when it comes to any potential changes in the roles of the town's planning department.

Board member Lewis Mudge said he

SEE **DRB** PAGE 3

## Selectboard discusses creating press policy

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

At their regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 25, the Selectboard discussed, but did not agree on, a potential policy for communicating with the press.

The discussion came after weeks of criticism by former chair and now regular Selectboard member Matt Krasnow, who chastised *The News* extensively in both public and private emails in response to press inquiries surrounding his mid-session resignation and other town matters.

It also followed *The News*' Oct. 14 request via the Freedom of Information Act to obtain emails regarding town policies and procedures relating to municipal business.

At the meeting, Chair James Faulkner said the Selectboard does not currently have a policy for communicating with the press.

"We certainly don't want to stifle anybody's comments, individually or as a whole," Faulkner said regarding board members' freedom to speak to the press. "Anybody can still speak individually if they like and it's up to them. But we're trying to figure out how the Selectboard as a whole should be responding."

When Faulkner asked if any member of the board was interested in creating such a policy, Krasnow said that he felt the board



Charlotte Town Office should have a press policy on the books.

"When I was chair, what I was really grappling with the most was when I would receive specific questions from any news outlet about what the board's position is or what the town's position is," Krasnow said. "I wasn't really able to represent that position because only a quorum of the board can represent the Selectboard or the town."

"It was always a dilemma of, how do you respond to the press in a timely way given that they have pressure for deadlines going to print without overstepping the authority as an individual Selectboard member not able to

represent the town or Selectboard."

Krasnow suggested creating policies on how to deal with the media not just for the Selectboard, but for each individual town board and committee to "really differentiate the way in which their committee or board can represent comments or answer questions that represent that board or committee, versus making comments to the press as individuals."

Selectboard member Lewis Mudge questioned if Chairman Faulkner could speak

SEE **PRESS POLICY** PAGE 2

## State Apportionment Board proposes relocating town's representation

*Proposal would move Charlotte to Addison County Senate District*

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

The Selectboard may meet either at a special meeting or during their next regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 8 to discuss the state's Legislative Apportionment Board proposal that could relocate the town's state representation.

The Apportionment Board is meeting in light of the results of the 2020 United States Census.

According to Selectboard member Matt Krasnow, who spoke at the Monday, Oct. 25 regular meeting, the proposal, if enacted, would exclude Charlotte from Chittenden County's Senate District, and have the town become part of Addison County's Senate District.

"I think this would be a very big mistake," Krasnow told the board. "I think it's important that the Selectboard send a letter of support for maintaining Charlotte in the representation of Chittenden County. If the transition is going to be to shed the outlying towns from representation in Chittenden County, that's a bad trend to support."

Krasnow said that he hopes the board would come to a consensus that Charlotte should stay with Chittenden County when it comes to representation in the state senate.

He added that "for me, it's important to keep us in our lane."

"We have until November 15 to say that we want to stay in Chittenden County," Krasnow said. "If the board wants to weigh in on it, it's a narrow window."

"We should weigh in on it," Selectboard member Louise McCarren said. "My view is that we want to stay part of Chittenden County, but I do not want to be in a district with Burlington. I want to be clear."

"I think it's a bit on the nose to disenfranchise the town and then to kick it out of the county," Selectboard member Lewis Mudge added. "That's the way they're dealing with it."

The board agreed on discussing the issue at the next meeting. However, they did not agree on whether the discussion would be held at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting before the November 8 regular meeting.

As part of the discussion, the board reviewed a letter received by Krasnow

SEE **REPRESENTATION** PAGE 3



## Town

# Town explores possibility of a community center

## Recreation director gives presentation to Selectboard

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

Preliminary plans were discussed for a possible community center in town at the selectboard's regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 25.

The board discussed the prospective plans with Recreation Director Nicole Conley, who presented a slideshow to the board that included the reasoning for a community center, along with findings from the town's Community Center Committee.

"We have been working on this project for a year now," Conley said. "There's a lot of questions that we have. We are at a point where we think we can't go any further without communicating to you about our next steps."

Conley quoted from her presentation about the need for a community center.

"Our town's needs have grown considerably over the past 10 years," Conley said. "We see a need for a dedicated space to bring our community together. We envision a town community center that would allow for town meetings, elections, rental space, community events, recreational sport and enrichment programs, as well as fitness and wellness components. The goal of the community center is to increase community engagement by providing a place for all residents."

She presented a plan that included ideas for a proposed community center, including a swimming pool, multi-purpose courts, tennis courts, art studios, and an emergency shelter.

"We can start with the needs of Charlotte and we can expand," Conley said.

Conley said that the committee sent out a survey to residents to see what they would like to see in a community center.



Proposed facility rendering.

Image contributed

She said that 380 residents responded to the survey.

"The number one vote was a swimming pool [for the community center]," she said. "But we don't want to shy away or create a perception that [the survey] is an ending point. We want to make sure that everyone's voice is heard."

Conley said that while the committee had 25 meetings, along with over 100 hours of volunteer work by members, the committee is now requesting that the town put funding in for a feasibility study as its next step to continue its work.

"A feasibility study would encompass all of the information that we need so that we can go on with no loose ends," she said. "It would assist the town in determining the need and amenities, along with the location and the cost of the possible community center, and also what it would have inside of it. We want to also evaluate the financial realities for the construction and to operate it year-to-year if we were to add this."

Conley said there are other questions that the committee is trying to find the answers to, including how a community center would be funded, its location, and whether or not the

town would charge membership fees for it."

When Selectman Lewis Mudge asked how much the construction of a building would cost, Conley said she could not answer.

"I am not comfortable giving out any numbers because it's not in my field," she said.

Conley did say that the cost for a feasibility study would be anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

"This project, after completion, will have a yearly cost, which means taxpayers will be involved in it quite a bit," Chairman James Faulkner said. "Do you think it would be a good idea to go in front of the taxpayers at the beginning to find out what they are thinking beforehand [about a community center] before spending money on a feasibility study?"

Faulkner and Selectboard member Matt Krasnow suggested to Conley that she return at the next regular scheduled selectboard meeting on Monday, Nov. 8, with a draft motion for a town meeting asking the town for funds for a feasibility study.

Conley's presentation to the board can be found on the town website. [charlottetv.org](http://charlottetv.org).

## PRESS POLICY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the media on behalf of the board.

"Granted you are just one of five, but on the other hand, you are the chair," Mudge said. "I have always assumed that the chair could be in the position to speak for the board. But getting a quorum on a journalist's question is going to be tricky. Then we have emails, and those emails also violate open meeting laws."

"It's tricky," Chairman Faulkner said. "If I'm the chair, and if I get a question from the press, it is easier if I know what the consensus of the board is on this particular issue. But there are also challenges there because [reporters] have deadlines. They are calling and they need to have an answer right now. And I understand that completely because that's how they make their living. All I want to know is, how would you [the Selectboard] like the chair to respond? That would be in the policy."

Vice-Chair Frank Tenney said that the chair of the board should not respond for the whole board unless the board gives him the consensus to represent them.

"To start with, if you look at the selectboard manual, except for the powers that we have bestowed upon you as chair in our rules of

procedure, you are just another member of the board just like everybody else," Tenney said. "If [the reporter] was asking, how does the board feel or what does it say, or how does the Town of Charlotte feel about this, what their consensus is, you would have to say 'I am one member. I can give you my personal opinion of what I believe, but I cannot give you the position of the town or the board unless we discuss it.'"

The possibility of holding press conferences was also raised at the meeting.

"I recollect when I first got on the board in 2014 that John Hammer would sit at board meetings," Krasnow said. "He would ask lots of questions for clarification for the stories he knew that he wanted to print on his deadline schedule that we were not aware of. We answered every question he had. I really encourage any clarifying questions that have been at the board meetings that we have as much as possible in real time. I think that is the function of the press corps and it's a model that we see at every level of government."

In a previous email, Krasnow encouraged this reporter to ask all questions during the public comments section during Selectboard meetings.

At the Oct. 25 meeting, this reporter was allowed to ask only two questions during public comment.

The board did not make any decision at the meeting.

Faulkner contacted *The News* by phone the day after the meeting and stated once again that the Selectboard does not have a press policy.

The new chair said that, going forward, he hoped to maintain a good relationship and open communication with *The News* and said he would respond to press inquiries "with as much honesty and transparency as I can."

"There are some issues where the Selectboard meets and they all agree on something, or the majority agrees," Faulkner said in a second phone interview on Wednesday. "In the past we had the chair speak to the press if the press gives a call or if we want to call the press. I just wanted to make sure if they wanted to continue with this unwritten policy. We have no written policies on how to communicate with the press."

In regard to Krasnow's criticism of *The News* and the former chair's recent reluctance to respond to press inquiries, Faulkner said, "The last thing I want to do is what we are doing. Now I am the chair, I want to turn this around. It is not the direction I want it to be in. The only time I would be reluctant to talk is if there was an issue that wasn't solved yet or if I didn't have the full board's approval."



### Mission Statement

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*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.

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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.

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Town .....

REPRESENTATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Edward Cafferty, chairman of the Democratic Caucus for Chittenden County. In the email, which Krasnow provided to *The News*, Cafferty wrote that the state’s population is 643,077 residents as of the 2020 Census. The population of Chittenden County is 168,323 residents, a five percent increase in population since the 2010 Census.

DRB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

disagreed with Tenney and that he supports the formation of a DRB. “I think changes in the land use regulations do have to be voted on by the town,” Mudge said. “But we certainly have been advised that it is well within our prerogative as a selectboard to make this move. My take is this, from someone who is not a zoning specialist, who has been trying to listen to both sides of this. My take is that we have been elected by our townspeople to this position for instances like this. To take these decisions, and to get into the weeds. I have spent more hours on this stuff than I ever thought I would. I do think that this is a moment now for the Selectboard to make a decision. Elections have consequences. If people feel strongly enough that we made the wrong choice—well, there are two seats already up in March. I think advocating every time to a town vote on these thorny issues will begin to question the relevance of a selectboard.” “I feel like we have done a thorough job soliciting input from experts and the community,” Krasnow said. “I think it’s been well covered in the news. I would be shocked if someone didn’t know that this issue was happening in the town and that we are exploring it. For me, there’s no better democracy than direct democracy, and having the voters weigh in individually on an issue that is of town importance. I think what we are looking at in this switch to a DRB from a ZBA boils down to administrative change. That’s something the Selectboard works on. The state statutes that govern the powers of selectboards in Vermont give that authority to the Selectboard and don’t require a town vote for it. It’s a direction from the state statutes that are leading me to believe this is a Selectboard issue and that the town has voted the Selectboard to represent them.” Krasnow also voted for his resolution, along with Selectboard member Louise McCarren. “I started not understanding this,” McCarren said. “Like all the rest of you, I spent a lot of time making sure I did understand it. At the end of the day, my conclusion was that what we’re doing here is administrative. We’re taking two functions that are now housed in planning, which are site review and subdivision approval, and we’re moving those over to zoning. Conceptually, from an organizational point of view, it’s a good thing.” While Mudge, Krasnow and McCarren all issued support for the motion, by the end of the discussion, Tenney still expressed his reservations and voted against it. “The time frame for me is too quick and too

Cafferty wrote that this means that Chittenden County now has 26.17 percent of the state’s population. In his email, Cafferty wrote that, due to the county’s population increase, he proposes that the number of state senators for the county be increased from seven to eight, and that Huntington be brought back into Chittenden County Senate District to calculate State Senatorial Districts. While Huntington is part of Chittenden County, it is a member of the Addison Senate District.

*The new motion to form a DRB, as read by Selectboard Member Matt Krasnow, reads as follows:* “Whereas the Town of Charlotte has an active land use regulations last amended March 2, 2021, containing both zoning and subdivision regulations for the town, pursuant to the provisions 24 VSA Chapter 117, and whereas this board has established a planning commission and the zoning board of adjustment, as authorized by provisions of 24 VSA Chapter 117, to, among other responsibilities, assist in the administration of the above said regulations. And whereas this board is authorized by 24 VSA 4460 to establish a development review board to perform all development review functions under 24 VSA Chapter 117, pursuant to section 4460E. Therefore, it is hereby resolved by this board that it shall establish for the town of Charlotte, effective December 15, 2021, a development review board that 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 VSA Chapter 117. And shall further exercise all development review functions performed by the planning commission, pursuant to 24 VSA Chapter 117. Be it further resolved that three members of the development review board shall serve for terms of three years, and two members shall serve for terms of two years. Be it further resolved that the initial terms of development review board members shall be as follows: one for a four-year term, two for a three-year term, and two for a two-year term. Be it further resolved that the board may appoint up to two alternate members of the development review board whose term will be one year. Be it further resolved that all matters presently pending before the zoning board of adjustments shall be completed by the board, and upon completion of all pending matters, the board shall then cease to exist. Be it further resolved that all land use review matters presently pending before the planning commission shall be completed by the planning commission.”

fast to adjust to the zoning bylaws,” Tenney said. “We’re in the middle of a budget season and we have a lot of things to do. We have had four meetings this month. And yet, you wanted to interview for these positions. This is too quick for me. I wouldn’t do anything until next year.” The vote was four to one, with Tenney voting against the motion.

News from The News .....

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John Quinney  
PUBLISHER &  
PRESIDENT

Dear Reader: We learned a new acronym this year—DRB. Starting in the spring, *The Charlotte News* published a series of stories as the town discussed the pros and cons of establishing a Development Review Board. On October 25, the Selectboard voted in favor. This is a big deal for Charlotte, and we put the story on the front page of today’s paper. Now our focus shifts to the next steps in the process, and the impact of a DRB on our town:

- Who will the Selectboard appoint to serve on the DRB?
- How will the work of the Planning Commission change once the DRB is up and running?
- Will our town plan become more relevant to those charged with its implementation?
- Will the town’s budget review process be guided by the Town Plan?
- Will we see more development projects? Less development? Or no obvious changes?

Answers to these and other questions will shape the future of our town. Count on *The News* to bring you the stories—work made possible, in part, by your year-end gifts.

In that regard, I’m thrilled to announce that for the second year running, *The Charlotte News* has qualified for a \$10,000 NewsMatch\* grant. This will double your donation in November and December. Here’s how it works: **Starting now—and through December 31—NewsMatch will double your one-time gift, or match your new monthly donations 12 times, all up to \$1,000. This means that we can earn up to \$20,000.**

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You may either instruct your broker to hold the securities in an account for *The Charlotte News*, or you can authorize your representative to transfer the certificates to our account at Baystate Financial. For more information, please send me an email ([john@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:john@thecharlottenews.org)) or call me at 802-318-7189.

As I think ahead, I’m reminded of the old Beatles song, “When I’m 64.” That’s because 2022 will mark the 64<sup>th</sup> year we’ve published *The Charlotte News*. We could not have been in business this long without the financial support of our readers. Thanks for considering a year-end gift.

With gratitude,  
*John Quinney*

John Quinney  
Publisher and President

\* NewsMatch is an industry-wide movement to sustain journalism with matching gifts on the local and national level. Since 2016 NewsMatch has raised over \$150 million to keep nonprofit journalism like ours going strong.





## Town

# Selectboard approves library salary readjustments

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

At their regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 18, the Selectboard voted to adjust the salaries of three employees at the Charlotte Library. But after the discussion and motion there seemed to be more questions than answers.

Originally, at the Oct. 11 regular meeting, the Selectboard went into an executive session for an agenda item listed as "Request to revise compensation for certain Library

employees based on tenure with the town."

The executive session was not listed on the Oct. 11 meeting agenda, and the board went into an executive session with Charlotte Library Board Trustees Jonathan Silverman and Nan Mason.

The executive session lasted for only 20 minutes. Chairman James Faulkner said that nothing was accomplished in the executive session due to technical difficulties.

At the Oct. 18 meeting, an agenda item was listed as "Request to revise compensation for certain Library employees based on tenure with Town."

At the beginning of the discussion, Selectboard member Louise McCarren said the reason for the agenda item and discussion was because when salaries were set at the library, there were three employees the library board felt were not "properly placed."

McCarren said town HR consultant Dan Lyons, of Gallagher, Flynn & Company LLP of South Burlington, sent a letter to the board agreeing with the changes they proposed.

However, McCarren said at the meeting that, while the letter from Lyons was in the Selectboard's meeting packet, it was not online on the town's website for public viewing for the Oct. 11 or Oct. 18 meetings.

Lyons was not present at the Oct. 18 meeting.

"I don't want to put words in Dan's mouth, but when I spoke to him today, he wanted to come in person, and he said yes, a mistake has been made," McCarren said. "And he supports these changes."

"We hired Dan Lyons to be the HR person," Board Chairman James Faulkner said. "We really didn't want to get into this situation, so that's why we hired an HR person. He did the analysis and came back with a couple of mistakes, from what I understand. It was brought back up again, and he's reviewed it again, I think, several times."

McCarren made the following motion: "I move that we make the changes to these three positions as presented in the information you have."

Selectboard Member Matt Krasnow seconded the motion.

McCarren's motion did not specify the employees whose salaries were going to be changed or the proposed changes to their salaries.

According to McCarren, the issue with the employees' salaries stemmed from their job experiences wrongly identified as being in the "first quartile" (the least experienced category).

"Given their experience, they deserved to be somewhere in the third and fourth quartile," she said.

From the Zoom audience, Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Mead voiced concerns about the discussion and motion.

"This opens up the door for a lot of other people to come back to Gallagher and Flynn to have a private conversation and say, 'Oh, by the way, you made an error with my experience,'" Mead said. "I was just hoping that maybe this time around with readjusting salaries it can be a done deal. You can make your motion, and all is fine. Now it seems like you are opening the door again for

people to go back and say, 'Oh, we made a mistake. That's not right. Blah blah blah.' Haven't you had enough of that already?"

"The issue was more [that] Dan Lyons had admitted to a mistake and he wanted to correct it," Faulkner said. "You are right in the sense that the library board had to put it out to him. If there is a flaw in the system, if a library board is going to represent a certain number of employees, the other employees are going to need some kind of representative to go to."

Faulkner said he thought Lyons "stepped up to the plate" by admitting his mistake and offering to correct it.

"Mistakes happen," Faulkner said.

"I just want to say that I am not privy to any information about quartiles," Charlotte Library employee Susanna Kahn said. "I am confused how Mary [Mead] would know that and would be able to share that in public."

"I don't have the answer to that," Faulkner said.

Recreation Director Nicole Conley said, "Unless we go directly to our supervisor, I guess we don't really know if we are right or wrong."

Conley said library employees were "entrusting our supervisors to notice" if errors are made.

"I'm just saying that, moving forward, keep in mind that it seems that the library has great support, which is really awesome," Conley said. "But for others of us, it just feels like, unless we have somebody advocating for us, we're just there to advocate for ourselves."

"That's between you and your supervisor," McCarren told Conley. "If you have issues, that's where you can go."

The board unanimously approved the motion.

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# News from The News

## Thank you, Vince

John Quinney  
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

Our Oct. 26 board meeting was the last one for Vince Crockenberg. He served on our board for eight and a half years, including several years as president and publisher. At the board meeting, we recognized Vince's immense contributions to *The News*, by appointing him an emeritus member of the board. We also shared memories and hoisted a glass or two in his honor.

I've worked with Vince for two and a half years. During that time, and especially in the past six months, I came to appreciate more and more his unshakeable commitment to the paper and his freely offered and always thoughtful advice. There were many occasions when Vince gave with remarkable generosity, his time and his talents. I am deeply grateful to him.

Vince worked with dozens of writers, volunteers and employees over the years. Here's what several had to say:

Vince had a talent for collecting people for the board who brought us a variety of talents and who worked well together. He gave hours of his time to make sure the paper ran smoothly. He stepped into multiple roles, filling gaps by delivering papers and editing the paper, as well as carrying out the expected functions of a board president and publisher. His long tenure brought greater financial stability to the paper. He made a number of positive changes that helped *The Charlotte News* meet the challenges of producing a paper in the 21st century.

**Gay Regan**

I had the pleasure of working with Vince for two years or so, and in that time, I grew to know someone who was committed, thoughtful, respectful and motivated. He listened closely to what people had to say and was able to instill in others the desire and energy to help. By offering the community more than eight years of professionalism and enthusiasm, Vince epitomized what a community leader should be.

**Ted LeBlanc**

Vince Crockenberg took over the reins of *The Charlotte News* at a time when it needed its strongest and most concentrated help. The paper had been under continuing challenges, both financial and personnel-wise. Vince had served conscientiously as a proofreader and distribution person. With the departure of the editor in 2013, he stepped right in and provided strong leadership. He continued in that important role for more than eight years. Much of his success has come from his personal strengths in recruiting strong workers and board members.

**John Hammer**

Vince was a great leader for *The Charlotte News*. His knowledge helped direct the staff and me to improve and evolve the paper over the years we worked together. His involvement with the community and its members brought together those who have become a part of a great paper that reflects what Charlotte is all about. Thank you, Vince, for your time and your guidance and for many years of dedication to *The Charlotte News*.

**Anna Cyr**



Vince Crockenberg

Photo contributed

I first began working with Vince in April of 2015 when I started writing occasional public health columns for *The Charlotte News*. Vince came to me as a recent retiree from a career of teaching and research to ask if I would be interested in writing about public health science, policy and practice.

Over the course of the next six years, I had the opportunity and pleasure to work closely with Vince as he challenged and prodded me to write on a broad range of topics and as he edited the columns I wrote.

I learned that he is 1) remarkably well read across a broad range of topics and disciplines; 2) he cares passionately about the role of print and e-news sources as guard rails for democracy and civic engagement; and, 3) he's an incredible editor.

It took a while, but he was able to take the verbose and jargon-filled columns that I first produced and boil them down to their essence—always under 1,000 words. It's been a wonderful and instructive ride for me.

*The Charlotte News* has benefited enormously, as have we all, from Vince's skill and passion. Hopefully, you can rope him into providing an occasional opinion piece in the months and years ahead.

**Jim Hyde**

Everyone here at *The News* joins me in wishing Vince all the best in the years ahead, especially as he challenges himself to complete more rounds of golf with scores in the 80s.

## Charlotte Girl Scout Troop 30066 earn apple appreciation patches



Sadie Moore (front) and Mia Paquette (behind) press the apples to make apple cider.

Cindy Bradley  
CONTRIBUTOR

Charlotte Girl Scout Troop 30066 have spent our last few troop meetings learning all about apples as we worked on the requirements to earn our Apple Appreciation Patch. We started by taking a trip to Monkton Ridge Apple Orchard to pick apples. While there we also participated in a discussion with the owner, Ms. Christine, about the process involved in operating an apple orchard, covering topics as simple as bee pollenization, pest control and the impact that wildlife can have on an orchard to the more complex process of how to increase sales, diversify your market and keep an apple orchard sustainable. Some of those apples picked were polished up, bagged and donated, along with a variety of apple recipes gathered by our



Eve Jagger mixes up the batter for Apple Pie Muffins. Photos by Cindy Bradley

Cadette Girl Scouts, to the Charlotte Senior Center. Next on our agenda was to make our own apple cider. We were fortunate to be able to borrow a homemade apple press, and the girls each took turns grinding the apples into apple mash and then taking the mash, placing it into a bag and squeezing the juice from it. This, we discovered, is where the term apple "press" comes into play and where the girls found out how very strong they really are. The end result was some very tasty apple cider. Our final activity was to do some baking. We gathered our mixing bowls, our apples and a variety of other ingredients and got busy. We peeled, chopped and sliced those apples into Apple Pies, Apple Pie Bars and Apple Muffins. Yum, doesn't your mouth water just thinking about the delicious aromas coming from the oven? It was the perfect final activity on a chilly, fall evening.

**Know someone interesting in Charlotte?**

We want to interview them and share their story.

Email  
[news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)

*The* **Charlotte News**





## Around Town

### Congratulations

to **Geeda Searfoorce** who is appearing in highlights from the Vermont Comedy Club's 2020 show on this Friday. Geeda is a former Managing Editor of *The Charlotte News*.

### Obituary

**Mary Frances Priest**, 97, formerly of Shelburne, and more recently of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, passed away Sept. 13, 2021. Mary was born April 23, 1924, in Westcliff on Sea, Essex, England, to William Alexander Patrick and Lizzy Ethel (Poulton) Patrick.

Mary's parents and brothers have all predeceased her, including a half-brother Charles Moss, brothers Douglas William Arthur Patrick and the Reverend Edward Thomas Patrick. She was also predeceased by a son, Alex John Priest, in December 2013.



Mary Frances Priest

Mary was a war bride and married Dean Edward Priest during the Second World War, in Dunstable, England on September 23, 1944. They returned from the war and lived in Plattsburgh, New York, Burlington, South Burlington and

Shelburne, before retiring in Lavonia, Georgia, and Orange City, Florida. When her husband Dean became ill in 1997, they returned to the Burlington area, where he passed away in 2004.

Mary was a stay-at-home mom while her children were young, then employed by Grants Department Store, then Chittenden Trust Company for more than 20 years, gaining seniority as head teller in the Shelburne location.

Her interests were few, but she loved animals (especially dogs), as well as sewing, knitting, needlepoint and reading. She was a longtime member of the Overseas Wives Club of Burlington.

Mary is survived by Michael (Shirley) Priest of Charlotte, Vermont/Port Charlotte, Florida, and Robin (Larry) Gabbert of Bluffton, South Carolina, grandchildren Patrick Priest of Boston, Massachusetts, Shelby Priest of South Burlington, Heather Gabbert of Bluffton, South Carolina, and Dean Priest of Maine. She also leaves a sister-in-law, Ruth Priest, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and nieces Sue Lundy of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, Martha Quinlin of Suwanee, Georgia, Judy White of Castle Pines, Colorado, and nephews Daniel and Simon Eve of England.

Private internment to be held at a later date.

## Lewis Creek Association wraps up 2021 Boat Launch Steward Program at Bristol and Monkton Ponds



Bristol Pond, where three known aquatic invasive species are found.

Photo by Matthew Gorton.

By Matthew Gorton and Kate Kelly  
LEWIS CREEK ASSOCIATION

Lewis Creek Association recently wrapped up its boat launch steward program at Bristol and Monkton ponds. LCA chose Bristol and Monkton ponds due to their popularity with anglers, recreational boaters, wildlife enthusiasts, and for the natural communities that are present at the ponds. As of 2021, there are three known aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Bristol Pond: European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) and two AIS in Monkton Pond [Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)]. Therefore, Bristol Pond and Monkton Pond could function as points of introduction for the spread of AIS in the Lewis Creek watershed and throughout the state. The goal of LCA's program was to prevent the spread of AIS by inspecting watercraft for AIS and biological materials, identifying and removing suspicious specimens, collecting data, and educating the public about AIS spread prevention.

Seventy-three percent of visitors at Bristol Pond and 64 percent of visitors at Monkton Pond reported that they took AIS spread prevention measures (e.g., cleaning, draining and drying their boats) prior to inspection. Forty percent of watercraft inspected at Bristol Pond and Monkton Pond had AIS on them. If the boat launch stewards hadn't intercepted the vegetation on the watercrafts launching into and retrieving from the ponds, 237

watercraft (of the total 579 inspected) could have potentially spread AIS to other bodies of water. LCA found that most visitors are doing their part in keeping our waterbodies healthy by cleaning, draining and drying their boats and other equipment. Further details on the program's results can be found at [lewiscreek.org/boat-launch-steward-program](http://lewiscreek.org/boat-launch-steward-program).

LCA's boat launch steward program was successful in intercepting AIS and educating the public on the issues surrounding AIS. The vast majority of visitors to Bristol and Monkton ponds seemed genuinely excited to have the program at the ponds, and many people from the community went to the ponds to see LCA's boat launch stewards in action. Research has shown that visual inspection and hand removal of aquatic vegetation is extremely effective at preventing AIS from spreading to other bodies of water. LCA's program could potentially prevent (both directly and indirectly) AIS from spreading to other uninfested waterbodies. LCA hopes to continue the program in 2022 and to coordinate with the Vermont Department of Conservation to organize a volunteer day to remove brittle naiad and European frogbit. Reach out to Kate Kelly, [lewiscreekorg@gmail.com](mailto:lewiscreekorg@gmail.com) or 488-5203, with questions or to volunteer.

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00A00695) to NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

### Volunteer EMS and Volunteer Firefighter Needed



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

**[www.cvfrs.com](http://www.cvfrs.com)**



# In Memoriam

The Charlotte News was saddened to hear the passing of our longtime contributor and artist, Charlie Lotz. Charlie's artwork graced the front page of the newspaper for many years.

Charlie passed away at the age of 99. He and his wife, Gert, moved to Charlotte in 1952, and he worked with The Charlotte News from its inception.

In memory of Charlie, we are publishing a few of his wonderful drawings, along with an article about who he was and his memories of working with the newspaper.

This article originally published June 2, 2016 in The Charlotte News.



## Sketches from history



Charlie Lotz The Charlotte News file photo.

### Long-time Charlotte News artistic contributor Charlie Lotz looks back

Kali Adams  
ALICE OUTWATER INTERN

Rifling through the newspapers in *The Charlotte News* archives, one might be surprised by what headed the newspaper for years. Instead of a front page strewn with headlines and photographs, former publications of the newspaper featured simple line sketches just under *The Charlotte News* heading. For over 20 years you could find drawings of sailors, cartoons of Town Meeting Day or sketches of local wildlife. But who was the person behind this art?

Enter Charlie Lotz (above), the artist emeritus of *The Charlotte News*. Despite advancing in age (as we all do), Charlie still has a spring in his step and a smile to match. Charlie served during WWII, stationed mostly in Europe. Despite the war being a particularly harsh experience, Charlie does have some fond memories of it. “We went up to Iceland,” he said with enthusiasm. “We drove the Germans out of Iceland, and the Icelandic people were so happy we did that. It is a beautiful place—even though it is called Iceland. We loved it there.”

Charlie remained in the service after the war and found himself at the headquarters in Washington, D.C. The G.I. bill—a benefit designed to help service members continue their education—decided the next step in Charlie’s life. “I dropped out of the service briefly to go to college, just for a few months,” he said. But college life would end up taking him further from the military. “There, I met my wife, Gert,” Charlie said with a laugh.

“We came up here because my wife was from across the lake over in New York,” Charlie said, “and she liked it up here.” Gert also held a degree in nursing and had a job at Fletcher Allen Hospital, making the move even more purposeful.

In Vermont, Charlie found a job as an engineer for General Electric. His work again took him to the far reaches of the globe. When asked about where he traveled for work, he replied, “All over Europe, Africa, and finally over into Australia and New Zealand.” Being

an engineer was far from his only job. In addition, he had his own business searching for underground water—and he worked with *The Charlotte News*.

Charlie was with the paper from the start. “We started it a long, long time ago,” he remembered. “We used to just type it up on our own. We didn’t have an office to print it in, so we’d take it downtown to a place that printed it up for us, then bring it back here and pass it around. That was about 60 years ago.” His work with *The News* included writing articles occasionally, but his artistic work stands out.

If it was by chance that Charlie started sketching as a child, it was even more fortuitous that his pictures wound up in the paper. “When we first started *The Charlotte News*, we needed some illustrations,” Charlie said simply. He ended up with the job and promptly started sketching away.

Charlie would draw anything that caught his fancy, transforming a simple idea into a print-worthy picture. He got his ideas from “whatever was happening around town, or just something funny that occurred.”

His art was not just showcased in the paper. “I used to just put it on display—downtown, Burlington, places like that.” His illustrations were also collected in a booklet produced by the newspaper staff. “This was something that we used to put together once in a while and take to the Town Party,” Charlie said, as he drew out the small booklet. “We’d sell it to people and raise money by doing that.”

Skimming through the pages, Charlie pointed out some of his favorite drawings, laughing as he did so. “Here’s the Old Dock,” he said, holding up a particularly stunning rendering of the historic restaurant right across the lake.

“When I got to be in my eighties, we sold the little farm in Charlotte,” Charlie continued. He and his wife moved to Shelburne when the farm became too much to keep up. They still reside there but return often to the Charlotte community. Two of his children live in Vermont, with the third in Australia.

Charlie remains quite humble about his work with *The Charlotte News*. Despite his artwork helping the newspaper transition from only written pieces into an actual publication, Charlie only smiles and says, “I just helped the town put out the paper.”



Education .....

# School board taken to task over alleged incidents at Champlain Valley Union High School

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 19, members of the Champlain Valley School District board were extensively criticized for their handling of alleged incidents at Champlain Valley Union High School.

While participants at the meeting, including members of the school board, did not make it clear what the topic of the discussion was about, School District Representative Bonnie Birdsall wrote in an email after the meeting that the discussion concerned athletic teams at Champlain Valley Union High School, which is within the school district.

However, while the board discussed the handling of the alleged incidents, the details of the alleged incidents were not.

“Just so you know, there are a lot of community members that are paying attention, and the less you do about it, the more we are going to do about it,” Christine Hughes,

Burlington High School graduate said. “I really encourage you to do your job. We talk a lot about fairness, but from what I understand in this situation, it was pretty unfair.”

Mia Schultz, who is the president of the Rutland Area NAACP, said that multiple systemic problems have been exposed in the athletic system due to the alleged incidents, including the school district’s selection process for athletic participation.

“I have been made aware that it appears that it is evident that there is no process of selection, and it’s biased and riddled with discrimination, nepotism and favoritism,” Schultz said. “I am urging this school governing board to be proactive and begin the process to evaluate the athletic selection process. That means having a transparent selection process where there is a standardized scoring system, and each student gets an evaluation report. It also means that evaluators should not have any personal ties to the students. We should also disallow putting people on the team because of those

relationships and connections.”

Schultz also voiced her concerns that, according to her, the school district is investigating the incidents by using a law firm connected to the district.

“This process of investigation has placed the burden on the victims and not on the people who are being accused,” Schultz said. “Furthermore, the lawyers who have been chosen are connected with the schools, and they are biased. Therefore, there does not appear to be an investigation process that is a true truth-seeking process, but one that will release the school and the participants from responsibility. The complainants had to endure insulting lines of questioning and have been treated with disrespect. This too is indicative of a systemic flaw within your systems. You are not living up to your own equity statements. There are issues in your school regarding equity.”

Tia Ganguly, who has one daughter enrolled in the school district, said that the school district



is not listening to concerns from the BIPOC community.

“We have evidence from last year’s school board meetings of ways BIPOC voices were silenced and cut off, while white voices were given more time and respect when our community tried to advocate for changes to the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) hiring process,” Ganguly said. “This is a critical time for self-reflection for us as a community. We are in danger of missing the point again.”

Ganguly added, “Your words do not matter. Your actions do.”

No actions were taken based on public comments to the board.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor:

The Charlotte News has been doing its job and staying true to its mission—cover the town, warts and all—and some don’t seem to like that. They’d probably love if it went back to being pictures of the lake and puff pieces on Jimmy Charlotte making the cut for Far Post. Or focused on lost dogs and who’s got a bead on the best chimney sweep.

People with power, money and time to spend on lobbying town issues like we have here never like being under scrutiny.

The Charlotte News is telling stories that matter. And that doesn’t always rub small-town big-wigs the right way. So it goes...

To the folks putting in the hard work over there—stay true to the mission and don’t let local cronyism get you down.

Alex Bunten  
Charlotte

## School district eyes \$7.5 million bond vote for March

Proposed bond includes \$4.7 million in renovations for Charlotte Central School

Shaw Israel Izikson  
REPORTER

The Champlain Valley School District is looking at a possible \$7.5 million bond vote for March to fund various infrastructure upgrades in school buildings, including \$4.7 million in upgrades at Charlotte Central School.

A presentation on the proposed bond was given by School District COO Jeanne Jensen at the School Board’s Oct. 19 meeting.

According to Jensen, the school building was originally built in 1969 and the bulk of the \$7.5 would go to repairs to the school building.

Jensen said that the funding would go towards two areas: electrical system upgrades, and a new building-wide fire alarm and prevention system. She added that the current electrical system in the building is the same system that was installed in the building 52 years ago.

“It does not support the way we use electricity nowadays,” Jensen said. “We have been told

by fire officials that if we have any money left over, it has to be fixed. It would be a complete fix of that electrical system from soup to nuts in the whole building.”

The electrical system upgrades, as proposed by Jensen, include a new electrical service entrance, a new standby generator, new equipment feeds and connections, along with new main and branch power panels, wiring and power outlets.

As for the fire alarm and prevention system, Jensen said repairs and upgrades are desperately needed.

“The fire prevention code said that we shouldn’t have 400 kids in the building,” she said, adding that the sprinkler system in the building currently does not work.

The upgrades would include a new sprinkler system building-wide, a new fire pump, a new water storage tank, along with new branch sprinkler piping and heads.

“Remember, it gets complicated in that building,” Jensen added. “The reason why there are no sprinklers is that [the building] is on a well. That means you need to have a storage tank and pumps and generators to work the pump. It’s very expensive these days. Another upgrade would include renovations

to the building’s classroom wing toilet room, including accessibility upgrades, new plumbing fixtures and new finishes.

“The Charlotte bathroom situation is getting desperate,” she continued. “The last three weeks have been spent figuring out the plumbing in the building that needs to be fixed.”

Funds from the proposed bond would be spent on parking lot repairs and paving for the east and west parking lots, various safety upgrades to school buildings throughout the school district, security improvements (including a card access system installed at all school buildings), and HVAC upgrades to all school buildings.

However, Jensen said that the proposed bond amount would be reduced if federal grants cover the proposed HVAC upgrades.

“The proposal is currently a bit high,” Jensen told the board. “These are the kinds of things that we are looking at that are on the high priority urgent needs list.”

According to a schedule provided by the school district, a community budget forum was scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m.

More information on the forum is at [cvsdvt.org](http://cvsdvt.org).



Education

Don't leave college applications to chance



Margo Bartsch  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Monopoly board game has the infamous “Go to Jail” corner space and Chance and Community Chest cards. The player is at a crossroads to pay \$50 now, delay and hope to toss the dice for doubles to get out of jail free, or wait until the last moment and pay \$50 if three throws are unsuccessful. This risk assessment is comparable to analyzing the various timing tradeoffs when applying to college. Similarly, there are often three application deadline considerations: Early Decision (ED) binding commitment; Early Action (EA) non-binding option; and Regular Decision (Regular) typical deadline. These deadlines each have distinct advantages depending on the student’s preparedness to have their application rise to the top.

First, Early Decision is a binding commitment to attend the favorite college if admitted. A student can only apply ED to one college. The application date ranges from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15. The typical ED notification date is around Dec. 15 to hear whether admitted, waitlisted or rejected. It is important to check whether a college offers ED (and ED-2 in January) and the application deadline. The Common Application requires three signatures from the student, parent or guardian, and guidance counselor agreeing to specific ED terms. ED is a binding decision because the student could benefit from admissions advantages. For

the 2020-21 applications, Cornell University published that its College of Arts & Sciences admitted approximately 20 percent of ED applicants, compared to 5.5 percent of Regular applicants. However, Cornell clearly states, “Early Decision applicants are thoroughly convinced—and are therefore often able to convince us—that they would both thrive in the College of Arts & Sciences and contribute to our Cornell community.” If admitted ED to Cornell, the student must confirm attendance by early January. Cornell demands that an ED-admitted student not only agrees to attend, but also must withdraw applications to other colleges. This is a similar policy with most ED colleges. Thus, if a student is admitted to Cornell ED and also applied to other colleges EA or Regular, they would have to turn down other acceptances or may not even hear if a college admitted them. For example, the University of California only has a Regular application date of Nov. 1 with notification around April 1. Thus, a Cornell ED-admitted student would never know whether they were accepted by the University of California. Second, Early Action is a non-binding alternative to apply by Nov. 1 (or the college’s specific EA deadline) and be notified of admissions around Dec. 15 or later. For example, Northeastern University has an EA option to apply by Nov. 1 with notification by Feb. 1. The EA advantage is that a student signals that their application is ready for consideration and will be notified earlier of their admissions status.

For the class of 2025, Northeastern reported 75,223 applications. Compared to the prior year, their admissions statistics increased with a 17 percent rise of applications and with eight percent more students choosing to attend. Northeastern explains, “Choose Early Action if Northeastern is a top choice—and you feel that you can put your best foot forward at this earlier date, since the Admission Committee will not see your senior grades or late fall standardized testing.” If admitted EA, the student has until May 1 to decide to attend. Third, Regular Decision is the popular non-binding date that is usually due around Jan. 1 or thereafter. University of Vermont offers a Regular deadline of Jan. 15. UVM also has a Priority Application Completion deadline of Jan. 31 if a student changes their testing plan to submit new scores or decides to apply test-optional (without scores). With Regular applications, the student is notified around early March whether they are admitted. They must confirm enrollment by May 1. UVM had a record 25,500 applications for the class of 2025 of around 2,600 students. UVM credits this increase by how the school handled the pandemic, test-optional



Stock image

admissions and solid recruitment. The freshman class is the largest, best prepared and most geographically diverse class in UVM history, reported *WCAX*. With various deadline options and growth in applications, it is important for students to plan for the college road ahead. Optimizing admissions involves creating a strategy that should not be left to chance. Smart college planning can offer its own rewards, like a “Get Out of Jail Free” card. Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.

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\*Subject to availability and eligibility.



# Charlotte Trails

## It's all about connections and community

Laurie Thompson  
ON BEHALF OF THE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Charlotte Trails provide the key to non-motorized transportation and recreation in our town. The trails keep Charlotte connected and offer townspeople a safe, off-road way to stay active and move easily through the community—walking, biking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. Charlotte is fortunate to have loop trails—Pease Mountain, Plouffe Lane, Raven Ridge, Williams Woods, Wildlife Refuge, and the West Village Loop Trail in every part of town. Also, the Town Link Trail, with 2.5 miles completed with gravel, and several more miles of mowed and dirt path available. Townspeople are able to use this safe, off-road trail to reach many public places of interest around town.

Since its start in 2003, the Trails Committee has taken an active role in creating a vision of alternative transportation and recreation for Charlotte. An integrated trail system that links each area of the town for pedestrian, bicycle and ski travel has been supported by a variety of community groups and planning documents in Charlotte for over 20 years. The Trails Committee was created to take this vision and work to implement the trail system. The Trails Committee provides leadership for the effort, facilitating the linkage of new and established neighborhoods with places of interest throughout the Town.

The Trails Committee is continually working to:

- Provide technical advice to inform the

Selectboard's decisions on new trails to be built.

- Provide trail linkages to important public areas and publicly owned properties and neighborhoods.
- Minimize disturbance of sensitive natural areas and wildlife habitat.
- Make Charlotte more attractive to would-be residents, including young families, which are needed to sustain our community. Towns similar to Charlotte all over Vermont are competing for new residents, and many have been out in front in establishing robust trail systems.
- Help address resident concerns about walking and biking on busy roads, and the increased worry—as seen in FPF posts—about speeding on our roads.
- Through a variety of educational and other activities, promote the public's understanding of the location, purpose and use policy of public trails.

Here are a few of the more recent accomplishments of the Charlotte Trails Committee:

- The State Park Road section of the Town



Link Trail is now complete, creating a beautiful 2.5 miles of bike/pedestrian/ski trail, from Mt. Philo State Park through Cohousing, including the underpass under Route 7.

- The Town voted overwhelmingly to approve funding for trails in 2020 and 2021. This funding supports the continued build-out of our trail network, which is part of the Town Plan and has been approved by the majority of voters.

- Since 2014, the Trails Committee has received \$90,000 in grant funding, in addition to in-kind donations of bridges, sign work, and the creation of a map of all town trails.

A steering committee with members from the Selectboard, Planning, Conservation, Trails, Recreation, Tree Warden, Road Commissioner, and townspeople worked together to offer the Selectboard guidance on potential pathways for the Town Link Trail.

- New signs have been put up, especially on the Town Link Trail and the Village Loop Trail, to make wayfinding easier.
- During these Covid times, more Charlotters than ever are out using all our trails. Maintenance on these trails is more important than ever these days, and

the Trails Committee has added more maintenance days these past few years.

Thanks to the support of the Charlotte community, the Trails Committee will continue to maintain and build the Charlotte Town Link Trail, a 14-mile non-motorized, multi-use path from East Charlotte to Mt. Philo through West Charlotte to the Charlotte Beach, connecting points of interest within our town. And the Trails Committee will continue to maintain our existing loop trails, as well as apply for grants, and fundraise to supply additional funds for building and maintaining our trails.

Connections—from one important public area to another around town, and to neighbors and neighborhoods—that's what Charlotte Trails is all about. The work of the Trails Committee brings our town together and provides safe transportation and recreation systems for all to use. The Trails Committee, including all the volunteers who have been committee members over the years, is grateful for the support and encouragement received from so many townspeople over the years.

Come make connections on the Charlotte Trails.

For maps of our Charlotte Trails, you can go to: [www.charlottetv.org](http://www.charlottetv.org).

## Charlotte living!



**140 Mutton Hill Drive**  
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# Town

## Would you like to see a Vermont master naturalist come to Charlotte?



Bristol Vermont Master Naturalist Program.

Photo by Monica Erhart

Alexa Lewis  
VERMONT MASTER NATURALIST  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Attention, nature lovers and newcomers to the area!

Vermont has a unique history, and Charlotte's local ecology and cultural geography are part of that story. We have an opportunity to explore the natural and cultural history of our town through the Vermont Master Naturalist Program. Alicia Daniel started the place-based VMN program five years ago and is considering offering it in Charlotte. Those of you who have had the chance to walk the woods with Alicia, or who are familiar with her work at UVM, know what a special person she is, and know too about her ability to find and enlist other talented naturalists to explore the outside spaces in our everyday lives.

I'm working with Alicia in hopes of bringing her Vermont Master Naturalist program to Charlotte in the fall of 2022. The course would focus on our town and enhance our understanding of the special places we are lucky to enjoy, from the geology of Mt. Philo and the waterways (Lewis Creek, Lake Champlain, our wetlands) to the wildlife and cultural history that make Charlotte special. For this to happen, we need to demonstrate interest from those who would like to participate, as well as from those who would like to sponsor projects or contribute expertise.

The Vermont Master Naturalist program takes participants out into the field on five weekend days from September to May. Participants start by learning the local geology and soils and how the landscape evolved over time. This place-based approach lays the foundation for understanding why certain plants and trees

form natural communities in our parks, forests and wetlands. Vermont Master Naturalist helps participants understand the links between habitat and inhabitants—the wildlife, birds and other animals found in Charlotte. For instance, experts like cultural geographer Jane Dorney and wildlife tracker Sophie Mazowita will share tips for identifying animal tracks and wildlife corridors and clues from the early days of European settlement.

Equipped with this new understanding, participants will engage in local projects to advance the town's conservation efforts. VMN naturalists often become an important resource for longer term volunteer networks, joining conservation commissions, leading public walks, and planting trees far into the future.

In addition to finding participants and local funding sources, VMN is looking for project ideas from the community. If you are part of the Conservation Commission, Trails Committee or Land Trust, do you need help with a management plan, or the creation of a new brochure, or a demonstration pollinator garden site? Or do you know an educator or a nonprofit organization or town official with a project that needs the support of naturalist-trained volunteers? In other towns, VMN volunteers have helped develop management plans for town woodlands and wetlands, guided public walks, and increased tree canopy through community tree plantings. VMN wants to hear from you.

Please send your thoughts and requests to Alexa Lewis ([Alexajlewis@gmail.com](mailto:Alexajlewis@gmail.com)) or Alicia Daniel ([alicia@vermontmasternaturalist.org](mailto:alicia@vermontmasternaturalist.org)).

To learn more about the program or to review ideas from past projects, look at the Vermont Master Naturalist website: [vermontmasternaturalist.org](http://vermontmasternaturalist.org).

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# Hi, Neighbor!

## Jen Roth: Learning about herself and her profession



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

Every year, the Snelling Center for Government offers professional development to school administrators through the Vermont School Leadership Project. This year, Charlotte Central School's middle school co-principal Jen Roth is one of the participants.

Roth said the project has a dual focus on self and systems. She described the first part as a way to help participants bring their own priorities to their administrative roles. The second is taking information from many sources and using it to create strong, resilient systems. Participants meet for three-day intervals at Lake Morey, listening to presenters and attending workshops. In between sessions, they are given packets of information to review. Roth and her partner at the project, April Wortmann, an administrator at Addison Northeast School District, have been taking walks together to share the ways that they are using the information they've received through their training.

"I've been told I should be journaling through the process," Roth said. "At the start of the journey, we talked about a goal of having 10 percent growth, but it's hard to quantify that. There are days when I feel like I've lost 20 percent, and then the next day I might gain 30 percent. Journaling helps me capture the 'aha' moments." Roth said she was looking forward to an upcoming session on identity, which would also cover diversity, equity and inclusion. "It's about recognizing each individual for who they are and what they can contribute," she said.



After Roth graduated from Trinity College in Burlington with a B.A. in Elementary Education and Teaching, she headed to the Midwest where she had relatives. "I had a young family and it was nice having that village to support the kids," she said. Roth spent three years teaching at an Illinois school with a diverse, low socio-economic student body. "I just loved it," she said. "Every single day you could see what a difference we were making in their lives."

While teaching in Illinois, Roth got her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Northern Illinois University. "I realized Vermont would also be a nice place to raise a family," she said, "so we came back here." Roth taught in Bristol and then Hinesburg, getting her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study at St. Michael's College and her administrator's license.

This is Roth's fifth year as co-principal in



Left: Jen's new puppy Benson. Above: Jen and her CCS team.

Photos contributed

Charlotte. She shares the role with Stephanie Sumner. "We have a yin/yang partnership," Roth said. "Being co-principals has so many advantages. It's great to have someone to talk to and reflect with on how things play out." Roth noted that since both women have children at home, they understand that family comes first and fill in for one another when needed.

When Roth was hired at the middle school, it was the only age group she had had no direct experience with. "My teaching experience was with at-risk youth K through 2, high school special education, and elementary school," she said. "Middle school is something I'd never done before. When I started, I told (the students) that I was there to learn from them.

I have climate and cultural awareness of how to bring a school together and a strong belief in students and building that efficacy together. Sometimes it's nice to show up and not know everything."

Two of Roth's four children are adopted. "They have unique needs," she said, "and they've given me a lot of knowledge about how we, as a school, need to think about each individual student and keep them engaged and empowered with flexible pathways." As part of her goal to expand these pathways, Roth would like to tap into community expertise. "I have students who want to learn hands-on from experts, and Charlotte is rich in people and knowledge," she said. "That holds a lot of the keys to how we can provide for our students." Roth gave the example of a parent with technical expertise whose assistance to the teacher who runs the Lego robotics program has allowed the program to expand from eight students to 20.

A self-described "lazy gardener," Roth loves to relax by the water or go out on the family's boat, but her priorities are her children, including a daughter who just got engaged. A new puppy named Benson is also occupying her time, and she has found that the students at Charlotte Central School love reading to him. Roth's office includes a shelf of sweets for those who visit. "I want people to come in and self-care," she said. "I want my office to be a place where they can pause, reset and be present."



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### Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Welcomes CHANTAL PILON

Chantal understands the complexities of managing the buy/sell process and brings commitment, attention to detail and expertise to each transaction. Growing up in Connecticut, Chantal was immersed in the family business of selling building products. With the guidance of her father, she and her brother built their first spec home while still in college.

A graduate of Trinity College with a degree in Economics, Chantal worked as an International Tax Consultant in Boston and concurrently began investing in and managing rental properties throughout the Northeast. After moving to Arizona, she shifted gears to non-profit work. Chantal's career has come full circle, as she is returning to the real estate industry she loves - guiding people to advance their goals.

After relocating several times for her husband's job, Chantal and her husband were thrilled to settle in Vermont to raise their three children. Having spent her childhood summers at their family camp on Lake Rescue, her love of Vermont runs deep. When not working, Chantal enjoys cooking, hiking, and volunteering at Charlotte Central School.



Farm Series

Aurora Farms, the next generation comes into his own

Lucie Lehmann  
CONTRIBUTOR

In farming particularly, succession matters. Large pieces of land need to be worked to generate income, labor is critical, and the capital investment required to operate a farm is significant—a single piece of machinery can cost half a million dollars. And so, when a family has been farming for hundreds of years, as is the case for the owners of Charlotte-based Aurora Farms and the Nitty Gritty Grain Company of Vermont, it’s easy to imagine the expectations of the next generation.

Not so, says David Kenyon, 35, and the eighth generation to follow in the furrows of his forebear, Barnabas Barnum, who over 200 years ago began tilling land that the family still owns in Monkton.

“I really didn’t have any pressure to do it, which was great,” David reflects on a wet October day inside the farm’s machine shop, his words punctuated by an occasional burst from the air compressor. The field work is mostly finished for the season, and the giant combine and trucks are parked in the red barn fronting Lake Road, which also houses Nitty Gritty.

Though David grew up helping on the farm, he left Vermont to pursue higher education. After earning a graduate degree in architecture in Michigan, he returned and worked at Birdseye, a design and build company in Richmond. Eventually, he tired of sitting behind a computer screen and itched for that visceral connection to the land that farming provides. “It’s very rewarding, working outside...and actually producing something that people are eating,” he says. Equally strong was the desire to do it sustainably. “I don’t think I would have come back if weren’t organic. And it’s really nice that my dad’s also pretty passionate about that.”

David’s father, Tom, 66, a former dairy farmer, is an esteemed member of Vermont’s organic farming community. He’s credited with the vision not only to experiment with growing unusual varieties of wheat and corn in Vermont’s cold and wet weather, but to sell those organic grains locally. That idea was sparked decades ago by a conversation with Jane Kirby, a neighbor, who wondered why none of the grain grown here was available to buy. They collaborated on and won a



USDA grant to do a feasibility study and then launched Nitty Gritty in 2008. Its impact on local bakers and chefs, as well as on other organic family farms, has been galvanizing.

As David watched his father age, he perceived a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of the business. “I kind of decided that I’d better come back and take it over. My dad was going to retire and [if I didn’t do that] I’d lose that opportunity.”

Now, he is gradually assuming control of the 600 acres that they farm in Charlotte and Shelburne. It’s a move that David’s aunt, Catherine, a retired teacher who runs Nitty Gritty, admires. “He’s choosing the not easier path...and I really applaud that. The idea of a family that stays together and has a common goal and that goal has integrity, that it is not all about money, is just pretty amazing.”

As the transition evolves, David, a quietly thoughtful and visionary man in his own right, is exploring ideas for change: reducing the amount of tillage to lessen their carbon



Charlie Kenyon takes a tractor ride with her father, David.

Photo contributed

footprint; trying new grains, including oats, which his ancestor Barnum grew; improving yields and soil health and fertility; modernizing systems and technology; and designing new signage and even a possible future retail store for Nitty Gritty. He’s also confronting the two biggest issues that all farmers are facing today: the effects of climate change and a labor shortage.

Progress notwithstanding, he will carry on the Kenyon family’s values of hard work and integrity, much of which he credits to his father. “He’s a pretty good teacher. He’ll teach me some things and then let me make my own mistakes, because sometimes that’s the only way you can actually learn and remember.”

One of the most important lessons Tom imparted was the commitment to local food systems. It’s the reason Nitty Gritty was started, and it’s a big motivator for David as well. “We’re competing against 10,000- to 20,000-acre Midwest farms...and we’re never going to be able to survive at that price point.” Like his father, David intends to continue to “bring back a little more local identity to the grain that’s grown, so it’s not just going into billions of bushels that you have no idea where it’s from, or it has no unique

characteristics...” Jim Williams, the owner of Backdoor Bread in Charlotte and the former proprietor of Seven Stars Bakery in Rhode Island, is among the local artisans who benefit from that dedication. “The wheat that the Kenyons are growing is as good as anyone else’s. It performs well and it tastes incredible. Buying local grains is definitely what people are looking to do now, and a lot of it is because of the hard work that small farmers like Tom and Dave Kenyon have done.”

David hopes that his father and aunt will stay involved with the businesses for a long time. Family is important to him, now more than ever as he and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a daughter, Charlie, in May of this year. And though the first-time father won’t exert any pressure on his child to farm, just as his father didn’t on him, Charlie has already been on the tractor with David, snugly strapped into her car seat. It’s tempting, then, to imagine a ninth generation eventually succeeding him. “I would love to see Charlie working on the farm in the summer,” he admits freely. “I did that growing up and it was very formative for me.”





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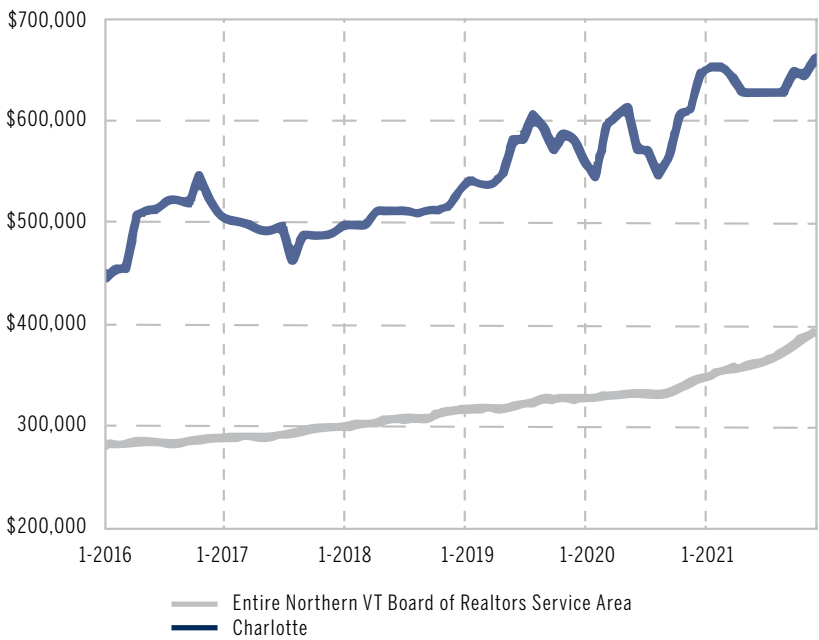
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## Check out this graph of sales information for Charlotte and the increase in home values since 2016.

(Information supplied by the Northern Vermont Board of Realtors)



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## Town

# The story of the tree calendar

Meg Berlin  
CONTRIBUTOR

I grew up loving small trees that I could climb. Apples trees and a large, old magnolia tree that grew on my parents' property were my favorites. On this land there were some unusual trees, such as a very large and shapely Camperdown elm and one of the few giant sequoias on the East Coast. So began for me a little love affair with trees, with me in wonder at how diverse they could be, their leaves and trunks each so different, and the spread of their branches so unique to their species. Now I want to pour over every book that exists on giant or ancient trees to learn of their size and their histories. I'd search out big trees wherever I traveled. There is, for example, an ancient yew tree in Scotland that my daughter and I once drove out of our way to see. The Fortingall Yew is said to be between 2,000 and 3,000 years old. Trees of such age or of tremendous size provoke awe in me because they have known our world before we existed. They are living history.

The massive and ancient slippery elm on Thompson's Point, the largest of its kind in the Northeast, finally died in 2016. It was said to be over 300 years old—older than our town itself! It lived, and grew, through generations of Charlotte townspeople, "watching," as it were, the activities of Thompson's Point as it went from a relatively solitary farm road to a full-scale seasonal community.

Some other trees are less well known and, in some cases, nearly invisible to the human eye because of their secret locations. A few I have seen in this town are a mystery to me—how they came to be the size they are, where some benevolent landowner must have decided against chopping it down and left it where it was, hidden in the woods or at the edge of a clearing where few can see it. In my search for big trees, I walked through cow pastures and across open fields waiting to be hayed; I tromped through woods and called many landowners seeking permission to walk their land. I confess to loving oak trees above all because of their size and utter majesty. Their trunks are massive beyond what we can comprehend, sometimes taking three or four people to encircle them with our arms outstretched. Even their enormous limbs reach out in all directions, grasping outward beyond their trunks. Many of their limbs would make handsome trees themselves! These trees are all survivors, having overcome drought and terrific windstorms, various blights and disease. They have withstood the test of time, for now.

If you are curious to see some of the giants, find my tree calendar at the following places: Charlotte Town Hall, the Charlotte Library, the Charlotte Senior Center, the Flying Pig Bookstore. Calendars are \$17.95 and proceeds go to Charlotte's Rutter Tree Fund.

The calendar itself is in commemoration of the late Larry Hamilton, Charlotte's first tree warden, in appreciation for his long community service to this town. With Larry's substantial knowledge of trees began a tradition that has carried over to subsequent town folk who have carried



Oak



Maple



Oak



Maple

Photos by Meg Berlin

on this planting. Through the generous support of the Rutter family, whose tree fund bears its name, a sizeable number of commemorative and honoring trees have been planted to memorialize local Charlotters. Many people do not know that over 500 roadside trees have been planted by the townspeople of Charlotte. Now, if you see a tree planted in front of Town Hall, at the town wildlife refuge or along our town's roads, it will be because of generous donations made by locals to support this tree fund.



Book review

Story of a Charlotte farm and orchard: New book by Vermont author

By Justin Trombly  
CONTRIBUTOR

A new book by Vermont author David Holmes probes what it means to be a Vermonter through chronicling the history of his family’s multigenerational farm.

The book, *On Being A Vermonter and the Rise of Fall of the Holmes Farm 1822-1923*, is the first case study of a Vermont farm from the early 1800s to the early 1900s.

The Holmes farm existed on Lake Champlain south of the Holmes Covered Bridge for 101 years until its demise in 1923. Published in October, the book draws on firsthand documents, photos and more to piece together a family history.

“Holmes’ new book is an important contribution to our understanding of Vermont’s history as a frontier region settled by tough, hard-working farmers and how that history shaped Vermont’s character up to the present day,” said David Moats, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Vermonter journalist.

“It is grounded in Holmes’ own family history and the detailed record found in letters and other documents,” Moats said, calling the book “rich in detail and insight.”

The Holmes farm, run by the author’s ancestors, boasted one of the largest apple orchards in New England and pioneered several techniques in the field. It was also a leading breeder of horses whose heritage can be traced to the Morgan horse—the Vermont state animal and one of the earliest American horse breeds.

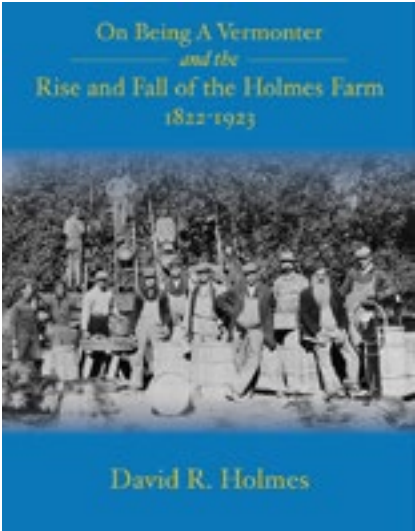
The farm’s 101-year enterprise crumbled due to foreclosure in 1923, and Holmes traces the resulting diaspora of his family and its transformation in a single generation.

“In many ways, this lovely book is about place and how a family is affected by place, and how a home translates (with a bit of luck) to a self,” said Jay Parini, an acclaimed Vermont-based novelist, biographer and poet.

By fastening his eye on his family and its past, Parini said that Holmes finds a “vivid present” in his book.

The chronicle examines not only the ups and downs of daily farm life, but also how the broader events of the century impacted the local business: the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918, World War I and more.

The book is a case study, not a memoir.



Holmes’ family story acts as a framework to examine greater trends in Vermont—and the identity of its residents.

What emerges is a common set of themes: grit, small-scale community, an appreciation of the land, and the type of humbleness that has defined rural Vermonters for decades.

That love of land—and the labor behind it—provides the backdrop for a generational cycle well-known in farm families: building and losing a farm, skimping on extras in down times, the trial of making a successful harvest. Members of the Holmes family looked to advance their education, too—paralleling the growing aspiration among Vermonters at the turn of the century to attend and graduate from college.

The book is published by the Center for Research on Vermont, an interdisciplinary network of scholars and community members housed at the University of Vermont that aims to increase our knowledge of the state—where it’s been and where it’s going.

The book is available from the Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury and can be ordered online at [vermontbookshop.com](http://vermontbookshop.com). Contact Emily Anderson ([Emily.K.Anderson@uvm.edu](mailto:Emily.K.Anderson@uvm.edu)) at the Center for Research on Vermont if you would like to schedule an author event.

Holmes and his wife, Toni Kiley Holmes, lived in Charlotte when he wrote a previous book of Vermont history, *Stalking the Academic Communist: The Firing of Alex Novikoff*, published in 1988 by the University Press of New England. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Middlebury College, a master’s from Columbia University and a doctorate from the University of Denver.

Food Shelf News

Susan Ohanian  
CONTRIBUTOR

In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning.... Food is better in November than any other time of year. — Cynthia Rylant, *In November*

You can read more good thoughts about November in prize-winning author Rylant’s picture book, *In November*, available just footsteps away at the Charlotte Public Library.

Or you can give Barbara Pym a try. Here’s her November comment: “It was a cold November day and she had dressed herself up in layers of cardigans and covered the whole lot with her old tweed coat, the one she might have used for feeding the chickens in.”

Certainly, we’re beginning to see those temperatures that have us putting on layers of cardigans. And this brings us to the very good news that the Kids Winter Clothes Program went off without a hitch. Tai Dinnan coordinated a community effort with Sally Wadhams, member of the Charlotte Grange, to provide 14 children with winter jackets, snow pants and boots. A special thanks to those who helped with donations, sorting and making sure every child has warm clothes this winter.

Charlotte Food Shelf volunteers have been busy preparing for the fast-approaching holidays. Thanksgiving dinner basket menu items are provided by grades K through 4 Charlotte Central School families and teachers. This great community outreach is coordinated by CCS staff member Betsy Lloyd.

Volunteers deliver the dinner baskets to the Food Shelf for registered families to pick up

curbside at the Food Shelf on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We give thanks to the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary, which is continuing their traditional generosity of providing a fresh turkey to each family.

The Food Shelf has a special November wish list: stuffing mixes, banana, cranberry and pumpkin-style bread mixes, canned cranberry sauce, fresh onions and potatoes, yams and fresh fruit (such as tangerines, apples and pears). Also: large aluminum pans for baking the turkey and anything festive to decorate the table. The Food Shelf needs these items by Nov. 17 in order to add them to the dinner baskets.

This November, let us all give thanks for the food on our tables and for the grace of living in our sharing community.

Please note: for emergency food, call John at 425-3130. For information on different types of assistance and eligibility, check the website: [charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf](http://charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf).

The website also contains information about other Vermont resources offering additional assistance.

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

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

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS  
November 1, 2021

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Development Review Board, Regular Member (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2025)
- Development Review Board, Regular Member (2 seats; term ending April 30, 2024)
- Development Review Board, Regular Member (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2023)
- Development Review Board, Alternate Member (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022)
- 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](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com). If you have questions, please e-mail or call 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.



# Sacred Hunter

## November Reflections



Bradley Carleton  
CONTRIBUTOR

It seems that every November my spirit longs for a simpler life. The stark barren trees seem to strip off all unnecessary accoutrements of modern life. It's a time of deep reflection and inner contemplation of our place here on this earth. If it appears that all this life offers is rewards for acquiring titles, possessions and money, we are missing the point. In November, the leaves tell us that the accumulation of these ideals can be shed in a moment when a cold north wind rips through our souls and we learn that they are not the substance of life that we all really wish with which to connect. My drive to deer camp for Opening Weekend of the traditional rifle season for deer (it's always 12 days before Thanksgiving—this year it will be Saturday, Nov. 13) is one of great excitement. To walk through the denuded woods, sprinkled with the season's first light covering of snow, is to relieve my spirit of the human belief that we need more than shelter, warmth, water and food.

My heart returns to the most intrinsic appreciation of what it is to hunt. To be alive and recognize that the elements I embrace have no more concern for my life than that of any other animal roaming the wilderness. I am on equal footing with Mother Nature. Clutching my rifle gives me the comfort of being able to defend myself or seek to participate in the Circle of Life by seeking another being to feed my body and spirit. For many, it is hard to understand how hunters can love the animal they seek to kill. This perception is too simplistic, for it is not about the kill. The hunt leads us to a deeper understanding of the animal—how, where and when it feeds, sleeps, and seeks

shelter the same as the hunter. The grace and majesty of a big buck cannot be overstated. To get a glimpse of such a magnificent beast requires that we understand the life of such. We study them. We study their tracks, their preferred travel routes for each of the wind directions, what the preferred food source is based on the crop of nuts, apples and grasses and when each of those is the most attractive. Examining each type of acorn, which ones are most abundant and where they are located, will lead us to learn that the white acorn is more attractive than the red variety.

And then there is "the rut." This mating ritual occurs each year, triggered by the lunar position, the amount of daylight each day, and the rising hormonal traits of each doe that is old enough to be bred. The buck will frequently alter his patterns to pursue the doe for three to four days, waiting for her to ovulate, giving off a time sensitive scent that signifies it is time to breed. The buck will deny his other instincts—finding food, finding shelter, even sleep to chase and breed as many does as he can in this brief period. The rut has three stages or peaks. The first is usually around the second or third weeks of October. The second peak coincides with the rifle season around the second and third weeks of November. This peak is the strongest. The third peak occurs in December during muzzleloader season.

When I have taken a buck from our camp, I stay with it as it passes into the next realm, praying for forgiveness. I put a sprig of cedar in its mouth as its last meal and express gratitude to the Great Spirit that the energy of grace and acceptance pass from this being into my own. I promise the departing spirit that I will honor and cherish the flesh to be shared with those people I love. I am very particular about who I share with. If they can

respect the deeply spiritual gesture of serving venison, I will prepare the meal in the most thoughtful and compassionate manner I can. Those who will not understand or accept this path will be respectfully not invited.

As I sit in front of the woodstove on the evening of Friday, Nov. 12, I will meditate on the next morning. I will walk down to the lower logging trail, then cut up into the recently cut timber. I will climb up the small ravine that acts as a funnel for deer travel, and in the dark, will try to locate the young pine tree with the little tunnel behind it. The first time I was looking for a stand I was "invited" into this shallow hidden divot by a snowshoe rabbit who scurried down the hole. He was my spirit animal that day, and I was blessed to witness a gorgeous 10-point buck that was out of range. After the big buck left, a small four pointer walked in front of me and stood there waiting. This is what the natives call "presenting." It is when an animal offers itself to you. The spirit of such an unselfish gesture is a blessing and is not to be ignored. It is moments like this that bind me to my nature. Whether we choose to capture its essence with a camera, or a rifle is a choice, both of which are honorable and should be



Photo by Bradley Carleton

accepted with gratitude. May the Great Spirit bless you with the understanding of why hunters seek this connection. Bradley Carleton is Executive Director of Sacred Hunter.org, a nonprofit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.

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# Charlotte Cooks

Attention, Charlotte cooks! Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with our readers?

*The Charlotte News* welcomes everyone to submit their favorites. Email Anna Cyr: [anna@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:anna@thecharlottenews.org).

## Our holiday family favorite for three generations: Carpet bag

From Bill Schubart

Buy a five-inch-thick slab of top-notch sirloin from a butcher. Slice a pouch in it on the top edge, going not quite to the ends, cut deep into it so it ends up like a woman’s handbag. (You will end up filling it and sewing it back up with a butcher’s needle and string.) Refrigerate until 10 hours before use, then hang at room temperature to get the sera out so it’s dry and at room temperature before you fill it and cook.

Meanwhile, two to three days prior, take a crock or a large jar you can cover and fill it partway with cheap sherry (I use New York State golden sherry). Add a little brandy or bourbon (not too much). I then add a 1/4 cup of tamari and a dash of balsamic vinegar. Fill this with shucked oysters, quartered shallots, good small cap mushrooms cut up into halves, and three small pieces of garlic. Let the whole mess fester for two to three days in a cool spot (or refrigerated).

When you’re ready to cook, simmer the marinade/stuffing long enough to soften all the veggies and cook the oysters a little. (The stuffing won’t cook much while broiling the meat, and you want the shallots and mushrooms soft enough to eat.) Then pour it into the pouch and sew it up, letting the liquid overflow into the broiling pan.

Sear the stuffed sirloin over a hot cast iron pan until nicely blackened on the outside, then add it back to the juices in the broiling pan, and broil it covered in a hot oven (375 degrees) or over a fire. Use a knife to see when it is done (black and blue is best). It is served in sidewise slices like a layer cake.

## Sausage, cranberry and apple stuffing

From Matt Jennings  
Vice President of Culinary  
Healthy Living Market & Café

**Serves 8-10**

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound mild breakfast sausage
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 cups sliced leeks, white and pale-green parts only, cleaned well (about 2 large leeks)
- 2 Granny Smith apples, cored and cut into a large dice
- 1 cup chopped celery with leaves
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 cup dried cranberries, rehydrated in boiling water for 15 minutes and drained
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage leaves
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 6 cups dried bread cubes (croutons)
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 2 to 3 cups chicken stock or vegetable stock
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper

### Procedure:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Saute the sausage in a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat until cooked through, crumbling coarsely with the back of a spoon, about 10 minutes.
3. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the sausage and drippings to a large bowl. Melt the butter in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Add the leeks, apples, celery and dried spices to the skillet and saute until the leeks are soft—about 8 minutes.
4. Mix in the drained cranberries, sage and rosemary. Add the mixture to the sausage, then mix in the croutons and parsley.
5. Next add the chicken stock a little at a time until the stuffing is very moist. Be sure not to overdo it; it shouldn’t be mushy. Season with salt and pepper. Place in a casserole dish. (The stuffing can be made to this point 2 days before Thanksgiving, refrigerated.)
6. Bake in a 14-inch oval or 9-by-13-inch rectangular casserole dish, and place, uncovered, in the oven for 20 to 30 minutes, until the top is crispy and the center piping hot. Remove and serve immediately.

## Venison Tenderloin with Plum Pepper Sauce

From Bradley Carleton

### Ingredients:

- 32 oz. venison loin or tenderloin (serves 4)
- 2 cups beef stock - substitute 2 bouillon cubes if necessary
- 8 oz. damson plum preserves
- 1/2 cup claret - substitute 1 cup cabernet sauvignon reduced to 1/2 cup
- Cracked peppercorns - substitute coarse ground pepper
- Avocado, peanut, sunflower oil or any oil w/ smoke point of 450 degrees plus
- 8 tbsp unsalted butter
- Salt

### Procedure:

- Reduce stock to half over medium high heat
- Add plum preserves
- Reduce heat to medium and cook for 4 minutes
- Add 2 tbsp cracked peppercorns - substitute 1 tsp coarse ground pepper
- Cook for 4-6 minutes, stirring occasionally

Remove from heat and set aside  
Slice tenderloin cross grain 1/2” thick  
Salt & pepper both sides  
In large skillet coat bottom with oil and increase heat to high  
Add 4 tbsp butter in 4 slices  
When butter is melted quickly transfer 16 oz. (1/2 of total) venison  
Sear venison over high heat  
When edges are slightly brown (roughly 1 minute), flip over and sear opposite side  
Meat should be kept rare (red in center - pink or brown will taste like liver)  
Remove and set aside  
Deglaze pan with claret or reduced cabernet  
Drain pan drippings into sauce  
Add more oil and remaining butter (4 slices)  
Return pan to high heat  
Repeat searing and deglazing, adding deglaze to sauce

Reheat sauce on low, stirring in drippings  
Ladle sauce over medallions and serve immediately

## PROPERTY TANSFERS SEPTEMBER 2021

**Sept. 2** Ferdinand Living Trust to Briar Alper & Susan Vigsnes, 2.19 +/- acres with dwelling, 329 Hills Point Road, \$2,700,000.

**Sept. 3** Southeast Property Acquisitions to Robert & Emily Caldwell, 16.20 +/- acres with Dwelling 3965 Lake Road, \$1,100,000.

**Sept. 9** Larilee B. & William Oran Jr. Suiter to Catherine Bock, .06 +/- acres with dwelling, 1 Common Way, \$300,000.

**Sept. 14** Kristine M. Najarian Trust to Robert & Suzanne Farrell, 1.02 +/- acres with dwelling, 157 Hills Point Road,

*This information was supplied by Jay Strausser and Nancy Warren, Four Seasons Sothebys International Real Estate.*

\$2,875,000.

**Sept. 14** Clark Hinsdale III to Johns H. II & Giovanna Brunini Congdon, 23.15 +/- acres With dwelling, 640 Bingham Brook Road, \$500,000.

**Sept. 21** KR Properties LLC to Nikolaus & Lauren Weinmeister, 58 +/- acres, land only, 626 One Mile Rd. Lot #4, \$249,000.

**Sept. 23** Michael & Celia Cazayoux to Christopher Tomkins-Tinch & Erica Lash, 3.79 +/- acres with dwelling, 27 Fire Pond Road, \$775,000.





# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news

Senior Center Staff

### Girls Scouts treat seniors

A big thank you to members of Girl Scout Troop #30066 and their leader Cindy Bradley. The scouts picked apples at Monkton Ridge Orchards, packed them in decorative bags, and delivered them to the Senior Center for seniors to enjoy. The bags were accompanied by a nicely laminated collection of terrific apple recipes. (Pictured on the right.)



### New courses added this week:

#### Wednesday Chair Yoga with Tiny Sikkes

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

This is another section of the Monday class.

(Please see the website for the description.)

#### 11/5 - Meditation with Charlie

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

Dates: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19—and continuing through the winter.

Come meditate with us on Friday mornings. Charlie Nardozi teaches a simple method of meditation, in which we sit quietly, eyes closed and focus on the breath, a mantra or watching our thoughts. Classes will include some *pranayama* (breathing techniques) that are safe and effective, a guided meditation and a simple chant. All are welcome, no experience necessary. Register by calling the Center at 425-6345.

### 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 use 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](http://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.

**Gentle Yoga** – Mon., 11 a.m.

**Pilates Plus** – Tue., 8:30 a.m.

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

**Essentrics** – Wed., 8:30 a.m.

**Chair Yoga** – Wed., 10 a.m. - NEW

**Pilates** – Thurs., 8:30 a.m.

**T'ai Chi for Beginners** – Thurs., 10 a.m. (now back on Zoom)

T'ai Chi - Advanced – Thurs., 11 a.m.  
Essentrics on 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 you can call from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sign up.

#### 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, 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 currently suspended.

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 Nov. 8. Suggested donation is still just \$5. Mealtime is 11:30-12:30.

Take-out may be requested.

#### Nov. 8 Menu

North Woods bean soup with kielbasa  
Salad, bread & beverage  
Homemade dessert



Trick-or-Treaters grab for goodies on Halloween at the Senior Center.

Photo by Jim Hyde

Menus are also posted on the CSC website: [CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org). Our café is spacious and airy. Call in for a take-out order.

### Thanksgiving reminder

Unfortunately, our annual Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner cannot be held again this year due to ongoing concerns about Covid-19. We certainly hope that things will be different next year!

Also note that the Center will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, and will reopen on Monday, Nov. 29, at 9 a.m.

### Art news

#### The November Art Exhibit

Jonathan Silverman's "Visual Dancing: The Interplay between Intent and Spontaneity" is still on display this month. 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? This is a great opportunity to meet other people, make new friends and to be part of our community. There's a special spot for you—whether you are available once a month for a couple of hours, or on a weekly basis. Contribute your ideas for courses or activities or perhaps lead a group. 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 that participants be fully vaccinated because these 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 in Charlotte, across from the Post Office. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or give us a call 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](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org).

We look forward to seeing you soon!



# Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

### Library Book Sale continues

Book Sale continues in the Library Program Room through November 30

Stop by during library hours to shop from the carefully curated collection of books. Many are in like-new condition and perfect for gifts in the upcoming season. Donations are no longer accepted, but there are plenty of great titles to choose from!

Back by popular demand! The Friends of the Charlotte Library are holding the second annual Get Cozy Raffle to provide cheer and goodwill. The centerpiece is a beautiful and comfy quilt made by Amanda Herzberger, and an assortment of great books surrounds it.

Tickets will sell for \$5 each, or five for \$20. Raffle dates: 11/3-12/16

The drawing date is 12/16 at 12 p.m. The system will randomly draw the winner. We will notify the winner by email and will also announce the winner on social media.

To enter the raffle, go to this page <http://go.rallyup.com/3a8686>.

All proceeds will benefit the Charlotte Library.

### Happening at the Library

#### Library Book Discussion Group: *The Night Watchman* Thursday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather, who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman. Register on the library website.

#### Book Chat is Back!

#### Begins Friday, November 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Join Margaret on Friday mornings at 9:30 to discuss new books, old books, and books we might have missed. Each week, Margaret selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Register for Book Chat on the library website.

#### Agricultural Literacy Week: November 15-21

Agricultural Literacy Week, hosted by NOFA-VT and the Vermont Department of Libraries, offers programming to highlight and celebrate local farms and the food system. This year's theme is **Land Connections**. Join NOFA-VT online on November 17 for a virtual song and story celebration of land connections with Joseph Bruchac and Jesse Bowman Bruchac. At the Charlotte Library, we celebrate these connections by highlighting the work of our Seed Library coordinators, who make available local and heirloom seeds for our community to grow and enjoy. In addition, we showcase the "Seeds of Food Sovereignty" project coordinated by the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe. Sign up to learn more about the Abenaki Land Link project at a virtual discussion with tribal leaders



and supporters on November 18. You can find details about both these events on the NOFA-VT Agriculture Literacy Week calendar here: <https://nofavt.org/events/agricultural-literacy-week-2021-we-are-land>.

More information about the Land Link "Seeds of Sovereignty" project can be found in this article from *Seven Days*: <https://bit.ly/3nFGGeKS>.

#### Mystery Book Group: *Looking for Rachel Wallace* Monday, November 15 at 10 a.m.

Rachel Wallace is a woman who writes and speaks her mind. She has made a lot of enemies—enemies who threaten her life. Spenser is the tough guy with a macho code of honor, hired to protect a woman who thinks that code is obsolete. Privately, they will never see eye to eye. That's why she fires him. But when Rachel vanishes, Spenser rattles skeletons in blue-blooded family closets, tangles with the Klan and fights for her right to be exactly what she is. He is ready to lay his life on the line to find Rachel Wallace. Register to join us on the library website.

#### Intro to Libby: Reading e-books and Audiobooks Wednesday, November 17 at 10 a.m.

Register for Libby intro.

Traveling for Thanksgiving? Audiobooks are great for car trips, and e-books won't

### On display at the Charlotte Library for the month of November.

Barbara Lane depicting beautiful scenes of Vermont and the coast of Maine.

For more information contact Brenda Myrick at [brendamyrickart@gmail.com](mailto:brendamyrickart@gmail.com)

Visit [brendamyrickart.com](http://brendamyrickart.com) to purchase prints.



take up space in your bag! Learn how to listen to and read books with Libby on your computer or device in a live Zoom session with tech librarian Susanna. It's all free with your library card! Need a library card? Sign up on the library website.

#### Men's Book Discussion: *All the Light We Cannot See* Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m.

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is 12, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

# Sports

Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

CVU teams and individuals performed well in state tournaments. Football, volleyball, soccer, cross-country running, field hockey all performed well late into the fall season. Football continued its winning ways at the end of October with a 35-12 win over Middlebury.

One unfortunate end came in the state women's cross-country run at Thetford Academy. Burlington High School girls topped CVU to end the Redhawks Division I crown for the first time in the last 13 years. CVU women finished second, five points behind BHS. Alice Kredell's third place was the top individual run. Redhawk men placed fourth.

In men's soccer play-downs, CVU shut out Spaulding 10-0 behind goals from seven different players. Redhawk goalies were called upon to make only four saves. But CVU's luck ran out in the following match with Mt. Mansfield last week, with CVU on the losing end. Final score was 2-0.

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