

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 15

Photo by Lee Krohn

Free weatherization supplies delivered to Charlotters

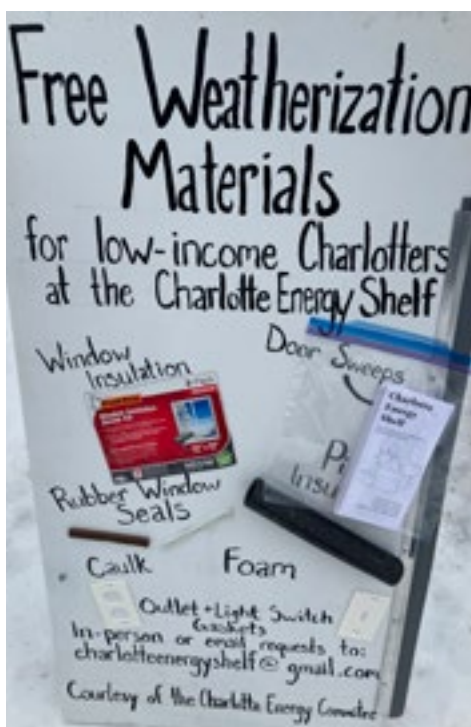
Marissa Green
CHARLOTTE ENERGY SHELF

The Charlotte Energy Committee has created the Charlotte Energy Shelf to connect low-to-moderate income Charlotters with no-cost weatherization materials and energy efficiency programs designed to help reduce their home's energy consumption.

High energy bills make life more difficult. For some families, heating bills make it harder to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing and childcare. That is why access to weatherization can make a big difference for some of Charlotte's families. Did you know weatherization reduces energy consumption by 15 to 30 percent on average? It is good for your wallet and good for the planet. It's a win-win! Sealing up your home for the winter saves you money, conserves energy, improves your indoor environment and supports community resilience.

The Charlotte Energy Shelf is offering the following materials at no charge: plastic window insulation, rubber window seals, door sweeps, threshold rubber seals, pipe insulation, outlet and light switch cover gaskets, foam, caulk, and low-flow showerheads. We also have application guns for caulk and foam available to borrow.

Supplies are easy to order by emailing Marissa at CharlotteEnergyShelf@gmail.com. Due to the Omicron surge, we are now offering free contactless drop-off of materials right to your door.



If you are interested in taking your home's energy efficiency even further, check out these resources. The Charlotte Library has a thermal camera you can borrow to visualize where your home has air or water leaks. CVOEO's Weatherization program (cvoeo.ternityhosting.com/get-help/weatherization) offers in-depth home weatherization at no cost for low-income Vermonters. Efficiency Vermont (efficiencyvermont.com) offers a multitude of home energy efficiency programs, rebates and instructional videos.

CVFRS President: Pay our rescue workers or lose 'em

Mara Brooks
CONTRIBUTOR

An appropriations increase requested by CVFRS for fiscal year 2022 was the hotly debated topic at the special Selectboard Meeting on Jan. 17, with the final decision to be made by town voters in March.

During an intense discussion Monday, CVFRS Corporate Board President Fritz Tegatz and Town Clerk Treasurer Mary Mead again locked horns over the nonprofit's \$930,526 appropriations request as they had at the regular Selectboard meeting on Jan. 10.

A visibly frustrated Tegatz accused the town of treating CVFRS's per diem rescue workers as "second class citizens" by failing to approve an 18 percent budget increase that would allow them to become full-time employees with benefits.

The cost to keep two Fire and Rescue staff on call for Charlotte residents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at an hourly wage of \$18-\$19, without benefits, is \$502,000, Tegatz said.

Selectboard member Matt Krasnow

said that because the Selectboard has no authority over how contractor CVFRS' budget is managed, the requested increase should be put before the taxpayers as a separate article they can vote on.

Tegatz disagreed.

"To penalize the Fire and Rescue employees by making them put their market adjustment up for a separate article when you haven't done that for the Senior Center [or] the library [or] for the clerk treasurer's office or anybody else is unfairly targeting our employees and treating them as second-class citizens," Tegatz said.

Mead has at recent budget meetings been outspoken about her belief that CVFRS's appropriation should be decreased, not increased. She argued that CVFRS, a private nonprofit, should seek outside grants and contribute its own special funds to help cover rising costs.

"Back in the olden days, [Fire and Rescue] applied for Homeland Security grants,

Evergreen Family Health Partners consolidating practice locations

Evergreen Family Health Partners
CONTRIBUTORS

Evergreen Family Health Partners is announcing consolidation of three of their four offices into one central location, which will reduce costs, increase efficiency, and stabilize the practice for the long term. A newly fit-up, modern medical practice at White Cap Business Park in Williston is planned for late summer to accommodate all practitioners and staff from Evergreen Family Health in Williston, including Evergreen Sports Medicine and X-ray, Evergreen Family Health in Essex Junction, and Charlotte Family Health Center, which is currently in temporary space at Shelburne Green. "We have been divided not only by the pandemic, but we have been physically separated into multiple sites as a result of growth fueled by the ever-rising need for high-quality primary care," reports Michael Johnson, M.D., managing partner. Alder Brook Family Health, located on Essex Way in Essex, joined the Evergreen Family Health Group in 2018; they will remain in their current location.

Evergreen became an independent medical practice in 2002. Charlotte Family Health Center joined the group in 2017 and relocated to Shelburne in 2019 while exploring a possible new building in Charlotte. Dr. Andrea Regan, Evergreen partner at the Charlotte practice, explained, "We looked for every opportunity to stay in the Shelburne/Charlotte area to remain convenient for our many local patients, but the ability to maintain a small independently owned office in Vermont's health care environment is challenging."

During 2021, several Evergreen Williston practitioners relocated to Main Street in Essex Junction to allow for more clinical space and physical distancing. Evergreen Sports Medicine was established as a consult service in 2020, with the addition of x-ray and two



additional sports medicine physicians. "It was the commitment to meet the strong demand for independent primary care practitioners, the need to accommodate more accessibility for our primary care and sports medicine patients, and to lower costs that necessitated our new facility," said Senior Partner Paul Reiss, M.D. "We are excited for our patients and our staff. We are confident that we can bring our culture of personal care to this wonderful new location, and trust that our patients will be supportive of this move.

The move will allow the efficiency of combining three laboratories and reception areas, reducing redundant equipment and phone/IT systems, while promoting improved teamwork between practitioners, nursing staff, mental health practitioners and other ancillary staff. On-site x-ray and social work services will become more broadly available, and Evergreen Sports Medicine will have further expansion space. Evergreen participates in the Vermont Blueprint for Health, and all offices are certified as patient-centered medical homes by the NCQA. They are committed to continued participation with government programs, including Medicaid and Medicare.

Evergreen has signed a long-term lease with White Cap Ventures to design and build a cost-efficient and modern facility that respects privacy, patient safety, and accommodates 18 practitioners. "Medical practices do not often move. This is a huge undertaking and we are approaching this transition with a very long-term perspective," adds Dr. Johnson.

Candidates Night at The Grange

The Grange will be holding its traditional Candidates Night on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library and *The Charlotte News*, this year's event, like last year's, will be held on Zoom. Join the zoom meeting by going to: tinyurl.com/4ebj3wvu.

This popular evening provides an opportunity for townsfolk to get to know the candidates standing for election at Town Meeting and a chance for those candidates to hear firsthand about

pressing issues on the minds of voters. The Grange is delighted that this year's Candidates Night will be moderated by Jonathan Silverman, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. Questions can be submitted during the evening or sent in advance to charlottegrangevt@gmail.com, which will help us structure the evening's proceedings.

See a list of candidates on page 2

News from The News

A warm welcome to Bill Regan

John Quinney
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that Bill Regan has been appointed to a four-year term on the paper’s board of directors.

After a distinguished career in the federal government, Bill and his wife, Nina, moved to Charlotte in the summer of 2019. Soon after arriving in town, Bill was looking for ways to get involved in the Charlotte community. He joined the Trails Committee because “I was very interested in getting to know Charlotte and doing what I could,” he said. “I love to hike and bike so the Trails Committee seemed like something that would promote those activities, increase community spirit, and be environmentally responsible.” Last spring, Bill was appointed chair of the committee.



Bill Regan

Currently, Bill is a Senior Fellow at the Energy Action Network in Montpelier, which

provides non-partisan analysis of Vermont’s energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions for governments, businesses and consumers. In addition, he has provided management and leadership training to the staff at Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington. Separately, he is finishing up a strategic planning project for Local Motion, the state’s leading advocacy group for walking and biking.

For his whole life, Bill has been an avid outdoor enthusiast, enjoying cycling, hiking, kayaking and cross-country skiing. Through his business, Regan Leadership LLC, he now teaches clients how to improve their outdoor recreation skills. This time of year, he is focused on teaching cross-country skiing at local areas like Trapp Family Lodge and the Catamount Outdoor Family Center. His passion for teaching has also led to opportunities indoors. He teaches a graduate seminar at Tufts University and guest lectures at UVM and Middlebury College. “I love being in the classroom and encouraging students to consider public service,” he said.

In a Dec. 16 opinion piece written for *The News*, Bill described himself as “an avid

consumer of local, national and international news, whose first career was devoted to researching and writing about foreign affairs, and then managing staff writers and editing their work. In short, I have spent a lot of time thinking about what stories are told and how writers tell them.”

He went on to write, “The goal of *The Charlotte News* should be to help inform the public’s understanding of the issues that impact them and help inform the Selectboard and the town’s various commissions and committees so they can make better decisions.”

Upon his appointment to the board, Bill said, “I am honored to join *The News* at this time. Our community—as well as our country—needs high-quality, objective and dispassionate journalism to help citizens and decisionmakers navigate the complex challenges facing us. We also need mechanisms like vibrant local papers to bring us together as a community. My goal is to help *The News* deliver both.”

We’re looking forward to working with you, Bill. Welcome aboard.



Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is:

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

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

Editorial independence

The editor makes final decisions on stories that are published in *The Charlotte News*. While we are funded by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news judgments are made in accordance with our mission and are independent of all sources of financial support.

Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

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

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

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Anna Cyr
(anna@thecharlottenews.org)
Contributing Editor: Edd Merritt
Copy editors: Beth Merritt, Katherine Arthaud
Proofreaders: Edd Merritt, Mike & Janet Yantachka

Business Staff

Ad manager: Christy Hagios
(ads@thecharlottenews.org)
Bookkeeper: Susan Jones
(billing@thecharlottenews.org)

Board Members

President & Publisher: John Quinney
(john@thecharlottenews.org)
Treasurer: Margery McCracken
(treasurer@thecharlottenews.org)
Board members: Bob Bloch, Susanne Davis, Ben Miller, Gay Regan, Bill Regan, John Hammer (emeritus), Vince Crockenberg (emeritus)
Technical advisor: Melissa Mendelsohn, Orchard Road Computers
Website: thecharlottenews.org

Subscription Information

The Charlotte News is delivered at no cost to all Charlotte residences. Subscriptions are available for first-class delivery at \$60 per calendar year. Want a subscription? Please send a check payable to *The Charlotte News*, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Postmaster/Send address changes to:

The Charlotte News, P.O. Box 251,
Charlotte, VT 05445 Telephone: 802-425-4949
Circulation: 2,100
Copyright © 2022 TCN, Inc., dba
Member of the New England Newspaper
and Press Association, LION Publishers
and the Vermont Press Association.



Charlotte Food Shelf and Assistance
421 Church Hill Road, Charlotte

New winter hours:

Open 4 to 6 p.m.
on the second and fourth
Wednesday of each month

Contact Information

For Emergency Food, call
John: 802-425-3130.

For Information, call:
802-425-3252.

Monetary Donations:

Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc.,
P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445

Website: charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf

On the ballot, Town Meeting Day, March 1.

The following people submitted Consent of Candidate forms to Town Clerk, Mary Mead, by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24. They will appear on the ballot on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday March 1. Several will be available to answer questions from voters on Candidates Night, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16.

Auditor (3 Yrs)	Richard E. Mintzer
Auditor (1 of 3 Yrs)	Vacant
Cemetery Commissioner (3 Yrs)	Vacant
Cemetery Commissioner (1 of 3 Yrs)	Vacant
Delinquent Tax Collector (1 Yr).....	Mary A. Mead
Library Trustee (5 Yrs)	Janice Heilmann
Road Commissioner (1 Yr)	Hugh Lewis Jr.
Selectboard (2 Yrs)	Louise Mccarren
Selectboard (3 Yrs)	James M. Faulkner
Town Moderator (1 Yr)	Charlie Russell
Trustee Of Public Funds (3 Yrs)	Vacant
Trustee Of Public Funds (1 of 3 Yrs)	Matthew Krasnow

The Charlotte News

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:
ads@thecharlottenews.org

SEND YOUR CHARLOTTE NEWS TO:
news@thecharlottenews.org

NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

February 10, 2022

Copy Deadline: Friday, Feb. 4
Ads Deadline: Friday, Feb. 4

February 24, 2022

Copy Deadline: Friday, Feb. 18
Ads Deadline: Friday, Feb. 18



Report from the Legislature

Artificial intelligence: Opportunity and risk



Rep. Mike Yantachka

Jeopardy host:
In the category “Technology,” systems (usually software) capable of perceiving an environment through data acquisition and then processing and interpreting

the derived information to take action or imitate intelligent behavior given a specified goal.

Watson: *What is artificial intelligence?*

Many years ago, I went through a period of reading Isaac Asimov’s novels about robots, the kind that exhibited human functions, what we would call androids today. His first robot novel *I, Robot* was a collection of short stories about robots with human-like personalities that performed various jobs, like childcare, for example. Robots and androids have been a staple of literature from ancient times (search “robots in literature”), and most of us are familiar with those of the *Star Wars* anthology. We aren’t quite at the C3-PO stage yet, but the artificial

intelligence that the robots of science fiction exhibited has become a reality with the development of high-powered computers today.

We are surrounded by artificial intelligence, also known as “AI,” whether we recognize it or not. The first AI algorithm was created and used successfully to master the game of checkers in 1956 by Dartmouth scholars. Fast forward to 2011 when IBM’s supercomputer, dubbed “Watson,” competed against two *Jeopardy* champions and won. The dialog at the top of this column did not actually take place, but it serves to define what AI is. Today we use AI to guide us to destinations, predict the weather, translate languages, for facial recognition, and many other applications. AI is used for scientific research, medical diagnoses, autonomous vehicles and more; and the government, including the Defense Department, funds advanced research in AI. AI is the source of many benefits, but it can also pose a risk if it is used improperly. For example, ubiquitous use of facial recognition threatens our expectations of personal

privacy. And systems that determine eligibility for services can have built-in biases.

Already, AI is creating a wave of economic growth in Vermont with high-paying jobs in this field. The Legislature recognizes both the economic potential and the potential for abuse associated with AI development and use. Act 137 of 2018 created an Artificial Intelligence Task Force to investigate the field of artificial intelligence in the state and make recommendations on the responsible growth of Vermont’s emerging technology markets, the use of artificial intelligence in state government, and state regulation of the artificial intelligence field. The task force’s report was issued in January 2020 and can be found at legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Artificial-Intelligence-Task-Force-Final-Report-1.15.2020.pdf.

The report states that “there is in fact a role for local and state action, especially where national and international action is not occurring. Large-scale technological change makes states rivals for the

economic rewards, [whereas] inaction leaves states behind. States can become leaders in crafting appropriate responses to technological change that eventually produces policy and action around the country.”

Members of my committee, Energy and Technology, worked on a bill, H.410, over the summer that implements some of the recommendations of the Task Force, and we voted it out of committee last week. It creates an AI Commission under the auspices of the Agency of Digital Services and requires a survey of all software applications purchased, developed or used by State of Vermont agencies or departments. We want to know if any applications use AI, how it is used, and the potential impacts on Vermont citizens. The bill is awaiting action by the Appropriations Committee and will eventually be voted on by the full House.

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to correct Lane Morrison’s description of the size of Vermont Commons School. When Mr. Morrison presented to the Selectboard (1/10/22) in favor of Vermont Commons School, he was incorrect in his facts. VCS has approximately 110 students per VCS zoning application (10/05/21), almost twice as many as Mr. Morrison stated. In these many meetings, we have all had errors (there are hundreds of pages of documents and so many meetings); at one meeting I mistakenly said dirt bikes, rather than mountain bikes (I ride horses, not bikes—oops!), but the chair of the Zoning Board (and now DRB) should present accurate facts, especially when choosing to speak in favor of an applicant in front of the Selectboard.

Sincerely,
Sarah Thompson

Support your library

For more than 30 years The Charlotte Library has helped to engage, inspire, educate and entertain our community with its collection of books, publications, activities and programs as well as through broad community outreach. From its modest beginning in the elementary school to its relocation to the Town Green, the library has strived to be a welcoming meeting place for Charlotters of all ages and interests.

We are writing to ask our wonderful community for continued support of their library and to vote yes on Article 5 on March 1.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone. Fortunately, The Charlotte Library has remained committed to ensuring continued access to all its offerings while prioritizing the health and safety of patrons and staff. The librarians have found new and creative ways to provide materials and programs “to go” through porch pick-up and extensive online offerings. Many have enjoyed ongoing book groups and other programs via Zoom. Others have taken activity bags for local “kids at home” projects with their families. The public’s growing

demand for these new offerings reflects increased need and responsiveness during these challenging times.

Two years ago, the size of the library nearly doubled. Despite the increase in square footage, the operating budget (all line items except salaries) remains unchanged. This is due largely to the installation of energy-saving heat pumps and insulation retrofits to increase energy efficiency during the renovation of the original building. In addition, some operating costs have been defrayed by successfully competing for state and federal grants and by the efforts of a large and growing group of volunteers of all ages who contribute many hours to routine chores and special fundraising events such as the book sale, the art sale, the quilt raffle, etc. Also, we remind you that the original library and half of the new addition were entirely paid for by private donations.

The Selectboard recently initiated a survey of the salaries of all town employees. The survey recommended an increase in the salaries of all long-term town personnel, including library staff. The outside evaluators also found the library staff “exceptional” in all five of the

study’s performance criteria.

We ask that you continue to support your library by voting “yes” on Article 5. In the absence of Town Meeting, it is absolutely crucial that as many citizens as possible get out and vote. Absentee ballots are available at Town Hall for those who cannot vote on March 1.

If you have any questions or concerns about your library, please contact us directly. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing encouragement and support.

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees
Anne Marie Andriola
annemarieandriola@gmail.com
Katharine Cohen
katharinecohen@hotmail.com
Nan Mason
anne.mason@uvm.edu
Jonathan Silverman
jsilverman@smcvt.edu, Chair
Robert Smith
rsmith1971@hotmail.com

Know someone interesting in Charlotte?
We want to interview them and share their story.

Email news@thecharlottenews.org

The **Charlotte News**

KILEY LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Full Service Landscape Installation

Stone Work—
Walls, Steps, Walks & Patios

Plantings

Tree Spade

Excavation—
Ponds, Waterlines,
Grading, Land Clearing,
Mini-Excavation on Call

Est. 1993
Deedle Kiley • 425-2882

Opinion — Charlotte: Where do we go from here?.....

Cataracts

Peter Joslin
FORMER CHAIR OF THE CHARLOTTE
PLANNING COMMISSION

Five or six years ago I realized I was seeing halos around lights at night and there appeared to be something compromising my vision, a lack of clarity, haziness that seemed to come and go. My optometrist confirmed my problem: cataracts. About a month later I had them removed. As a painter, I was excited and anxious to see the difference. It was remarkable. A veil had been lifted, the whites in the corrected eye were pure and neutral, colors richer. I had no idea cataracts had altered my vision so significantly. It happened over many years. So slow, it was imperceptible until it became obvious something was wrong. I expect you know where I’m going with this: I believe we, as a town, are hindered by cataracts, and we have been unable to see the subtle but persistent infill of development in the rural areas of town while the villages remain static.

Let’s take a step back. Approximately 40 years ago the town enacted the Planning Commission’s density requirements in an effort to prevent sprawl. The regulations stipulated a minimum lot area of five acres per residential dwelling unit in the rural, village, village commercial and commercial/light industrial districts, and one acre for non-residential. The

town was rightly concerned that sprawl would destroy what was most cherished by Charlotters and what made the town so unique—vast open spaces, farms, beautiful vistas, woodlands and streams, described in the Town Plan as “areas of high public value.” Planned Residential Developments (PRDs) were another tool that enabled the Planning Commission (now the Development Review Board) to cluster housing to minimize impacts on areas of high public value.

Concerns to protect areas of high public value and limit sprawl were front and center in the original Town Plan of 1969, then called the “Charlotte Comprehensive Plan.” In its introduction it stated: “It was apparent that if we did not plan for ourselves someone else would plan for us; or, perhaps worse, no one would do any planning at all, and the growing urban and suburban sprawl at our borders would just move on through our area without restraint or thoughtful direction.” Prescient words from 1969! Under the heading “Charlotte’s Future,” it spoke about growth: “The county’s [Chittenden] growth will exert its influence on the growth of Charlotte and, if the trend continues, our town will have between 5,000 and 6,000 or more people by the start of the next century.” It referenced cultural and economic growth while protecting “the great natural values it already has,” concluding with,

“Essentially, these problems [growth] can be reduced to answering two major questions—what do we have? and what should we do with it?”

Good questions and especially pertinent today. Do we continue the slow and persistent infill in the rural districts while the villages remain stagnant, or make a concerted effort to focus growth in the village areas? The 2018 Charlotte Town Plan stipulates in goals for tomorrow, “To reinforce historic settlement patterns by focusing growth in our hamlets, and east and west villages, while conserving Areas of High Public Value.”

Under Housing Policies, the Town Plan stipulates:

- 1.c. Development in the village districts should be encouraged. Such development should consider planned improvements and capital expenditures and allow for the adequate provision of services.
- 1.d. New development in the village areas should provide strong visual, vehicular and pedestrian connections to the existing settlement and infrastructure.

And under Housing Strategies:

- 3. Evaluate strategies for the possible development in and around existing villages, including the analysis of existing and planned facilities (e.g., wastewater, water supply, runoff, highway access and Complete Streets.

This goal can be traced all the way back to the “Comprehensive Plan” of 1969: “Charlotte and East Charlotte Villages

and the Mutton Hill area are portions of the Town which may develop in greater density, but still remain an equivalent of one residence per acre, provided that these areas can meet state health department and local board of health standards for sewage disposal. Such areas could provide the conveniences and other advantages of community life desired by families and individuals, especially those with young children or older, retired people.” Note that in 1969 the density requirement was one acre.

During Governor Scott’s fiscal budget address on Jan. 18, he stated, “Right now, the supply of modestly priced homes for sale is practically non-existent. As of December, the median home price was more than \$369,000. As of last week, according to the Vermont Association of Realtors, there were only 136 homes for sale that a middle-income family can afford, and only five in Chittenden County.” Not surprisingly, there are none in Charlotte.

The population of Charlotte is 3,754, lower than the estimate of 5,000-6,000 made in 1969. Enrollment at Charlotte Central School, from data supplied by CCS, indicates below-average enrollment for the last eight years. In 2004, total enrollment in grades 1-8 was 464, compared to 328 in 2021, a 29 percent decline.

So, where do we go from here? It’s time to remove the cataracts and develop new strategies to focus growth in and around the village areas, retain the open land and farms we cherish, reduce the cost of housing to enable people of various income levels to become part of the town fabric. This is what the Town Plan has stipulated since its inception in 1969.

Town

Charlotte Shelburne Hinesburg Rotary welcomes high school participants for a speech contest

The Charlotte Shelburne Hinesburg Rotary club will hold the Club Round of Rotary District 7850 High School Speech Contest on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 a.m. at Shelburne Methodist Church. Students are asked to prepare and deliver a five-minute speech that relates to the question: *How can your school partner with Rotary to change lives?*

Participants must be high school students and reside in Charlotte, Shelburne or Hinesburg.

The winner of the Club Round (\$100 cash prize) will advance to the Area Round (\$200 cash prize) to be held before March 31, 2022. The winner of the Area Round will head to the District Round (\$500 cash prize, \$250 for runner-up) on May 7, 2022 at Jay Peak Resort.



For more information or to register, please email Carrie Fenn at carriefenn@gmail.com.

CVFRS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and they were very good at it, and they saved us a lot of money," Mead said. "We shouldn't have to be having to pay for all these extra things on top of it. It's just not okay."

Mead suggested the Selectboard also reduce CVFRS's capital reserve fund line item from \$150,000 to \$110,000, explaining that in 2021 the nonprofit had not managed to spend its full budget, yet they requested the same amount this year.

Krasnow agreed.

"At \$110,000 I think we could maintain the structure that we have and revisit this with CVFRS's corporate board when we review the MOU (Memorandum of Agreement)," Krasnow said.

Tegatz said he was "struck" that the Selectboard allowed Mead to "run the budget meeting," as it was "not her job."

"Year after year she decides to badger the fire department," Tegatz said. "I don't understand why she is given that latitude."

Resident Catherine Hughes said that according to local news source *The Charlotte Bridge*, Charlotte's Fire and Rescue budget was "almost twice as much" as similar budgets for neighboring towns, Hinesburg and Shelburne.

"That concerns me as a taxpayer," Hughes said.

Tegatz explained that the Town of Hinesburg does not have a rescue service of its own but pays Richmond rescue to provide paramedic services, the cost of which "isn't included in the number that you see [in *The Charlotte Bridge*]."

Mead suggested leveling CVFRS's budget "back to the budget of 2021" because the contractor's increase was "not justified."

Tegatz responded by reminding Mead that, unlike the rescue workers whose benefits she wanted to cut, she would

enjoy a wage increase this year.

"Why should we give payroll cuts to the people across the street, while Mary [Mead] and other people at the Town Hall are getting payroll increases?" Tegatz asked the board.

Selectboard Chair Jim Faulkner said that, while it "would be nice" if the CVFRS could agree to a reduction in budget costs, "I think maybe that's not possible under the circumstances."

"We requested a paid employee for a manager because the volunteer ones are not there anymore," Tegatz said. "Nobody wants to volunteer to go through this crap every year for free."

The Selectboard agreed that if CVFRS finds the right manager at a later date the two boards will work together to cover the employee's salary.

"If we find this person later in the year, I'm sure our special funds can make [up] a significant portion of [the salary]," Tegatz said.

Mead remained unconvinced.

"You guys (CVFRS) need to put into your budget a few more grants and some special funds and reduce the cost to the Town of Charlotte," she said.

Krasnow compared CVFRS costs with similar costs involved in investing in an insurance plan.

"We don't get to choose how much we pay for insurance," Krasnow said. [Fire and Rescue] is an insurance policy on every house and every life in town. I personally support the budget and I support the work they're doing."

"If someone's house is on fire, or someone is having a heart attack, that's the priority," member Lewis Mudge said.

Tegatz agreed with the plan to make the appropriation request a separate article. "The town can vote on whether they want ambulance service or not," he said.

Around Town

Congratulations:

to **Rachel Morse Scarborough** of Castle Rock, Colorado, who earned the 2021 American Society of Landscape Architects/Colorado Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Honor Award for serving as the lead designer for the Montbello Space Park in Denver. Her group took a degraded vacant site in Northeast Denver and turned it into an ecologically sound, much-needed open space and outdoor learning laboratory. Rachel is the daughter of Jim and Gretchen Morse of Charlotte.

to **Amelia Anair** of Charlotte, who earned placement on the Dean's List with distinction for the fall semester, 2021 at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania. A native of Charlotte, Amelia is a communication arts major. The daughter of James and Jennifer Anair, Amelia graduated from Trinity Baptist School.

to **Cassandra Franklin**, an upcoming senior at Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, who grew up in Charlotte and who earned placement on the college's Deans List with High Honors. She is a biological sciences major.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Matthew Stevens** of Essex Junction, who passed away at the age of 81 after a seven-year battle with kidney and heart disease. His surviving family includes his stepdaughter Mary Patnaude and her husband, Jason, of Charlotte. The family asks that those wishing to recognize Matthew through donations consider giving to the McClure Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, VT 05446.

is extended to family and friends of **Ann E. Cleary** of Boynton Beach, Florida, who passed away on Jan. 13 at the age of 89. Ann and her husband, Jack, moved to Vermont in 1978. A Catholic practitioner, she served as Minister of Holy Communion for several years at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Charlotte. Donations in her memory may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (jdrf.org).

is extended to family and friends of **Thomas Hart** of South Burlington, who passed away Dec. 19 at the age of 79. Tom taught at Champlain Valley Union High School and created and directed the Life Program which is now in its 50th year. Weightlifting became his passion after he retired from teaching.

Advertise with us and let us create your next ad!

The **Charlotte News**
Contact ads@TheCharlotteNews.org

Invest in comfort



- ✓ Schedule an energy audit
- ✓ Invest in weatherization
- ✓ Air seal & insulate your home
- ✓ Save money & energy

Call to Schedule Your Home Energy Audit!

Solar ✓ Weatherization ✓ Construction ✓ Heat Pumps ✓



Call Today! 802-859-3384

A Vermont Owned and Operated Business
Serving the Green Mountain State Since 1981

www.BuildingEnergyVT.com

Outdoors Wildfire!



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

Thursday, December 30, 12:58 p.m.: Immediate Mandatory Evacuation of the town of Superior, all 13,000 residents. No warning.

By midnight, nearly 1,000 houses in Superior and neighboring Louisville were incinerated and 6,000 acres of grassland torched. As many as 35,000 evacuees, including this correspondent, were sleeping poorly, if at all, in shelters, with friends and relatives or in hotels. (It would be nearly 36 hours before our daughter Victoria could confirm that their family home had been spared—and only by a few blocks.)

On that Thursday we were staying at Victoria’s home in Superior, Colorado, a Denver suburb. Victoria returned from an errand around 12:30 p.m. and told us that Marshall Mesa, a few miles away, was on fire in several locations. She had feared that her Nissan Leaf might blow over on the highway. Victoria tuned in to Boulder dispatch and within minutes told us to start packing. Then she confirmed the order to evacuate—immediately.

John occupied our little grands while Victoria and I shoved clothes, medications, electronics and stuffed animals into duffle bags. With snow in the forecast, we filled canvas bags with mittens, hats, jackets and boots. We grabbed armloads of photo albums and a bag of dog food. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* went atop the growing pile of possessions in the garage. We crammed our cars to the roof, loaded the kids and dog and started to drive away from the smoke. As we backed out of the driveway, Victoria’s husband, Travis, arrived home from work, too late to do anything except turn

around and flee with us.

Then we sat in nearly unmoving traffic. Two lanes inched forward while emergency vehicles raced around us, even on sidewalks and lawns. Smoke billowed behind us and permeated the car. Sirens everywhere—ambulances, fire trucks from across the state, volunteers, police, sheriffs. More smoke, darker brown now, and wind gusts that rocked our big car. After nearly two hours we were still a stone’s throw from home. We crept toward a traffic light where a major road would take us away from this nightmare, but only a handful of cars advanced on each green light. Miles of evacuees were backed up, and we inched forward four cars at a time. Behind us 100 mph wind gusts were driving the flames.

On the evening news, one firefighter said, “You don’t fight a fire like this, you get out of the way and hope the wind dies down.” The exact cause of the fire has not been established but it hardly matters. The fuel was tens of thousands of acres of parched grass. There had been scarcely any rain since spring. Snow usually falls during the autumn months, but Denver had broken its record for no snow so late in the season. And then there was the wind.

Wind + Fuel = Tragedy

The weather forecast for that Thursday was for dangerously high winds with elevated fire danger.

Like much of the west, Colorado is experiencing an unprecedented drought, turning standing timber and dry grass into ready fuel. When a forest burns the fuel is consumed and it takes years for new trees to repopulate the land. Meanwhile, grass regrows each spring and desiccates during hot and dry



Above: Former Superior neighborhood. Below: Evacuated but not moving in traffic as smoke gets closer.
Photos by Elizabeth Bassett

summers; the risk of grass-fueled wildfires persists. Hundreds of thousands of acres of open grassland extend north and west of Denver, one of many quality-of-life features of the region. Those acres could burn again next year and the next and the next....

High winds are nothing new for Boulder. In January 1910, the local paper reported wind-driven fires in Marshall, where the 2021 conflagration began. Since 1967, the Boulder area has experienced at least 15 windstorms with gusts exceeding 100 mph and nearly two dozen events with winds in the 70 to 90 mph range. During a 1982 storm, a gust measured 137 mph.

Locally, these high winds or *chinooks* occur almost every year due to a combination of topography, the north-south orientation of the Rocky Mountains, and the general movement of continental air from west to east. The air flows up and over the Rockies. The National Weather Service notes, “Mid- and upper-level winds over Colorado are much stronger in winter than in the warm season because of the huge temperature difference from north to south across North America.” These circumstances can create the strong, dry, warm winds that tore across the region on Dec. 30.

Add parched grasslands and the danger is exponential. NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) says that when its moisture content is less than 30 percent, fuel is considered to be dead. Dead fuels respond to environmental conditions and determine fire potential. With relative



humidity readings in the mid-20-percent range, the dried grass exploded into walls of flame. It is estimated that moisture content in the grass was likely less than 10 percent, possibly as low as 1 percent.

In his poem, “Fire and Ice,” Robert Frost intones,
*Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.*
Not I.

WE ♥ OUR VT LIFE

When it comes to selling or buying your home in Vermont, heart matters. With a cutting edge approach and a Vermont-grown touch, we put our hearts into everything we do for you. And the results say it all!

550 HINESBURG RD. | S. BURLINGTON
802.343.9433 | 802.578.9552

FourSeasonsSIR.com
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

Contact us today for a free consultation!

CANDIDATES NIGHT

at The Grange

Wednesday, Feb. 16
7 to 9 p.m.

Sponsored by the Charlotte Library and The Charlotte News

This popular evening provides an opportunity for townfolk to get to know the candidates standing for election at Town Meeting and a chance for those candidates to hear firsthand about pressing issues on the minds of voters.

The Grange is delighted that this year’s Candidates Night will be moderated by Jonathan Silverman, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. Questions can be submitted during the evening, or sent in advance to charlottegrangevt@gmail.com, which will help us structure the evening’s proceedings.

This year’s event, like last year’s, will be held on Zoom by going to: tinyurl.com/4ebj3wvu

Hi Neighbor!

Ted and Anne Castle: A family business dedicated to doing good



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Ted and Anne Castle are proud to say that Rhino Foods was behaving like a B Corporation before that title existed. Certified B corporations are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions on their workers,

customers, suppliers, the community and the environment. “We met some of the people from B lab,” Ted said, “and we wanted to be part of that mission and movement. We felt that their accreditation and audit process was good and we could use it as a guide to improve ourselves.”

Rhino Foods has come a long way since it was founded in September 1981. At that time, Anne was running Chessy’s Frozen Custard in the Champlain Mill. The couple decided to expand the business into a restaurant supplier and wholesale operation. “We were on our way to meet the lawyers,” Ted said. “We needed a name to incorporate and Anne came up with Rhino.” At the time, the name didn’t seem important because Chessy’s was their main business. Although neither Anne nor Ted had a particular interest in the animal, they both agree that it’s an apt name for the company. “Rhinos are big, strong beasts,” Ted said. “They are agile in spite of their size and they have strong families.”

When Anne started Chessy’s, Ted was working at the University of Vermont as the Assistant Men’s Hockey Coach, but after he left that position he joined Chessy’s as Anne’s assistant. Eventually they sold the original business to concentrate on Rhino and Anne stepped back to raise the couple’s two sons. Rooney is now vice president of the company. Ned has his own business doing video and photography and is responsible for a lot of the content on the Rhino website, as well as working part-time for the Rhino Foods Foundation.

Established in 2019, the foundation is a way to help formalize the company’s Income Advance Program. “We came up with the idea after a United Way training for Bridges out of Poverty,” Ted said. “Like many small businesses, we sometimes paid people early or loaned them money when they needed help, but we decided to be more proactive, so we set up an account with North Country Federal Credit Union.” Since the start of the program, over 500 Rhino employees

have received roughly half a million dollars in emergency funding. The foundation was created so the program could grow independently of the corporation.

Another Rhino Foods initiative is the Employee Exchange Program, which began in the early 1990s. “One of our largest customers had a high inventory and didn’t need any product,” Ted said. “We only had 40 people then, but we didn’t want to let anyone go because we knew we’d need them in a few months.” Under the Employee Exchange Program, Rhino loans out workers to those who need additional seasonal employees. This winter, several worked for Lake Champlain Chocolates, but in previous years, Vermont Teddy Bear, Gardeners’ Supply, Resolution, and Ben & Jerry’s have been recipients. “We send the other company a bill,” Ted said. “Our employees get exposure to another business while staying on our payroll and keeping their benefits.”

In addition to their charitable work at Rhino, both Ted and Anne are consummate volunteers. Ted has served on the board of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, Shelburne Farms, Inc., and the Community Sailing Center. Anne followed Ted to the Prevent Child Abuse Vermont board and has also volunteered at Charlotte Central School and Champlain Valley Union High School. Prior to the onset of COVID, she spent well over a decade doing a weekly shift at the Ronald McDonald House. The two have also volunteered for Special Olympics for a dozen years.

Rhino Foods has grown in its four decades of operation to a 250-person corporation. “We’ve had a lot of ups and downs,” Anne said, “but I’m extremely proud of what Ted has done, particularly his great relationships with employees.” Ted notes that the company never had a goal of growing to a particular size and has always remained privately owned. “We’ve put most of our efforts into workplace practices and sharing them with others,” he said, adding that the Income Advance Program is now in place at 70 other companies. “It has helped over 1,000 individuals who might have lost their jobs because they might have needed new tires or a water heater,” he said. “I believe business is where the action is, and you can make your biggest change there, either positively or negatively.”



Left to right: Rooney, Anne, Ted and Ned stand at the Rhino entrance at their Burlington office. Photo contributed



Photo taken at a State House event around 1990. Left to right: Anne, Ted holding son Rooney, standing is their son Ned. Photos contributed

Update the look of your home or business

- Quality Craftsmanship
- Courteous Customer Care
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Free Estimate
- Lead Certified
- Fully Insured

802-345-2038 or
classicshadespainting@gmail.com
Local references available.

CLASSIC
SHADES
PAINTING

High quality work
at an affordable price

NOTICE TO VOTERS For Local Elections

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by January 31, 2022. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 9, 2022.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on February 28, 2022. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Paper Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT:

For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in "Voted Ballots" box.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.



WARNING TOWN OF CHARLOTTE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Charlotte Town Hall & Town Office, 159 Ferry Road in said Town, on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 to vote on the following articles by Australian ballot to begin at seven o'clock in the forenoon and to close at seven o'clock in the afternoon.

BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article 1: Will the voters of the Town vote, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4773, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2022 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer as receiver of taxes?

Article 2: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services, Inc. from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2022-23?

Article 3: Will the voters of the Town approve the Selectboard's budget of \$2,616,067 for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,104,610 will be raised by property taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,511,457 will be raised by non-tax revenues?

Article 4: Will the voters of the Town approve an allocation of \$890,526 to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, Inc. for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, to be raised by property taxes?

Article 5: Will the voters of the Town approve an allocation to the Charlotte Library for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 of \$283,515, to be raised by property taxes?

Article 6: Will the voters of the Town approve raising a sum of \$50,000 by property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for the purpose of funding a feasibility study for the Charlotte Community Center project?

Article 7: To elect Town Officers.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2022 at Charlotte, Vermont.

Town of Charlotte Selectboard

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING FOR AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES TO BE VOTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING TOWN OF CHARLOTTE

The Selectboard of the Town of Charlotte hereby gives notice that, in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §2680(g), a public informational hearing will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to discuss and hear questions regarding the articles to be voted by Australian ballot at Town Meeting, 2022. Town officials will be present during the public informational hearing to answer questions regarding the articles.

Please note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the hearing will be held by electronic means (Zoom), and public can participate online and by phone only via the link and information below. The link and information will also be posted on the Town's website: www.charlottetv.org.

If you wish to make a comment or ask a question regarding one of the Australian ballot articles but do not have the ability to join the hearing by computer, phone or a device, please email your comment or question at least one hour in advance to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator, at: dean@townofcharlotte.com.

Please contact Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (425-3071 ext. 5; dean@townofcharlotte.com), with any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this meeting. Link to join meeting online (via Zoom): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83161778546?pwd=dll4MlJxdEl3Z1FRbmtGVFNcDnk1UT09>

Join by phone at this number: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 831 6177 8546

Passcode: 794802

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,83161778546#,,,,*794802#

Please see information for participating in Selectboard meeting by clicking here: <https://is.gd/7oPSt6>

The following articles are to be voted by Australian ballot at Town Meeting, 2022:

Article 1: Will the voters of the Town vote, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4773, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2022 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer as receiver of taxes?

Article 2: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services, Inc. from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2022-23?

Article 3: Will the voters of the Town approve the Selectboard's budget of \$2,616,067 for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,104,610 will be raised by property taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,511,457 will be raised by non-tax revenues?

Article 4: Will the voters of the Town approve an allocation of \$890,526 to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, Inc. for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, to be raised by property taxes?

Article 5: Will the voters of the Town approve an allocation to the Charlotte Library for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 of \$283,515, to be raised by property taxes?

Article 6: Will the voters of the Town approve raising a sum of \$50,000 by property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for the purpose of funding a feasibility study for the Charlotte Community Center project?

Article 7: To elect Town Officers.

Out Takes

Feet in the snow bring ears to the music



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

Now some folks like the summertime when they can walk about

Strolling through the meadow green, it's pleasant there is no doubt

But give me the wintertime when the snow is on the ground

For I found her when the snow was on the ground . . .

“Footprints in the Snow” – Bill Monroe

So, a pair of deer have found our backyard to be friendly ground. My wife believes that for one of them music plays a factor in its wandering. She noticed tracks last week, thanks to the freshly fallen snow. One set traveled north out of the woods, circled a couple of trees, and headed back into the woods at the south end of the yard. The other set came close to our house as though something inside the building was intriguing.

Beth decided to check out the tracks and noticed the creatures behind both sets. They were both does, one of which saw our yard simply as a safe path from one end of the surrounding woods to the other. The second doe seemed intrigued by something inside our living room, the space where my CD player was spewing out Counting Crows’ “Long December,” probably wondering if this year really would be better than the last. Well, that’s a good question, given the nature of all that has happened since 2021.

As we watched the close deer attend to what it was hearing, its ears bending downward and upward in time with the music, we weren’t able to know what the music meant to it.

I probably should have pulled my copy of *This is your Brain on Music* from the bookshelf to be reminded that, at least in humans, real physical changes occur in the brain in response to different kinds of music. Do these same realities occur in animals (in this case, deer) as they hear chords, strings, brass tones, drums, vocals?

It is answering questions such as this that raise others, regarding differences between humans and animals.

So, back to the deer in the yard. Both animal and place contribute to what makes Vermont special. While each section of our globe seems to carry a connection between land and the living, I have grown fond of Northern New England as a region into which I have myself mutated—coming here after growing up on the Midwestern plains, where much of the green one saw had been planted by local owners to shelter their farm buildings. One had to get far north to the Canadian border before forests became prominent—forests, lakes and other boundary waters.

I invite the animals to continue to use our backyard as an open passage from wherever they are coming to wherever they are going, be they wild turkeys, deer, bear or the birds chowing down at our seed feeder. That gives our territory a good range in animal sizes—titmice to black bears, with human beings caught in the middle.

I want to suggest that, while physically we are not overly special, mentally we rule the roost. Our brains focused on the land and its qualities are like our brains on music. They change physically as we learn to live and adapt.

As an educator, I’m interested how and where this learning occurs. I was taught that schooling is one thing; learning is likely to be another. Schools were established to give young people a place to go. Learning is something that happens in many settings. I had a professor who said that learning comes via a “constellation,” of which schooling is just a part.

Given the questions around schools and the coronavirus, that constellation may have to be studied in order to discover through which methods of learning will work. The channels are not just schools. They are families, jobs, recreational activities—most elements of our lives.

Community Voices

Winter 2022

Sandi Detwiler
CONTRIBUTOR

I confess. January may be one of my favorite months. Although I am not a cold weather aficionado, I cherish January in Vermont. January wraps its calm and quiet around me like a warm blanket. After the hustle, noise, commotion and demands of November and December, January asks little but to cocoon. This particular January, the cold’s bite is relentless. It commands, “Don’t touch the metal doorknob with wet fingers.” I know. My wet-from-dishes fingers stuck to the garage door required a yank which left the tips tingling and red. This January defines cold. Still, despite the hovering of COVID, I can feel content.

Our children and grandchildren have returned to their respective homes and settled into their daily lives after the routine-disturbing excitement of Christmas. Little Olivia and Sebastian can run outside in the 70-degree Qatari sun. Afternoons of Candyland and Hokey Pokey dancing have ended, leaving me with a heart full of love. Charley is running on the beach in San Diego while Robby and baby Paige play with their new train set in their cozy New Hampshire home.

Today we trekked to Sugarbush to take advantage of our Boomer passes and the full sunshine and powdery snow. Even though I’ll never be good enough to “ski with the boys”

(thanks friend, Beth), I admit that I loved the cold on my face, the slide down the mountain and the tingle of muscles coming to life. Yes, January offers the chance to ski...to celebrate being alive.

January liberates me from the tyranny of the garden with its demands for planting, weeding, deadheading. I can curl my feet under my legs on my couch, warm by the wood stove, and settle in to *The Lincoln Highway*. If I’m feeling particularly ambitious, there are bulging closets begging for a clean-out, but these extra-bitter days force me close to the fire.

Instead of preparing three meals a day for nine people, Rick and I settle for a bowl of homemade chicken soup for dinner. We sip our coffee while reading the latest New York Times on our computers each morning and begin our daily commiseration over crises near and far.

Brightening each morning, an email pops from the Network for Grateful Living. Today I absorbed my gratefulness message with a smile.

“Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand—and melting like a snowflake.” - Sir Francis Bacon

Mostly, in January—this particular January of 2022—what I want to do is simply breathe in the quiet and feel grateful for the peace that January in Vermont offers.

Charlotte History

History of Charlotte district schools

Dan Cole
CHARLOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first permanent settlers came to Charlotte in 1784, and the town, once established, grew quickly. The first residents believed strongly in a good education and soon began to consider how to serve the educational needs of their children. By 1791, the boundary lines for seven school districts had been delineated. Eventually, 15 school districts were numbered on town maps—except for District #13, which was skipped for superstitious reasons.

Throughout this year, we would like to introduce you to the various schools from

Charlotte's early history. It is intended to be more of a photo essay, with a brief description of the school and school life.

The residents of each district set up their own Board of School Directors and contracted with the teacher for two to three sessions per year—spring and autumn, primarily, with the occasional winter session. The teacher boarded with a district family, and parents of each scholar provided a cord of wood for the wood stove and usually built the school. It should be noted that teaching was one of the first disciplines that afforded equal employment opportunities for women. The teacher was expected to adhere to strict moral standards and to teach the entire curriculum to students ranging in age from four to

18. In place of scarce supplies of paper, slate tablets were used. Books were a rare commodity and often shared among the district schools.

School #1 is the oldest in Charlotte. Sometimes referred to as the Emerson School, it is the only stone school; it still stands at the corner of Lake Road and

Thompson's Point Road, where it is now incorporated as part of a private residence.

Check out our town library's website (charlottepubliclibrary.org) and click on the Local History & Genealogy section and scroll down to Charlotte Schoolhouse Story Walk.



Detail of historic Beers Atlas showing School District #1

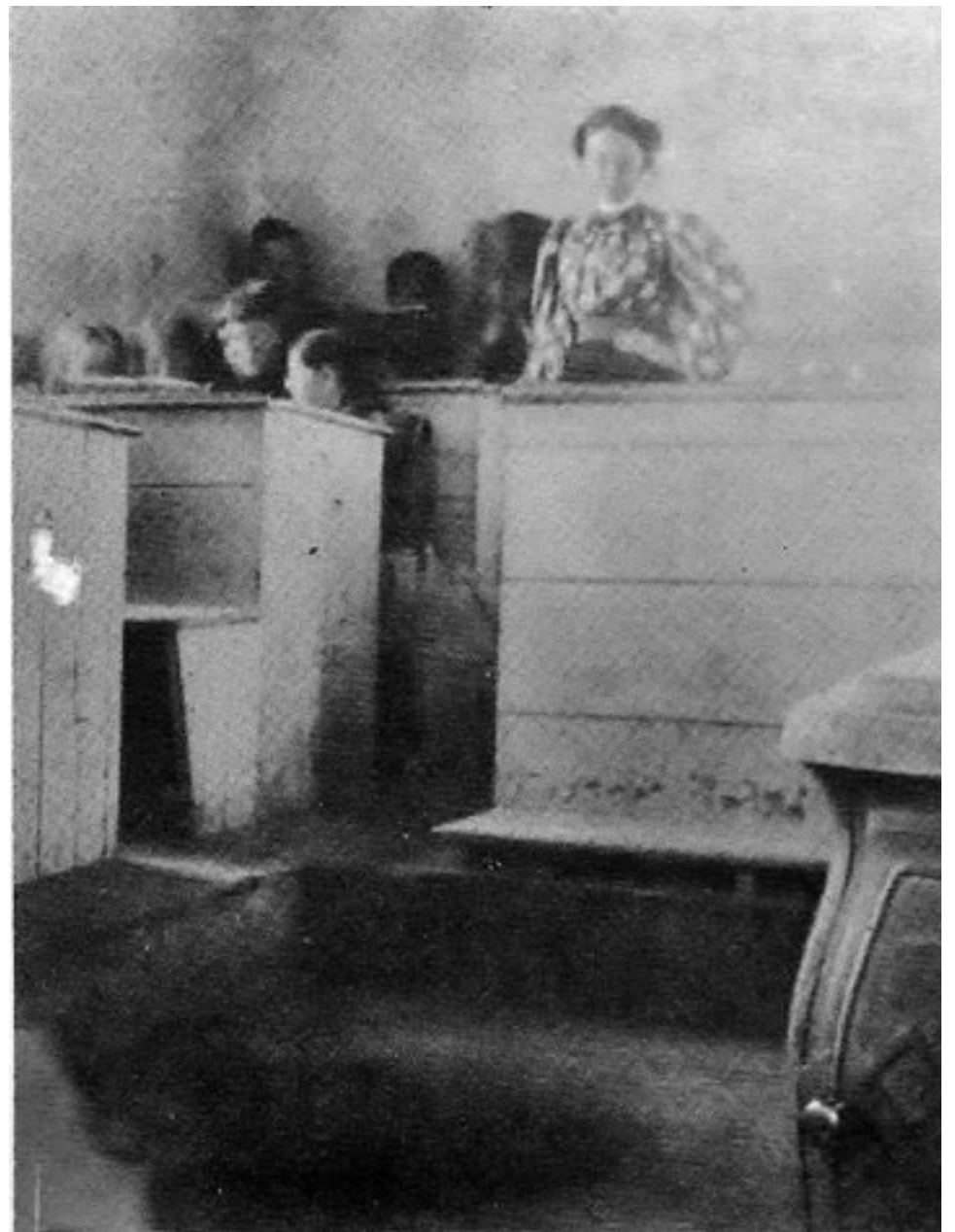


Emerson School 1905.

Charlotte Historical Society collection



Emerson School. Photo taken by Dan Cole in 2020.



Emerson School interior.

Charlotte Historical Society collection

Education

The Great Resignation: Résumé ready!



Margo Bartsch
CONTRIBUTOR

The pandemic has brought two new phrases to the economy: The Great Resignation and The Big Quit. In both cases, people are redefining what they want in a job and how to pursue their dreams. Building a résumé is the first

step to organize your current achievements and point them in a future direction. This January, *The Wall Street Journal* featured the cartoon in *Pepper...And Salt* of an employer interviewing a job prospect: “Did you work on this résumé in a coffee shop? You wrote ‘Americano’ under nationality.” Finding the ideal job is not a hurried task. The New Year can be a fresh start to build your résumé and develop skills to make your dream job a reality.

This January, *60 Minutes* profiled Karin Kimbraugh, the chief economist of LinkedIn, who summarized the U.S. labor market: “... We can see across millions of members and what they share with us, and we can see from employers, millions of them that are posting jobs on our platform. There is one person hired every 15 seconds now on LinkedIn.” However, not all jobs and profiles are a match. College courses, internships and work experiences are analyzed in algorithms to

highlight potential candidates that could be a fit for job opportunities.

In some cases, there are not enough qualified or available applicants for certain industries or positions. For example, this January, *Barron’s* magazine reported the headline, “The ‘Best Job in America’ Pays up to \$125,000 a Year—and Has 10,000 Job Openings.” The article highlighted the computer science field as being in high demand, with Java developers as the top listing on Glassdoor’s “50 Best Jobs in America” in 2021. Data scientists are listed second on the list that includes software developers. The data scientists interact with product managers to develop product strategy. Thus, being familiar with technology across a range of professional fields can help to ensure a positive and productive group dynamic.

Many colleges are requiring computer science classes across a variety of majors. For example, The George Washington University (GW) requires quantitative reasoning courses whether one is majoring in engineering, business, or arts and sciences. This background ensures that students have a well-rounded education to be prepared for career opportunities at companies, non-profits, government, or as entrepreneurs.

GW explains, “The General Education

Curriculum (GPAC) engages students in active intellectual inquiry by developing analytical skills, communication skills and diverse perspectives. Across a range of disciplines, students acquire enhanced analytical skills in quantitative and scientific reasoning and critical and creative thinking, along with a global and cross-cultural perspective, local/civic engagement and effective communication skills.” Thus, when updating your résumé, it is helpful to look at the job requirements and consider taking academic classes to build relevant knowledge and experiences.

In addition, The University of Vermont (UVM) Professional and Continuing Education has a Computer Software Certification. This program appeals to those who have a degree in a field other than information technology (IT). Computer courses can enhance skills and help one take steps toward becoming a software developer. The certificate is flexible in following a pre-set track or self-designated learning. Students must complete five approved computer software courses (15 credits) and earn at least a 2.0 GPA in each class.

The UVM program has five areas of study: web development, cyber security, software development, computer science master’s preparation, or self-designated. Overall, the

courses could help develop skills toward becoming a valuable employee or continuing toward an advanced degree.

In planning for future careers, high school students and recent college graduates should consider taking summer classes to help become a more qualified job candidate. With the stock market gains across various industries that incorporate technology, having the right technical expertise could make their application a better fit.

The Big Quit does not always have a perfect new opportunity waiting in the wings. The “We’re Hiring and Help Wanted” jobs with better pay are great starting points. The goal is to build a résumé while gaining real-world skills and working as a team.

The saying “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush” reminds us of the importance of being prepared for the job opportunities ahead. Updating your résumé to reflect your past experiences and incorporate current trends could make you a more viable candidate. Your résumé reflects the work in progress toward achieving a dream job.

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.

Charlotte Central School Newsletter

Naomi Strada

(Condensed by Tom Scatchard, Contributor)

Administrative update

As we look back on 2021, we are incredibly proud of our learning community. Their dedication, selflessness and perseverance through any and all adversities that come before them is admirable and inspiring.

The students ... have modeled for all of us what it means to be responsible citizens. They are always the best at adapting to new challenges and expectations.

In addition, we are forever grateful to be in such a supportive community.

Stephanie Sumner and Jen Roth

Urgent needs

Lunch/recess supervisors—up to 15 hours a week. Contact Naomi Strada, nstrada@cvsdvt.org or 802-425-6600, if you would be able to support this 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. position.

Student survey: what experiences or learning do you hope for the rest of the school year?

Kindergarten: “I found a book and it’s my dream come true. It’s about alien invasions.”

Grade 4: “There is one thing I really want to learn about—Chernobyl. It’s an interesting history and I want to understand it more.” “I just want to learn a ton about animals. I’ve already read 5,000 books.”

Grade 6: “I want to learn more about history, like about the Holocaust.” “I want to learn to speak Chinese.” “I want to have another field day where we get to throw water balloons.”

A Message from the school counselor

We are excited to announce that the K–8 schools in CVSD will again be utilizing the same emotional wellness platform, CloseGap, starting in January. As part of our district COVID recovery plan, we have been encouraged by the Vermont Department of

Education to collect data on the social and emotional well-being of our students. CloseGap is an online check-in tool that supports students in learning how to identify their own emotions. To learn more about CloseGap, please visit: closegap.org/for-parents.

Preschool lottery is coming soon!

The CVSD School-based Early Education Programs are now accepting applications for a random preschool lottery drawing for the 2022–23 school year. Our part-time, partial days, preschool classrooms are 5 STARS, licensed, early education programs that provide play-based, developmentally appropriate environments for all children in an inclusive setting. Our programs closely follow the CVSD school calendar. Students who will be age three or older by Sept. 1, 2022, but not yet



The Charlotte News file photo.

five years old, are eligible to enter the lottery for our programs.

All applications must be received by Feb. 5, 2022. You can download an application here: Early Education Lottery Application. More information is available on our CVSD Early Education Website also. Students will be selected via a lottery and families notified in early March.

Fenn & Company
A BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

**New Construction
& Renovations.**
**Quality Work.
Cheerfully Done!**

**Peter Fenn
734-0353**

Health Matters

Benefits of exercise for people with arthritis

Erika Breseman

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT), DEE
PHYSICAL THERAPY

The most common form of arthritis is osteoarthritis (OA), also known as degenerative joint disease (DJD), impacting over 32 million people in the United States alone. OA has become the leading cause of disability in the older adult population. However, with the right tools OA can be managed with exercise in order to improve pain and overall quality of life. To better understand OA and how to manage your symptoms, let's break things down:

What exactly is OA and how did I get it?

OA is a condition of the joints characterized by cartilage breakdown, bone remodeling and inflammation, which leads to stiffness, swelling, pain, decreased range of motion and impaired joint function. The most commonly affected joints are the knees and hips. There is no one specific known cause of OA; however, there are several associated risk factors, including the following: joint injury or overuse, age (50 and older), gender (females are more commonly affected than males), obesity and genetics.

How does exercise help?

Research has shown that participation in regular exercise can help to improve joint lubrication, pain, function, performance and quality of life in people with OA. Regular exercise can also help with weight loss, which further decreases joint pressure and stress. As we age, our muscles become weaker. However, through exercise we can improve our strength, building stronger muscles, which further provides increased joint support and protection. Regular exercise can ultimately help to delay the onset of arthritis-related disability. In addition, regular exercise can be helpful in the management of other chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

How do I get started and what kind of exercise should I do?

When it comes to exercise and OA, it is important to start off gently and slowly and ease into beginning any new exercise regimen. It can take time for your body to adjust to a new level of activity, so listen to your body and pay attention to how well you are tolerating it. If you find that your arthritis symptoms are increasing, you may need to modify your level of activity. You can do this by decreasing the number of exercises, number of repetitions, weight, intensity



Photo by A Koolshooter from Pexels

and/or overall time spent exercising. This will allow you to continue to remain active, while minimizing arthritis symptoms. As your exercise tolerance improves, you can always increase your level of activity. However, you should continue to pay close attention to how your body is responding to the increased activity level and modify if needed.

When choosing a form of exercise, it is important to keep in mind that exercises should be "joint friendly," meaning that they should be low-impact, put minimal stress on the body, and reduce risk of injury. It is best to avoid high-impact exercises, especially those that involve pounding and twisting of the joints, placing them at higher risk of injury. The following types of exercise are recommended for people with OA:

- **Aerobic** – improves cardiovascular endurance, increases blood flow to muscles, and reduces joint stiffness (i.e., walking, cycling, swimming, water aerobics)
- **Mind-body** – improves flexibility, improves balance, and promotes relaxation (i.e., yoga, tai chi)
- **Flexibility** – improves flexibility, improves range of motion, and reduces joint stiffness (i.e., stretching)
- **Strength training** – improves muscle and tendon strength and provides joint support and protection (i.e., body weight exercises, weightlifting)
- **Mixed exercise** – any combination of the exercise categories above

How often should I exercise?

When it comes to determining how often you should exercise, it depends on what type of activity you choose. Current

recommendations:

- **Aerobic** – 150 minutes per week of moderate intensity aerobic exercise (i.e., 30 minutes per day, five days per week) or 75 minutes per week of vigorous intensity aerobic exercise (i.e., 15 minutes per day, five days per week)
- **Mind-body** – daily
- **Flexibility** – daily
- **Strength training** – At least two to three days per week
- **Mixed exercise** – any combination of the exercise recommendations above, as tolerated

Sample Exercises

Here are two exercises you can try:

- **Seated hamstring stretch** – Start by sitting in a chair. Bend your left leg so that your foot is flat on the ground. Straighten your right leg so that your knee is completely straight, with the back of your heel resting on the ground and your toes pointed towards the ceiling. Gently lean your torso forward, moving at the hips, keeping your back straight. You should feel a gentle stretch in the

back of your right leg. Hold for 30 seconds. Repeat three times. Repeat on the opposite side.

- **Side-lying hip abduction** – Start lying on your left side. Lift your right leg towards the ceiling and then gently lower back down. Repeat 10 times. Complete three sets, resting in between each set. Repeat on opposite side.

How can physical therapy help?

As individuals, we require exercise programs tailored to our specific needs. Variables to consider include the specific joint that is painful, pain intensity/severity, prior level of function, current level of function, personal goals and exercise preferences. These factors can vary greatly between individuals and play an important role in successful outcomes. Figuring out the right exercise program for you can seem daunting. A physical therapist can perform a thorough evaluation to determine your specific needs and work with you to create a customized exercise regimen that will help you to achieve your goals. In addition, a physical therapist can help monitor your overall response to a new exercise program, determine the appropriate dosage, and teach you self-management techniques to feel confident in continuing your exercise regimen independently, when you are ready.

References:

1. Goh S. et al. Relative efficacy of different exercises in knee and hip osteoarthritis: network meta-analysis. *Sports Med.* 2019; 49:743-761.
2. Kolasinski S. et al. 2019 American college of rheumatology/arthritis foundation guideline for management of osteoarthritis of the hand, hip and knee. *Arthritis Care and Research.* 2020;72(2):149-162.
3. "Physical Activity for Arthritis." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8 Nov. 2018, cdc.gov/arthritis/basics/physical-activity-overview.html.

Sports

Women's basketball gets back on the winning track

Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

After having Rice break their 57-game win streak that dated back to 2018, CVU got back on the winning track, overcoming South Burlington 46-24 and Mount Mansfield 50-38.

Their male counterparts topped Burr and Burton 69-32, with 13 Redhawks contributing to the win. Tucker Tharpe's 15 points led all scorers. CVU compensated with another victory, this one over Colchester 52-38. This game followed a nearly three-week hiatus between games because of bad weather and COVID concerns. On Friday, the men continued their winning ways with a 38-32 victory over Burlington. Logan Vaughn's 12 points and Alex Provost's 8 led the Hawks.

Unfortunately CVU women fell back into losing ways, dropping a tight two-pointer to Essex, 49-47, on Monday.

Gymnasts get outperformed by Essex

CVU's gymnastics team traveled to Essex for a meet with the Hornets on Jan. 21. The Hawks were overcome 130.3 to 99.65.

Warner Babic took third on the bars. Ruby Option tied for first on the beam, and she and Cadence Haggarty tied for second on the floor exercises. Ruby finished third All-Around.

CVU wrestlers grapple in the Michael J. Baker Classic

Essex hosted 21 schools to its gym for the Michael J. Baker wrestling matches. The grapplers came from all over the Northeast. However, it was Vermont's own Spaulding and Essex highs that finished first and second among the teams. CVU finished 11th without an individual making it to the finals in a weight class.

CVU's Graduation Challenge leads Megan Nick to the 2022 Olympics

Shelburne's Megan Nick hopes to make her skiing flips pay off in the upcoming Olympics in Beijing. She began this journey as a senior at CVU, and now, seven years later, she will put what she learned to use halfway around the world. Prior to the Olympics, Megan has won a number of aerial events in international settings. She hopes to continue her record.

Area Calendar Events

Calendar compiled by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to
calendar@thecharlottenews.org.

COVID and weather guidelines for venues are available on individual websites.

Thursday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m.–noon

Are you about to venture into your own small business? Have all your tax questions answered in a free Zoom webinar of all things business taxes, hosted by **Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity**. The webinar, **Introduction to Business Taxes**, is led by retired accountant Ross Miller. Bring your questions, even if you already have a small business. For more info, or to register, see cvoeo.org.

Friday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.–noon

Enjoy a few hours at Shelburne Pond participating in an **Ice Fishing Clinic** offered by the **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to learn about regulations, techniques, fish identification, ice safety and more. Equipment will be provided for this free event. Dress for being outside on the ice. Bring a warm drink and a bucket to sit on, if desired. For more info, call 802-505-5562. Pre-registration required at vtfishandwildlife.com.

Saturday, Jan. 29

Today is a **Free Ice Fishing Day**, thanks to the **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**. Ice fishing is open on this day to residents and nonresidents without a fishing license. This gives you a chance to try out a new winter activity on any Vermont body of water that allows ice fishing. Always be safe on the ice—know the ice conditions before you go. For more info, call 802-505-5562, or see vtfishandwildlife.com.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 8 a.m.

Get outside early for a **Bird Monitoring**

Walk at the **Birds of Vermont Museum** in Huntington. This walk occurs monthly and is led by experienced birders. Appropriate for all levels and ages of bird enthusiasts. Walk the property and document which species are present. For more info, call 802-434-2167, or visit birdsofvermont.org.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join teacher-naturalist Dave Muska of the **North Branch Nature Center** in Montpelier, as he introduces **Wildlife Tracking 101**. Learn about the stories that animals leave behind. A great class for photographers, hunters and anyone who wishes to deepen their outdoor experience. Program geared toward beginner adult and teen trackers. For more info or to register, see northbranchnaturecenter.org or call 802-229-6206.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 10–11:30 a.m. or 12:30–2 p.m.

Explore the **Shelburne Farms** landscape in a family-oriented **Winter Wildlife Wander**. Ages five and older, with accompanying adult. Look and listen for clues of local wildlife in the forests and fields. Pre-registration required. Dress appropriately. For more info, call 802-985-8686, or see shelburnefarms.org.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

The **Catamount Trail Association** will partner with the **Craftsbury Outdoor Center** to host a free **Community Ski Day** at the Gilbrook Natural Area in Winooski. With cooperative weather conditions, the hosts provide free cross-country skiing instruction and rental equipment. Arrive any time between 10 and 1; no pre-registration needed. Snowshoes will also be available to try. Weather cancellation will be shown on the CTA Facebook page.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 1–3 p.m.

Join Chittenden County Forester Ethan

Tapper, along with Wildlife Biologist Andrea Shortsleeve, for an informational walk in the **Hinesburg Town Forest**. Their topics are **Winter Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management** in this large recreational area. Dress for two hours of outdoor time, on uneven or slippery terrain. For more info, and where to meet, see vtfishandwildlife.com.

Sunday, Jan. 30, 4 p.m.

The musical duo **Robinson & Rohe** will entertain in person at the **Richmond Congregational Church**. Valley Stage Productions presents this duo as part of their **P.M. Sundays** music series. Known for intimate and magical vocal harmonies and an unadulterated sound, Robinson and Rohe are sure to warm a winter evening. Tickets available at valleystage.net for in-person as well as streaming options. Call 802-434-4563 for more info.

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 5:30–7 p.m.

City Market hosts an online class called **Year-Round Indoor Salad Gardening** with Peter Burke. The workshop focuses on growing a fresh, steady supply of greens and sprouts, even through the winter, in any living space. If you have a windowsill, there is no reason to not enjoy homegrown greens all year. The workshop is free; streaming instructions will be emailed after you pre-register. For more info, see citymarket.coop.

Friday, Feb. 4, 5:30–7 p.m.

Prowl for Owls and enjoy the evening sounds during this hike on the beautiful trails of the **Vermont Institute of Natural Science** in Quechee. Weather permitting, the walk will be done on snowshoes; dress warmly and headlamps are encouraged. For ages 18 and over. Reservations and pre-payment required. Snowshoes available at VINS. For more info, call 802-359-5000 or see vinsweb.org.

Saturday, Feb. 5, and Sunday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

The **Winter Renaissance Faire** will take place at the **Champlain Valley Exposition** in Essex Junction. This family-friendly event has something for all ages, including musicians, acrobats, medieval fight demonstrations, artisans and a variety of old-world food options. For more info or tickets, see cvexpo.org or vtgatherings.com.

Sunday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m.–noon

Enjoy a few hours at Shelburne Pond participating in an **Ice Fishing Clinic** offered by the **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to learn about regulations, techniques, fish identification, ice safety and more. Equipment provided for this free event; dress for being outside on the ice. Bring a warm drink and a bucket to sit on, if desired. For more info, call 802-505-5562. Pre-registration required at vtfishandwildlife.com.

Friday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

The **Ethan Allen Homestead Museum** is pleased to host a Zoom book discussion in observance of Black History Month. The evening focuses on the book **The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont 1777-1810** by Harvey Amani Whitfield. Please register for this free event at ethanallenhomestead.org. Book may be purchased on their website.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6–7 p.m.

Learn about the **Atowi Project** in a free Zoom presentation called **Atowi: Intersections of Culture, Language, Place & Relationship with the Plant Nations from an Indigenous Perspective**. Featured speakers are Melody Mackin and Rich Holschuh of the Atowi Project. Event offered thanks to the **North Branch Nature Center**. For more information, or to join the Zoom event, visit northbranchnaturecenter.org.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To advertise your business contact ads@TheCharlotteNews.org

Go Solar with AllEarth Renewables

allearthrenewables.com

Customer-driven solutions designed, engineered and built in Vermont, with over 3,000 installations in the state.

CALL 802.872.9600 x122



www.DeePT.com
23 San Remo Drive
SOUTH BURLINGTON | 865.0010
166 Athletic Drive
SHELBURNE | 985.4445
52 Farmall Drive
feel good again! HINESBURG | 482.3333

BRUSHHOGGING by Adam

- BACKHOE
- CHAIN SAWING
- DELIVERY
- FIELD MOWING
- HAUL AWAY
- LAWN MOWING

(802) 578-8347

Town

Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Don't miss the Winter Reading Challenge!

The Winter Reading Challenge: Read for a Better World (All Ages) is available for pre-registration now on the Vermont libraries

Beanstack page at vermont.beanstack.org. The challenge starts Jan. 1 and ends Jan. 31. This challenge is available for free to all Vermonters and could be a simple way for public libraries to engage readers this January!

Readers of all ages are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes a day and log their minutes using the Beanstack website or the mobile app. Participants can read books of their choosing, log minutes, participate in simple activities, and earn digital badges. Participants are encouraged to explore diversity, empathy and action through literature by choosing books and stories from an array of diverse authors and topics.

Need help setting up a Beanstack account? Please contact the library: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Operations update

In the ongoing interest of community health and well-being, the Charlotte Library Board of Trustees would like to remind all visitors to the library of our current COVID protocol. The Library will continue to follow CDC guidelines (the latest information can be found here: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html) and here: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/daily-activities.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/daily-activities.html)).

We ask that all visitors to the library join the staff in the following safe practices:

- Wearing a mask when indoors at the library regardless of vaccination status
- Maintaining a safe distance from other people
- Refraining from visiting the library if you have any COVID symptoms.

We still maintain our Porch Pick-Up service, so feel free to request any materials to be set out if you prefer not to enter the library. You may request materials online through the library website, charlottepubliclibrary.org, by phone 802-425-3864, or via email at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Thank you for helping to keep our library community safe and healthy.

Happening at the library

Book Chat is back! Fridays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Join Margaret on Friday mornings 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 in advance.

Exploring Color with Jonathan Silverman Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

This 1.5-hour visual art workshop will be an investigation of color. Simple prompts using such medium as watercolor, pastels, and colored markers and pencils will replenish the artist within for those familiar or unfamiliar in making art. Nature, music, and how various artists have used color will initiate our own discovery of color harmonies, juxtapositions and movement. A supportive and joyful environment will emphasize process and surprises.

Fee: \$5 donation to cover materials. Co-sponsored with the Charlotte Senior Center. Please call the Charlotte Senior Center to register: 802-425-6345.

Library Book Discussion: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Adolf Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons. It was up to Churchill to hold his country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally—and willing to fight to the end.

In *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson shows how Churchill taught the British people "the art of being fearless." It is a story of political brinkmanship, but it's also an intimate domestic drama, set against the backdrop of Churchill's prime-ministerial country home, Chequers; his wartime retreat, Ditchley, where he and his entourage go when the moon is brightest and the bombing threat is highest; and, of course, 10 Downing Street in London. Copies available at the Library. Register for the discussion in advance.

Media Literacy: Take 2 Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

We're reviving our conversation from last fall. There continue to be more opportunities for *disinformation*, declining trust in established news organizations, and increasing popularity of conspiracy theorists. Join us for a conversation on media literacy with Adam Davidson, Chea Waters-Evans and Jesse Wegman. Adam co-founded Planet Money and has been a staff reporter for the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker*. Chea has been reporting in and about Charlotte for over a decade, first with *The Citizen* and the *Shelburne News*, then *The Charlotte News*, and now at *The Charlotte Bridge*. Jesse is an editorial board member of the *New York Times*. Register in advance.

Candidates Night Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

The Charlotte Grange, Charlotte Library and *The Charlotte News* are co-hosting the annual Candidates Night. Please join us for conversation with the candidates on the Charlotte Town Meeting ballot. Each candidate will have a few minutes to present

an opening statement, then the floor will be open for questions and discussion. Join the meeting: [/bit.ly/vote05445](https://bit.ly/vote05445).

Mystery Book Group: *The Eustace Diamonds* by Anthony Trollope Monday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m.

NOTE: This will take place even though the library is closed for President's Day.

The third novel in Trollope's Palliser series, *The Eustace Diamonds* bears all the hallmarks of his later works, blending dark cynicism with humor and a keen perception of human nature. Following the death of her husband, Sir Florian, beautiful Lizzie Eustace mysteriously comes into possession of a hugely expensive diamond necklace. She maintains it was a gift from her husband, but the Eustace lawyers insist she give it up, and while her cousin Frank takes her side, her new lover, Lord Fawn, declares that he will only marry her if the necklace is surrendered. As gossip and scandal intensify, Lizzie's truthfulness is thrown into doubt, and, in her desire to keep the jewels, she is driven to increasingly desperate acts.

Copies available at the library.

Join the Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84467010512>.

Men's Book Group: *The Monk of Mokha* by Dave Eggers Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Monk of Mokha is the exhilarating true story of a young Yemeni American man, raised in San Francisco, who dreams of resurrecting the ancient art of Yemeni coffee but finds himself trapped in Sana'a by civil war.

Mokhtar Alkhanshali is 24 and working as a doorman when he discovers the astonishing history of coffee and Yemen's central place in it. He leaves San Francisco and travels deep into his ancestral homeland to tour terraced farms high in the country's rugged mountains and meet beleaguered but determined farmers. But when war engulfs the country and Saudi bombs rain down, Mokhtar has to find a way out of Yemen without sacrificing his dreams or abandoning his people. *Books are available at the library.*

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

Monthly Library Board Meeting: Thursday, February 10 at 6pm.

Library Contact Information

Margaret Woodruff, Director
Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Know someone interesting in Charlotte?
We want to interview them and share their story.

Email news@thecharlottenews.org

The Charlotte News

NEW ENGLAND
FLOOR COVERING
BURLINGTON, VT.

Featuring Environmentally Friendly Flooring Solutions
Hardwood • Bamboo • Cork • Marmoleum • Rubber • Wool

Locally Owned & Operated • 802-658-9336
257 PINE STREET, BURLINGTON • www.NEFCVT.COM

Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Lori York
DIRECTOR

From snowshoeing to movie screenings and iPhone tips and tricks, we have a wide range of activities for all interests. If you haven't stopped by the Charlotte Senior Center, you are always welcome to spend time here without participating in a specific class or program. Come in out of the cold, grab a cup of coffee or tea, and read a book, play our piano or boardgames, or just spend time socializing in small groups.

If there is something that you would like to see, but that we do not currently offer, let me know. Please note our masking guidelines posted on our website and at the center.

Blood Drive with the American Red Cross Thursday, Feb. 3, 2–7 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center

Please consider donating blood. The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CHARLOTTE to schedule an appointment.

Meals & Conversation

Monday lunches: Our Monday lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a suggested donation of \$5. Take-out is an option.

Upcoming lunch menus:

Updates will be posted to "Front Porch Forum" and our website.

Monday, Jan. 31: Our lunch, to be provided by the Charlotte Grange, has been postponed. Date TBD.

Monday, Feb. 7: Tentative, depending on COVID. Call ahead to confirm.

Roasted vegetables served over quinoa

Tossed salad & bread with brownies for dessert

Wednesday, Feb. 9: Valentine's Tea Luncheon & poetry reading

Please note that our Tea Luncheon has been postponed to May. Date TBD.

Gent's Breakfast Thursday, Feb. 10, 7–9 a.m.

Monthly, on the second Thursday, the men gather for breakfast and conversation. For questions or to register, please email Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com by Tuesday, Feb. 8. Feel free to call the Senior Center with questions: 802-425-6345.

Suggested donation: \$5 for breakfast.

New! Grab & Go Meals at the Charlotte Senior Center provided by Age Well

We are very excited to be partnering with Age Well to provide weekly Grab & Go meals. Please note that there is an initial Age Well registration form to be completed to participate in this program. To register or to find out more about this program, call or email Lori York at 802-425-6371 or Lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Upcoming Grab & Go meal menus:

Thursday, Feb. 3: Grab & Go meal—Sliced pot roast au jus, ranch mashed potatoes, carrots and cabbage, dinner roll, apple pie, and milk.

Pre-register by 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Grab & Go meals are free for individuals ages 60 and over. Pickup is on Thursdays from 11–12 at the Charlotte Senior Center. Pre-register by 9:30 a.m. on the prior Tuesday.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February/March Featured Artist: Linda Finkelstein's exhibit "Variety is the Spice" will be on display starting Monday, Feb. 14, at the Senior Center. In this exhibit, Linda showcases works using different art mediums, including collage, painting and monoprinting. She began creating unique digital images recently, using her own photography and art. Since moving to Vermont in 2014, Linda has pursued the slow, calming quality of working with eco art techniques and stitchery.

Snowshoe Expeditions around Charlotte Wednesdays, Feb. 2 & 16, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

(Weather permitting) Bring your own equipment, snacks and water.

Registration required. No fee. To register, email susanfosterhyde@gmail.com.

Award-winning Nomination Screenings with Sean Moran Thursdays, Feb. 10 & 24, 1–3 p.m.

We will be posting the screenings soon—stay tuned!

Registration required. No fee. To register: call 802-425-6345 or stop by the Senior Center.

iPhone Tips and Tricks with Susanna Kahn Wednesday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.–noon.

Bring your iPhone for some hands-on learning with Tech Librarian Susanna Kahn. Get tips on searching, organizing your apps, the share menu, helpful apps and more.

Co-sponsored by The Charlotte Library. Registration required. No fee.



The January 19 Snowshoe Expedition group braved the cold to get some exercise. From left to right, Cyndie White, Laura Cahnners-Ford, Kate Mesaros, Barbara Collins and Mary Saudade.

Photo by Susan Hyde.

Exploring Color Workshop with Jonathan Silverman

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 10–11:30 a.m.

This 1.5-hour visual arts workshop is open to all artistic levels.

Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library. Registration required. Fee: \$5.

Wednesday Lecture Series at 1 p.m.

Currently, our Wednesday lectures are in person. Audiences are limited to 35 people, and masks are required.

Wednesday, Feb. 2: "On Being a Vermonter" with David Holmes

David Holmes will discuss his new book, *On Being a Vermonter and the Rise and Fall of the Holmes Farm, 1822–1923*, and include rare photographs from the early 1900s. The multi-generation Holmes farm was located just south of the Holmes Covered Bridge in Charlotte and featured one of New England's largest apple orchards and the breeding and racing of Morgan horses.

"What Style Is That Old Building?" with Frances Foster, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26, has been postponed to March 9.

Ongoing Exercise and Health Classes

We offer daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activity levels.

For a complete list of our exercise programs, please check out our website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

Questions? New to the area? Thinking of volunteering?

We would love to meet with you. We are located at 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte, just across from the post office. Hours are M–F from 9–4. Give us a call at 802-425-6345 or email:

Lori York, Director,
Lyork@CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

Residents from other communities are always welcome. Our mission is to serve those over 50.

Classifieds

Reach your friends and neighbors for only \$12 per issue.
(Payment must be sent before issue date.)

Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@thecharlottenews.org.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS: FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

In addition to our professional staff, as many as 170 people provide stories, photos and commentaries to *The Charlotte News* each year. Join us! Send your story ideas, commentaries and great photos of Charlotte to news@thecharlottenews.org. Let your voice be heard.

Need a fresh start to 2022? Let **Lafayette Painting** give your home a beautiful new look. Our painters can do a lot in a day. **LafayettePaintingInc.com** or call **802-863-5397** to hear about our winter discount.

The **Charlotte News**

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST AND GET THE LATEST TOWN NEWS WHEN IT HAPPENS!

SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE

www.CharlotteNewsVT.org

A big thank-you to our advertisers in 2021

Thank you to everyone who advertised in *The Charlotte News* in 2021. We look forward to working with you all again in 2022 and hope to welcome many more new advertisers in this new year. Please contact us with your ad ideas and we can design an ad for you. Email Ad Manager Christy Hagios at ads@thecharlottenews.org.

Acorn Painting
A Little Something
All Earth Renewables
Animal Hospital of Hinesburg
Antoine Williams
Brush Hogging by Adam Dantzsch
Building Energy
Catering by Dale
Charlotte Congregational Church
Charlotte Senior Center
Chittenden Solid Waste District
Chris Von Trapp, Hickock & Boardman
Church Hill Landscaping
Classic Shades Painting
CVSD
CVU Craft Fair
Darling's Boatworks

Deborah Kehoe (painting workshops)
Dee Physical Therapy
Deep Ecology Acupuncture
Diamond Island Yacht Club
Dottie Waller, Four Seasons Sotheby's
Efficiency Vermont
Elli Parr
Fenn & Company
Fat Cow Farm
Greater Burlington YMCA
Green Mountain Access
Greentree Real Estate
Hillside, Coldwell Banker
Hickock & Boardman
Jackman Fuels
Jamie Two Coats
O'Brien O'Connell,
Four Seasons Sotheby's
Kelly Brush Foundation
Kiley Landscaping
Lake Front Painting
Lake Point Property Management
Margo Bartsch, College Essay Coach
Stone Block Antiques
Mason Associates
Michael O'Dowd,



Keller Williams Realty
Mysa
Nancy Jenkins, Bryan Jackson
–Nancy Jenkins Real Estate
New England Floor Covering
Pease Mountain Law
Philo Ridge Farm
RVG Electrical Services
Shelburne Dental Group,
Nathan Bouchard
Snyder Homes
Stone's Throw
The Gilded Elephant
Titus Insurance Company
Tom's Marine

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 05482
PERMIT NO. 9