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The Charlotte News

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Photo by Lee Krohn

Meet Scooter MacMillan, our new editor



Scooter MacMillan

Photo contributed

John Quinney
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

On behalf of the board of directors of *The Charlotte News*, I am pleased to announce that Scooter MacMillan has joined the paper as our editor.

Many of our readers are familiar with Scooter's work as a reporter and assistant editor at *The Citizen*, one of five newspapers owned by the Vermont Community Newspaper Group where he's worked for the past three years.

Earlier in his career, Scooter was the marketing director for the Springer Opera House in Columbus, Ga., where he designed and implemented marketing campaigns that boosted attendance and annual giving.

He also worked for many years as an editor, writing coach and reporter for several community and daily newspapers in North Carolina and Georgia. Scooter's work has been recognized with many awards including, most recently, the 2020 New England Press and Newspaper Association award for history reporting.

At *The News*, Scooter will report on key meetings in town – the selectboard, planning commission, development review board and school board. He will also dig into the stories behind the news and report on ways that towns similar to Charlotte have addressed some of the issues we face here.

"Like everyone else, I fell in love with Charlotte the first time I saw this town. Even though it was at night in a blinding snowstorm, I thought then I would like to work here. I'm thrilled this opportunity to turn that initial infatuation into a reality has come to fruition," Scooter said.

For now, he will attend most meetings via Zoom and conduct interviews over the phone. Once COVID infectivity rates decline, hopefully in the near future, Scooter will be spending much more time in Charlotte.

Send your story ideas, questions and tips to him at scooter@thecharlottenews.org or call 802-881-4728.

Welcome to *The News*, Scooter MacMillan. Everyone here is looking forward to working with you.

"Just hanging on" - Charlotte Central School begins the third year of the pandemic

Nancy Richardson
CONTRIBUTOR

Charlotte School teachers and staff approached the fall of 2021 with the expectation that the emergency response of the previous 18 months would be behind them. The elimination of remote instruction, extended quarantine and contact tracing were steps along the pathway to normalcy. Teachers remained worried about the reduction in student academic skills that had been demonstrated by school assessments. There were expectations that they would be able to spend time on remediation for those students who had significant losses. According to 5th grade teacher David Baird, "There was a new emphasis on keeping kids in school."

When Principal Jen Roth was asked if things are back to normal, she said, "It is hard to imagine catching up. We are still in an emergency response mode. Some students have never experienced a normal school year." When asked how the year is going, world language teacher Sarah Pierson described a situation in which "we really can't depend upon a regular schedule. We must remain flexible and be able to pivot quickly."

The previous 18 months of changing restrictions and guidelines and the reconfiguration of the school itself meant that by the fall of 2021, teacher fatigue was high. In the fall of 2021 teachers were confronted with another set of pandemic effects: staff reductions and students suffering from social-emotional distress. Staff reductions resulted from the Omicron variant being very infectious, requiring at least five days of quarantine for each person affected.

National studies have documented the loss of student academic skills due to the pandemic, but effects on students' social and emotional well-being have been dramatic. Students had been cut off from friends and activities. Many were having difficulty with remote instruction and dropped out of classes. Stresses on families included loss of income, scarce daycare, job loss and food insecurity.



Charlotte Central School.

The Charlotte News file photo

The result has been an increase in anxiety, depression and, in general, social distress among the school population.

The response of the school district to this challenging school environment has been to direct the teachers and staff to respond directly to the social and emotional needs of students first. One teacher said, "This is the best thing the district has done." The district is increasing counseling and school support staff and programs. This includes support for teachers. According to interviewees, administrators have kept a significant amount of stress from teachers by taking on any problems resulting from the pandemic. The directive at CCS is this: find moments of joy in each day; take breaks, take classes outside, and plan special classroom events.

At the same time, academic progress is closely monitored and assessed, and teachers know where students are in their academic programs. Many students are behind where they would be if the pandemic had not occurred, but there is a sense that they will catch up eventually with good instruction.

In order to accomplish this in the midst of staff shortages caused by infection, teachers have given up lunch and free periods to teach others' classes. In the process, they have given up their time to talk and plan together. Parent volunteers have come in to supervise some activity periods. As one teacher said, "We are well over our capacity to be doing this. We are just hanging on. Teachers are exhausted."

The good news in all of this is that the community around CCS has been very supportive. Parents have taken on volunteer jobs and supporters have delivered special meals to staff. The PTO has established an Angels Fund that is providing funding for families experiencing food insecurity and needing other emergency assistance. The other good news is that spring is coming, and with it, an expected reduction in Omicron and a hoped-for reduction in exhaustion.

Thanks to Principal Jen Roth and teachers David Baird, 5th grade teacher, and Sarah Pierson, world language teacher, for their interviews.

Selectboard "threads the needle" on broadband

Robert Bloch
CONTRIBUTOR

The Selectboard considered a proposal to extend broadband access to the majority of the 239 households in Charlotte currently without access, and found a way to move forward, despite complications.

Although we all have moments when the deluge of "crap" (a technical term) (no comment) on the internet makes us seriously question the societal value of broadband internet access, the reality is that it has become essential to most of us for conducting business, educating our children and for providing access to, well, the world.

Today, most broadband is delivered to homes via fiber-optic cable running down the street and into our homes. WiFi, satellite and other technologies are also in the mix, but economics, actual performance and other factors impact these decisions.

Last week, the Selectboard considered a proposal from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) in which they would

invest almost \$2 million to extend its fiber-optic network to the 219 of those 239 unserved households that are actually in its service area. That's about \$10,000 per household. But WCVT is counting on other funding sources to complete the financing package: specifically, \$43,829.81 from the Town of Charlotte, matched by the State of Vermont, plus a \$273,000 grant from the Vermont Community Broadband Fund (VCBF), which requires evidence of local support to be triggered.

The town's contribution, \$43,829.81, clearly qualifies for funding from the Town's \$1.1 million ARPA allocation. In other words, the project can be funded with no impact on the Town's operating budget or local taxes.

While at this point the decision would seem to be quite simple, in fact it was made more difficult by extraneous factors. The decision needed to be made quickly, as other Vermont towns are considering this program and WCVT's inventory of fiber-optic cable is limited. Supply chain issues cloud future availability of fiber optic. The second

complicating factor was forcefully argued by Selectboard Chair Jim Faulkner. Last July, the Selectboard had committed to not allocating any ARPA funds until all community proposals had been aired at a public meeting. The meeting had yet to be scheduled. Jim was adamant that the Selectboard not break that commitment despite the attractive and very time-sensitive nature of the broadband proposal. Following a long, heated, but civil debate, the board found a solution. Send the required commitment letter to the Vermont Community Broadband Fund, and quickly hold a special meeting of the Selectboard to hear other proposals for spending the ARPA dole.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to take this route, i.e., send the commitment letter to the VCBF, but not formally allocate the ARPA funds for the project until after the special meeting.

How and when broadband access would be provided to the 20 households outside WCVT's service area was not addressed.

Letters to the Editor

CVFRS budget

The CVFRS operating budget is 5 percent of the total tax bill, or five cents of every tax dollar you pay. What do you get for your money? CVFRS provides fire protection, paramedic level rescue service, vehicle extrication, ice rescue, water rescue, rope rescue and hazard material incident management. If you are in a bad way, we show up, anytime, day or night.

The paramedic level rescue is staffed with paid, certified, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic personnel. It has been a paid rescue service for years. This ensures that the Town of Charlotte has two trained medical staff that respond from the station within 90 seconds to a 9-1-1 call. Over time, volunteerism has decreased, the training required for certification has increased, and competition for a decreasing labor pool is increasing. This is not a local issue but a statewide, even a nationwide, problem, recently addressed in Senator Bernie Sanders' townhall meeting. The cost of this paid staff is the bulk of the CVFRS budget. If you do the math, two employees working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year adds up fast. Many of our paid staff are part-time per diem employees. They are students or fulltime employees of another service and work a 12-hour shift or two at Charlotte. As competition for these employees increases from places like UVMHC that pays more, their availability decreases. In order to stabilize our workforce, CVFRS is replacing per diem employees with full-time employees. This adds the cost of benefits for those employees. The increase in our budget this year is to cover the cost of

those benefits for three employees, and to pay competitive rates as dictated by the decreasing labor pool.

The fire protection, vehicle extrication, ice rescue, water rescue, and hazard material incident management services continue to be staffed entirely by volunteers. The fire volunteers are subject to some of the same stresses as the rescue staff. The time mandated for training, showing up at all hours, family responsibilities and jobs (sometimes two) all add to the problems of keeping up the roster. Reality, many of us are just getting older.

CVFRS is managed completely by volunteers, unlike any other Town entity such as the Senior Center and Library that have both employees and volunteers. The original budget request this year included funding to recruit paid management. At the request of the Selectboard, this was removed from the budget request. The need for the position remains.

The CVFRS website, CVFRS.com, contains a wealth of information about our service. You can find the list of volunteers, who they are, how much employees are paid, budget details, everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask. If you can't find the answer you are looking for, please use the "contact us" feature. Your question will be answered in the blog section so all can see, or we can contact you directly if you wish.

Thank you for your support.
 Fritz Tegatz
 CVFRS Board President

- be conducted by an architecture-led consulting team with experience developing community centers
- develop conceptual plans, identify site locations, and summary of proposed space needs
- provide cost estimates for both construction and any other costs that will comprise a total project budget
- determine a financially viable operating budget detailing projected revenues and expenses, including program offerings, annual maintenance, supplies and staffing
- be able to determine viability of funding options, including private fundraising
- propose alternate plans, such as a phased approach

The Community Center Committee is composed of individuals experienced in architecture, construction, permitting, communications and fundraising. We are deeply committed to the progress of this initiative—donating over 150 hours of professional services. Through our work, we've found considerable interest within the community for the concept of this project. The town-wide survey (322 participants) indicated interest in a wide range of programs. They included aquatics, multi-purpose courts, fitness studio space, an indoor walking track, a space to hold elections and Town Meeting, as well as a potential outdoor gathering space for a farmers market, community gardens, and/or performance events. Further research into the survey results also noted interest in other community services, such as a designated emergency shelter and a new location for the food shelf.

In addition, the siting subcommittee investigated several site opportunities and evaluated their potential to serve the needs of a future center. The programs subcommittee created business models for operations and revenue, along with a list of potential program offerings and space requirements. All the committee's work culminated in a presentation to the Selectboard in September. We informed the Selectboard in order to continue to further refine and determine the feasibility of this impactful project; we believe a professional consultant should conduct a more detailed feasibility study.

Selectboard members supported the idea and added it as a separate article to be considered by the voters of Charlotte on Town Meeting Day. The \$50,000 request is an estimate of what a study of this scope might cost and is an amount that won't be exceeded. The actual cost may be less, depending on the bids received.

We are excited to share the work we've done to date with Charlotte residents. We invite you to join us for a virtual informational session (tinyurl.com/mrypv2pn) on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. to see the results of the committee's work and ask questions about the project and proposed feasibility study. We will also be participating in the Public Information Meeting for Town Meeting articles on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 9 a.m. Community Center Committee materials are available on the town website, charlottevt.org. Interested community members who cannot attend the meetings can call or email the Recreation Director, Nicole Conley, at 802-425-6129 ext. 204, recreation@townofcharlotte.com.

Please vote yes on Article 6.
 By the Charlotte Community Center Committee



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.

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Correction

Our apologies to **Nancy Warren and Jay Strausser of Warren Strausser Realty Group**. Their name was inadvertently cut off from the bottom of the "Thank you advertisers" list on page 16 in the January 27 paper.

We would also like to thank Nancy and Jay for their time gathering the "Charlotte Property Transactions" each month. You can find the December 2021 property transactions on page 19.



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NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

February 24, 2022
 Copy Deadline: Friday, Feb. 18
 Ads Deadline: Friday, Feb. 18

March 10, 2022
 Copy Deadline: Friday, March 4
 Ads Deadline: Friday, March 4

Report from the Legislature

We can clean up our heating sources



Rep. Mike Yantachka

It is very apparent by now that climate change is happening both locally and globally with rising average temperatures and devastating effects, including extraordinary wildfires, flooding and other extreme weather events. In September 2020, the Vermont Legislature enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act (Act 153) that set greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and created a Climate Council to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to achieve those targets. The Climate Council published its report in December 2021, and in January the Legislature began working to implement it.

Transportation accounts for about 40 percent of GHG emissions in Vermont and heating accounts for about 34 percent. Targeting these two energy-intensive sectors will give us the best chance of meeting the target of a 40 percent reduction from 1990 levels of GHG emissions by 2030. The House Energy and Technology Committee has started crafting legislation from some of the specific recommendations of the Climate Action Plan regarding heating, including a Municipal Energy Resilience Plan (bill H.518) and a Clean Heat Standard.

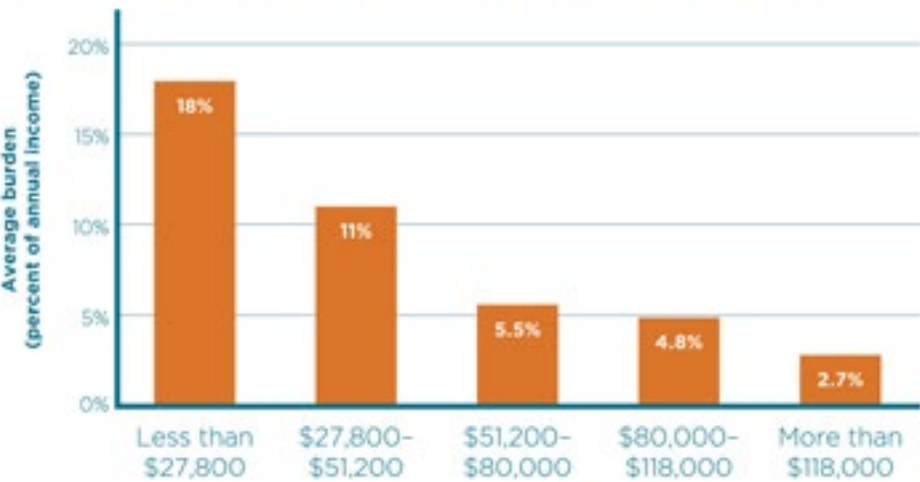
The Climate Council was careful to insist that whatever measures were taken to reduce GHG emissions, they be done in an equitable manner to prevent impacting those with the highest energy burden. Energy burden is defined as the total household energy expenses for heating and electricity divided by household income. The highest energy burden is experienced by the 20 percent of Vermonters with the lowest income, as shown in the accompanying chart. Energy

burden profiles can also be associated geographically with the highest energy burdens occurring in rural communities because of increased transportation fuel costs.

Vermont’s cities, towns and villages own and maintain approximately 7,000 old buildings that are expensive to heat and have a large carbon footprint. To meet our climate goals and ease the energy burden on municipal budgets, H.518 will support communities with technical assistance, design support and funding to make municipal assets more energy-efficient and to displace fossil fuels with cleaner options. It will expand the State Energy Management Program to help municipalities finance improvements and assist municipal leaders who may lack the technical expertise to assess the best investments to increase efficiency and resilience, with help from Efficiency VT and regional planning commissions.

With one-third of Vermont’s climate pollution coming primarily from fossil fuels used to heat our buildings and water, dependence on fossil fuels is expensive, with unpredictable price swings for consumers. If you heat your home with oil or propane, you’re paying as much as 40 percent above last year’s prices. This creates an especially large energy burden for lower-income Vermonters. Unlike our highly regulated electric sector, which is subject to the renewable energy standard (RES), fossil fuel corporations are under no obligation to reduce the carbon pollution of their product. A Clean Heat Standard (CHS) would require fossil fuel corporations to provide cleaner heating fuel options and/or pay for pollution-reduction measures that benefit Vermonters. These include employing cleaner heating options, like heat pumps, heat pump water

Combined heating and electricity energy burden in Vermont, by income quintile



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

heaters and advanced wood heat to displace fossil fuels; or supporting weatherization and efficiency measures. A CHS places the obligation of lowering emissions on fuel sellers while presenting Vermonters with choices on how and when to move to cleaner heat. To ensure equity in the application of the CHS, we are considering various design options, such as requiring a high fraction of credits to come from serving low- and moderate- income homes, providing extra

credits for providing clean heat in rental housing, and making incentive payments income-sensitive. Without implementing a CHS, Vermont will not meet its emissions reduction requirements under the Global Warming Solutions Act. As always, I welcome your emails (myantachka.dfa@gmail.com) or phone calls (802-233-5238). This article and others can be found on my website (www.MikeYantachka.com).




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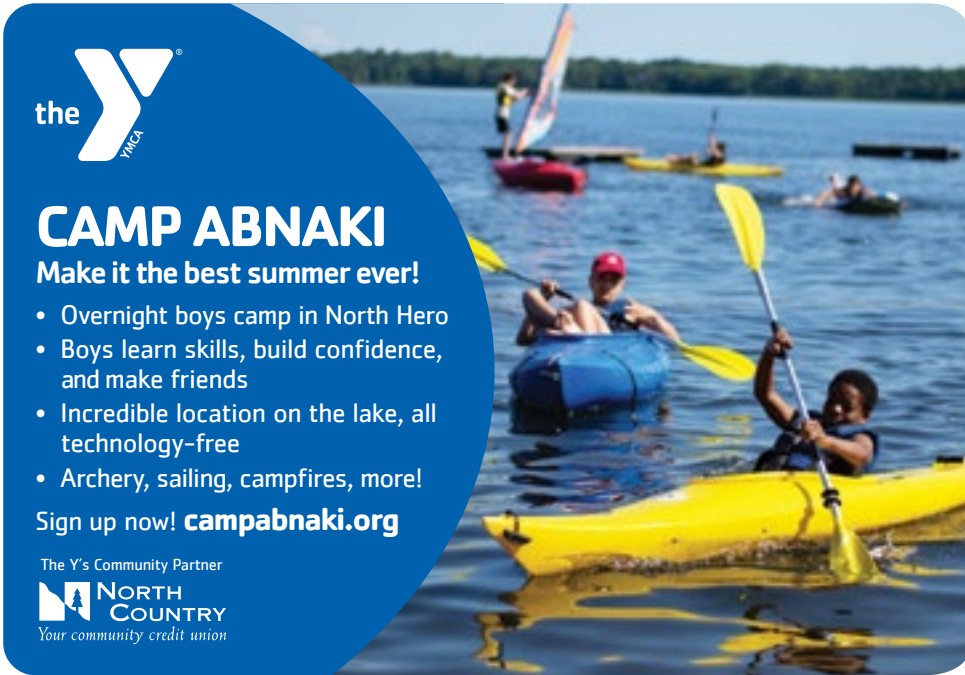



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Charlotte Grange Hall: our sturdy little home



Linda Hamilton
and Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTORS

Charlotte Grange: honoring Charlotte's agricultural roots and helping to build a resilient future for all

If those 150-year-old walls could talk, what stories they could tell!

Imagine life in Charlotte back in 1870, with lots of small farms and clusters of activity developing into village centers in both west and east Charlotte. Baptist Corners was the main cluster east of the physical barrier in the center of town created by Mutton Hill, Pease Mountain and Mt. Philo. In 1870 the area around the intersection of Hinesburg Road and Spear Street Extension known as Baptist Corners was a significant business, social and religious center—with two tanneries, a tavern, two churches, a store, a post office, a blacksmith shop, about 12 homes and a handsome new building called Lyceum Hall.

The word *lyceum* means a hall for public lectures or discussions, or an association providing public lectures, concerts and entertainments. There was a lyceum movement in the United States with local associations and more than 3,000 halls by the mid-1800s. Named for the place where Aristotle taught the youth of ancient Greece, lyceum associations were formed

in communities to give people opportunities to learn about and discuss topics of current interest. And in Charlotte, we can tell they wanted those opportunities very much because there was not only a lively Young Men's Literary Association, but they were able to raise enough money to build a Lyceum Hall in East Charlotte, on Spear Street in Baptist Corners.

They built it to last and with careful attention to detail in an Italianate architectural style. One of its distinctive and charming features is the square, flat-roofed belfry tower that tops the roof ridge on the east side. Lyceum Hall fit right in with a growing number of Greek revival style homes and public buildings nearby. And because this concentration of architecturally distinctive buildings was still mostly unaltered and in good condition 100 years later, the area was recognized by the State in 1980 as Baptist Corners Historic District.

Lyceum Hall was only about a year old when Charlotte School District #10 offered to buy it to serve the growing number of children in the community. The sale was arranged, and the building became the Lyceum Schoolhouse (happily, with permission for ongoing lyceum use). It must have made a good schoolhouse, being 26 by 40 feet with two stories and a basement, and with the installation of banks of large 12-over-12-pane windows along the walls of the ground floor that filled that space with lots of natural light. For almost 80 years those rooms rang

with children's voices as they learned and laughed and grew up.

Then another change. In 1949 Charlotte's several small schools were consolidated under the one roof of Charlotte Central School, and the Lyceum was sold to private owners. After 10 years, Charlotte Grange #398 (which had been meeting in various locations in town for its first 50 years) was able to buy the property and building and make it their home for meetings and events. Since 1958 the walls have been absorbing the sounds of individuals and families getting together to learn, laugh, share food, make music, support each other, and strengthen the networks that help hold us together as a community. Thank you, Charlotte Grange!

Today the Grange Hall, also referred to fondly as Lyceum Schoolhouse, is still structurally sturdy, despite its age and active history. It does, however, sorely need some physical upgrades if it's going to host more than a few people at a time and meet today's standards for accessibility and efficiency. The main hindrance to holding more events and activities there now is the lack of good water and septic systems, without which the tiny kitchen can barely function, and the little bathroom's holding tank quickly fills. Because Charlotte Grange members know what a strong and exciting role the hall can have in the community as a gathering place for not only Grange events but other activities as well, we are determined to find ways to restore and upgrade the facility as a community resource.

We've already taken some important steps toward this goal. With grants from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and from the Preservation Trust of Vermont covering half the cost, the beautiful schoolhouse windows have been completely restored, and the exterior has been scraped/ repaired and given a fresh coat of protective paint. The fuel tank and electrical panel have been replaced and exterior water damage around the fire escape repaired.

But most significantly, last year we



Charlotte Grange.

Photo contributed.

established a partner organization, Friends of Lyceum Schoolhouse, specifically to raise money for and oversee building restoration and significant upgrades. FLS can receive tax-deductible donations and will be organizing a range of projects and fundraising campaigns in the near future. Stay tuned for some exciting developments!

It took a community effort to build the original Lyceum Hall in 1870 and will again take a community effort to prepare it for its role as a vibrant contemporary center serving East Charlotte and beyond. We hope you'll join in because we will only be successful if we work together.

For more information about Charlotte Grange and Friends of Lyceum Schoolhouse and to learn how you can help, contact us at charlottegrangevt@gmail.com or call Linda Hamilton at 802-425-5795. Thank you.

Linda Hamilton and Trina Bianchi are longtime Charlotte residents and members of Charlotte Grange.

Town

Lighting up a bright future

Deirdre Holmes
MEMBER, CHARLOTTE ENERGY COMMITTEE

To highlight and celebrate energy-saving techniques and projects in town, the Charlotte Energy Committee has hung up eight sets of solar string lights at locations demonstrating examples of climate resilience. All these projects track the goals set out in our town’s enhanced energy plan and offer inspiration for where we aim to be by 2030. If you have not already, see if you can find all the locations. All the string lights have their own small solar panel which even the winter sun can charge during the day so that the lights come on automatically at dusk. They do not require any additional power, so no outdoor outlets, extension cords or higher electric bills are

involved. They each have a sign explaining the positive energy work being highlighted at that location. You can learn more about where you can find the lights and what positive actions they represent by following the link at our website, CharlotteEnergy.org (best accessed on a desktop). After taking inspiration from the solar highlights, we’d love to hear from you. Please be in touch (via the contact page on our website) with a description of your own actions to reduce or be more efficient with your energy use—the challenge is for all ages, or even for a whole family! The most innovative or most impactful submission will win a string of solar lights for your home. We’ll keep the lights up through Valentine’s Day for you to enjoy and be inspired by.



Have you seen these lights around town? Photos contributed



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KIM FINDLAY

Hi Neighbor!

Vera Simon-Nobes: crafting leather bags from local farms



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Vera Simon-Nobes' sewing career started inauspiciously with her mother's sewing machine. "I made some clothing when I was growing up, primarily unsuccessfully," she said. Success arrived while she was living at

what is now Philo Ridge Farm, making wool blankets from the sheep she raised, so when she decided she wanted a leather tote bag, it wasn't out of character to try to make one herself.

What began as a hobby turned into Rhubarb Leather, a micro-business Simon-Nobes started in 2015. "I had a desire to have a product come to life from our working landscape," she said, "either from animals I knew or those who had been cared for by local farmers." Simon-Nobes had followed the growth of the locavore movement and believed people were becoming more aware of the impact of "fast fashion" on the planet. "I had a lightbulb moment," she said, "where I realized that not only could I catch someone's eye with a product, but I could also turn it into a teachable moment that helps people learn about the source of their clothing and food."

Simon-Nobes gets her hides from Shelburne Farms, Bread and Butter Farm, Tail Feather Farm in New Haven and Drift Farmstead in Roxbury. The hides are tanned at Pergamena, which Simon-Nobes described as the only



Above: Vera Simon-Nobes, owner Rhubarb Leather. Right: Examples of the unique bags she creates. *Photos contributed*

large-scale, vegetable-based tannery in North America, forgoing the chemicals used at most plants. "They can take these raw, wet, heavy hides and transform them into beautiful leather products in six weeks," she said, adding that the family that owns the Hudson Valley business has been tanning hides since the 1500s. Although largely self-taught, once Simon-Nobes committed to learning how to work with new material, she took a course at leather school in Devon, England.

Simon-Nobes said her walls are covered with notebook pages with different designs but she wants to stick to making practical products. "As soon as I started making tote bags, I



saw a pretty strong demand that I couldn't keep up with because I'm so small-scale," she said. "I'm doing this after my job, family life and parenting. The totes are practical and simple." Although Simon-Nobes has an industrial sewing machine, she switched to sewing by hand after her daughter was born in 2018.

Simon-Nobes is the Farm-Based Education Network's Coordinator, a job she has held since 2015. "I work from Shelburne Farms," she said. "They are the coordinating organization, and my job is to facilitate conversations with people across the world who have visitors on their farms." Some of her work is in person, but a lot of it, even before the pandemic, was virtual. She believes her two jobs complement each other to some extent. "Through both avenues I'm able to visit farmers and look at the work



they are doing to raise animals and also the way they are teaching about farming," she said. "It's mutually reinforcing."

Five percent of Simon-Nobes' online sales go to non-profit organizations in Vermont. Recipients have included the Janet S. Munt Family Room, Slow Food Vermont, and a partnership between Shelburne Farms and the King Street Center. "Doing that speaks to my questioning of capitalism and its relationship to human and ecological health," she said. "I'm participating in the exchange of goods and getting products into peoples' homes, but it's important for me to take some of the proceeds and give to organizations devoted to environmental education or health."

Simon-Nobes has sold her leather products at Sweet Roots Farm, Philo Ridge Farm, Roots Farm Market in Middlesex, and mysa in Shelburne. She has also worked with the Vermont Food Collaborative and the Bread and Butter Farm, which was the first farm to go full-circle by selling totes made from hides raised on their pasture.

Although she has thought about expansion, Simon-Nobes wants to maintain a good balance between work and family time. She is grateful her retail outlets and online clients are willing to wait patiently for her to finish her products. She also recognizes that she is following in the footsteps of previous artisans. "Indigenous people have been working with leather for generations," she said. "The work I'm doing is something that people have been doing for thousands of years."

Her family no longer raises animals, but Simon-Nobes is passionate about promoting Vermont farms. "Vermont grows grass really well," she said, "and through intensive grazing practices, farmers are building healthy soil, growing healthy animals, and raising food for the community at the same time. I like supporting this work through turning cowhides into a value-added product."

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The Charlotte News

Around Town

Congratulations to:

to **Seth Boffa**, a freshman at Middlebury College, who achieved Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester. To be selected, students must carry a full course load and have a 3.3 grade point average with no grade lower than a B minus.

to **Jared Badger** and to **Judy Buxton** who both earned MBA degrees in Business Administration from Champlain College at the end of the fall 2021 semester.

to **Sophia Kehr**, class of ’24 at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, who was named to Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester after completing a full course load with at least a 3.5 grade point average.

to **Margaret Eagan** whose poem “Dear body” appeared on the January 28 *Burlington Free Press*. In it she suggests to her body, with its ability to repair itself, that it follow the rules, saying, “Wouldn’t it be better if with these rules you could align?”

Obituary

Yvan Gilbert Joseph Plouffe

On Feb. 1, 2022, heaven gained a lifelong farmer and generous friend. Yvan Gilbert Joseph Plouffe was born on Sept. 30, 1937 to Romeo and Deliose (Lambert) Plouffe in Quebec, Canada. The sixth of 10 children, Yvan moved to Charlotte in 1956 with his parents and bought their Carpenter Road farm in 1966. He continued to grow the dairy farm until 1986, when he participated in the dairy buyout. He continued haying and kept a large herd of beef cattle until 1996.

Not one to sit still, his hobbies were

plentiful. He was a master at beekeeping and collected honey by the gallons using his “special” smoke. Maple sugaring was one of his many passions, and he would throw the best old-fashioned sugaring parties. Sugar on snow and maple cream were served to hundreds of visitors each year.

Flowers and plants of every variety took root at Yvan’s home. He had a greenhouse of remarkably fragrant roses. He perfected the art of growing tomatoes, and produce was abundant from his garden. His orchard also expanded, and peaches, plums, apples and grapes grew in all corners of his property. He gave away thousands of roses and bushels of produce each summer.

Yvan built his house, woodshop and a sugarhouse on Plouffe Lane. The Charlotte Senior Center is graced with his handcrafted tables, and family and friends own his farm tables as well.

Yvan took up pottery as a winter hobby at the Shelburne Craft School. He also appreciated art in many forms: abstract art pieces and metal chickens adorned his property, and a concrete fork and spoon marked his driveway entrance. This was a clear landmark for Yvan’s many visitors, who were told to “turn right at the fork in the road!”

Yvan spent most days in his trusty Subaru, traveling through every corner of Chittenden County. He typically put 30,000 to 40,000 miles a year on his cars while delivering roses, maple syrup and produce to friends near and far.

Thanks to Hope Hospice in Fort Myers, Florida, for their wonderful care of Yvan in his final weeks of declining health, upon what was supposed to be just a short winter’s vacation. Their gentleness and

compassion will always be remembered.

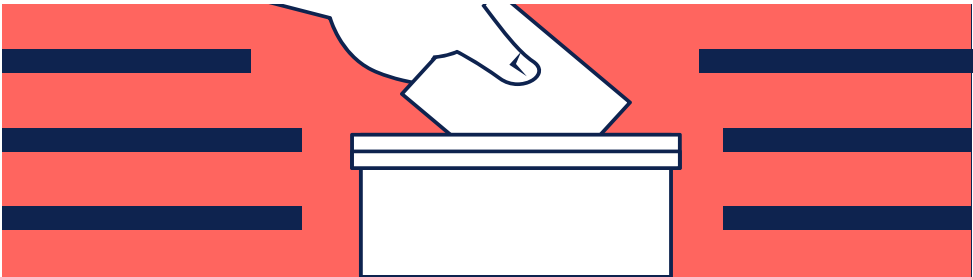
Yvan is survived by his brother Norman (Evelyn) of Montreal, Canada, and sisters Laureanne Plouffe and Agnes Lussier (Renald) of Charlotte, Edith Robinson (Jim) of Isle LaMotte/Ft. Myers, and Danielle Wineman Zimmermann (Peter) of Virginia. He was predeceased by his parents, along with sisters Denise and Constance, and brothers Cyril and Bertrand (all of Canada). He leaves lots of cousins

and three generations of nieces and nephews who looked up to him with love, respect and lots of laughter. And his many, many friends, too numerous to mention—may you all know the joy you brought to his life.

A celebration of Yvan will be held later this year. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Hope Hospice in Ft. Myers, Florida, or plant a rosebush in Yvan’s honor.



Roses grown from Yvan’s greenhouse on Plouffe Lane. He was famous around town for bringing his roses everywhere and sharing where he could. Photo by Meg Berlin.







CANDIDATES NIGHT

ON ZOOM & LIVE STREAMING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | 7PM-9PM

Please join us for a 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.

Co-hosted by the Charlotte Grange, Charlotte Library and The Charlotte News. Live streaming and recording provided by the Media Factory.

Zoom link: bit.ly/vote05445.
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Education

Developmental screenings available for children ages birth through five years

Champlain Valley School District

Children ages birth through three years
Do you have concerns about your child’s development? Families with children from birth through age three may be eligible to receive services through Children’s Integrated Services. CIS services are family centered, child focused and delivered through a network of providers throughout Vermont. Services could include parenting support, developmental assessments, speech, language, motor or vision services.

All children who qualify for early intervention are eligible for these free services, regardless of their family’s income, in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act



(IDEA), Part C.
For information, contact: the Family Center of Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, Liz Hamel, elizabeth.hamel@nessinc.org.

Children ages three years through six years, prior to kindergarten
Our teams of early childhood special educators, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists are available to help screen your child, ages three to six years, when you have concerns

about development. If you or your child’s early childhood teacher have any concerns about your child’s development in the areas of communication, social-emotional, motor, adaptive or cognitive development, please contact Kristin Eisensmith at keisensmith@cvsdvt.org.

- These free resources are also available:
- “Help Me Grow Vermont,” an online screening tool called “The Ages and Stages Questionnaire” that families can use at home.
 - The CDC also has child development checklists and an app connected to the *Developmental Milestones*. This app includes fun activities to enhance development.

Charlotte Central School Newsletter

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard, Contributor)

Message from Charlotte Central School administrators

While COVID (Omicron) has some of us shrinking our “pods” and connections to the outer world, others have sought opportunities to share their expertise, their time, their resources. As a community, we welcome all of you and appreciate your role in the present and future of Charlotte Central School. We would like to invite you into our CCS CIRCLE where people can share their mastery for the betterment of the whole. Ways to be part of our community of CARE:

1. Mentor for a youth in our school.
2. Sign up to be a substitute teacher or recess/lunch supervisor
3. Participate in the PTO.
4. Contribute to the annual fund with targeted goals of athletics, STEAM, and theater.
5. Have ideas about an enrichment club for after school? Let us know.
6. Wednesday snacks for CCS staff—grade-level sign-ups.
7. Send some positive vibes to the people who keep our school running behind the scenes—our bus drivers, administrative assistants, cafeteria staff, maintenance

crew, nurses and all of the educators of CCS.
We are eagerly anticipating Stephanie’s return on Monday (January 31, 2022). She has been missed dearly and her return will be one more stabilizing force as we look forward to a few months of consistency and growth across the board. During her time away, we appreciated Jeff filling in. He was able to bring smiles and form connections with many staff and students during his brief stay with us. We thank him for his time and look forward to his visits in the future.

We continue to look for opportunities to create joy and connection among our K–8 students. This week our K–6 students had a Virtual Dance Party with our CCS mascot, Champ. Today’s snow (Friday, Feb 4.) and what we see in the forecast is perfect for our 2022 Winter Carnival, planned for Friday, Feb. 18.

Some highlights from the week of January 24

- Eighth-grade students had their first transition meeting with counselors from CVU virtually to discuss courses and routines at CVU. Updates will be sent to families in the coming weeks.
- Comfortable clothes and stuffed animals were all around the primary wing Friday for some classes’ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports celebration.
- PE classes moved to the Charlotte ice rink when the weather cooperated. Kids

- reported having “the best time ever!”
- The warm-up for the girls’ basketball team games was a Zumba festival and a few rounds of duck-duck-goose.

Reminder: CCS February school break is coming up in two weeks. School will be on break the week of Feb. 21 to 25, returning on Monday, Feb. 28.

Champlain Valley School District 2022–2023 proposed budget and bond
The proposed budget for the 2022–2023 school year has been finalized by the CVSD School Board. Please view our Annual Report and a variety of other materials to learn about the proposed budget and bond at cvsdvt.org/budget.

Important dates and polling places for school budget
CVSD Informational Meeting: Monday, Feb. 28, 5 p.m.
The information to join this virtual meeting can be found on the CVSD website (cvsdvt.org/budget).

Vote! You may either vote in person in your town on March 1 or contact your town clerk to request an absentee ballot ahead of time. You may also go to mvp.vermont.gov/ to arrange for a ballot. Ballots will not be mailed unless you request them.

Kindergarten registration at Charlotte Central School

If your child will be five years old by Sept. 1, 2022, she/he is eligible to attend kindergarten at Charlotte Central School. Please call Naomi Strada at 802-425-6600 or email her at nstrada@cvsdvt.org to receive a registration packet. Once you have reached out indicating that your child will be coming to CCS, you will receive a registration packet. We are looking forward to your family joining ours!

Registration window: Wednesday, Feb. 2, through Friday, Feb. 18, 2022





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In The Garden

Gardening, sort of...



Joan Weed
CONTRIBUTOR

Here we are with a good foot plus of fresh snow and itching to do some gardening. Still too early for seed starting, except for a couple of varieties. But it is the perfect time for making plans. The catalogues and garden tool offerings

have been coming in since before the holidays. I save some but not all. In this stage of my gardening life, I know which ones are trustworthy and which ones I will never order from. Some of my favorites are High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, Vermont, and Johnny's Selected Seeds from Maine. If you are interested in natives, try Prairie Moon Nursery in Minnesota. Good sources for heirloom flowers and vegetables are Baker Creek in Missouri and Seed Savers Exchange in Iowa. Digging Dog Nursery in California is a favorite for plants, packaging and customer service. For bulbs (summer and spring) I like McClure and Zimmerman in Wisconsin.

I do support local growers as well. Herbs and veggie starts are supplied by Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg, and I have many trees, shrubs and perennials from Horsford's, our neighbor right here in Charlotte. Buying local saves shipping expenses.

Remember when I urged you to keep a journal? Now is the time to check it out. Read your entries by the fire tonight. "Oh, the coreopsis was spectacular, might need more of those...and that green bean that was so prolific? Will do again." I also keep a compendium of perennial plants. So, if a particular cultivar needs replacing, this is the time to order. Most of these places will give you the option of choosing your send date. Occasionally, I have to keep plants inside for a week or two if I miscalculate. Here I might also draw a line through the ones that didn't make it. If I really want it in my garden, I might re-order and try a new spot with new conditions. Some plants just get weary and need refreshing. If you loved it, re-plant it.

Make lists as you go along, then narrow them down.

Some seeds need stratification. That means a damp and cold period just as Mother Nature has done. There are a couple of ways to achieve this. Plant seeds in containers of moist seed-starting mix and cover and place them in a refrigerator or a cold (not freezing spot) for several weeks. I found *Lobelia cardinalis* needs this treatment. Another method is scattering certain seeds directly on snow, where they will be stratified and filter down to the soil in time, just as if naturally planted. This method would be good for native wildflowers and grasses. If using this method, overplant, as seeds are food for wildlife. I have had success doing this with annual poppies of various sorts, calendula, nasturtiums. Of course, my garlic has been in the ground since October, ready to spring into action.

This might also be the time to think about the hardscape in your garden. Have you wanted a stone wall, water feature, a patio or paved paths in your beds? It doesn't have to be done all at once, but each season's efforts add up to a comforting environment for you and your family. Line up your workers and supplies now. How about ordering a load of compost or mulch? I've been reading about "No-Dig" gardening, which has been proven beneficial as it keeps the mycorrhizal networks intact. This fungi is important in breaking down the organic fibers from your compost which are vital to the structure of your soil. There is life teeming in your garden beds unseen by us.

These days I am dreaming of the garden season to come but also taking advantage of the respite and renewal that our Vermont winter offers. What will you try this season? Research and visit websites for ideas and information.

Hope you'll have something new and exciting to look forward to, as well as the old plant friends from years past.



The catalogues and garden tool offerings have been coming in since before the holidays.

Photo by Joan Weed

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Gardening

Speculating on the history of greenhouses



Greenhouses have enjoyed a long history as places to cultivate fruits and vegetables, as well as to study and preserve unusual plant species. Photo by Klaus Hausmann/Pixabay.

Nadie VanZandt
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Gardeners in cold climates have learned to extend the growing season by building greenhouses. As early as 30 A.D., reports of greenhouses appeared in the writings of the famous Pliny the Elder, Roman savant and scientific authority of his time.

Pliny described *specularia* as garden beds fitted with wheels that were covered with glazed frames to protect plants in cold weather. In Latin, *specularium* refers to a transparency that allows light into a building. The word is derived from *Lapis specularis*, a variety of gypsum rock that splits into sheets almost as clear as glass. Today it is known as selenite.

Specularia were erected on the Island of Capri around 30 A.D., specifically to provide a year-round supply of melons (*Cucumis melo*) for the powerful Emperor Tiberius Caesar.

Although glass had been discovered long before, it was only used to make beads and small vials until 100 A.D. when the Romans began manufacturing glass windows. Masters at glass blowing, they refined a technique to split a long balloon of molten glass into two halves, which they flattened into separate windowpanes.

The Middle Ages were fraught with wars and turmoil. It was not until much later—a millennium later, at the beginning of the Renaissance—that Italians developed the concept of modern greenhouses.

Innovation was driven by collections of exotic plants acquired from explorers returning from voyages to faraway lands. The Italians called their greenhouses *giardini botanici* (botanic gardens, in Latin). They erected them to shelter these exotic plants and study their medicinal properties.

With the Age of Exploration, the Roman concept of greenhouses spread east. In 1459, a cookbook authored by Jeon Soon, a Korean royal physician, describes greenhouses fitted with temperature control

features, improving the Italian design with artificial heat and ventilation.

During the 16th century, greenhouses caught on in the Netherlands, England and France. There, royal courts housed large collections of exotic plants acquired from the explorers that they sponsored.

The structures, a symbol of wealth and prestige, were imposing—luxurious glass and stone monuments built for the pleasure of monarchs, while serving as places for scientific study in herbal medicine.

The greenhouse on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles is just one lavish example. The expansively glazed building, commissioned by Louis XIV, is almost 500 feet long and 50 feet high. The high price of glass and the cost of maintaining an optimal climate inside made these structures accessible to only the upper class, governments and scientific institutions.

However, rapid advances in technology during the Industrial Revolution led to manufacturing and design improvements that lowered the cost of glass and reduced taxes on glass and windows. As a result, greenhouses became affordable to middle-class plant enthusiasts.

Similarly, in the United States, the high price of glass made the ownership of greenhouses a privilege only afforded by the upper class. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Law, a property tax repealed in 1847, accounted for the number and size of windows and taxed accordingly, allowing only the wealthiest to be able to afford a greenhouse.

During the early years of the republic, some of America's most famous greenhouses were built by wealthy families with connections in international trade. One of the oldest is the Lyman Estate Greenhouses (go.uvm.edu/lyman-estate) in Waltham, Massachusetts, built in 1798 for Theodore Lyman, a Boston shipping magnate and avid horticulturist.

Into the Woods

E.O. Wilson: in memoriam

Ethan Tapper
CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER

On December 26, 2021, Edward O. Wilson, known by most as E.O. Wilson, passed away. A two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, as well as an array of other awards and honors, Wilson is the author of more than 20 books, a professor, and a bright light in the conservation movement. His work has had a profound influence on me personally and on many who love and work to protect ecosystems.

The thread that runs through Wilson’s work is the celebration of biodiversity. Biological diversity, or “biodiversity,” is defined by Wilson as “the variation of living organisms at all levels.” Biodiversity exists at many scales, from the genetic variation within an individual species to the diversity of different species within an ecosystem, to the variation between ecosystems across our landscape and across the globe. In his writing and his speaking, Wilson is the kind of genius who makes the complex, nuanced concept of biodiversity understandable and even beautiful.

E.O. Wilson was a *myrmecologist*—a scientist who studies ants—by training, and writes extensively about invertebrates, which he calls “the little things that run the world.” He revels in the vastness and the mystery of biodiversity: the millions of species in existence (there are about 2 million known species on earth) and the millions of species yet to be discovered (perhaps 10 to 30 million species exist). Each of these species occupies a niche and fulfills a nuanced ecological role, and Wilson describes the megafauna of the African savannah and the more than 500 species of bacteria endemic to the human mouth with nearly equal reverence.

E.O. Wilson’s words are timely and critical in the middle of a global biodiversity crisis, a mass extinction event directly attributable to human activity. Wilson abbreviates the primary causes of biodiversity loss into the acronym “HIPPO”—Habitat loss, Invasives (non-native invasive plants, animals, pests and pathogens), Pollution, Population and Overexploitation (the over-harvesting of organisms and resources). Taken along with climate change, these factors comprise *global change*: the true sum of the threat to our ecosystems and to the species that occupy them.

Wilson advocates for protecting biodiversity both for its *intrinsic value*—its right to exist—and as an act of self-preservation. Biodiversity is the foundation upon which ecosystems are built, and ecosystems make our world work for humans and for everything else. As we endeavor to build a functional, sustainable world for ourselves and for our children, we lose biodiversity at our own peril.

Biodiversity is also critical to ecosystem *resilience*. As forests and other ecosystems respond to global change, they face an



Edward O. Wilson
Photo by Rick Friedman/Corbis/Getty Images

incredible array of challenges and stressors—to individual species, to the interactions between species, and to the interaction between species and their environment—that fundamentally threaten their ability to exist. Maintaining a diversity of different ecosystems, different species and genetic variability within species provides more pathways for species and ecosystems to *adapt* to these unpredictable and profound changes.

In his work, Wilson balances idealism with pragmatism. He recognizes the importance of protecting lands and species for their own sake, as well as the importance of taking action. He understands that a functional and sustainable world must involve a balance between protecting ecosystems and protecting each other. Finding ways to produce resources sustainably is a part of that balance, as is promoting justice and equity in our local and global communities.

As insulated as we Vermonters seem to be from its worst effects, we are still experiencing global change and biodiversity loss. Vermont is losing about 1,500 acres of forest a year, with a far greater amount being fragmented with roads and with residential and commercial development. Among other factors, non-native invasive plants, pests and pathogens, climatic changes and shifts in our natural disturbance regimes actively threaten and undermine the health of our remaining forests. We all actively contribute to global change through the resources we consume, which are produced at a cost to ecosystems across the world and our global climate.

As with our forests, our lives are built on complex legacies—the foundations laid by those who came before. Above all, E.O. Wilson inspired countless people to love and to safeguard life on behalf of everyone and everything. Whether or not we will honor his legacy depends on what we do next.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. To see what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he’s written at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.

GREENHOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The Lyman Estate Greenhouses are still in operation and contain many exotic specimens acquired by Lyman himself. They are open to the public, and admission is free.

Today, materials and construction techniques continue to improve, making greenhouses accessible to all budgets. Plastic films and fiberglass offer new

glazing options. Framing materials include aluminum and galvanized steel. More efficient climate control systems are available, from passive solar designs to sophisticated heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems.

Many affordable options for greenhouses are available to homeowners. They come in various shapes and sizes. Now is the time to plan if you are considering a greenhouse to shelter your seedlings before the last frost.

Sacred Hunter

Good taste and poor ingredients



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

Thirty years ago, I was introduced to the sport of ice fishing by a chef at the restaurant where I worked. Some of you may fondly remember Perry's Fish House on Shelburne Road, which was a part of Tony Perry's

group that included Sweetwaters and the Sirloin Saloon. Tony had a knack for hiring exceptionally talented chefs who may have been overlooked by the competition. One of them was Steve Osborne.

When I met Steve I was working as a host at the Fish House and writing culinary columns for *Vermont Outdoors Magazine* (another wonderful publication that fell prey to mismanagement). My job was to take wild game to a chef at a different restaurant every month and have them create epicurean masterpieces. I would interview them, document their recipe (which they created on the spot), pair it with a bottle of fine wine, take a picture, and sit down to consume the feast. I did this for 10 years and collected some remarkable recipes and learned volumes about wild game cookery. Now, if you do the math, that is 120 columns with recipes. And every one of them was worthy of recognition by James Beard. During that entire period, we found only one recipe that I felt was utterly, undeniably foul: perch roe. Ozzie and I started ice fishing together and tried several

times to conjure a sauce, spice or herb to cover the taste.

We started fishing together when he sold me an old 1979 Jeep CJ-7 for \$700 "as is." It had some unique characteristics—the two rear panels were held together by a long-threaded bolt that ran from the outside of the right rear quarter, through the back seat which we removed, and through the left rear quarter to the outside. On the outside of the box, I used heavy-duty stainless-steel nuts to keep the box from falling off. At one point, part of the exhaust system rusted and fell off on some dirt road in the backcountry. We needed to find a way to keep the exhaust fumes from entering the cab, so true redneck jury-rigging led a local unnamed gas station to use hose clamps to attach four Coke cans in line to meet the flange at the muffler. It had another unique feature we added while trying to solve the hole in the driver's side floorboard. As we had begun ice fishing regularly together, making weekend jaunts to Mallets Bay in pursuit of yellow perch—and while I would never recommend driving a truck or car on the ice, when I considered the intrinsic value of the vehicle, it just made sense rather than walk a half mile onto the ice dragging a sled and buckets of tackle.

Now before I share the highly technical modification, it is important to note that in the 90s we used wooden hand lines with nylon line, a bright silver "flasher" and two hooks baited with minnows. The hand



Crispy tails with brussel sprouts and fries.

Photo by Bradley Carleton

lines were rather short—only about 10 inches in length—thus, they were jiggled close to one's body. Most old timers would agree that those days were a lot colder than what we experience now, and when we put our collective ingenuity together it led to the first "fish-through-the-floorboards" prototype. We cut a square out of the hole in the driver's side floorboard and attached a door with hinges that allowed us to drop a line right through the floor and into the hole we had augured below.

Now, back to the story of the inedible perch roe. We learned to clean our fish from a legendary commercial fisherman out on Porter's Point named Ralph Learned. Ralph taught us to clean them so that the finished product was two pieces of meat with just the backbone and tail still attached. The Old Timers dubbed this method "crispy tails." No ribs, no head, gills or skin, just meat, backbone (which peels away quite easily from the flesh when fried) and the tail. Now anyone who has had crispy tails will tell you that the tail is the delicacy. But for the hardcore "real Vermonter," they swear that the female's egg sack, called "roe," when fried, is likened to an extraordinary french fry.

Well, being the outdoorsman that I profess to be, and believing that if you are going to kill something you should use every

part of it that we can to honor its life. This is where I have failed to live the values I profess. Ozzie, being the master chef that he is, tried every way he could think of to make this roe palatable. Now, at Perry's Fish House, once a year, when the shad ran up the Connecticut River, the executive chef of the group, Rod Rehwinkel, would use his local buying prowess to procure the shad roe. It would be on the menu every year for the select few who knew of its reputation as a rare delicacy. But try as we might, Ozzie could not create a recipe that made these fish (perch) eggs taste any better than rotten eggs. Be it known that I love caviar—beluga, lumpfish, salmon, sturgeon, any other roe from any other fish. But perch roe goes down in my book as the only entirely inedible perversion of wasted culinary talent.

If I were reincarnated as Anthony Bourdain, I might try it again, but for this lifetime, if any of my readers should want these despicable yellow sacks of foul-smelling eggs, please contact me, as I will be glad to set them on your doorstep for the remainder of the season.

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

On Books

The great believers



Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

Many novels (you have no doubt noticed) have an epigraph or epigraphs. They are easy to miss, like the dedication. And tempting to skip, because, if you are like me, you want to just dive into the story, no introduction or preface necessary, thank you. (I hate long introductions and prefaces.) But I do make myself read epigraphs, because they are illuminating. Not always right away, but eventually, usually.

“We were the great believers. I have never cared for any men as much as for these who felt the first springs when I did, and saw death ahead, and were reprieved—and who now walk the long stormy summer.” (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

“The world is a wonder, but the portions are small” (Rebecca Hazelton)

These are the two epigraphs that stand at the gate of Rebecca Makkai’s novel, *The Great Believers*. I probably read them when I first began the book, and likely I appreciated them, in an offhand way. But coming back to them after finishing the novel and after having a couple of weeks to digest it all, I see they make a good deal more sense in hindsight and have the effect now of resounding like a chord within me—not an opening chord, as I suppose these fragments are meant, but as a closing one...creating a sound that vibrates longer, maybe, than was intended, like one of those Buddhist singing bowls.

“Men who felt the first springs when I did, and saw death ahead...” “the world is a wonder, but the portions are small”

The Great Believers is a novel that takes place in two different times—the 1980s and 30 years later; a double narrative, with some overlapping characters. The story begins with Yale Tishman and his partner, Charlie, making their way to a party at their friend Richard’s house. The event is a gathering of friends following the funeral of Nico, a young man who “had made it clear there was to be a party” before he passed away. “If I get to hang out as a ghost, you think I wanna see sobbing?” he had said. “I’ll haunt you. You sit there crying, I’ll throw a lamp across the room, okay?” (He goes on to say something

about a poker and what he will do with it if there is too much public display of sadness, but because this is a family paper, I won’t include it.) Nico’s friends and associates had spent three weeks mourning, “and now Richard’s house brimmed with forced festivity.” Julian, Teddy, Nico’s sister Fiona, Nico’s lover Terrence...people mingled and flooded in, while the house loudened by the minute. “Two very pretty, very young men circulated with trays of little quiches and stuffed mushrooms and deviled eggs,” the book goes on (I am just gathering fragments here, to give you an idea...).

“In any case,” the novel goes on, “this was infinitely better than that strange and dishonest vigil last night. The church had smelled nicely of incense, but otherwise there was little about it Nico would have liked. ‘He wouldn’t be caught dead here,’ Charlie had said, and then he’d heard himself and tried to laugh.”

“Nico’s illness had been sudden, immediately debilitating—first a few days of what had seemed like just shingles, but then, a month later moon-high fevers and dementia.”

I had no idea what this book was about when I first began it. It was a book club pick and a total mystery. All I knew was the title, the author and that I had only a couple of days to read it (not enough, as it turns out). I had no idea how it would take me back to the 80s and the whole AIDS epidemic, a time when one by one young men in our midst were falling ill and dying, no cure in sight.

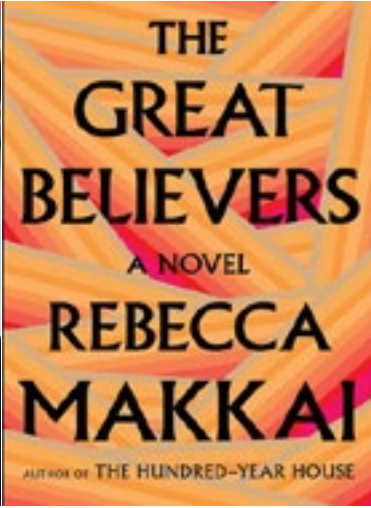
I remember the time well. Or now I do. I hadn’t forgotten it, I don’t think I could ever forget it, but I hadn’t really thought about it for a while. But this book stirred my memory, big time. It all happened back when I was living in Miami Beach. I had heard rumors of a disease that affected the immune system and was spread by unprotected sex, blood transfusions and needles And then suddenly, like a Florida rainstorm, it was upon us. Out of the blue, young, young friends of my husband and me were falling ill, developing rashes, coughs, lesions, blindness and—surreally—dying. People our age and younger; people who had just been living full, fit active lives. I remember visiting them in hospitals: Frank, Jeremiah, George, George, Tim—young men who had been so beautiful, healthy, fit and spirited...now crippled, diminished, fading, gone. I remember haunting, uncomfortable interactions with friends, one day so vividly alive, the next: sinewy, pale, tethered to IVs in hospital gowns—one sitting in a chair, turning his head, unable to see us because the disease had taken his sight—so many trying

to make light of the situation, to find some humor in the horror to ease their visitors’ sorrow and shock. I remember funeral after funeral, remember throwing rose petals in the ocean, remember a mother throwing herself into her son’s coffin, sobbing, overcome. This book took me back to so many memories and aspects of that time. It has helped me remember and honor those lives lost—both the lives of people I knew and the lives of so many thousands I didn’t—and to recall also the tragic and woefully inadequate response of the government to the carnage of the AIDS epidemic, which is touched upon also in this book.

I found this a powerful read. Very well written. I felt I really knew the characters, and not a one struck me as a caricature. Each has his/her idiosyncrasies and motivations, ways of speaking, styles and nuances of humor and self-reflection. The plot is interesting, and there’s a lot going on. I didn’t want to put it down, but dreaded finishing it, too. Some books are just that way.

Lots of texture and complexity here, but not, in any way, overwhelming. There is a lost person who someone is desperately trying to find. There is relationship drama. Betrayal. Disappointment. Hope. Love. There is some political activism, and a coup involving a collection of 1920s paintings that happen to be in the possession of an old woman who was once an artist’s model in Paris during the time of Modigliani. There is a fleet of interesting, amusing, distinctive characters. There is humor and tragedy both. I loved it.

And not that this has anything much to do



with the book, a strange thing happened while I was reading it. I will tell you, quickly. So, on Jan. 28, I saw on Facebook a photograph of the Space Shuttle Challenger exploding midair spiraling thick smoke, along with a short tribute explaining that Jan. 28, 2022, was the 36th anniversary of the tragic explosion. Meanwhile, I was midway through reading *The Great Believers*, hustling in hopes that I could finish it before book club. So, I saw the photo on Facebook, then went back to reading. In less than an hour, I came upon a scene in the book wherein one of the characters is in a hotel room and turns on the TV, and sees the Challenger Space Shuttle explode. Jan. 28, 1986.

Weird, right?

Anyway, to bring this all full circle, let’s get back to the epigraphs...and the idea of “men who felt the first springs when I did, and saw death ahead...” coupled with a reminder of the brevity of life: “the world is a wonder, but the portions are small”—so perfect for that time, those lives, those relationships—so perfect for this very good book, which the *Chicago Tribune* describes as “remarkably alive despite all the loss it encompasses.”

Hope you are all well and enjoying the snow, enjoying life.



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Health Matters

A shoulder to lean on

Better posture and a few exercises go a long way

Mike Dee, P.T., SCS
DEE PT

You start to notice a slight discomfort in your shoulder when you are doing simple things or when you sleep on it. We are nearly two years into the pandemic, and sitting slumped over at our computers has become far too common. You are very active on the weekends and with your seasonal activities. This sounds familiar because it is the story of most people with some level of shoulder discomfort.

A few facts

There are some 16 basic muscles to the shoulder complex, and when we consider the ones that attach to the collarbone, the number increases. The shoulder complex is made up of four different joints: the collarbone attaches to the sternum (breastbone), then to the scapula (shoulder blade). The humerus (upper arm bone) attaches to the scapula to make a ball-and-socket joint, and the scapula sits and moves on the ribcage.

It is the most injured area of the body we see as physical therapists, and the one that usually requires the most work to rehabilitate.

There is very good radiologic evidence that most of us over the age of 50 have some wear and tear of our muscles and the joints of the shoulder. The good news is most of us will never know it and will function quite well despite these findings. That is why we treat the client and not the x-ray.

The role of posture

Our mid-back, the thoracic spine, has a normal, forward-bending curve to it. As we mature, most of us will experience more of a

forward bend. This puts the scapula in a position that is less than ideal for healthy shoulder function. Try this: sit at the edge of a chair and slump forward through your entire spine. With your thumbs facing upward, raise both arms up in front of you as far as they will comfortably go. They may end up at or below ear height. Hold that arm position as you sit up straight. Where are the arms in relationship to the height of your shoulders now and how much further can you raise them? This exercise highlights the impact of the thoracic spine on the shoulder complex.

In physical therapy for treatment of clients with shoulder symptoms we will always consider both your thoracic spine and your cervical spine (neck). A routine treatment may include techniques using our hands to get the spine moving a little better. Most importantly, we give a set of exercises to encourage best posture and movement of your thoracic spine.

The rotator cuff

Often referred to as the “rotor cuff” by the layperson, this group of four muscles work to rotate and stabilize the head of the humerus on the scapula. Two of the muscles work to rotate the humerus outward, one of them rotates the humerus inward, and the fourth one on the top (the supraspinatus) works



Stock image

to hold the head of the humerus on the scapula. The relatively small rotator cuff muscle is the most frequently injured. Scientists are not sure why this is, but all agree that specific rotator cuff exercises can help to maintain and improve the condition of the muscles and tendons of this quartet.

Frozen shoulder

Adhesive capsulitis

is the medical term for frozen shoulder, and one would be remiss not to discuss it here.

The head of the humerus sits on the scapula and is held there by the rotator cuff muscles and a capsule made up of pliable but sturdy connective tissue.

In middle-aged women and people with diabetes we see this insidious diagnosis and still have no good explanation as to why it happens.

There are three stages to this self-limiting diagnosis: freezing, frozen and thawing. A typical case could last three to 18 months, and never return.

The freezing stage comes with deep and at times throbbing and persistent pain when one moves suddenly, at night or at rest. This is combined with a progressive and frustrating loss of motion in the shoulder.

The frozen stage is just what it sounds like. The shoulder is not moving; however, the

pain of the previous stage is minimal to nonexistent. In the thawing stage, one has minimal pain as motion is gradually restored.

Cortisone injections in the early stages have been shown to limit the duration and dysfunction associated with frozen shoulder. As physical therapists we can help, to a point, by maintaining some level of targeted exercise while helping clients minimize their pain. However, we are most helpful as the client “thaws out,” when a more comprehensive and restorative exercise program can be offered.

Prevention and maintenance

Given the high incidence of shoulder problems, I liken upper back strengthening and targeted rotator cuff exercises to the flossing, rinsing and brushing of our teeth on a daily basis.

Try these:

Put your arms at your side, elbows bent all the way, palms facing forward, as you squeeze your shoulder blades down and back. Hold for three to five seconds and repeat five times, keeping your forearms vertical.

Bend your elbows to 90 degrees, hug them to your ribs with forearms out in front of you (palms up). Rotate both forearms in and out, as if to say, “Got no money.” You can do as many of these as you want.

A good website for all things physical therapy: physio-pedia.com/home/.

Remember: good movement is good, for goodness’ sake.

Mike Dee, PT, SCS, is a board-certified Specialist in Sports Physical Therapy and practices at Dee Physical Therapy, deept.com.

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Area Calendar Events

Calendar compiled by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to
calendar@thecharlottenews.org.

Some events will be cancelled due to COVID and weather. Guidelines for venues are available on individual websites.

Ongoing through February

Shelburne Museum has available on its website two **Virtual Escape Rooms**, recommended for ages 8 and up. Search for clues, solve puzzles and decipher secret codes to escape the museum's virtual general store or apothecary shop. Best played on a personal computer.

Great activity for an inside day. To learn more, see shelburnemuseum.org.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7–8 p.m.

Bird enthusiasts will enjoy a webinar called **Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds**, co-hosted by **Audubon Vermont** and the **Green Mountain Audubon Society**. This free Zoom event features author, naturalist and researcher Scott Weidensaul discussing his recent book, *A World on the Wing*. Scott takes participants around the world to see how citizens and researchers make efforts to preserve bird populations and migrations. Pre-registration is required: see vt.audubon.org.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7–8 p.m.

Media Literacy is the topic of this free Zoom discussion featuring Adam Davidson, Chea Waters-Evans and Jesse Wegman. The conversation will revolve around widespread concerns such as disinformation, declining trust in news organizations and conspiracy theorists. The three discussion leaders live locally and are known for varied journalistic careers. Pre-register at charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Friday, Feb. 11, 3–8 p.m.

Every Friday when the weather cooperates, **Cochran's Ski Area** in Richmond hosts their traditional **Friday Night Lights**, a community evening with dinner and inexpensive skiing for ages 6 and up. A fun event for all levels. For more info: go to cochranskiarea.com or call 802-434-2479.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Learn how to build an insulated and sturdy igloo at the **Montshire Museum** in Norwich. **Igloo Build and the Science of Winter** introduces participants to the structural secrets of building with snow. Author and engineer Dr. Bert Yankielun offers a lesson, as well as assistance building your own igloo. Perfect for families; free with museum admission. For more info, see montshire.org or call 802-649-2200.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Identifying Winter Trees with Master Naturalist Alicia Daniel will be held at the **North Branch Nature Center** in Montpelier. Participants will explore common trees found in the floodplains and riverside forests near the NBNC. Winter is the time to tune in to the subtle clues of bud, bark, silhouette and scent. Dress for being outside. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. To register, or for more info, see northbranchnaturecenter.org.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

The crew at **Adventure Dinner** is hosting a sumptuous **Valentine's Day feast** as a tribute to the many kinds of love. The intimate Italian dinner, held at the Love Lodge in Vergennes, brings romance, great food and a celebratory

atmosphere to the wintry Vermont landscape. Limited seatings. For tickets, or more info, see adventuredinner.com or call 248-224-7539.

Sunday, Feb. 13, 1-3 p.m.

Red Rocks Park in South Burlington is the location for a **Pride Hike**, co-hosted by **Audubon Vermont**, **Outright Vermont**, and **Pride Center of Vermont**. Meet other hikers and birders at the park entrance, dressed for an easy walk on the trails. It's an opportunity to prepare for bird observation when the **Great Backyard Bird Count** happens the following weekend. For more info, see vt.audubon.org.

Sunday, Feb. 13, 1-3 p.m.

A family-friendly **Snowshoe Winter Walk** happens at the **Catamount Outdoor Family Center** in Williston. The event raises funds for the Vermont Garden Network (VGN), allowing them to prepare community and school gardens, distribute seeds and plants, and improve food access. Prizes, hot chocolate, fun activities and s'mores entice individuals and teams to register (free) and raise funds through the VGN website. For more info, see vtgardens.org or call 802-879-6001.

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

A walk in the woods for **Wildlife Tracking** with staff naturalists is an informative way to spend an early morning hour. The **North Branch Nature Center** hosts all experience levels at this free event (donations welcome). This is a casual outing for a community of curious nature lovers looking for trails and scat. The property is a wildlife corridor for a variety of animals. For more info, see northbranchnaturecenter.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 16, noon

As part of its Winter Speaker series, the **Vermont Historical Society** hosts author and history professor Van Gosse for a free Zoom talk. His subject, **Black Politics in the Yankee Republic, 1775-1860**, examines the political world in Vermont from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, with attention given to notable black Vermonters like Lemuel Haynes and Alexander Twilight. To register, or for more info, see vermonthistory.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 16, noon-1 p.m.

Join **Shelburne Museum** Director of Conservation Nancy Ravenel for a free webinar called **What the Conservator Saw: Looking at Works by Luigi Lucioni**. Ravenel uses lighting and photographic techniques to gain insight into how the Italian artist worked. Lucioni was known for being the youngest painter to have a picture hung in the Metropolitan Museum (in 1932, at age 31). From 1932 until his death in 1988, Lucioni visited and painted in Vermont, later owning a home in Manchester. There will be an exhibition of Lucioni's works later in the year at the Museum. To register for the webinar, see shelburnemuseum.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

JumpStart is a product-focused 10-week program organized by the folks at **Generator** in Burlington. Early-stage entrepreneurs connect with necessary resources and mentors to turn a product prototype into a market-ready business. The program runs from March 15 to May 17. The application deadline for the program is February 16. For more info, see generatorvt.com.

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

Candidates Night at The Grange will take place via Zoom. Get to know the local candidates standing for election on Town

Meeting Day. Ask questions, express concerns about issues facing the town, be informed. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Public Library, The Charlotte Grange and *The Charlotte News*. Submitting questions ahead of time is encouraged by writing to charlottegrangevt@gmail.com. For more info, see charlottepubliclibrary.org, or join the meeting by going to: bit.ly/vote05445.

Thursday, Feb. 17, noon-1 p.m.

Join **Women Owning Woodlands Vermont** for an online **Winter Tree ID** program. Speakers for this free Zoom event will share information and strategies geared toward women who want to learn more about their woodlands. To register, or for more info, see vtcoverts.org.

Thursday, Feb. 17 to Saturday, March 5

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) holds its **40th Annual Winter Conference**. This year's theme is Dream Into Being. Online activities include workshops, speakers, a film screening and much more. This vibrant event brings together the wide community of growers, educators, policy makers, homesteaders, farmers and students who want to share ideas, resources and skills. To register, or for more info, see nofavt.org or call 802-434-4122.

February 18 through June 5

Burlington City Arts Center on Church St. features accomplished Saxtons River artist Eric Aho in a show called **Headwater**. Aho's new series of paintings features captivating scenes of nature and landscape around his home, often painted en plein air. Open during gallery hours. For more info, see burlingtoncityarts.org or call 802-865-7165.

Friday, Feb. 18, 3-8 p.m.

Every Friday when the weather cooperates, **Cochran's Ski Area in Richmond** has a tradition of hosting **Friday Night Lights**, a community dinner and inexpensive skiing for ages six and up. A fun event for all levels. For more info: cochranskiarea.com or call 802-434-2479.

Friday, Feb. 18 - Sunday, Feb. 20

Held in and around North Hero village and bay is the **Great Ice Event** on Lake Champlain. The frozen bay serves as a weekend focal point for winter recreation: sled dog rides, hockey, skating, fireworks, a snow building competition, a bonfire and a walk to Knight Island. Most events are free. More info at greaticvt.org, or call 802-372-4121.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 10-11:30 a.m.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a **Forester For a Day**? This popular event at **Shelburne Farms** appeals to all ages, and gives everyone a chance to wear a hard hat and learn about the work of a forester. Appropriate for ages five and up, with accompanying adult. Dress to be outside. Registration required at shelburne farms.org.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-noon

Here's one more chance to buy some cookies and support **Girl Scout Troop 30066**. The troop will be selling cookies at the **Charlotte Senior Center** on Saturday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by, say hello, and stock up.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The **Get Out, Give Back Winter Race Series** to benefit Special Olympics Vermont holds a 5K (or virtual 5K) at **Waterfront Park** in Burlington. Raceday packet pickup begins at 10:30 a.m.; relaxed start line allows runners to start anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Walkers welcome. For more info or to sign up, see runvermont.org.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The WOKO **Giant Indoor Flea Market** has tag sale items, crafts, and antiques. Visitors may shop, or rent a table to sell their own treasures. The market takes place at the **Champlain Valley Exposition** in Essex Jct. To reserve a table, call 802-878-5545. For more info, see cvexpo.org.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 2-4 p.m.

The PG movie **Duma** is screened at the **Middlebury New Filmmaker's Festival**. This is an award-winning family film about a young South African boy's friendship with an orphaned cheetah. This touching film, based on true events, is at the **Town Hall Theater**. For tickets, trailer, and more info, see middfilmfest.org.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 4-6 p.m.

World-class mandolin player **Joe K. Walsh** is joined by an ensemble of other musicians at the **Richmond Congregational Church** for an entertaining evening of fine music. Valley Stage Productions presents this concert as part of their **P.M. Sundays** music series. Tickets available at valleystage.net for in-person as well as streaming options. Call 802-434-4563 for more info.

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 1 p.m.

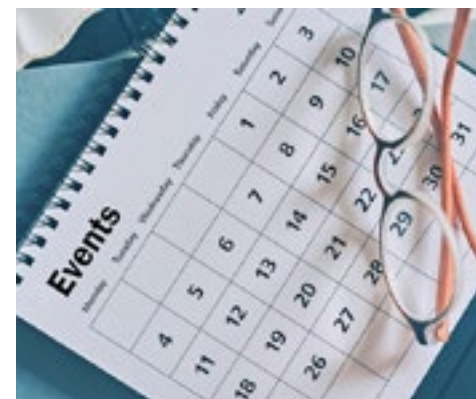
The **Burlington Garden Club** hosts Dr. Mark Starrett for a public presentation called **Propagating Plants — By Seeds, Cuttings, Layering and Grafting**. This hands-on workshop is held at Faith United Methodist Church in S. Burlington. Dr. Starrett will demonstrate a variety of propagation techniques for houseplants, perennials, trees and shrubs. For more info about this free workshop, see bgcvt.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 12:30-3 p.m.

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.

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 6-7 p.m.

All bodies age differently, and exercise can affect that process. Author and marathon runner **Bernd Heinrich** speaks to these topics in a free Zoom presentation hosted by the **North Branch Nature Center** and **Bear Pond Books**. Heinrich recently wrote *Racing The Clock*: part memoir, part scientific investigation into the human body, how it ages, and how it changes with exercise. Heinrich is known for other books on running as well as insect and bird behavior. To register, or for more info, see northbranchnaturecenter.org.



Town

Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

February is National Library Lover's Month

We feel so fortunate to work at the library and be part of this community. Of course, we'd love to know what YOU think of

the library. Please feel free to send your comments our way via email at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org. Or, stop by the library to fill out a library valentine. We welcome all comments to help us better serve our community. One thing we particularly love this month is the chance to increase library time. Beginning February 1, there will be no time limit on library visits. Stop in to read, daydream or share a book.

COVIDHelp 05445

Charlotte Community Partners has been hard at work this winter launching COVIDhelp05445 as a resource for our community.

There's a lot of information out there about masking, testing and vaccinations and you may have questions, if not confusion. CCP seeks to provide information and resources to assist your research and decision-making:

INFO: Click bit.ly/COVIDhelp05445 for an information sheet with general information and links to more detailed and reliable masking/testing/vaxxing information.

MASKS: CCP has gathered a supply of KN95 and KF94 masks. If you or your organization needs quality masks, please contact us at: COVIDhelp05445@gmail.com or 802-425-3864.

VAX: You may also contact us if you need assistance making a vaccination appointment or if you need a ride.

TESTS: We do not currently have a supply of rapid antigen tests to distribute but we can assist you with scheduling a testing appointment.

Happening at the Library

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

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

Media Literacy: Take 2

Thursday, February 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: bit.ly/vote05445.

Seed fever garden chat

Friday, February 11 at 11:30 a.m.
Cold February is seed fever time, when we dream impatiently about this year's food garden and yearn to have our hands on seeds and soil. Want to share your happy anticipation and get tips for finding just the right seeds? Join Seed Library Coordinators Linda Hamilton and Karen Tuininga for conversation about how to choose seeds and where to find varieties well-suited to your garden and your taste buds. Get a sneak-peak at what heritage varieties of vegetables/herbs/edible flowers the Seed Library will offer this year. Register in advance: bit.ly/3H0X4wr.

Candidates Night

Wednesday, February 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.

Revisiting Health Literacy with Jim Hyde

Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m.
Join Jim Hyde for a discussion on how to tell fact from fiction, hyperbole from reality, when it comes to understanding health research findings and information. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, concerns or articles to discuss. Registrants will receive a "cheat sheet" of critical questions to ask when assessing research findings.

Jim taught epidemiology and biostatistics at Tufts Medical School for more than 35 years. While at Tufts he helped establish and directed the Tufts Masters Degree program in Health Communication, taught in the MD/MPH joint degree program and directed several research studies. Prior to Tufts he was the Director of the Division of Preventive Medicine at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Register in advance: bit.ly/3KPZr7r.

Mystery Book Group: *The Eustace Diamonds* by Anthony Trollope

Monday, February 21 at 10 a.m.
NOTE: This will take place even though the library is closed for President's Day Holiday.

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 Zoom Meeting: us02web.zoom.us/j/84467010512.

iPhone Tips & Tricks

Wednesday, February 23 at 11 a.m.
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. There will be time for questions. *Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library. Registration is required at the Senior Center, 802-425-6345.*

Men's Book Group:

***The Monk of Mokha* by Dave Eggers**
Wednesday, February 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.*

Join the Zoom discussion: bit.ly/34m2Udk.

Family snowshoe walk

Sunday, February 27 at 10 a.m.

Join us at the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge for a winter walk through the snow! Bill Fraser-Harris from the Recreation Commission leads a snowshoe trek for all ages, looking for signs of wildlife in winter. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow children's snowshoes on site. Trail maps will be provided, with a beginner loop to the beaver lodge for younger ones. A limited number of animal track identification cards from the Lewis Creek Association will also be available. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Park Oversight Committee, the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Recreation Commission. Sign up here: charlottetv.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29906.

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

Library Contact Information

Margaret Woodruff, Director
Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian
Phone: 802.425.3864

Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. unless otherwise scheduled. Information and agendas available on the Charlotte Library website: charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Send us your photos!

Charlotte events, people or places. We want to publish your photos. Email them to: news@TheCharlotteNews.org

The **Charlotte News**



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Town

Charlotte Senior Center news

Lori York
DIRECTOR

Our new partnership with Age Well is taking off quicker than we expected. Our first week, we distributed 42 Grab & Go meals, and our second week we increased to having 90 people registered! These meals are free for any individuals 60 years and older through COVID relief funds.

If you haven't stopped by the Charlotte Senior Center recently, come check us out! You are always welcome to spend time here without participating in a specific class or program. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and read a book, play our piano, board games, or just spend time socializing in small groups.

And if you would like to find out more information about our programs, check out our website at CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/CharlotteSeniorCenterVT](https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteSeniorCenterVT).

Girl Scout cookies!

Save the date! Girl Scout Troop 30066 will be selling cookies at the Charlotte Senior Center on Saturday, February 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Help support our local Girl Scouts by buying a few boxes of your favorite cookies.

New programs:

If there is a program that you would like to see but that we do not currently offer, let us know. We are also looking for instructors and program leaders.

Backgammon - Beginning in March, we will be offering backgammon on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Open to all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

Contact: Jonathan Hart at 802-922-3677 or email jonathanhart1@gmail.com.

Duplicate Bridge for Beginners - We have had people express interest in a beginner duplicate bridge class for students with some bridge experience. If you would be interested in instructing a six- to eight-week program on the basics of duplicate bridge, please contact Lane Morrison at Lmorrison@gmavt.net.

Cribbage - Do you enjoy playing cribbage but don't have anyone to play with? Give us a call and we can connect you with others who enjoy the game.

Memoir-writing - Our current program is full. If you would like to lead a second memoir-writing group, email Lori York at Lyork@CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. And, if you would like to be added to the waiting list, please call 802-425-6345.

Meals and conversation:

Monday lunches: We are cautiously offering our in-person Monday lunches again. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a suggested donation of \$5. Take-out is always an option.

Monday, February 14: Festive Tortellini Soup with Sausage, served with salad and homemade cookies.

Monday, February 21: Lasagna, served

with salad and dessert.

We are looking for volunteers to help serve meals on the third Monday of the month. If you are interested, please email susanfosterhyde@gmail.com.

Age Well restaurant tickets

Monday, February 14, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Stop by the Charlotte Senior Center to talk with an Age Well representative about their restaurant ticket program.

Gent's Breakfast

Our next month's breakfast will be on Thursday, March 10 from 7 - 9 a.m. Join us for breakfast and conversation. To register, please email Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com by Tuesday, March 8 to attend. Suggestion donation is \$5 for breakfast.

Grab & Go meals provided by Age Well

Pick up on Thursdays between 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. February and March menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

Pre-register by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Lori York at 802-425-6371 or Lyork@CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

Thursday, February 17: Spaghetti and meatballs with marinara sauce and parmesan cheese, spinach, dinner roll, grapes and milk. *Pre-register by Monday, February 14.*

Thursday, February 24: Oven-fried chicken breast, red mashed potatoes, vegetables, dinner roll, pumpkin pudding with cream, and milk. *Pre-register by Monday, February 21.*

Upcoming program and events:

February featured artist: Linda Finkelstein's exhibit, "Variety is the Spice" is on display starting Monday, February 14 at the Charlotte Senior Center. In this exhibit, Linda showcases works using different art, including collage, painting and monoprinting. She began creating unique digital images recently using her own photography and art.

Award-winning Nomination Screenings with Sean Moran

Thursday, Feb. 10 from 1-3 p.m. Screening of the film *King Richard*. Will Smith plays the determined father of Venus and Serena Williams as he relentlessly drives his young daughters to become tennis superstars.

Thursday, Feb. 24, 1-3 p.m. - Save the date. Film to be announced.

Registration is required, as there is limited seating. No fee. Masks required. To register, call 802-425-6345 or stop by the Senior Center.

iPhone Tips & Tricks with Susanna Kahn

Wednesday, February 23 from 11 a.m. - noon

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



Wednesday, Feb. 2, David Holmes gave a lecture at the Senior Center about his book, *On Being a Vermonter and The Rise and Fall of the Holmes Farm 1822-1923*.

Photo by Lori York

more.

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

Wednesday lecture series at 1 p.m.: February 16: The Sacred Hunter with Bradley Hunter

Bradley Carleton, author of the "Sacred Hunter" column in *The Charlotte News*, will explore the spiritual meaning of hunting. Join us for a discussion of how hunting, fishing and foraging can bring us a deeper understanding of our natural world.

February 23: Gardening for the Birds with Charlie Nardozzi

Discover ways to help migrating and overwintering birds by growing the right plants, properly feeding the birds, and providing water, shelter, nesting sites and habitat in our yards. Charlie Nardozzi is a regional Emmy®-award-winning garden writer, speaker, radio and TV personality who has worked more than 30 years bringing expert gardening information to home gardeners.

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. Hours are Monday to Friday 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.

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS: FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

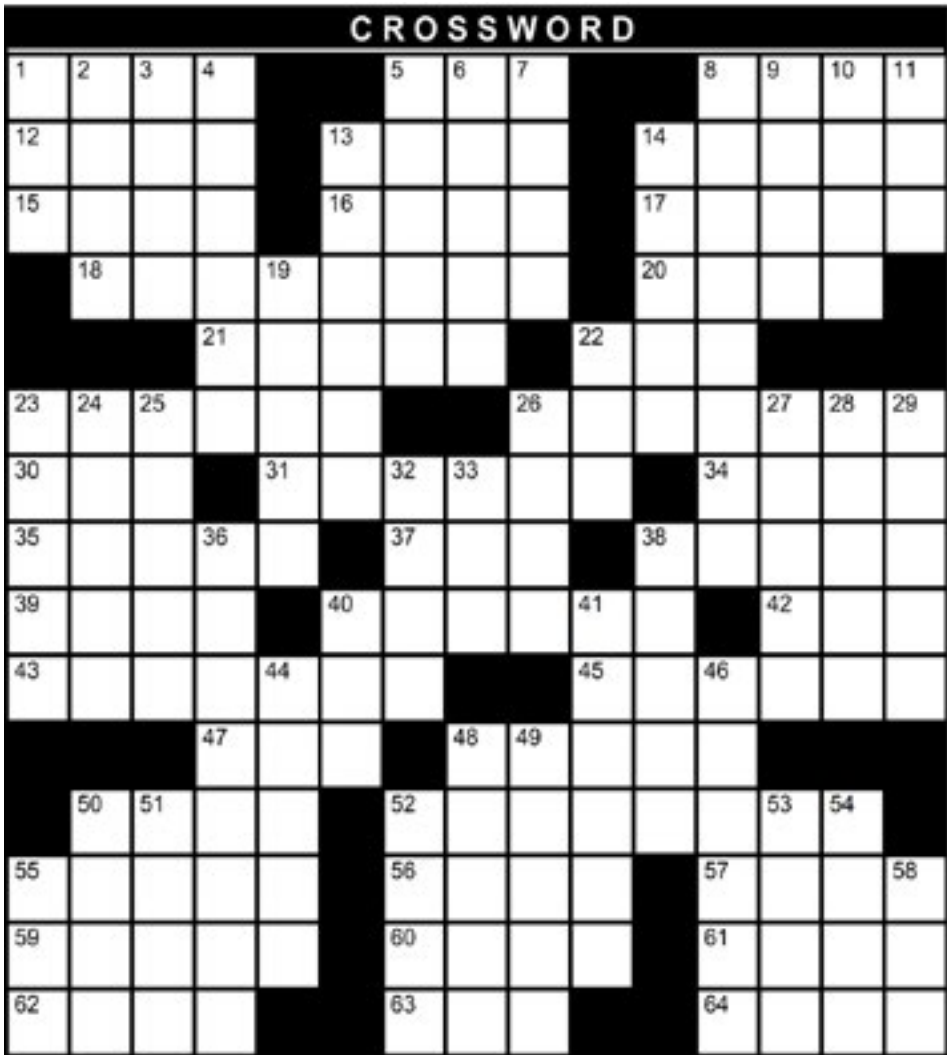
In addition to our professional staff, as many as 170 people provide stories, photos and commentaries to *The Charlotte News* each year. Join us! Send your story ideas, commentaries and great photos of Charlotte to news@thecharlottenews.org. Let your voice be heard.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 18



Puzzle



THEME: Kings and Queens

- ACROSS**
- 1. Outback birds
 - 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - 8. Well, to Sofia Loren
 - 12. Impose a tax
 - 13. No way!
 - 14. Malicious burning
 - 15. ____ over
 - 16. Radiant light
 - 17. Ran easily
 - 18. *"The King of Staten Island" star Pete
 - 20. Goyim, alt. sp.
 - 21. Mork from Ork, e.g.
 - 22. Common furniture wood
 - 23. "Der Ring des Nibelungen" composer
 - 26. Petroleum product (2 words)
 - 30. Shakespearean fuss
 - 31. Loan shark
 - 34. Village People hit
 - 35. City in France
 - 37. Street, in Paris
 - 38. Show in progress (2 words)
 - 39. Tiny purse
 - 40. Was almost out of gas, e.g. (2 words)
 - 42. *First H in HRH
 - 43. Type of bag
 - 45. Unguarded
 - 47. Brick and mortar carrier
 - 48. Resize a dress, e.g.
 - 50. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
 - 52. *Netflix royal drama (2 words)
 - 55. Bridal veil fabric
 - 56. One who hoes
 - 57. Not far
 - 59. Orderly arrangement
 - 60. Drunkard, slangily
 - 61. Stare
 - 62. Country club pegs
 - 63. Drivers' licenses, e.g.
 - 64. *2019 movie "Queen & ____"
- DOWN**
- 1. Not Moose or Shriner
 - 2. Fitting reward
 - 3. Iris holder
 - 4. Forest spirit
 - 5. Gingerbread sculpture
 - 6. Kitchen garb
 - 7. *Billie ____ King
 - 8. *Queens neighbor
 - 9. ESPN trophy
 - 10. Denials
 - 11. December 31st, e.g.
 - 13. Lowest points
 - 14. Plural of alga
 - 19. Intestinal obstruction
 - 22. Opposite of their
 - 23. *Prince Charles' domain
 - 24. Temples' innermost sanctuaries
 - 25. Not stay in (2 words)
 - 26. Perceive by touch
 - 27. *The NBA's Kansas City-____ Kings (1972-75)
 - 28. More unfriendly
 - 29. *Late "Live" King of CNN
 - 32. Russia's mountain range
 - 33. Seek a seat
 - 36. *The last "king" of Russia
 - 38. Proprietor
 - 40. *The ____ Queen, regal chess character in "Through the Looking Glass"
 - 41. Public disapproval
 - 44. Cozy and comfortable
 - 46. Two of these do not make a right
 - 48. Near the wind
 - 49. Potato soup partner, pl.
 - 50. "She ____ a Yellow Ribbon"
 - 51. Add to payroll
 - 52. Native of Thailand
 - 53. Lash mark
 - 54. Member of National Socialist German Workers' Party
 - 55. Giant pot
 - 58. "Shiny Happy People" band

Puzzle answers on page 17



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Upcoming Town Meetings

Links and meeting info can be found on the Town website: charlottetv.org

Charlotte Library Board of Trustees

Draft Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Call to Order

Land acknowledgment:

We are on the land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples for thousands of years and is the home of the Western Abenaki People. The Charlotte Library honors, recognizes and respects these peoples, especially the Abenaki, as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather today. In that spirit, today we will begin by acknowledging that we are guests in this land. We need to respect and help protect the lands within our use.

6:05 p.m. Approve January minutes

6:10 p.m. Public Comment

6:20 p.m. Chair's Report

6:25 p.m. Treasurer's Report

6:30 p.m. Director's Report

6:40 p.m. Tickler List

- Prepare for Town Meeting
- Review safety checklist
- ARPA Funds for library

6:55 p.m. Adjourn

Next scheduled meeting:
March 10, 2022 @ 6:00p.m.

Charlotte Selectboard

Agenda for Monday, February 14, 2022

At the Charlotte Town Hall

159 Ferry Road

Reasonable accommodation shall be provided upon request to ensure this meeting is accessible.

Please note: The Selectboard will be meeting in person at the Town Hall, and members of the public are allowed to attend in person at the Town Hall as well. Selectboard members and members of the public may also participate in the meeting via Zoom (a link and phone number are below). Please contact Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (802-425-3071 ext. 5; dean@townofcharlotte.com), with any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this meeting.

Link to join meeting online (via Zoom):
tinyurl.com/3yvx29ed

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

Meeting ID: 843 0230 1690

Passcode: 643841

Please see information for participating in Selectboard meeting via Zoom by clicking here: is.gd/7oPSt6

Times are approximate

5:15 p.m. Site visit: 1914 Prindle Road for application for Highway Access Permit

6:00 p.m. Adjustments to the agenda

6:01 p.m. Approve warrants to pay bills

6:05 p.m. Committee requests for unbudgeted expenditures (time allotted if needed)

6:06 p.m. Minutes: January 24, January 27

6:15 p.m. Ajat Tariyal and Komal Dhall—application for a Highway Access Permit (HAP-22-01) at 1914 Prindle Road

6:20 p.m. Conflict of Interest Policy—discussion, possible adoption

7:00 p.m. Public Comment

7:05 p.m. Liquor licenses

- Wit's End, LLC d/b/a Old Brick Store—renewal of Second Class License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages
- Tenney Enterprises—renewal of Second Class License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages
- Tenney Enterprises—renewal of Tobacco License to Sell Tobacco 7:10 Use of ARPA funds—create committee to review

7:25 p.m. Study re: East Charlotte Village Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvements

7:35 p.m. Contract with Lewis Excavating for Maintenance of Town Highways and Town Bridges (as Road Commissioner)

7:45 p.m. Planning for Public Informational Hearing on February 26

8:00 p.m. Land maintenance specifications and Request for Bids—discussion

8:15 p.m. Personnel Policy revisions—discussion

8:30 p.m. Employee performance reviews—discussion re: schedule

8:35 p.m. Selectboard updates

8:40 p.m. Contract [possible executive session]

Members: James Faulkner, Chair; Frank Tenney, Vice Chair; Matthew Krasnow; Louise McCarren; Lewis Mudge

Town Administrator: Dean Bloch

Minute Taker: Brooke Milo

Next meetings:

February 26 @ 9 a.m. — public informational hearing for Town Meeting articles to be voted by Australian ballot

February 28 @ 6 p.m. — regular meeting

March 7 @ 7 p.m. — possible reorganizational meeting for Selectboard

March 14 @ 6 p.m. — regular meeting

Planning Commission: Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2022
at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Development Review Board Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS DECEMBER 2021

December 3 Sledrunner Properties to James & Jennifer Anair, 7.86 acres +/- 1001 Church Hill Rd. with dwelling \$578,000

December 6 Charles & Nicholas McDougal to George Christopher & Jordan Fronk, 8.55 acres +/- 578 Bingham Brook Rd. with dwelling \$550,000

December 10 Michael S. & Barbara H. McGinnis to XL Building & Design Inc., 5.81 acres Higbee Rd. Lot # 2 \$100,000

December 15 PQM LLC to Nordic 3.0 LLC, 583.23 +/- acres 1297 Ethan Allen Hwy with farm \$3,130,000

December 17 Harmony Property Management to Christopher Fredericks, 2.10 acres 20 Baldwin Rd. with dwelling \$855,000

December 20 Dorothy A. Waller & David A. Waller Family Trust to Mark J.

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



& Barbara S. Graves, 5.6 acres +/- 360 Pease Mtn. Rd. \$150,000

December 20 Dorothy A. & David A. Waller Family Trust to William E & Stacie Baker, 6.0 acres Lot #1C 150 Pease Mtn. Rd. \$195,000

December 23 Estate of Thomas S. Eriksen, Patricia E. Johnson Executrix to Jeffrey & Michelle Marble, 1.12 acres +/- 140 Mutton Hill Rd. with dwelling \$425,000

December 28 Champlain Valley Co-Housing to Kristopher & Julia Sprague, 0.09 acres Lot 9 Common Way Land only \$69,000

December 28 Robert A Marble to Sharon J. Winn, Tammy M. Clark & Roy H. Marble, 31.43 acres 3453 Spear St. with dwelling \$133,425

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