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# *The* Charlotte News

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**Winter Nights**  
Photo by Lee Krohn



## Rec department presents option for finding out about community center proposal



Concept rendering of a phased approach to the Charlotte Community Center

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

A town-wide discussion about whether Charlotte needs a community center and what this center might include continues to pick up steam.

Some of this steam is progress toward the eventual construction of a center. Some is the metaphorical steam of people opposed to the proposal.

The recreation department held an informational meeting about the center online on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Recreation director Nicole Conley said the meeting was sparsely attended, and although there was the opportunity to ask questions, most of the meeting was taken up by a presentation about a process that has led to an upcoming Town Meeting Day ballot item asking voters to approve \$50,000 for a community center feasibility study.

Those who missed the informational meeting

will have a chance to hear a presentation by Conley at Charlotte's town informational meeting at 9 a.m. this Saturday, Feb. 26.

Or if you would prefer, there's a 20-minute video on the town's website. In the left-hand column on the homepage click on "Charlotte Community Center." This will take you to a page with a column of links to recreation department information, at the top of which is a link to the video.

Conley said the video is essentially the same presentation she made at the Wednesday meeting and will make again on Saturday.

For a house in Charlotte assessed at \$500,000 the \$50,000 cost of the feasibility study works out to about \$26 to see "what a community center could look like in the town of Charlotte," Conley said, adding that is about the price of going to the movies or getting a pizza.

"It doesn't have to be a big center but just something everyone feels comfortable to come to," she said.

## It's sugaring season again at Pat Leclaire's Sugarhouse

Lucie Lehmann  
CONTRIBUTOR

Looking ahead to this year's sugaring season, Pat Leclaire, 66, invested in a new steam pan for his sugarhouse on Lime Kiln Road. The lifelong Charlotter was excited about its prospects — the pan preheats the maple sap by capturing the energy from the evaporator's flue pan, reducing the amount of firewood needed and increasing efficiency by 30-40 percent.

The 2022 season didn't start off smoothly, though. The 500 gallons of sap that Leclaire had just collected from trees around Charlotte were in tanks, ready to be boiled. But soon after he stoked the fire in the arch, or firebox, and the temperature in the sugarhouse began to rise, excessive amounts of condensation poured from the new steam pan, likely from a faulty gasket. Leclaire had to shut the whole operation down for several hours while he and several others, including his wife, Aline, 59, and their friend and fellow sugar maker, Peter Curler of East Charlotte, worked on the problem.

The sap did eventually get boiled, yielding the first gallon of dark, robust maple syrup of 2022 by mid-afternoon. It perfectly illustrated a paradox in the most unique and enduring of Vermont traditions: Things have changed in maple syrup production. Plastic tubing has mostly replaced traditional buckets for sap collecting, and the use of reverse osmosis systems to more quickly reduce the water content in the sap is common. Leclaire favors traditional boiling methods in part because he thinks the flavor of the syrup is superior and also "because it's Vermont," but he keeps abreast of the innovations and invests in them selectively.

Warming weather is one of the changes no one has control over. Leclaire and Curler both



The Leclaire Sugarhouse on Lime Kiln Road  
Photo by Lucie Lehmann

sugared as children on their parents' farms and remembered March 1, Town Meeting Day, as the traditional start of the sugaring season. Now it's easily 10 days earlier.

Extremely warm days are more frequently as well. A spate of 70-degree weather last March ended the sap run early and abruptly, with markedly decreased yields. Production of maple syrup in Vermont dropped 21 percent last year, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The state still leads the nation in maple syrup production, generating about 46 percent of the total yield, but it's a challenging time for sugar makers. This year, on top of everything else, COVID-related supply chain issues have

SEE **LECLAIRE** PAGE 7

## Development review board reconsiders reconsideration process, decides it didn't violate open meeting rules



Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

In some ways local government is like ultimate Frisbee: The players — or board members — call their own fouls in most instances.

Usually, the board decides if it is out of bounds.

On Thursday afternoon, Feb. 17, the Charlotte Development Review Board held a special meeting to decide if it had strayed into open meeting regulations.

In the end, the board members reached a consensus of "no harm, no foul."

The meeting was called to respond to multiple letters of complaint and allegations that at meetings at the end of January and beginning of February the board had committed open meeting violations in discussing reconsideration of decisions about an outdoor education site for Vermont Common School at 2369 Spear Street and about a nine-lot

subdivision on just over 124 acres at 125 Lake Road.

Complaints were primarily made because chair Lane Morrison restricted discussions about whether to open the applications to reconsideration hearings to just members of the board.

He said the board had talked with a town attorney and been told it was appropriate for the board to discuss reconsideration hearings for these projects without public input, but if a reconsideration hearing is approved, people will have the opportunity to talk then.

The board decided not to move the Vermont Commons School project to reconsideration but to hold a reconsideration hearing on several of the stipulations the planning commission attached to its approval of the Patricia O'Donnell and Jim Donovan application for a subdivision on Lake Road.

The actual reconsideration will take place at a later meeting and public comments will allowed.

At one point in a Feb. 9 development review board meeting, Morrison threatened to use a gavel to silence audience members who were interrupting the board's discussion.

Last Tuesday, Feb. 15, Morrison resigned from the development review board. His resignation letter said his resignation was effective immediately.

He added that the switch from a zoning board to the development review board has added lots of work to the volunteer position.

"I felt fully supported by the office staff but realize this assignment is not a good fit for me," he said. There was no mention in his resignation letter of the previous week's meeting nor the subsequent brouhaha.

On Thursday afternoon, board member Charles Russell served as interim chair at a special meeting called for the development review board to consider whether it had violated open meeting law.

Russell said board members had tried hard at earlier meetings to make sure their conversation stayed focused on the reconsideration process.

### Town Meeting Day coverage will be digital

All the latest news and highlights will be featured on our website, [charlottenews.org](http://charlottenews.org), on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/thecharlottenews](https://www.facebook.com/thecharlottenews) or you can sign up for our newsletter and receive the news in your email. The newsletter sign up form is simple and easy and located on our website.



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DRB  
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Initially, the board discussed two allegations for open meeting violations from Sarah Thompson of Charlotte who wrote that the board committed a violation when it discussed the reconsideration process and the discussion wasn't on the agenda.

Although several times they might have strayed into discussing the application itself, Russell said, those discussions got stopped pretty quickly: "We were very conscious of that."

He said they tried to keep the conversation focused on how the decision process should work and keep out of specifics of the applications

Board member JD Herlihy said he didn't view having a general discussion about the proper process for holding a reconsideration as a violation of open meeting law.

If not adding it to the agenda was a violation, it was "definitely inadvertent," he said.

Town planner Larry Lewack pointed out that every meeting begins with a call to board members for last minute changes to the agenda and how important it is that they take advantage of this opportunity.

Both Thompson and planning commission member Bill Stuono said open meeting law was violated when members of the public were not allowed to speak about agenda items.

Russell said two attorneys had told the board it was appropriate for just the board to discuss whether or not to open an application up for reconsideration.

The board cannot hear new evidence or testimony after a preliminary application has been approved, as these projects have been, unless it has been reopened for a reconsideration hearing, Herlihy said.

Selectboard member Frank Tenney said, although a lot of time is often taken up with personal conversations at meetings and this needs to be curbed, he felt the board could have "humored" the public and allowed discussion from the audience.

# Selectboard wrestles with conflict-of-interest definition and enforcement for a small town

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

Another Charlotte board meeting—another conversation about conflict of interest.

This time it was the selectboard.

And this time it wasn't a conversation born out of conflict, but out of a desire for money. Namely, American Rescue Plan Act funds (often referred to as ARPA).

The selectboard's conflict of interest discussion at its Feb. 14 meeting came about as a result of town administrator Dean Bloch reading between the lines of American Rescue Plan Act guidelines that indicated to him it would be good idea for the selectboard to have a well-thought-out conflict of interest policy—with an enforcement mechanism.

"The American Rescue Plan Act guidelines refer to a federal statute that requires an enforcement mechanism in conflict-of-interest policy," Bloch said.

Enforcement could be as simple as putting the name in the minutes of a board member that violated a town-approved conflict of interest policy, Bloch said, or it could be asking for a conflict-of-interest violator's removal.

“It was not a violation of open meeting law because it was a deliberate deliberation. The board is not required in this instance to warn the public about such a session or warn that public comments will not be admitted.”

— Charles Russell, board member

Tenney and Stuono both asserted that allowing O'Donnell and Donovan's letter that requested a reconsideration was in fact taking comments from that side of the issue and comments from the other side should have been allowed.

Lewack disagreed: "There was no testimony taken from the applicants concerning the reconsideration — period."

The applicant's letter was not testimony, Russell said, and if he had called it testimony during the discussions, he had misspoken.

"It was not a violation of open meeting law because it was a deliberate deliberation," Russell said, adding the board is not required in this instance to warn the public about such a session or warn that public comments will not be admitted.

"This was a very troubling meeting. There were so many things that went wrong at this meeting," Asquith said. "Some of it inadvertent, some of it otherwise."

The March 9 meeting about the O'Donnell

and Donovan application was such a troubled meeting that it led to the board chair stepping down, she said.

Asquith said Morrison gave her incorrect information about the meeting that led her to unnecessarily recuse herself. She said she was told by Morrison she should not even view the meeting via Zoom.

Asquith said the development review board should redo the meeting and reopen the decision about reconsideration of the O'Donnell and Donovan stipulations at another meeting.

Morrison said he recommended Asquith recuse herself because of a letter she wrote opposing the O'Donnell and Donovan application.

She said she would not recuse herself from another meeting on this issue.

Eventually, Herlihy seemed to capture the opinion of the board when he said he believed board members did not violate open meeting law, but that communication from the board about reconsideration requests should be more clearly communicated and clearly indicated in the agenda.

Lewack said as town planner part of his responsibility is to make sure that agendas are clear and if public comment is not going to be allowed at meetings that should also be clear. He admitted that he might have contributed to the confusion and apologized.

"If I contributed to that confusion in any way, my sincere apologies. That was not my intention and that's kind of how it worked out. I will never forget that," Lewack said.

There was no formal vote taken, but the board, with the exception of Asquith, appeared to agree it had not violated open meeting law on Feb. 2 or Feb. 9, but it could have done a better job of complying and clearer in communicating.

Just prior to adjournment, Lewack said the development review board has scheduled a special meeting at 7 p.m. this coming Wednesday, March 2, specifically to go over the board's rules and why public comments are included or excluded from some meetings. A town attorney will be there, too.

"one-pager aspirational statements."

"In light of some recent events," Mudge said, "the board needs to get cracking on this admittedly boring but important work."

"We really want to make sure the language is something that we're comfortable with and we think is going in the right direction," Mudge said. "We don't want something that's wordy and complicated, just to be complicated."

As the board went over his first draft of a conflict-of-interest policy, the members got hung up by the phrase "fourth degree of consanguinity." The draft says individual board members should not decide issues on which they have a personal or financial interest nor their family members to the fourth degree of consanguinity. This term expands the family members whose interest in an issue should preclude a board member from a decision way out into the twigs of the family tree, including great-great-grandparents, great-great-grandchildren and first cousins by way of marriage.

Mudge agreed with board member Louise McCarren's assertion that "the simpler the



**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.

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## Report from the Legislature

# 2022 Town Meeting legislative report



Rep. Mike  
Yantachka

Town Meeting marks the halfway point in the Vermont legislative session, and it's a good time to highlight some of the work the Legislature has accomplished. The House passed some significant legislation in these first two months,

and we will continue to work on our key priorities in collaboration with the Senate prior to our anticipated May adjournment.

One of our priorities is to use Vermont's share of federal stimulus funds to boost recovery and set the stage for a strong future while building a balanced budget that reflects our values as we tackle the complex and interconnected challenges of housing, workforce and childcare. Of the \$1.049 billion Vermont received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), over \$600 million was allocated for fiscal year 2022 (FY22) investments, leaving more than \$400 million available. This infusion of federal dollars will not be sustained over time, nor will state revenue levels, which have been outpacing forecasts. In developing the FY23 budget, our challenge is to make strategic use of one-time money to address extraordinary ongoing needs in order to support and strengthen Vermont communities,

families and vulnerable Vermonters now and into the future.

Workforce development is another one of our legislative priorities this year. With 25,000 job openings in Vermont and an unemployment rate of just 2.5 percent, we're trying to identify and remove the barriers that are preventing people from working or returning to work. We're also listening to education and training providers to see if we can provide better opportunities for Vermonters to gain postsecondary credentials and degrees of value, which increase earning potential in rewarding careers. Vermont's 17 regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers provide critical pathways to improve career readiness for students and adult learners and play a big role in workforce development. Stakeholders across Vermont in the business, nonprofit, education and government sectors have committed to a common goal of having 70 percent of Vermonters possess a postsecondary degree or credential of value, such as an apprenticeship, certificate or license. The Legislature is considering several proposals to revamp and support CTE, with bills under consideration in several committees. While there are worker shortages across the board, the shortage of nurses has put severe pressure on our health-care system due to COVID-19. This is exacerbated by a

shortage of nursing professors. The Legislature is looking for ways through scholarships and grants to support Vermont's colleges in expanding their nursing programs, attracting nursing professors and helping current RNs who wish to become professors.

The Legislature recognizes that climate change is an existential threat to our way of life, and several bills aim at reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in the two categories producing the most emissions: transportation and heating. I have previously written about two bills from my committee, Energy and Technology, that promote municipal energy resilience and help Vermonters reduce their dependence on fossil fuels for heating. The House Transportation Committee is reviewing the Governor's "Transportation Bill," which recommends approximately \$40 million in investments to support a state highway electric vehicle (EV) charging network and incentives for EVs as well as electric bicycles, ATVs and snowmobiles. The Transportation Innovation Act (H.552) has similar objectives and also includes funding for transportation programs for lower-income Vermonters and continuation of zero-fare public transit. These initiatives will be helped by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law by President Biden in November 2021.



Vermont State Capital.

Photo by Mike Yantachka

There is a lot of work being done in many other areas, including pension funding, support of the forest economy, registration of construction contractors, support for mixed-income and multi-family housing, racial and social justice, telehealth initiatives, toxic waste and more. Bills dealing with these issues will be coming up for a vote in the two weeks after Town Meeting to meet the crossover deadline when bills need to be passed in order to be considered by the Senate. Stay tuned.

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

## Candidates look to change Charlotte away from 'Char-not'

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

Even though the Charlotte Candidates Night was not held in person and there are no contested races in the town's upcoming elections, about 30 people tuned in for the online discussion of election issues and visions of the future.

Mike Walker, president of the Grange, which was hosting the event on Wednesday, Feb. 16, said it was important that the town is continuing this tradition.

"It's an important opportunity for people to meet candidates and talk about town issues," Walker said.

And, he said, it was very fitting that the Grange organized this event since its 151-year-old building on Spear Street, and its home for the last 60 years, was originally a Lyceum (or debating hall) to promote town discussions.

As the moderator of this discussion, Jonathan Silverman, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, kicked things off by having candidates offer a short personal statement of their reasons for running.

Richard Mintzner, who is running for a three-year term as auditor, said he has endured many audits in his 35-year career in real estate

finance, so the position seems good for him.

Louise McCarren said in her three years on the Selectboard she found the board to be a good team, "We're all very different and we don't agree, which I treasure because disagreeing is very important."

The big issues in town are water and wastewater, she said, and the town needs to get more dense development in Charlotte's east and west villages.

She has found: "Holy Toledo, this town runs on volunteers."

Selectboard Chair Jim Faulkner said the most important thing the town is working on at the moment is the town garage. Since the garage where road commissioner Junior Lewis kept his road clearing equipment burned, Lewis is having to work outside when he works on his trucks.

Another town priority, Faulkner said, is improving communication between town boards.

"It may seem corny, but we're a big family here, so we've got to make sure that we're civil and help each other out," Faulkner said.

Mintzner also believes that building a town garage is a high priority, but he also believes the town needs a strong plan for development. Charlotte needs "to move away from the wonderful euphemism of 'Char-not,'" he said.

McCarren agreed with Mintzner's call for a coherent plan for development in Charlotte and said that any town's development begins with water and wastewater.

Although the restrictions for how American Rescue Plan Act funds can be spent are strict, approved uses are wastewater and drinkable water, Faulkner said.

To a submitted question from the online audience about what Charlotte could do to increase affordable housing, McCarren responded that developing water and wastewater and increasing density in the two village areas would help.

Although articles meant to allow more dense development in East Charlotte were defeated at Town Meeting Day voting in 2021, being able to do some clustering would help increase affordable housing, Faulkner said.

In large part, he thinks the articles were defeated because of poor communication.

Faulkner said that when affordable housing is mentioned, "in that same sentence should be senior housing, because it's a shame to lose these long-time residents because the taxes are too much for them."

Former Planning Commission Chair Peter Joslin said he was "totally heartened" that the discussion was about development. When he talks about affordable housing, Joslin said he

doesn't mean subsidized housing.

Besides using American Rescue Act Plan funds for water and wastewater, Joslin said, the money could be used to build sidewalks in the east and west villages.

Charlotte needs water and wastewater systems if it's going to increase affordable housing, Joslin said, as other nearby towns have done.

Selectboard member Frank Tenney said that, although he agreed that smaller lot requirements and clustered housing are needed, he had opposed the articles voters rejected last year because they encouraged housing in the commercial district where he would like to see an increase in businesses.

"I would hate to see any kind of regulation come in that would make it more feasible for somebody to create housing in our commercial areas than actual businesses," Tenney said.

In closing, Silverman told the candidates, "More than anything we so appreciate your taking on civic service to our community and truly making it a better place for us."

## SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

better" should be a guiding principle in the Selectboard's conflict of interest policy. In his first draft, he said, he'd followed a "kitchen sink" approach, throwing everything in with the expectation the board would whittle it down.

Development review board member Charles Russell commented from the audience that when the zoning board was working on its conflict-of-interest policy it struggled with

what personal interest meant. He said that now-defunct board changed it to personal interest or involvement.

Mudge concurred that personal interest is "a really broad category in a small town."

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has a sample of a conflict-of-interest policy, but that organization doesn't think every town should adopt the same policy but each should develop its own, Mudge said.

Realizing this lexicographical inquiry could continue well into the night, chair Jim

Faulkner suggested the discussion about conflict of interest be added to the agenda for the board's next meeting.

Mudge said it will take at least two more meetings.

The conversation ended with the members encouraging each other to reflect upon conflict of interest during the week.

His first draft is "a very imperfect document," Mudge said. "We certainly weren't going to agree upon this document tonight."

The **Charlotte News**

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## NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

**March 10, 2022**

Copy Deadline: Friday, March 4

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## Letters to the Editor

### Spell out the need and cost of proposed community center

To the Editor:

I write to comment on the proposed Charlotte Community Center and feasibility study. I'm not opposed. I know too little for that, or to be supportive.

In the center committee's recent letter to *The Charlotte News* (Feb. 10), I do not find the word "need." Is this facility needed, and if so, please be specifically clear to justify. If the proposal doesn't justify "need," then say so. It's OK. More is won by honesty than by a bunch of cushy adjectives. Maybe we Charlotters just want a nice facility.

Another omission — glaring for me — is the word "tax." That monosyllable is as blunt as they come, and universally understood. Is this how we pay, all or in part, for the community center?

In the question of affordability, let's imagine that we find wealthy donors to pay for the construction of the center. We'd think we were home free. Wrong. The maintenance, and I don't mean sweeping floors, will be great and will grow over the many years. Spell it out and you might earn solid support for the center and because of your honesty.

J. Dennis Delaney  
Charlotte

*(Delaney, a Charlotte resident since 1973, is a former member of the Regional Planning Commission, the Charlotte Selectboard and a five-term Vermont state senator.)*

### Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service has been there when needed

To the Editor:

Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services is a private, not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to provide fire and safety protection and emergency medical services to the Town

of Charlotte.

In 1950, the community organized and incorporated Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services as a community volunteer organization with the mission of helping preserve and protect the Town of Charlotte and neighboring citizens during times of crisis. According to town reports, in 1998 the town Selectboard, in cooperation with Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, funded two paid emergency medical technicians to help ensure stable medical coverage by trained staff and began billing for patient transports. In 2011, Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services obtained its paramedic license in order to continue to serve the community at the level requested by taxpayers and the Selectboard.

COVID-19 stopped all of us in our tracks. However, that is not a luxury Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services had during the pandemic. Our fire and rescue employees and volunteers have not had the privilege of working remotely. In fact, our ambulance staff day after day leave their families to come to the station to serve Charlotte households and our neighboring communities if and when needed. During this time period, volunteers and paid employees have continued to answer the tones and continue to serve the community throughout the pandemic. Be it fire alarms, car accidents, heart attacks, respiratory distress or ice water rescue, if you call 911 with a problem, we will respond.

As the board of directors, we have listened and learned much over the last two years and have already begun to look at ways of improving communications with the community as well as the Selectboard. It is truly our calling, as well as our privilege, to serve you and your families during these challenging times to the best of our ability.

Please vote to support Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services on Article 4.

Jules Polk  
Charlotte

*(Polk, a member of the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, submitted this on behalf of the board.)*

### Food shelf not involved in community center discussion, yet

Recently, some of us have received inquiries related to information included in an article by the Charlotte Recreation Committee.

On behalf of the Charlotte Food Shelf Inc. board, I would like to clarify this information.

At this time the Charlotte Food Shelf Board has not been contacted by the Recreation Committee or had any discussions with the committee regarding the location of the Charlotte Food Shelf as part of their project. In addition, the board has not discussed the appropriateness of a future location with the proposed community center in relation to our mission or made any commitment to this.

Karen Doris  
Charlotte

### Without Town Meeting Day, vote for library is critical

To the Editor:

For more than 30 years, the Charlotte Library has helped to engage, inspire, educate and entertain our community with its collection of books, publications, activities and programs as well as through broad community outreach.

The past two years have been difficult for everyone. Fortunately, the Charlotte Library has remained committed to ensuring continued access to all its offerings while prioritizing the health and safety of patrons and staff. The librarians have found new and creative ways to provide materials and programs "to go" through porch pick-up and extensive online offerings. The public's growing demand for

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

We are reminding our wonderful community to vote on Town Meeting Day, March 1. Article 5 is a line item pertaining to the Charlotte Library budget. For the first time ever, this will be a separate line item requiring a vote apart from your town budget vote. So, it is very important that all of our supporters use their voice and vote. We emphasize that there are no new items in the library budget for 2022-23. The budget increase reflects the new salaries approved by the Selectboard.

Despite doubling the size of the library during the recent renovation, the operating budget (all line items except salaries) remains unchanged. This is largely due to the installation of energy-saving heat pumps and retrofits to increase energy efficiency during the renovation. Additionally, state and federal grants, volunteers of all ages and fundraising events have helped to defray operating costs. Also, as promised, no new employees were hired to staff the larger building.

The Selectboard initiated an overdue survey of the salaries of all town employees. The survey recommended an increase in the salaries of all long-term town personnel, including library staff. The independent evaluators also found the library staff "exceptional" in all five of the study's performance criteria.

In the absence of Town Meeting, it is absolutely crucial that as many citizens as possible get out and vote. If you have any questions or concerns about your library, please contact us directly. Many thanks to you for all of your ongoing encouragement and support.

Robert Smith  
Charlotte

*(Smith, vice-chairman of the Charlotte Library Board of Trustees, submitted this on behalf of the entire board.)*

## Opinion

# Development review board confuses opinions with conflicts of interest

Stuart Bennett

FORMER ZONING BOARD FOR SIX YEARS

On Jan. 12, the Charlotte development review board adopted a conflict-of-interest definition that does not distinguish a conflict of interest from an opinion. That's one reason why we are seeing so much turmoil on the development review board.

For perspective, the classic conflict of interest definition for municipal and county governance is found in Vermont statutes, Title 24

Municipal and County Governance.

It focuses on a "direct personal or pecuniary interest" in a pending matter. This is straightforward and easy to understand.

"Conflict of interest means a direct personal or pecuniary interest of a public official, or the official's spouse, household member, business associate, employer or employee in the outcome of a cause, proceeding, application, or any other matter pending before the official or before the agency or public body in which

the official holds office or is employed."

The Charlotte Selectboard definition is much the same since it prohibits gaining a "personal or financial advantage" or having "a direct or indirect financial interest" in decisions concerning the business of the town.

Both the state and town definitions limit the conflict to personal or financial gain from an official act. We get it. A member of the selectboard cannot approve a town contract for his personal gain.

However, the development review board definition has no terms to objectively define its

intent. Instead, its language can easily be construed to prevent development review board members from having different opinions on issues before the board. Differing opinions is healthy. But a conflict-of-interest accusation is serious and better be based on facts.

The development review board prohibits a member's "direct or indirect interest or involvement" in the outcome of any matter pending before the board. If a board member has publicly prejudged a pending matter, they can get a pass if it is just the member's

SEE **OPINION** PAGE 5



## CAMP ABNAKI

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## NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

February 17, 2022

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Development Review Board, Regular Member (1 seat; term ending December 14, 2023)
- Development Review Board, Alternate Member (2 seats; terms ending December 14, 2022)
- Energy Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2023)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities please send a short statement explaining your interest and relevant background information to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com). If you have questions, please e-mail or call 802-425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

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

This is our time because of American Rescue Plan Act funds

Timing is everything. Is this our time?

Peter Joslin  
FORMER CHAIR OF THE CHARLOTTE  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Charlotte is the recipient of over \$1 million of American Rescue Act Plan funds.

The selectboard is in the midst of reviewing whether or not to build a town garage, and if so, where.

A committee has been working on the feasibility of a community center.

The Grange is hampered by water and septic issues.

Most recent development, regardless of district, has been controversial.

How often have you seen someone looking to rent or purchase a home or rent an apartment on social media? As of this writing, there is one house listed on Zillow for \$775,000 and one 84-acre lot for \$1,150,000. Recent posts for rentals are at least \$2,300 per month.

Enrollment at Charlotte Central School has been below average for the last eight years. What does this portend for the future?

I applaud the effort of those who have worked on the community center proposal, but I believe it is an idea ahead of its time. We should first focus on strategies for modest growth in the village districts, enabling young families of moderate income to take advantage of our K–12 school system.

Charlotte is well poised to focus on the

future. The planning commission, now unencumbered from development review, has begun to assume its primary responsibility, as stated in the Vermont Institute for Government: “Planning is the process of designing a community’s future.”

I assume, in general, Charlotters remain committed to the Town Plan. Therefore, changes are necessary to fulfill the stated goal to promote growth in the village districts and develop strategies for more targeted development in the rural districts to protect the areas of high public value we so cherish. If Charlotters do not agree with this, the Town Plan should be amended to reflect past and current reality—that growth has and continues to be in the rural district.

Here’s what Hinesburg’s land-use regulations say about their Village Growth Area: “To encourage a vibrant mix of commercial, residential and civic activities in a compact, pedestrian-oriented village that is recognizable as the town’s social and economic center. To allow for development that brings value to the community and maintains Hinesburg’s unique sense of place. Densities will be high relative to the rest of the town, and multi-story buildings are anticipated. The design of this area shall include public spaces to serve as focal points and gathering spaces, and to take advantage of important views. It should include internal streets that make pedestrians feel comfortable and welcome. A mix of uses within the Village NW, Village NE, Village, and Commercial districts is particularly important to provide a reason for the wider Hinesburg community to visit and spend time in this area (employment, walking, services,

recreation, events, etc.)” We are not Hinesburg, nor should we strive to be, but many of these goals are comparable to those in our current Town Plan.

We need plenty of dialogue to find middle ground to plan for the next 10 years. More voices, more ideas, more commitment to assist the planning commission and selectboard to create working groups to foster goals and strategies for the future. The planning commission must lead this effort. During past planning commission and selectboard meetings, the idea of hiring an organization to assist in facilitating our collective future has been discussed. I believe this should be given serious consideration. Applying for grants and securing a financial commitment from the selectboard, similar to that extended for the town trail but far more modest, would provide the financial means to chart Charlotte’s future.

What should we be considering? Here are a few thoughts:

- 1. Wastewater, water and stormwater are primary issues in both the east and west villages and are ideal uses for American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- 2. Potential multi-use development of the Burns property. This might include small commercial business, modest senior housing, apartments or condominiums.
- 3. Promote hamlets located close to identified water and wastewater resources.
- 4. If the selectboard considers the purchase

of land to build a town garage, it behooves us to consider other potential resources of a parcel such as wastewater or water that could support modest development in addition to a town garage.

- 5. Changes to density requirements and boundary expansion in the village districts.
- 6. Additional zoning districts for more targeted growth and increased protection of areas of high public value.

Charlotte currently has 10 zoning districts, which include one rural district, one east and west village district and one commercial district (east and west villages).

Compare this to Ferrisburgh, Hinesburg and Bolton. These towns, one larger and two smaller than Charlotte, have multiple rural districts and village/town center districts. Density requirements in their rural districts range from an acre to 5 acres and in village/ town center districts half an acre to two acres.

What is important to note is the variety of districts these towns created, coupled with appropriate density requirements, to focus growth based on location. These are models Charlotte should consider to achieve the goals in the Town Plan.

Some people will be averse to change, and some may find these suggestions extreme, but we have a unique opportunity before us: the American Rescue Plan Act funds are once in a lifetime. I believe this to be our time.

OPINION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“political views or general opinion on a given issue.”

A “direct or indirect interest or involvement” is in the eye of the beholder. It is not limited to financial or personal interests. The exception for “political views and general opinion” is equally opaque.

And, to make matters worse, this prohibition applies to the development review board member’s blood relatives, i.e. “child, step-child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, aunt or uncle, brother or sister-in-law, cousin

or other familial relation.” Consider this scenario to see how crazy this can get: Imagine that you are on the development review board and it is reviewing a development involving wetlands. At a neighborhood barbecue the impact of the development’s paved road on amphibians comes up. You comment that frogs commit suicide on paved roads at night all the time, so let’s not get too worked up about this issue. Your 13-year-old son agrees: “Yeah Dad, just let the developer pave them over.” Oops. You and your child have just publicly said that you don’t care about paving over frogs. And the paved road only encourages



suicide. Next thing you know you are accused of a conflict of interest. Why? Because you and your child apparently have an “interest or involvement” in this project which might kill frogs. And you both have the opinion that they aren’t worth protecting. You try to wriggle out this accusation by saying, “Oh no, those are just my own political views and general opinion about frogs. My son loves animals. And, anyway, my comment about frog suicide was a joke.” Too late. Your reputation on the development review board is hanging by a thread. You and

your son’s opinion about frogs may be misguided, but it is not even close to a conflict of interest. If this development review board definition is not changed to track the more grounded state and town definitions, we will continue to see conflict of interest accusations tear apart our brand-new development review board, or any other board that may adopt this definition. And it is an easy fix. Just limit the “direct or indirect interest or involvement” to personal or financial interests. And forget what your children and relatives think.

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# Farm Series

## LECLAIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

created a shortage of containers and driven up their cost by as much as 50 percent.

Fortunately for Leclaire, while sugaring is a business, it isn't the only source of income for the retired Green Mountain Power lineman. In fact, he reinvests all of his proceeds back into the business, which is fine by him as long as it doesn't cost him anything extra. "If I had to take money out of my pocket to keep it going, I'd quit," he said.

Perhaps, but it's clear that for Leclaire, just as for Curler, making maple syrup is far more than what they jokingly refer to as "something to do in the spring." It's a proud way to carry on an iconic Vermont endeavor that requires skill, patience and some luck. To that end, both men still employ a few metal buckets on taps, Leclaire along the hedgerow in front of his property, where they catch the eye of visitors, and Curler in East Charlotte for his grandchildren, so that they, too, can participate in sap collecting.

To encourage people to learn about sugaring, Leclaire has an open-door policy at his sugarhouse, welcoming visitors from all over.

"If you see the steam rising, stop on in," he says. The genial, bearded man loves showing people around and educating them, even taking them on sap collecting rounds.

"We had traveling nurses from the south, and Pat gave them a drill to tap the trees," Aline recalls with a smile. "They were screaming when they saw the sap coming out. They were ecstatic to see the process."

The 219 gallons of maple syrup that Leclaire produced last year, down from 250 gallons in 2020, was almost all sold locally, much of it in response to posts from Aline on social media.



Left: Pat Leclaire gets the fire ready to start the boiling process. Right: Pat and Aline Leclaire with Peter Curler.

They like to keep it in the community, in part to show their appreciation for the support they've received around Charlotte since they started in 2012.

"The town has been amazing," Aline says, singling out Philo Ridge Farms, The Yerbary, Backyard Bread and Red Barn Kitchen as businesses that have strongly backed them.

No one knows exactly how many sugarhouses there are in the state. Estimates vary from

1,500 to several thousand, but collectively Vermont produced 1.5 million gallons of maple syrup from 6 million taps last year, much of it made by small- to medium-sized sugar makers like Leclaire and Curler, who also sells locally, mostly by word of mouth and through relatives. Each man taps between 1,000-1,500 maple trees in a variety of locations.

Leclaire plans to keep sugaring until "the body says I can't do the wood anymore," he

said, gesturing to the stacked cords that feed the arch.

Sugaring is hard work, and while Aline assists with sales and marketing and Leclaire has help with sap collection, notably from his friend Brian Fortin, it's largely a one-man operation. When the sap is running, as it's beginning to now, he's often in the sugarhouse for up to nine hours at a time, tending carefully to the process. It all depends on the sugar content, which determines how long the sap needs to boil. The syrup is ready when the sugar content reaches between about 67 percent, or around 218 degrees.

If you're passing the sugarhouse and the steam is rising, heed Leclaire's invitation to stop in. You'll be helping to keep the sugaring tradition going for another season. That you'll probably also end up taking some syrup home is the sweetest reward of all — for everyone.



Photos by Lucie Lehmann.

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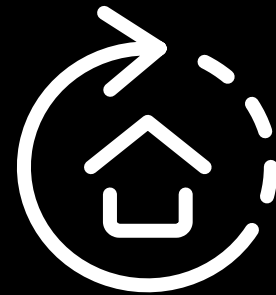
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# Around Town

Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

## EatingWell stops print edition after April

Shelburne-based *EatingWell Magazine* will discontinue its printed publication after its April issue according to editor Jessie Price. It will become a digital-only form of food information.

The publication was started by Charlotte’s James Lawrence in 1988 when he at the time was publisher of *Harrowsmith Country Life*. James and his colleagues at *Harrowsmith* were becoming more health- conscious and came out with the first edition of *EatingWell* in September 1990. Jessie, along with Wendy Rupp and Barry Estabrook who were two of the magazine’s founding editors, will all leave.

## Welcome:

to **Scooter MacMillan** who recently became editor of *The Charlotte News*. MacMillan comes to *The News* from *The Citizen* where he served as a reporter and Assistant Editor. He has an extensive career in journalism from being Marketing Director for the Springer Opera House in Columbus, Ga. and as editor, writing coach and reporter for several newspapers in North Carolina and Georgia. In the course of his career, he has been recognized with many awards, including the 2020 New England Press and Newspaper Association Award for History Reporting.

## Congratulations:

to **Sam Sturim** of Charlotte who earned Dean’s List honors from Tufts University for the Fall 2021 semester. Sturim is a member of the junior class at Tufts. In order to carry honors on the Dean’s List, one must hold a grade-point average of 3.4 or greater. Sam attends Tufts on its Medford, Mass., campus.

to **Moira Brown** of Charlotte who earned placement on the Dean’s List of William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va., for the fall 2021 semester. In order to do so, she had to take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 grade-point average. William and Mary is the second oldest institution of higher education in the United States.

to the following Charlotte students who earned placement on the Champlain College Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester: **James Fox**, computer networking & cybersecurity; **Heloise Guyette**, psychology; **Quinn Mlynarick**, communication; **Brennan Murdock**, game design; **Suzannah Zimmerman**, computer networking & cybersecurity. Placement requires a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester.

to **Julie Sulva** of Charlotte who earned placement on the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for the 2021 semester. Sulva is a history major.

## Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Marion M. Porter**, who passed away Feb. 9 at Birchwood Nursing Home at the age of 89. She and her husband, Richard, who predeceased her, raised their family in Charlotte. Her surviving family includes Richard Porter Jr. of Charlotte. The family encourages donations be made to the Humane Society of Chittenden County, 142 Kindness Court, South Burlington, VT 05403.

is extended to family and friends of **Mary S. Haman** who passed away Feb. 3 at The Converse Home. Her surviving family includes her daughter Eileen Curtis and Eileen’s husband, Ray, and their sons, Will and John, of Charlotte. Memorial contributions may be made to the Converse Home Education Fund.

# Town

## “Farm Stand Together” increases access to Vermont food while supporting Vermont farms



Photo contributed

Christine Hill  
NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING  
ASSOCIATION OF VERMONT

Farm Stand Together, a mutual aid food program providing gift cards for use at farm stands across Vermont, launched this month.

Through the program’s website, Vermonters experiencing food insecurity are invited to request gift cards to use at their local farm stand.

This is a pilot version of Farm Stand Together and funds are limited. While there is no formal eligibility process, applicants will be prioritized based on need, location, and farmstand capacity. Gift cards will provide a minimum of \$50, but the final number of cards and total funds distributed through the program is dependent on the number of applications and the level of need from applicants.

Farm Stand Together is organized by Meaghin Kennedy and Justin Reidy, who relocated to Vermont from Oregon three years ago before the most recent wave of COVID-induced migrations. The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) is consulting on the project, as NOFA-VT runs similar food access programs subsidizing the costs of CSAs and farmers market products for low-income Vermonters.

“We were inspired to start Farm Stand Together after living through two pandemic years in Vermont and seeing the important role farm stands played in local communities,” said Kennedy. “A silver lining of the pandemic was that farm stands were able to truly serve their communities, going beyond selling vegetables and fruit to include many value-added products and becoming a near replacement for a trip to a grocery store. In addition, farm stands moved away from only accepting checks and cash to installing digital Point of Sales systems that allow for ease of transactions. We are lucky enough to have several amazing farmstands in our own community and we’ve seen firsthand the friendliness and sense of connection they provide.”

“Farm Stand Together is a community-based grassroots effort to increase food access and food justice while supporting the viability of Vermont farms,” said NOFA-VT Executive Director Grace Oedel. “Farm Stands are a critical direct market for many Vermont farms. We’re grateful to support an effort aimed to lower barriers to organic, farm fresh foods for more people. We love seeing projects like this emerge spontaneously from community members!”

Learn more about Farm Stand Together at: [farmstandtogethervt.org](https://farmstandtogethervt.org).

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# Hi Neighbor!

## Susan Blood: Finding joy and meeting friends in a frigid lake



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

Susan Blood is a long-time recreational swimmer, but, like most Vermonters, when October rolled around she would put away her bathing suit. That is no longer the case.

In January of 2019, her friend Julie Postlewaite posted on Front Porch Forum that she was still swimming in Lake Champlain and was looking for company

Blood headed to the lake with Postlewaite a few days later on Jan. 5, 2019, which just happened to be her birthday. They went into the water at Whiskey Bay and Blood was hooked. Postlewaite told her about the Winter Swimming Festival at Lake Memphremagog and she decided to give that a try.

“We prepared for that throughout the winter,” Blood said. “At one point the lake froze and we went in with axes.”

At Lake Memphremagog, Blood and Postlewaite competed in the 25-meter breaststroke.

“We were the two slowest swimmers,” Blood said.

They subsequently headed to Lake Bled in Slovenia for the Winter Swimming World Championships in February 2021. There were plenty of serious swimmers at the event, but in the afternoon there were also shorter swims that weren’t timed for those who were less competitive.

“It was a beautiful place,” Blood recalls. “It was a really fun trip.”

Blood owns South Meadow Ventures that runs two catalog websites in an office rented from Vermont Teddy Bear. With the help of her husband, Ted, and a team of eight women, the business manages Isabella, which sells products for “mature women” and Nova Natural Toys and Crafts. The job gives Blood sufficient flexibility to be able to swim in the morning with her friends throughout the year.

For Blood, one of the joys of swimming is the opportunity to spend time with those friends, a group that includes Postlewaite, Cecelia Wu and Tanna Kelton.

“For me there are two parts to the winter swimming,” Blood said. “There is the social part and seeing people regularly and also the lake part, because every single day it’s different. Today there were ice floes, but they



Left: Susan Blood on the ledge of the ice. Right: The group takes a quick selfie before their swim. Pictured left to right: Julie Postlewaite, Susan Blood, Cecelia Wu and Tanna Kelton.

might be gone tomorrow.”

In addition to her community of swimmers and her community at her home in Ten Stones, Blood has found a community with the Conservation Commission.

“Mel Huff somehow got my name,” Blood said “and she was very persistent.”

After a couple of years of service, Blood became the commission’s secretary.

“I don’t have a lot of extra time for projects,” she said “but this is one way I can help.”

Blood hopes others will take the opportunity to serve the town in any way they can.

“Volunteering gives you the chance to meet people you might not otherwise meet,” she said. “There are some incredible people who volunteer.”

Blood credits her three friends for continuing to make the winter swimming expeditions fun.

“I’m probably the least consistent,” she said.

This winter has been tough because some of the days have been very cold and windy, but Blood relishes the time she spends with her friends in the water. They like to vary the places they swim to keep things interesting.

Although Blood has a wetsuit for recreational triathlons, she doesn’t use it for winter swims. Instead, she wears a regular bathing suit with sneakers and micro-spikes. “A wetsuit is more trouble than it’s worth

for winter swimming,” she said. “You want to get in, spend as much time in the water as you’re comfortable, which is generally two to four minutes, and then get out.”

Once out of the water, the women lower their bathing suit straps and put on warm hoodies. They also bring thermoses of warm water which they use to warm their hands after the swims.

For Blood, part of the joy of winter swimming is the knowledge that she has



done something hard, but there is also an endorphin rush. “You just feel happy,” she said. “It feels good to be in the water and trying to calm your breath. I try to get my face in the water a little bit because it’s supposed to be good for your mental health.”

Blood hopes others will join her swimming group. “We’re not exclusive,” she said. “We’re happy to have more people. It’s fun to try something you’ve never even considered and discover that you can do it.”

Photos contributed

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Education

Because of pandemic economy, opportunities to go into teaching abound



Margo Bartsch  
CONTRIBUTOR

In his 1991 Academy Award speech, George Lucas gave a shout-out to teachers: “All of us who make motion pictures are teachers, teachers with very loud voices. But we will never match the power of the teacher who is able to whisper in a student’s ear.”

The pandemic has taken its toll on teachers with many leaving the classroom to pursue other professional opportunities. This has opened teaching slots for recent college graduates.

Students can pursue education courses to be qualified for a job after college or as a back-up degree to get teaching experiences that are transferable to other industries.

First, the teaching profession is hiring! Federal data reports that in 2021 teachers quit at a rate higher than in any other industry. The Wall Street Journal published the January article, “Teachers are quitting, and companies are hot to hire them.” Businesses recognize the transferability of teaching skills, such as quickly absorbing information, multi-tasking and managing stress. LinkedIn reports that corporations value these relevant skills in jobs like sales, instructional coaches, software engineers and behavioral health technicians.

Job vacancies in education are a great opportunity for college graduates to consider teaching in gaining professional experience and financial independence. In January, Politico reported that the pandemic has created

an education crisis that also has become a labor shortage. This opens the door for the next generation of teachers to build skills, earn income and morph their experiences into other future careers.

To earn teaching credentials, the University of Vermont has the College of Education and Social Services for both undergraduates and graduate students. A student interested in education can combine classes with their other academic interests.

For example, a UVM business student majoring in marketing could consider adding a double-major in physical education or a minor in sports management. Thus, they could begin their career as a teacher and a coach. In the future, they could become an entrepreneur in opening a sports academy for children or young adults.

For graduate studies, UVM offers a master of education (M.Ed) in curriculum and instruction. With the M.Ed, there are 30 required graduate credits (around 10 classes with many online or hybrid courses) from four areas of specialization. UVM also offers graduate students a one-year option to earn a master of arts in teaching (MAT) with certification to teach for middle school or secondary education. These education pathways are not time intensive and could result in a fulfilling career.

Finally, education can be a back-up degree. When high school students consider making a college list, they could research whether a college has an education major or minor. This could act as an insurance policy to get an immediate job in teaching and start building



Stock image pexels.com

their resume if other professional pursuits do not pan out.

Middlebury College offers an education minor in completing five courses in the Education Studies Program.

Since Middlebury College is a liberal arts school, it requires a range of classes for students to have well-rounded academic backgrounds that are also relevant to teaching. For example, it requires taking seven of eight distribution requirements: literature; arts; philosophical and religious studies; historical studies; physical and life sciences; deductive reasoning and analytical processes; social analysis; and foreign language.

An English major might want to be a speech writer in the future. However, without political

writing experience, those entry-level jobs could be very competitive to land. In starting their career as an English teacher and a debate coach, they could get experiences to achieve the long-term goal of speech writing.

The pandemic has reinforced how teachers are essential workers in both educating students and in building transferable skills. Professional success does not necessarily require a linear career path. With increasing college tuition, adding education classes can be cost effective.

*Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.*

Charlotte Central School Newsletter

Naomi Strada  
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard, Contributor)

**Message from Charlotte Central School administrators**

School counselors have a tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. CCS is incredibly lucky to have **Betsy Lloyd** as our school counselor! Snack groups, lunch bunches, individual student support and supporting CCS families are just a few of the many things Betsy does each day to support our school.

We have many new individuals at CCS who are supporting our students, teachers and school each day in different ways. We asked each of them to share a little bit about

themselves and their role at CCS.

**Carol Blanshine:** As recess supervisor, I love being able to provide every child in the school with a fun, safe recess experience in our great Vermont outdoors!! As a library helper, I get to meet children on a smaller, class-sized basis, helping them explore their reading interests.

**Rachael Miller:** I am the middle school math interventionist, which means much of my day is spent supporting students either in math classes or small groups. I also spend a few minutes each day checking in with the middle school math teachers and special educators finding ways I can help them engage our students.

**Robert Caldwell:** I am grateful to play a tiny part in augmenting the adult team who make CCS happen each day. My main role is to support four recess blocks (and make ice cream “snow” cones!). My secondary role is to fill in and help whenever and wherever a need emerges. I believe that if you give a child an education, you give them a life.

**Jenny Wilson:** I am an intensive para educator. The bulk of my time is spent with specific students, working with them to ensure they have the best school experience possible. I have only been in this role for a few months, but it is clear that CCS is a special place—and even while navigating incredibly challenging times, the overall feeling in the school is one of positivity.

**Johnny Helzer:** Special thanks also to our newest parent volunteer in the lunch/recess block!

**First Lego League**

A group of 22 CCS 4th to 8th graders participated in First Lego League Cargo Connect Competition in late January. We are very grateful to have received several grants from the PTO to fund this great robotics challenge for our students. STEAM and Digital Learning Leader Beth Damon partnered with parent Jeremy Rauch to co-lead our team, the Charlotte Central Scientists, through designing their robot to perform a group of missions as well as creating a presentation about this year’s topic: Cargo Connect and the history of transportation. We hope to grow First Lego League within the district so please let us know if you have questions or would like to help out!

**CCS PTO**

The CCS PTO has a brand-new website with super easy ways to donate online to one of our four funds. Check it out at [charlottecentralschoolpto.godaddysites.com](http://charlottecentralschoolpto.godaddysites.com).

Please follow the PTO on social media to stay updated on school happenings, our events, and ways you can support our efforts! Instagram: [instagram.com/ccspto/](https://www.instagram.com/ccspto/). Facebook: [facebook.com/ccs.pto.92](https://www.facebook.com/ccs.pto.92).

**Intra-District K-8 school choice**

Children entering grades K–8 who live in the towns of Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George and Williston may exercise school choice. Our goal is to both allow options for families and also make balanced class sizes to provide a positive learning environment for all of our children. Processes for intra-district choice of school will be guided by the needs of students, space availability and existing resources. Given this, we will work to meet as many families’ needs as possible.

**CVSD 2022-2023 Proposed Budget and Bond**

The proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year has been finalized by the Champlain Valley School District board. Please view our annual report and a variety of other materials to learn about the proposed budget and bond on the budget page of our website.

Kelly Bowen, CVSD school board finance committee chair, has shared two posts this week about the proposed budget on Front Porch Forum in each school district. They have been re-posted on the district’s blog for those that might want to view them again.



# Food Shelf News .....

## Charlotte community’s generosity continues to warm us in the throes of winter

Maj Eisinger  
CHARLOTTE FOOD SHELF

The Food Industry Association has noted that weather related crop losses, global logistics, lack of domestic raw sugar cane supply, a 70 percent increase in soybean oil costs, shipping box shortages and workforce challenges are all contributing to supply chain problems and higher food prices. Fresh, local food is so critical as supply chain issues affect food costs and quality.

Therefore, this month we are especially grateful for these local food donations:

Local chickens fostered by Linda Hamilton are making an ongoing contribution of 10 dozen eggs per month, along with homemade elderberry tonic from Community Gardens. Louise McCarren donated a large amount of beef from a cow she purchased locally. Richard and Peggy Eastman donated wonderful foodstuffs, and Christy Garrett gifted the Food Shelf with homemade cookies and candles. O Bread Bakery will be delivering donations of fresh bread.

We also appreciate the monetary donations from, Charles and Elisabeth DesLauriers, Joseph and Jennifer Dickerman, Susan and David Schermerhorn, Evan Metropoulos, Kenneth Oboz and Nina Falsen, Anne Castle, Charlotte Congregational Church, Margaret Berlin, Margaret and Michael Russell, Rosemary Zezulinski, Horsfords Garden and Nursery, Kathleen Nolan, Laura and Trafton Crandall, Jeffrey and Jolinda Smith, Cynthia Marshall, Susan and Hans Ohanian, and anonymous donors.

### In other news:

Charlotte Food Shelf is partnering with the Senior Center to supply Age Well Meals, formerly known to many as Meals on Wheels. “Grab and Go” meals are now available for pickup (in lieu of home delivery) at the Senior Center for clients who sign up.

Drop boxes for donations of nonperishable food are now available at the Senior

Center, the Charlotte Library, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, and the Charlotte Congregational Church. Current wish list includes bottled juices, oatmeal, sugar and mixes (pancake, muffin and brownie). Charlotte Food Shelf will distribute 100 N95 masks donated from the Community Partnership Initiative.

The Charlotte Hand-Me-Downs project will continue in 2022, as the Food Shelf continues to partner with the Grange. It’s not too early to start gathering a bag of clothes your family has outgrown to donate! Several drop-off days in April will be identified soon. Donated used clothing will be sorted by size by volunteers from the Charlotte Grange and distributed to children of families served by the Charlotte Food Shelf.

The Assistance Committee has been very busy supporting our community. Funds for critical kitchen appliance repair, emergency car repair, propane and electricity assistance have been disbursed. In addition, an informative pamphlet has been prepared that lists Helplines and Hotlines as well as Vermont Resources for assistance with rentals, food, fuel, child care, help for seniors, utilities, education, tax filing and much more. Pamphlets are available at the Food Shelf.

Forty volunteers continue to serve the Food Shelf, which has no paid employees. Volunteer opportunities exist for all members of our community as we strive to meet existing needs.

For information, please call 802-425-3252.

Monetary donations are appreciated and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445. The Food Shelf is a 501(c)3 entity, and contributions remain tax deductible.

The Food Shelf is open for food distribution from 4-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130.

## Get your Girl Scout cookies!



Cindy Bradley  
TROOP 30066 LEADER

If we missed you in our initial cookie sale we apologize. But it’s not too late to get some of those delicious Girl Scout Cookies. Stop by one of Girl Scout Troop 30066’s upcoming cookie booth sales and pick up a few boxes.

We will be selling cookies at Walmart on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2:30–7 p.m., Ferrisburgh Mobil on March 4, 4 – 6 p.m., Kinney Drugs in Shelburne on Friday, March 4, 3–6 p.m., and Tractor Supply on Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Remember, they freeze well too. Hope to see you there!



Sports

# Finnish exchange student leads CVU men’s hockey



Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

Kalie Glader comes to Champlain Valley Union High from Finland. He joined the Redhawk skaters in November, and the impact of his off-ice leadership was felt immediately.

CVU coach J.P. Benoit says he as never seen a better communicator than Glader, particularly since English is not his primary language. “I’m lucky to coach him,” Benoit said.

## Men’s hockey blanks Stowe

Last week the Redhawk boy’s hockey team spread four goals among four individuals and held Stowe to seven fewer shots, beating them 4-0 on the losers’ home ice.

CVU scored three of their goals in the third period.

## Congratulations to David Eddy, 1970s sports star

David Eddy, CVU athlete from the 1970s, will be inducted into the Vermont Principles Association Hall of Fame this May.

Eddy played three sports at CVU and was captain of the soccer, basketball and baseball teams his senior year. He was an

All-New England selection in soccer in 1978.

## CVU ranks seventh in state gymnastics

The CVU gymnastics team place seventh at the state meet.

Eleven high schools participated in the state gymnastics meet in Essex last Saturday, Feb. 19. Essex, St. Johnsbury and Montpelier finished first, second and third.

Kayla Meegan, who goes to school at Lamoille Union but trains with CVU, placed third all-around.

## Women’s basketball continues winning ways

The CVU girls’ basketball team beat Burlington on Wednesday, Feb. 16, preserving its winning record.

Shelby Companion’s 18 points led all scorers.

## CVU grad brings home the bronze

Congratulations to CVU grad Megan Nick of Shelburne, who won the bronze medal in freestyle skiing at the Winter Olympics, becoming the first Vermonter to ever capture an Olympic medal in freestyle skiing.

# Girls on the Run Vermont seeks volunteer coaches for spring program

Rachel Desautels  
GIRL ON THE RUN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive, youth development program that inspires students in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy and confident.

The eight-week program uses movement to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons.

The spring season begins the week of March 28. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes, and the program culminates with all teams participating in Girls on the Run Vermont’s 5K event.

Coaches do not need to be runners! Girls on the Run Vermont provides training so volunteers do not need prior coaching experience. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check. Girls on the Run welcomes high school students to



volunteer as junior coaches.  
Coaches needed in Chittenden County: Charlotte Central School, Hinesburg Community School, Shelburne Community School, Vermont Day School. Please visit [gotrvt.org/coach](http://gotrvt.org/coach) for full details and more locations in need of coaches.  
Participant registration opens on Wednesday, March 2. More information about the program and registration can be found on the Girls on the Run Vermont’s website.



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Mt. Philo

Mt. Philo trail restoration work set to be finished by May

Halle Segal  
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Mt. Philo sees a lot of traction in the tourist seasons, being popular for hiking due to its manageable size and close location to Burlington.

In the summer, the mountain is often swamped with large crowds gathered for the infamous sunset view looking west over Lake Champlain and the Adirondack mountains.

The winter season, creating a more desolate and raw image of the mountain, sheds a different light on Philo. A sense of gentle solitude — and no parking fees.

A project to restore Mt. Philo began in the summer of 2020, as the increasing popularity of the mountain degraded the old trails.

“Within the last 10 years, Philo has become extremely popular, and the old trail just started getting really badly eroded. It’d be really muddy, and the trail started getting wider and wider, because people were trying to avoid all the muddy sections. So, the focus of this rebuild was to ‘harden the tread,’ as it’s called, and kind of focus on where everyone actually impacts the mountain,” said Pete Hiser, the trail design partner and builder for Timber & Stone, which is in charge of the renovation.

A big part of this renovation is replacing old trails that have nearly disintegrated over time. The new trails are meant to offer distinct paths and promote drainage and stability.

“As of now, we’ve set 394 stone steps, and then there will be approximately 27 more, so a little over 400 by the time we’re done. Setting stone in the winter is not really possible because the ground freezes, so we’ll start up there again when the ground thaws — but probably by early to mid-April,” Hiser said.

“The wear and tear was expected before we did the stonework and the reason the state decided to go that route and actually spend the money,” said Hise. “So, wear and tear, ideally, won’t be an issue anymore.”

The state is spending almost \$400,000 on the work that’s taken place over two years.

Winter offers the opportunity to replenish the fragile ecosystem of the mountain from the toll of the busy summer months. Staying on the trails to avoid erosion helps keep the mountain sustainable long term.

Hiser said, “So far, the upper half of the mountain has been restored with new paths and staircases, and the rest of the mountain is set to be completed by May 2022.”

*Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.*



New stonework steps in snow.



Above: Local couple overlooks the Adirondacks.

Below: Rowan Rockwell, Burlington resident, reaches summit by sunset.

Photos by Halle Segal



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Outdoors

Courtship is up - or soon to be - in the romantic outdoors



Elizabeth Bassett  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Groundhog Day, we tiptoed over the threshold of 10 hours of daylight. Spring love is in the air. Downy and hairy woodpeckers are beginning to drum, a precursor to courtship. Other stirrings are afoot as well.

“Groundhog Day isn’t about shadows or winter or spring. It is about sex,” says Brian Pfeiffer, one of Vermont’s pre-eminent naturalists. “Feb. 2 has been celebrated in various human traditions from Paganism to Christianity.”

Where wildlife is concerned it’s about the light, specifically more of it. In this climate, animals of all stripes must coordinate the arrival of their young with adequate food resources. If a January thaw tricks them into mating, babies would arrive before the food necessary support them — not a successful survival strategy.

“It is not entirely clear how birds measure the length of day,” Pfeiffer says, “but we do know that photo-receptors in bird brains sense increasing light.”

Light triggers the production of hormones, and birds’ sexual organs revive from a state of dormancy. When food is there in May, songbirds will be ready, too.

With more daylight for walking, put on some safe, spiked footwear and head outdoors. You may witness some spring love for yourself.

If you walk near beaver ponds, look for heads poking above the ice, although mating

generally takes place beneath. Raccoons sometimes leave trails of their pursuits across the snow — keep an eye out for tracks. After darkness settles, coyotes howl and can carry on for hours. Likewise the raucous courtship of barred owls — “Who-cooks-for-you?” — can haunt your sleep.

Female porcupines conserve energy by sitting in a cave or tree, waiting for a mate to find her. Only a fragrant pile of scat alerts passersby to her presence. In early February a porcupine perched high in a spruce tree outside our window, budging only a few feet back and forth for five days. (She may still be there — we had to leave.) Bobcats, furtive in the best of times, may be traveling long distances to find partners.

Very hardy great horned owls hoot their love songs as early as November and December. The female is now sitting on eggs while her mate keeps vigil from a nearby tree. In her book Naturally Curious, Mary Holland reports that great horned owls can successfully incubate eggs when temperatures dip as low as -27 degrees.

Because birds are warm blooded, they must retain body heat by shivering, puffing their feathers to create additional air pockets of insulation, and exposing as little of themselves to the cold as possible.

Why hatch their young so early? Babies stay with their parents throughout the summer, learning to hunt in preparation for independence. As any parent can imagine, this takes time.

Don’t expect to see cold-blooded snakes, salamanders, frogs and other amphibians and

reptiles out and about. They will remain in hibernation for another month or two beneath rocks and leaf litter or in small caves and burrows. After the snow is gone, a few salamanders may emerge to sun themselves on a protected, south-facing hummock or rock. Not a sign of spring most people think of, but a promising one.

Here’s something to keep you busy during the 14 hours of darkness that persist in late February: a free online program about Forest Pest First Detectors. Why, you might ask, should I care about forest pests? Because Vermont forests are under siege; by being informed we may be able to help.

Our butternuts have nearly disappeared in the Champlain Valley, and American beech trees are plagued by a canker, a combination of a fungus and a scale insect that weakens or kills its hosts. The woolly adelgid is coming for our hemlocks, and now, our ash trees are under assault. Five percent of the state’s woods and forests are vulnerable to the emerald ash borer that is now marching (and flying) across the state. More often than not, these invasives are first spotted by informed community members.




In early February a porcupine perched high in a spruce tree outside our window, budging only a few feet back and forth for five days. (She may still be there — we had to leave.)

Photo by Elizabeth Bassett.

The eight-week course, presented by Audubon Vermont, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Vermont Fish and Wildlife and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, is free and self-paced, running from Feb. 21 to April 17. It will include optional live webinars and field trips. More information at [vtcommunityforestry.org/programs/citizen\\_engagement/firstdetectors](http://vtcommunityforestry.org/programs/citizen_engagement/firstdetectors).

Meanwhile, burn through that woodpile and order seeds for the garden. Spring is coming!



**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
IS ISSUING REQUESTS FOR  
MOWING/LAND  
MAINTENANCE &  
BRUSH-HOGGING BIDS**


The Town of Charlotte is seeking bids for:

- mowing and maintaining certain town parcels and trails
- mowing and maintaining cemeteries
- brush-hogging certain town parcels

A description of the parcels and bid requirements can be viewed at [www.charlottetvt.org](http://www.charlottetvt.org) and can also be obtained at the Town Office. Contractors can bid on one, two or all three contracts.

**Bids are due on  
Monday, March 14, 2022  
at 4 p.m.**

Any questions should be directed to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator, at 425-3701 ext. 5 or [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com)



## Charlotte Fire and Rescue Log

January 2022

<p><b>Saturday, Jan. 1</b> 7:12 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 2:12 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Monday, Jan. 3</b> 5:52 a.m. intercept 12:47 a.m. patient evaluated, no treatment required <b>Thursday, Jan. 6</b> 10:47 P.M. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Saturday, Jan. 8</b> 6:43 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 12:32 p.m. canceled prior to arrival <b>Tuesday, Jan. 11</b> 12:32 p.m. patient evaluated, no treatment 2:32 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 2:32 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Wednesday, Jan. 12</b> 4:50 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 3:19 p.m. agency assist 8:18 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Thursday, Jan. 13</b> 3:13 p.m. intercept 1:10 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Friday, Jan. 14</b> 9:54 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 11:56 a.m. patient refused evaluation and care <b>Saturday, Jan. 15</b></p>	<p>5:12 p.m. standby - public safety, fire or EMS support provided 8:23 a.m. standby - public safety, fire or EMS support provided <b>Sunday, Jan. 16</b> 5:37 p.m. standby – no services or support provided 1:41 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Monday, Jan. 17</b> 7:25 p.m. standby – public safety, fire or EMS support provided 9 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Thursday, Jan. 20</b> 9:19 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Friday, Jan. 21</b> 8:45 p.m. patient refused evaluation 6:49 p.m. standby – public safety, fire or EMS support provided 8:44 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Saturday, Jan. 22</b> 10:13 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 7:25 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Sunday, Jan. 23</b> 5:59 p.m. patient evaluated, no treatment required 5:59 p.m. patient evaluated, released <b>Monday, Jan. 24</b> 6:55 p.m. patient evaluated, no treatment</p>	<p>required 3:24 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 9:58 a.m. patient evaluated, no treatment required <b>Tuesday, Jan. 25</b> 11:37 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Wednesday, Jan. 26</b> 1:56 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Thursday, Jan. 27</b> 10:49 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Saturday, Jan. 29</b> 12:50 p.m. canceled prior to arrival 11:33 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Sunday, Jan. 30</b> 11:00 p.m. patient evaluated, no treatment required 4:29 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 9:29 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 7:48 a.m. canceled prior to arrival 5:15 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS <b>Monday, Jan. 31</b> 3:19 p.m. patient treated, transported by EMS 10:26 a.m. standby – public safety, fire or EMS support provided 12:49 a.m. patient treated, transported by EMS</p>
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# Area Calendar Events

## Calendar compiled by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to  
calendar@thecharlottenews.org.

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

### Thursday, Feb. 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Dr. Serhy Yekelchik**, professor and author of *The Conflict in Ukraine*, gives a Zoom talk called **The War Over History: Russia and Ukraine on the Brink of Defining Their Identities**. This free event is sponsored by the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs at Middlebury College. To register, see middlebury.edu for the link.

### Thursday, Feb. 24, 5:30--6:30 p.m.

**Osher Life Long Learning (OLLI)** at the University of Vermont presents an online talk called **The Her-story of Birding: The Lost Legacy of Women in Ornithology**. The speaker is Bridget Butler, known locally as the Bird Diva and proponent of Slow Birding. In her talk, she breaks down current research on gender and birding and related topics. This Zoom class requires registration at learn.uvm.edu. For more info, call Lora at 802-656-5817.

### Friday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m.--1 p.m.

The **University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program** hosts **2022 Dairy Webinar Series**, featuring experts from Vermont and elsewhere discussing a range of dairy-related topics. The first free Zoom webinar features Dr. Heather Darby and Sara Ziegler, UVM Extension, providing updates on UVM forage and dairy research projects, including forage trials for variety evaluations, stockpiling studies, and interseeding. They will also discuss alternative milking strategies and forages. No registration required. For more info, see uvm.edu.

### Friday, Feb. 25, 4-7 p.m.

**The Outer Limits**, a select group of studios at **The Soda Plant** on Pine Street in Burlington, is hosting a get-to-know-you open house. The menagerie of artists includes Pepper Lee CBD, Privateyez Tattoo Studio, Cato and Company plantable handmade paper cards, Stash Fabrics and Kat Whitley Bespoke Clothing. Go up the stairs next to Tomgirl Juice Company. Please wear masks. For more info on these artists, see thesodaplant.com.

### Saturday, Feb. 26, 8-9 a.m.

Early birds, and birdwatchers, meet for an **Early Birders Morning Walk** at the **Birds of Vermont Museum** in Huntington. Walk is led by experienced birders. Bring binoculars and appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes for forest and meadow trails. Appropriate for adults and children aged 10 and over, inviting all levels of experience. Free. For more info, see birdsofvermont.org or call 802-434-2167.

### Saturday, Feb. 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

You might wonder what goes on in an animal barn during the cold winter. Find out at **How Now, Winter Cow?**, an outside program for all ages at **Shelburne Farms**. Visit the farm's herd of Brown Swiss cows and their flock of sheep. Learn from Farmer Mo all about farm work and animal care during the winter months. Dress to be outside on a farm. Appropriate for ages five and up, with accompanying adult. To register, or for more info, see shelburnefarms.org.

### Saturday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m.--noon

Many New Englanders have French-Canadian family ties. Learn more about

researching your northern roots with the **Vermont Genealogy Library's** Zoom webinar on **Getting Started with French-Canadian Genealogy**. Presenter Jane Duchesneau Whitmore provides an overview of resources to begin building a family tree. She includes a discussion of Quebec history and how it influenced our ancestors' lives. To register, or for more info, see vtgenlib.org.

### Saturday, Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m.

**Native Plant Trust**, based in Framingham, Mass., offers a live, virtual **Botany Story Slam**. The evening features a group of top botanists and horticulturists as they recount memorable plant stories from their diverse professions. Speakers include Jonathan Drori, author of the bestseller *Around The World in 80 Plants*. To register, or for more info, see nativeplanttrust.org. Native Plant Trust is a rich source of plant information, classes and field studies, and is home to Garden in the Woods, a botanic garden with native plants.

### Saturday, Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m.

Folk musician **Ethan Stokes Tischler** presents his debut album, *Across the Waking Skies*, at a release show. Tischler is joined by other talented musicians for this evening of his original songs. The performance is at the **Charlotte Congregational Church**; doors open at 6:30. For tickets or more info, see ethanstokestischler.com.

### Sunday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.--1 p.m.

**The Intervale Center** will host a **Catamount Trail Association Free Ski Day** with free equipment rentals and basic instruction. Snowshoeing encouraged as well. This event, in partnership with the **Craftsbury Outdoor Center**, is free; no pre-registration required. Explore the three-mile network of Intervale trails. Weather-dependent. For more info, see @catamountrail on Facebook or call 802-864-5794.

### Sunday, Feb. 27, 12-4 p.m.

Hike through the Goshen woods, hopefully on snowshoes or cross-country skis, and partake in a **Love Trek** put on by **Adventure Dinner**. **Blueberry Hill Inn** hosts this adventure in the woods; participants enjoy four fire-cooked gourmet courses, thanks to Chef Frank Pace, with drinks by fires along the trek. Weather-dependent. For tickets, or more info, see adventuredinner.com or call 248-224-7539.

### Monday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

The **Vermont Historical Society** hosts a free Zoom talk called **Whose History is Preserved?** Presenters are historian Cyndy Bittinger and Lindsay Houpt-Varner, Executive Director of Rokeby Museum. The discussion focuses on regional inequities in preserving stories of minorities, women activists and Indigenous people. Pre-registration is appreciated. To register, or for more info, see vermonthistory.org.

### Tuesday, March 1, 1-2:30 p.m.

Explore the history of a dairy farm turned into a premier public garden in Lee, NH. **Bedrock Gardens: An Oasis of Art, Horticulture and Inspiration** is a free Zoom talk, sponsored by the **Hanover Garden Club** and the **Montshire Museum of Science**. Listen to the garden's Executive Director John Forti as he shares a visual story of the garden's development, including the plants and art contained within. To register, or for more info, see montshire.org or call 802-649-2200.

### Wednesday, March 2, 11:30 a.m.--1 p.m.

The **University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program** hosts the **2022 Dairy Webinar Series**, featuring experts from Vermont and elsewhere discussing a wide range of dairy-related topics. Today's topic is **Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Organic Dairies**. Participants learn about research on seaweed feeding of cows to reduce methane emissions. Presenter is André Brito, University of New Hampshire. Dr. Horacio Aguirre-Villegas, University of Wisconsin-Madison, will talk about his work evaluating manure management practices and technologies to reduce environmental impacts of organic dairy systems. No registration required. For more info, see uvm.edu.

### Wednesday, March 2, 6-7 p.m.

As part of its Naturalist Journeys Online Presentation Series, the **North Branch Nature Center** in Montpelier is pleased to present a free Zoom talk with author and terrestrial ecologist **Tom Wessels**. Wessels talks about his recent book, *New England's Roadside Ecology*, and highlights some of the spectacular and accessible natural sites he explores. Pre-registration appreciated. To register, or for more info, see northbranchnaturecenter.org or call 802-229-6206.

### Thursday, March 3, 9 a.m.--noon

Enjoy a few hours at Mallets Bay access area 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 in Colchester; 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. Event may cancel if ice is not adequate.

### Friday, March 4, 11:30 a.m.--1 p.m.

The **University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program** hosts

the **2022 Dairy Webinar Series**, featuring experts from Vermont and elsewhere discussing a wide range of dairy-related topics. Today, Dr. Glenda Pereira, University of Maine Cooperative Extension dairy specialist, speaks to **Genetic Considerations for Organic Dairy Herds**. She will share information on crossbreeding rotations, feed efficiency of crossbreds, and polled and disbudding management. No registration required. For more info, see uvm.edu.

### Friday, March 4, 6 p.m.

To celebrate Women's History Month, **Vermont Works for Women** presents **Lunafest**, a film festival of award-winning short films by and about women. Virtual screening begins on March 4 at 6 p.m.; paid viewers have until Sunday, March 6, at 6 p.m. to watch the films. A live outdoor screening will take place on Friday, Aug. 5, at The Essex Experience. For more info, or to buy virtual access tickets, see vtworksforwomen.org or call 802-655-8900.

### Saturday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.--3:30 p.m.

**Birds of Vermont Museum** in Huntington hosts **Green Mountain Woodcarver David Tuttle** for a **Cedar Waxwing Carving class**. In one day, participants can carve and paint a delightful bird. Wood and paint are provided; bring tools, mask, gloves and lunch. All levels of carvers welcome; appropriate for adults and teens. Younger children require parental permission. Pay and register in advance at birdsofvermont.org or call 802-434-2167 for more info.

### Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m.--2 p.m.

There's another opportunity to support **Charlotte Girl Scout Troop 30066** by buying their cookies at **Tractor Supply** in Shelburne. Stock up and support the local Girl Scouts.

### Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

Vocalist **Gina Coleman** is joined by the **Misty Blues Band** for a performance of classic blues at the **Vergennes Opera House**. Coleman's program is called **Queens of The Blues**, featuring memorable classics of four female jazz legends. The Misty Blues Band was nominated for two Grammy awards in



## Recreation

# Charlotte Recreation Department sponsors lots of spring fun

Nicole Conley  
CHARLOTTE RECREATION

### Kids snowshoe at the park!

Join us Sunday, Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. at the Charlotte Park and 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. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Park Oversight Committee, the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Recreation Commission.

### Villari's martial arts

Most children and teens will receive some benefit from Villari's martial arts after training just a few short months. But the real benefit comes from long-term training. There is something special that happens to a child who grows up in a Villari's martial arts school. They are simply more confident, respectful, focused, healthy, hardworking and optimistic.

### Wednesdays

Session 1: March 2 - April 4

Session 2: April 13 - May 25

**Time:** 2-2:50 p.m.

**Cost per session:** \$100

### Youth lacrosse

Players in 3rd through 8th grades will participate in the U.S. Lacrosse league and will need a U.S. Lacrosse membership. Please visit our website for more information. The registration form must be completed and submitted with payment to the Charlotte Town Hall by March 7.

### Shelburne Little League Baseball/Softball

Shelburne Little League is focused on the successful development of our players as they continue to progress and grow within the league. Practice times will be determined by your coach, with games determined by the league scheduler.

Baseball/Softball registration closes on March 14.

For more information or to register, please go to [shelburnelittleleague.com](http://shelburnelittleleague.com).

### Mini lacrosse

Mini lacrosse practices will be offered to kindergarten through 2nd graders on Saturday mornings at Charlotte Central School. Each participant will get a chance to learn more about the game while having fun.

**Saturdays,** April 30 - June 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Cost:** \$35

### Spring driver's education

The Charlotte Recreation Department will be offering a driver's education program this spring by the 802 Driving School. The seven-week driver's ed program will be taught by Joe Barch, who has over 15 years of experience teaching in the public schools.

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** Feb. 28 - April 13

**Time:** 6:30-8 p.m.

**Location:** Charlotte Central School

**Registration Fee:** \$700

### After-school tennis lessons

The program is open to 1st through 5th graders; age groups will be split into the two time slots listed below. You may sign your child up for both sessions. Please note: Depending on roster sizes, those in 4th and 5th grade may be assigned to either group.



### Mondays and Wednesdays

Session 1: April 25 - May 11

Session 2: May 16 - June 6 (no lessons May 30)

Grades 1-3: Mondays 3:30- 4:30 p.m./

Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Grades 3-5: Mondays 4:30- 5:30 p.m./

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

### Tuesdays and Thursdays

Session 1: April 26 - May 12

Session 2: May 17 - June 2

Grades 1-3: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Grades 3-5: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Cost per session:** \$75 (six lessons)

### Safe Sitter babysitters course

Safe Sitter prepares teens to be safe when they're home alone, watching siblings or babysitting. The course offers four main content areas: safety skills, child care skills, first aid and rescue skills, life and business skills. Lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Teens will practice choking rescue and diapering. Register with the town offering.

**Grades:** 6-8

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Williston:** Thursday, April 21

**Charlotte:** Saturday, May 21

**Fee:** \$60

### After-school spring soccer

It's time to lace up those cleats and enjoy a fun afternoon of outdoor soccer. This program will take place after school at Charlotte Central School.

**Start date:** Week of April 25

**Time:** 3-4 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30

### Boater safety course

Boating safety education is required for any motorboat operator, 12 years of age or older, born after Jan. 1, 1974. The Boat Vermont, 8-hour classroom course will enable you to get the certification that you need. Participants must be present at all classes to be eligible for certification. Ages: 12 and up.

**Dates:** May 2, 4, 9 and 11

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** WCS Community Room

**Fee:** \$30

### After-school junior golf program

Cedar Knoll Golf Course Pro Mike Slayton has a non-technical teaching philosophy, but stresses the fundamentals of grip, stance, posture, balance and tempo. Although understanding that variations in swing techniques can all work, golf ball flight comes down to 5 basic laws. These laws include club head path, angle of attack, centeredness of contact, club face angle and speed. Grades: 1-8.

### Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Session 1: April 26 - May 5

Session 2: May 10 - May 19

Session 3: May 24 - June 2



Kayaks at the beach is a great way to get out and exercise. Photo courtesy Charlotte Recreation

### Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. and Fridays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Session 1: April 27 - May 6

Session 2: May 11 - May 20

Session 3: May 25 - June 3

**Where:** Cedar Knoll Golf Course

**Cost:** \$149

### Tim Serrell tennis clinic

Tim Serrell was a summer resident of Charlotte who loved to play tennis. When he died, he left money in a trust fund to provide free tennis lessons to the children of Charlotte. The program began in 1989 and has become a Charlotte summer tradition. Your child will be assigned a time once registration for the clinic is complete.

**Grades:** 1-8

**Date:** June 13-16

**Time:** 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Charlotte Beach

**Cost:** Free (please consider making a donation.)

### Champlain Valley track and field

Charlotte is proud to be a part of this three-town track and field program that includes Charlotte, Hinesburg and Williston. Children learn the basics of running, jumping, throwing and relays with this program. There will be opportunities to compete in various events with other local track and field programs, along with a state meet that will be in person or virtual. This program is for children ages 7-14 as of Dec. 21, 2022.

**Mondays and Wednesdays,** June 15 - July 20

**Ages:** 7-14

**Time:** 6:15-7:45p.m.

**Location:** CVU

**Cost:** \$50

### Golf camp

Cedar Knoll Golf Course Pro Mike Slayton has a non-technical teaching philosophy but stresses the fundamentals of grip, stance, posture, balance and tempo. Although understanding that variations in swing techniques can all work, golf ball flight comes down to five basic laws. These laws include club head path, angle of attack, centeredness of contact, club face angle and speed. The golf swing is a series of movements that must be executed in the proper sequence for optimal results.

**Camp Days:** Tuesday-Friday

**Week 1:** June 21-24

**Week 2:** July 19-22

**Week 3:** Aug. 16-19

**Time:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Ages:** 6-13

**Cost:** \$300

### International soccer camp

The international soccer camp will be held the week of July 18 at Charlotte Central School. The camp staff is selected and trained in the United Kingdom exclusively to work in these camps. They have a genuine interest in helping each player's development and providing memorable positive experiences.

**Tiny Tykes,** ages 3-5, 8-9 a.m. Residents: \$90

**Half-day program,** ages 6-14, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Residents: \$170.

**Full-day program,** ages 7-15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Residents: \$222.

\*Host a coach and receive an \$80 rebate on your registration!

### Adult Programs

#### Indoor pickleball

Indoor Pickleball is now played at the Charlotte Central School on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Register online and join local pickleball enthusiasts in fun but competitive games.

#### Pick-up basketball

Join the basketball fanatics on Mondays and Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Charlotte Central School. All levels and ages are welcome to join.

#### Outdoor pickleball

The summer season of pickleball in Charlotte begins April 4 at the beach on Mondays and Thursdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. through the summer. Register online to be placed on an e-mail distribution list.

#### Intro to pickleball

Join recreation commissioner Greg Smith for free pickleball instruction on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Charlotte Beach courts. The outdoor season will begin the week of April 4, depending on weather. Register online to be placed on an e-mail distribution list.

Full and partial scholarships are available for all youth recreation activities. You can find additional information on all of our programs on our website at [charlotterec.com](http://charlotterec.com). Questions? Contact Nicole Conley by email: [recreation@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:recreation@townofcharlotte.com)



# Charlotte History

## History of Charlotte District Schools

Dan Cole  
CHARLOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As Charlotte became established, it made sense to divide the town into several school districts, each with its own school building, at a time when transportation around town most often was on foot. They were called “common schools” to differentiate them from an “academy,” which in those days described what we might identify as “high schools.”

From our perspective we are not able to judge comparisons of today’s schools to those of two centuries ago. We would be comparing apples to oranges. But these small schools were sustainable, affordable and usually provided quality education that prepared their young charges to enter society.

Census records of the early 20th century show that a majority of people rarely attended school beyond the 8th grade; however, in many cases their knowledge could be commensurate with high school level today.

My grandfather graduated from Newbury Academy and entered adulthood with an education that would rival many of today’s college bachelor’s degree programs. The teachers and scholars of these one-room district schools and small academies laid the groundwork for all that has been achieved since.

In an essay in “Around the Mountains,” dated Oct. 15, 1897 (“The Population of Towns and in Praise of Common Schools”), William Wallace Higbee writes that so-called “educators” “tell us our schools are ‘deteriorating,’ and probably they do not come up to the standard of 40 or 50 ago (1840-1850). But the cause is clear enough. The children of the state are taken out of the common schools at a far different age now than they were then. It is not ‘the thing’ to be educated there, no matter how good the advantages.”



Above: Spear School located on the north side of Ferry Road.

Photo from the Charlotte Public Library Collection

In this issue, we visit School #2, also known as the Spear School, located on the north side of Ferry Road, about halfway between Lake and Whalley Roads. The foundation stones are still in place, although the location is now heavily overgrown with honeysuckle.

(For more about the history of Charlotte’s schoolhouses, check out our town library’s website ([charlottepubliclibrary.org](http://charlottepubliclibrary.org)). In the middle of the bar at the top of the homepage, hover over “AT THE LIBRARY.” On the drop-down menu, hover over “SPECIAL COLLECTIONS,” and on the drop-down menu here and click on the “LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY.” Scroll down to “Presentations” and click “read it” next to “Jenny Cole’s Charlotte Schoolhouse StoryWalk.”)



(Left to right) Mary Whalley; William “Bid” Spear; Alice L. Lewis (with drum); unidentified person, unidentified person; unidentified person; Hugh “Cowboy” Lewis; Shirley Whalley; unidentified person.  
Photo courtesy Susan Horsford.



District #2 from the 1869 Beers Atlas.



Overgrown honeysuckle in the hedgerow on the north side of Ferry Road, about half way between Lake and Whalley Roads.  
Photo by Dan Cole.



# Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

### 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 on the library website.

#### Family snowshoe walk Sunday, Feb. 27, at 10 a.m.

Join us at the Charlotte Park and 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 at [charlottevt.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29906](http://charlottevt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29906).

#### Hack Club

##### Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., March 1 to April 5

Join coders to build websites, games and art using many popular coding languages such as HTML, CSS, Javascript, Python and more. Learn your way around the hardware with help from coding pros. Beginners are welcome. Advanced coders should definitely join, as we can work in Ruby, Rails, JavaScript and React, plus Unity and C# (for game dev). Here are our workshops. For queries and registration, please contact Christina Asquith: [christinaasquith@yahoo.com](mailto:christinaasquith@yahoo.com).

#### Masking, testing and vaxxing: A community COVID conversation at the Charlotte Senior Center

##### Wednesday, March 2, at 1 p.m.

Vaccines, tests and masks continue to be the best way to manage risks related to coronavirus. You may have questions about different types of masks, PCR vs. rapid antigen tests, and where to get them. This session will cover these topics and try to answer any questions you may have. Presented by: Jim Hyde, Professor of Public Health (Emeritus) and Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Senior Pastor of Charlotte Congregational Church. Offered in person and on Zoom. To register please contact the Charlotte Senior Center at 802-425-6345.

#### Short story selections

##### Thursday, March 3, at 1 p.m.

Join library director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Join the discussion: [bit.ly/3HF1uu0](https://bit.ly/3HF1uu0).

#### Masking, testing and vaxxing: A community COVID conversation at the Charlotte Senior Center

##### Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m.

Vaccines, tests and masks continue to be the best way to manage risks related to coronavirus. You may have questions about different types of masks, PCR vs. rapid



antigen tests, and where to get them. This session will cover these topics and try to answer any questions you may have. Presented by: Jim Hyde, Professor of Public Health (Emeritus) and Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Senior Pastor of Charlotte Congregational Church.

#### Chittenden Solid Waste District workshop series: Recycling right ... in the blue bin and beyond

##### Saturday, March 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Register at [eventbrite.com/e/cswd-workshop-series-tickets-272373164467](https://eventbrite.com/e/cswd-workshop-series-tickets-272373164467). Join CSWD staff for a behind-the-scenes look at what happens to your household recycling after it leaves your house — and find out why it's so important to recycle right.

We'll cover what really belongs in the blue bin and why other items can create big problems for the recycling system. Then we'll go beyond the blue bin and explore the "special recycling" options for lots of things that can't go in the blue bin. (Spoiler alert: you can bring some of them right to the library.) We'll also have plenty of time to answer questions and settle family arguments (only about recycling!), so bring your trickiest items and try to stump us.

One of a three-part series from Chittenden Solid Waste District. Take part in one or all.

#### RESCHEDULED:

##### Media Literacy Take 2

##### Thursday, March 17, 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.



### 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. Charlotte Community Partners seeks to provide information and resources to assist your research and decision making:

**INFO:** Go to [bit.ly/COVIDhelp05445](https://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](mailto:COVIDhelp05445@gmail.com) or 802-425-3864.

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

Davidson co-founded Planet Money and has been a staff reporter for *The New York Times* and the *New Yorker*. Waters-Evans 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*. Wegman is an editorial board member of *The New York Times*.

Register in advance: [bit.ly/3H0X4wr](https://bit.ly/3H0X4wr).

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](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)

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# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news



Lori York  
DIRECTOR

I hope you are able to set aside some time with a cup of coffee or tea and take a moment to look through the insert with our upcoming March classes at the Charlotte Senior Center. We are offering some returning favorites, and also some new programs. If there is something that you would like to see but is not listed, please reach out.

Our partnership with Age Well continues to grow. We are now distributing over 100 meals a week. It is truly heartwarming to see all the volunteers who help make these weekly meals possible. The Grab and Go meals are free for any individual 60 years and older through COVID relief funds.

We are also excited to announce that we have a donation box for the Charlotte Food Shelf located in the front entryway. Consider dropping off a donation the next time you are at the senior center.

And 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. Come in out of the cold and read a book, play our piano, play a board game or just spend time socializing in small groups.

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

### Meals & Conversation:

**Monday Lunches:** 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, Feb. 28:** Lentil soup, green salad with balsamic dressing, bread and chocolate chip cookies.

**Monday, March 7:** Irish stew, Irish pub salad, Irish soda bread and Baileys poke cake for dessert.

### Men'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, email Tim McCullough at [cubnut5@aol.com](mailto:cubnut5@aol.com) by Tuesday, March 8. Suggested donation is \$5 for breakfast.

### Grab and Go Meals provided by Age Well

Pick up on Thursdays between 11-12 at the Charlotte Senior Center. Pre-register by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, call 802-425-6345 or email [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

**Thursday, March 3:** Beef Stroganoff with sour cream, egg noodles, broccoli florets and cauliflower, dinner roll, strawberry shortcake and milk. Pre-register by Monday, Feb. 28.

**Thursday, March 10:** BBQ chicken breast, O'Brien red potatoes, spinach, wheat bread, pumpkin bar with raisins and milk. Pre-register by Monday, March 7.

### Open café

#### Friday mornings, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Join us on Friday mornings for a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy a morning treat. This is a great opportunity to join your friends or meet new ones. The beverages and treats are provided by Friends of the Senior Center.

### Upcoming program and events:

#### Award-winning nominated movies with Sean Moran

Cost: Free. Registration is required, as there is limited seating. Masks required. To register, call 802-425-6345 or stop by the Senior Center.

#### Thursday, March 10, 1-3 p.m.

##### 'Tick, Tick ... Boom'

This film is based on the autobiographical musical by playwright Jonathan Larson. The story is about an aspiring composer in New York City who is worried he made the wrong career choice.

#### Thursday, March 31 1-3 p.m.

##### 'Passing'

Adapted from the 1929 novel by Nella Larsen, this film is set in the 1920s in New York City and is about a Black woman finding her world upended when her life intersects with a former childhood friend who's passing as white.

#### Coffee & Canvas—Picasso-Inspired with Sherry Senior

##### Wednesday, March 16, 10–11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$25. Please register by Monday, March 14. Class limited to 12. Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing morning sipping coffee and painting with acrylic paints on canvas. Explore and create your own unique painting, but don't worry — there will be plenty of inspiration and lots of instruction. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included.

#### Birding expedition with Hank Kaestner

**Wednesday, March 16, 9 a.m. departure.**  
Cost: Free. Registration required. Group size is limited. Our popular birding expeditions are back. To register for the March trip, email [csbirding@gmavt.net](mailto:csbirding@gmavt.net) and include your name and phone number.

#### Capturing your oral history by audio recording with Dan York

**Friday, March 18, 1-2:30 p.m.**  
Cost: Free. Please register by Wednesday, March 16. Class limited to 15. You may have heard that story from a relative 100 times but is it actually captured anywhere for future generations? In this workshop you'll learn about — and try out — some of the tools and techniques for recording audio stories, including remote interviews and using just a smartphone. You'll leave with a list of resources and tips to get started.



From left, volunteers for the Age Well Grab and Go meal distribution Cassie York and Kathryn Lewis, seventh grade students from Shelburne Community School, Sean Moran and Charlotte Library youth services librarian Cheryl Sloan.

Photo by Lori York

#### March 9: "What Style Is That Old Building?" with Frances Foster

Join architectural historian Frances Foster for a presentation of Vermont's most prevalent architectural styles of the 19th century. Lecture is approximately 80 minutes.

#### Ongoing exercise and health classes

We offer daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activity levels. A complete list of our exercise programs is on our website at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://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 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday- Friday. Give us a call at 802-425-6345 or email director Lori York at [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org). Residents from other communities are

always welcome. Our mission is to serve those over 50.

## Classifieds

Reach your friends and neighbors for only \$12 per issue. (Payment must be sent before issue date.) Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email [ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org).

**HELP WANTED: CHAMPLAIN VALLEY COMPOST CO. SEEKS A DELIVERY DRIVER** for spring and fall compost deliveries (ie. March, April, May, October and November), and occasional help with compost production during summer and fall, if interested and available. No CDL required. Unique job with generous compensation. Contact [steven@cvcompost.com](mailto:steven@cvcompost.com) for more information

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

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**Town Meeting Information  
Hearing for Town Meeting  
Australian ballot articles  
Saturday, Feb. 26, at 9 a.m.**

**NOTICE FOR  
Public Informational Hearing  
for Australian ballot articles to be  
voted at the annual meeting  
Town of Charlotte**

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

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

If you wish to make a comment or ask a question regarding one of the Australian ballot articles but do not have the ability to join the hearing by computer, phone or a device, please email your comment

or question at least one hour in advance to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator, at: [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com).

Please contact Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (425-3071 ext. 5; [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com)), with any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this meeting.

Link to join meeting online (via Zoom):  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83161778546?pwd=dll4MIJxdEl3Z1FRbmtGVFNCDnK1UT09>

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

Meeting ID: 831 6177 8546

Passcode: 794802

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

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

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

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

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire &

Rescue Services, Inc. from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2022-23?

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

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

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

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

**Article 7:** To elect Town Officers

**Upcoming Meetings**

The Charlotte Town Office has now re-opened to the public for in-person participation at evening meetings. For those who prefer, remote participation in public hearings and meetings is still available online via Zoom or conference call.

**Selectboard, Monday, Feb. 28, 6–9 p.m.**

**Trails Committee, Tuesday, March 1, 6:30–8 p.m.**

**Charlotte Energy Committee, Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m.**

**Planning Commission, Thursday, March 7–8:30 p.m.**

**Development Review Board, Wednesday, March 9, 7–9 p.m.**

**Development Review Board special meeting**

Wednesday, March 2, 7–9 p.m.

**Agenda (All times are approximate & subject to change)**

7:00 p.m. Call to Order; changes to agenda (if any)

7:05 p.m. Public Comment (not pertaining to pending applications)

7:10 p.m. Public presentation & discussion re: DRB norms, standards & rules of procedure re: member ethics,

different meeting types (reconsiderations, hearings and deliberations), rules for public participation, and quasi-judicial role in land use permitting—with town counsel David W. Rugh, Esq. of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

8:30 p.m. Other business: Discuss pending complaints; review & approve pending draft meeting minutes for Feb. 17, Feb. 23 meetings

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

Charles Russell (Acting Chair), JD Herlihy, Gerald Bouchard, Christina Asquith, Rebecca Kaplan, Clerk; Larry Lewack, Town Planner.

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to 24 VSA §4464, participation in this local proceeding, by written or oral comment, is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. If you cannot participate directly in the hearing, comments may be made in writing prior to the hearing and mailed to: Planning & Zoning Assistant, Town of Charlotte, 159 Ferry Rd., Charlotte, VT 05445, or via email to: [pza@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:pza@townofcharlotte.com).

For more information, call the Planning and Zoning Office at 425-3533 ext. 206. Application materials are available online at [charlottetv.org](http://charlottetv.org).

PRESORTED STANDARD

