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The Charlotte News

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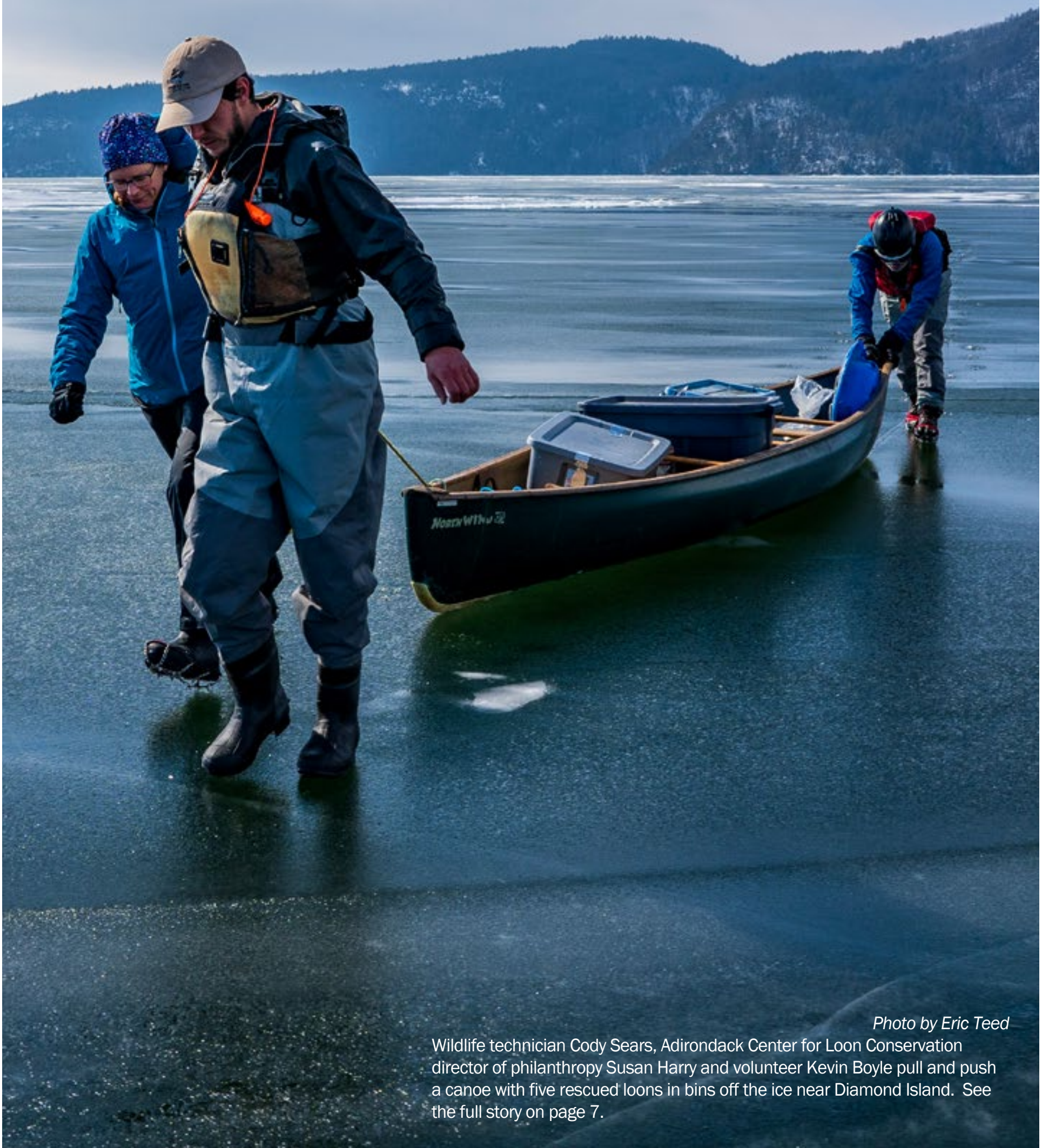


Photo by Eric Teed

Wildlife technician Cody Sears, Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation director of philanthropy Susan Harry and volunteer Kevin Boyle pull and push a canoe with five rescued loons in bins off the ice near Diamond Island. See the full story on page 7.

A lot of bull migrating to town hall vicinity

Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

Town planner Larry Lewack got a bit of a surprise when he got to work and was greeted by the sight of a pile of manure outside his office window in the field behind the Charlotte Town Hall parking lot.

“Happy Monday! Don’t open your window,” he said was how his week started on March 7.

Although the selectboard has extended the mask mandate through March in the town hall, the library and the senior center, Lewack said he didn’t think wearing one would help with the olfactory bouquet of bovine waste.

The manure was the result of that property, often referred to as the LeBoeuf estate, being purchased by Mike Dunbar from the Shirley Bruce Estate on Friday for \$500,000.

Robert Mack said he delivered the manure to the property over the weekend, preparing to farm there for Dunbar.

He expects the first crop he’ll plant is soybeans, not hemp, a crop that didn’t do as well as he had expected when he a planted a number of acres in 2019, hoping to take advantage of the predicted CBD craze. He attributed part of the problem

SEE **PROPERTY** PAGE 4

Champlain Valley Union High dominates on the slopes at state championship



Photo by Marybeth Gilliam

George Francisco took fifth in the slalom and ninth in giant slalom to contribute in a big way to Champlain Valley Union High School nabbing its second state skiing championship in a row. See the full story on page 7.

Development review board hopes reconsideration ruckus proves instructive if similar situations arise



Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

A deliberation is not a meeting.

And because a deliberation is not a meeting, open meeting restrictions do not apply.

This was the legal opinion David Rugh, one of the town’s attorneys, delivered again and again at a special meeting of the Charlotte Development Review Board on Wednesday, March 2.

This meeting was one of several held in recent weeks to address whether the board violated open meetings laws when it discussed whether to reopen for reconsideration preliminary approvals of applications for a couple of proposed projects, but particularly an application by Patricia O’Donnell and Jim Donovan for a nine-lot subdivision on 124 acres at 125 Lake Road.

Ultimately, these discussions have turned out to be moot except as examinations of how the new board’s process should work because O’Donnell and Donovan withdrew their reconsideration request.

The issue may have become even more academic when an online real-estate company listed the Lake Road property for sale at \$1.17 million. However, this ad appeared to have been taken down a day or so later.

Town planner Larry Lewack said he didn’t know whether or not O’Donnell and Donovan planned to sell the property, but that it isn’t unusual for people involved in

property negotiations to put out exploratory feelers to see what a property is worth.

“It’s fair to assume that they’re mulling over their options,” Lewack said. “Our working assumption is that they’re going forward.”

When asked whether the property was or was not for sale, O’Donnell said, “We are simply exploring our options.”

On social media, Sharon Mount, who with her husband, Barry Finette, owns property abutting the planned development, posted a request for fundraising to protect this land “which meets the Charlotte Town Plan definition of ‘land of high public value.’”

At the March 2 meeting, Rugh said the Development Review Board’s previous discussions about whether to go into reconsideration was a deliberation, not a meeting. Deliberations of town boards are not meetings, he said, and therefore don’t have to be warned, held in public, can happen by email, and board members don’t even have to be together in one place.

“Discussions among board members to schedule or set the agenda, distribution of meeting materials, when to schedule meetings, those are defined by statute as not meetings,” Rugh said, and since they are not meetings, they are not subject to open meeting laws.

Also not covered by open meeting law is a sketch plan review, which is an informal meeting to go over the design of an applicant’s proposal. This is not a hearing and does not result in a formal decision, but just a recommendation or an advice letter, he said.

The sketch plan stage is followed by a preliminary review. The preliminary plan review stage is a formal hearing where the board sits in “a quasi-judicial capacity,” Rugh said. Applicants and neighbors are supposed to be notified of such a hearing and have an opportunity to attend to present evidence or give testimony.

“Charlotte’s development review board has established a practice of deliberating in public,” he said. “Many of the recent issues that have been raised result from the board deliberating in public. That is a good thing from a transparency perspective, but it doesn’t have to happen.”

The development review board is one of the town boards with the authority and necessity upon occasion to meet as a quasi-judicial body, and when it does, it is operating similarly to a judge in a trial. Like a judge’s right to retire away from public view to consider a case, the development review board can meet in closed session to deliberate.

Finette objected to the way the board handled the reconsideration process because he had made “a formal request” to speak during the board discussion and wasn’t allowed to speak.

“Your opportunity comes if the development review board decides to reopen the hearing,” Rugh said.

“It’s not an open meeting law violation because it’s not a meeting,” he repeated.



Chair Charlie Russell said the board felt it had enough evidence to decide whether to open the application for reconsideration. “We believe we didn’t need to take new testimony. We had a decision in front of us with findings and conclusions that we evaluated.”

Even if the board was not required to let people speak, board member Christina Asquith questioned why they weren’t allowed to speak. At subsequent meetings the development review board has spent a lot of time listening to people sharing their frustrations about not being given a chance to speak.

“It’s taken us so much more time and everybody’s feeling badly about it. And I also feel like we weren’t able to hear full information,” Asquith said.

Chair Charlie Russell said, “I don’t think we’re wasting a lot of time. I think we’re all learning a lot about a very confusing issue. I think when the next time this comes up, if it’s ever like this, we’re going to be better prepared.”

Letter from the Editor

Keeping community in community newspaper



Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

I've always assumed that everyone's dream job was to be a coach or an editor of a community newspaper. What a big surprise it was to find that neither of these was everyone's dream job. And an even bigger surprise to realize that neither of these jobs is probably even most people's dream job.

For me, being editor of The Charlotte News is a big deal. A dream job come true.

Although a good many years ago I made the jump from small community newspapers to a relatively big daily newspaper. I don't regret the jump, but I always thought the things I was learning helping put out a newspaper every day for more than 60,000 readers would make me better at putting out a small community newspaper.

So, here I am. And I hope you're with me in being committed to keeping the community in this community newspaper. At the risk of beating a dead cliché: It takes a community to put out a community newspaper.

Which means we depend on you donating your time, tips, photos and your struggles to put words to paper—or what passes for paper in this digital wonderland we live in.

Please let us know what's going on so we can let you and your neighbors know

what's going on. And please, please send in your version and your pictures of what's happening.

Please don't wait until an event, an important date in Charlotte's history, a 100-year-old's birthday or something happens that is significant to a few or more people in town has already happened to tell us. Or, if you forget to tell us beforehand, and you suddenly realize in the middle of something happening that other people in Charlotte might like to know about it, please take out your cell phone or camera, get a couple of pictures and take a few notes.

My email address is scooter@thecharlottenews.org. I'm not just looking forward to hearing from you—I'm counting on it.

So much of what appears in The Charlotte News is written by volunteers. Sometimes it's a one-shot deal, but many times it is dedicated people who send in things all the time.

If you're wrestling with how to get your thoughts into words, may I suggest returning to the basics but with a twist. Whenever we write all of us should stop to reread our missives and ask ourselves does it contain the five W's. Most of us have learned the four W's and the H—who? what? when? where? and how? — but I contend there's a fifth W, which stands for "weird" or "wacky."

Before you hit send, stop, reread your article, letter to the editor, event write-

up, whatever and ask yourself was there something weird. Often the weird detail that at first glance seems to have nothing to do with your writing is actually the telling detail that will put a story in focus or make it more compelling.

We may not welcome all opinions. If your opinion is defamatory, a personal attack on another person or group or patently false, we may not welcome it, but we do like being a forum for lively debate. So, don't worry about having an unpopular opinion; worry about being mean.

I had a journalism history professor who quoted Thomas Jefferson as saying that our government is founded on the belief that "in a free and open encounter with falsehood, truth will prevail."

I have searched for decades for the exact quote, but no matter, his statement gobsmecked me and became a principle I've tried to found my personal and professional life upon.

The way I see it, the encounter with competing ideas has to be free and open. If not, in some way truth can be transmuted into falsehood. But an openness that admits falsehood ... well, it admits falsehood.

Enough of the highfalutin pretentiousness: This is your community newspaper, and, we don't just aim to keep it that way, we aim to make it more that way—with your help.

Selectboard reorganization results in not much change

Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

Jim Faulkner and Frank Tenney must wear asbestos boots because they agreed to once again step into the metaphorical crucible of fire as leaders of Charlotte's highest municipal body.

The Charlotte Selectboard re-elected Faulkner and Tenney as the board's chair and vice chair, respectively — and they both accepted that appointment.

Monday's selectboard meeting was the annual meeting following Town Meeting Day, dedicated to that board's re-organization, although there wasn't much to be re-organized since the two board members whose seats were up for re-election — Faulkner and Louise McCarren — ran unopposed.

The meeting formalized mostly no adjustments with the board staying the course, including re-approving the rules

of procedure, the newspaper of record (The Charlotte News, except when time constraints won't fit required notices into required public notices) and its procedure for signing warrants.

The board also agreed to keep its regular meeting schedule on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The time for these meetings was reaffirmed at 6 p.m., but by informal consensus this starting time would be a moving target when the demands of work and children dictate.

The members of the board appeared to agree that Town Meeting Day went well considering it was held via Zoom, but look forward to returning to in-person direct democracy, but on Saturday now.

Getting the budget finalized sooner would make the switch to Saturday town meeting easier than it was this year, board member Matt Krasnow said. "I think the selectboard could pivot to three days earlier from

Saturday to Tuesday and get that report in future years a little sooner."

Faulkner said, "I think we're satisfied with the move to a Saturday so we can make it more of a social event. I sure hope we can do that next year."

"We could start the budget meetings now," board member Lewis Mudge said. This suggestion got a big laugh from the rest of the board.

Town garage update

Possibly the biggest task facing the selectboard after Town Meeting Day is the same gargantuan responsibility it faced before — getting a town garage built.

The selectboard took one step towards making that a reality a week before at its Feb. 28 meeting when it decided on the town-owned property at the old flea market on Route 7, just south of Charlotte Crossings, as the location for the new garage.

This location was in line with the recommendation of road commissioner Junior Lewis who said that of all the sites considered he thought this was the best because it would save the town money to not have to buy land when the construction will cost a good bit.

Lewis also said it would be good to have the garage built convenient to the town sandpile across the road.

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for voting

To the Editor:

Thank you for taking the time to vote and to all the volunteers that made it happen. Special thanks to those that supported the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service budget.

For those of you who did not vote in favor of our budget, we would like the chance to discuss it with you if you still have questions. Please leave questions on our website (CVFRS.com) and we will be happy to answer them. Feel free to leave a request to be contacted directly, or by email or phone, should you so desire and I will be happy to respond.

Thanks again on behalf of all at Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

Fritz Tegatz, Charlotte
Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Service Board president



Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is:

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

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

Editorial independence

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

Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

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

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

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Town

Charlotte voters approve town, fire, library budgets handily, defeat community center study soundly

Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

In the late afternoon of Tuesday’s Town Meeting Day voting, outside the Charlotte Town Hall was seeing a good bit of action with leaving and arriving cars having to dosey doe to get in or out of parking spaces.

With the sky starting to dim and less than three hours left before the polls would close, assistant town clerk Sy Koerner said the turnout had been steady.

As of Tuesday, Charlotte had just over 3,300 voters. Of these, 969 or 29 percent exercised their right to have a say-so in town decisions.

More than half of those voting, or 527, did so by absentee ballot.

The most controversial item on the ballot proved to be an article asking voters to approve \$50,000 for a feasibility study to determine the viability of building a Charlotte community center. This proposal was soundly defeated 735–225 with more than 76 percent of votes cast against it.

The selectboard can breathe a sigh of relief as a sizeable majority (719–230 or more than 76 percent) voted for the town’s general budget of more than \$2.6 million in spending for fiscal year 2022-23.

For the first time, voters decided on budgets for the Charlotte Library and Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services as separate articles. Although representatives from the boards of both those organizations spoke out against breaking these budgets out of the general town budget vote, both organizations’ budgets were approved anyway.

The Charlotte Library’s \$283,000 budget

for fiscal year 2022–23 passed by a big majority (696-262) with almost 72 percent of voters endorsing it.

The \$850,000 budget for the Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services proved to be more controversial than the library’s budget, passing by a slimmer 57 percent margin, 534-405.

All of the candidates for town offices ran unopposed and there were no write-in candidates, so all were confirmed by voters.

The most popular candidate in town appears to be road commissioner Junior Lewis. Of the 969 people voting, 920 voted to re-elect him.

The next most popular candidates were apparently Mary Mead and Janice Heilmann, who were approved, respectively, as delinquent tax collector and Charlotte Library trustee, with each garnering 812 votes.

Also approved were James Faulkner—three-year term to the selectboard, Louise McCarren—two-year term to the selectboard, Charlie Russell—one-year term as town moderator, Richard Mintzer—three-year term as auditor and Matt Krasnow—one-year remaining of a three-year term as a trustee of public funds.

School district voting

In Champlain Valley School District voting, voters across the district approved the school system’s total budget for fiscal year 2022–23 of almost \$89.4 million with 3,395, or 60 percent, voting yea to 2,204 nay votes.

This budget represents a 4.8 percent increase from this year’s budget. School system officials have said the increase is due to the need for adding diversity, equity and



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

From left, Louise McCarren, Robin Reid and Kate Mesarus were kept relatively busy, signing up a steady stream of voters on Town Meeting Day Tuesday, March 1.

inclusion staff and increases in salaries and healthcare costs.

Voters overwhelmingly approved 4,531 to 997 (more than 82 percent) for moving \$1 million from the fund balance to offset budget increases. The fund balance primarily is savings left from the unification of the schools into the Champlain Valley School District.

Almost 70 percent of voters (3,851 to 1,714) supported the district’s request to borrow \$210,000 to buy two new school buses to replace two buses that are more than 12 years old and have traveled more than 170,000 miles.

Voters also approved 4,040 to 1,530, an

almost 73 percent winning margin, for the school system to secure a \$7.5 million bond to fund upgrades, remediation, improvements and maintenance in hopes of avoiding “the need for large construction projects we have seen in the past,” according to district documents.

Projects totaling \$865,000 proposed at Champlain Valley Union High School include heating and air conditioning upgrades, a section of roof and drainage work on some athletic fields.

There’s almost \$4.8 million in work proposed for Charlotte Central School, including electrical and fire renovation and parking lot paving and work.

Enthusiastic Charlotte voters share their voting opinions

Charlotte resident votes nay to community center study

11:55 a.m.

Charlotte Town Hall was busy and moving on Town Meeting Day, as this cold and cloudy Tuesday didn’t keep voters away from coming to speak their truth about town issues.

One of these voters was Kristen L’Esperance, 42, who works as a designer.

“There was an exploratory budget for a potential community center that I don’t feel like we need,” L’Esperance said.

“I don’t have children in school, so the Champlain Valley School District budget stuff doesn’t really make sense to me. Everything else seemed reasonable,” said L’Esperance.

“I just felt it was my obligation,” said L’Esperance of her reasoning for coming out to vote on issues that were pertinent to her and leaving the others blank.

By Halle Segal, Community News Service



Photo by Halle Segal

Joan Weed was concerned about the fire department’s budget but voted for it anyway because of “what they do for us.”

Charlotte resident, age 83, has never missed a chance to vote

12:23 p.m.

Joan Weed, 83, has been coming out to vote her entire life, and this year’s Town Meeting Day was no different.

Weed even put on an old pair of dazzling blue-stoned earrings for the event, in honor of the importance of the occasion, coming out to vote, even during the COVID pandemic.

Weed grew up in Connecticut, doing most of her voting down there where the voting is “far more political, believe it or not,” she said. “Up here, at least locally, it doesn’t matter, at least to me, what party you’re in. We don’t think about what ticket you write, we think of who’s running and if they’re worthy of the office.”

As she left town hall, Weed said, “I’ve been reading about the fire department budget and the potential for the new community center issue and also the library, which was pulled out of the budget and put in a different category.”

“The budget was very high for the Charlotte fire department, much higher than surrounding towns and much higher than usual. I voted for supporting the fire department mostly because I read a lot about it and I know what they do for us,” Weed said.

Weed was unsure, however, how to vote regarding the community center, wavering back and forth regarding supporting the study for the potential new building, ultimately deciding to vote against the idea.

“The first president I was able to vote for was John Kennedy. It was a wonderful thing, and you wouldn’t believe how excited we were to vote,” said Weed. “I’ve been voting my whole life and I believe we should, and that we should read up before we vote, and be responsible for what we say.”

Halle Segal, Community News Service

Another couple opposed to community center study

4:05 p.m.

Jonathan Freese, who has a very appropriate last name for the Town Meeting Day weather, came with Chickadee, a small black and white papillon who rode in a pooch pouch on Freese’s chest.

Freese said he always votes. Chickadee could have cared less about the proceedings and never votes.

The biggest issue in Tuesday’s town ballot for Freese was the community center. “I wasn’t thrilled about that.”

“I found it a little mysterious as to what the fire department’s budget was all about,” Freese said; “the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Departments budget was “not entirely clear.”



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

From left, Sallie Mack, Chickadee and Jonathan Freese braved the cold — Mack and Freese to vote and Chickadee to just hang out, literally.

His wife Sallie Mack came out of the Charlotte Town Hall in the middle of the conversation, but her immediate response to the question of what her biggest concern on the ballot was the same as his—the proposed community center.

Mack said she thought a community center would be great except “there’s so many other more needs in the community.”

She is also concerned about the size of the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Department’s budget.

“The fire department’s budget is twice as expensive as Hinesburg’s,” Mack said. “I don’t understand why, and they don’t really tell us why. There’s no transparency.”

Mack would like to see if Charlotte and other nearby towns could combine rescue departments and save money, but she admitted she wasn’t an expert on the subject and the issue is not really in her “wheelhouse.”

Scooter MacMillan, Editor

PROPERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the hemp market to the pandemic. “I’m ready to move on to marijuana,” Mack joked.

Although a number of people had already called the town hall to start the week complaining, worried about the pile of bull euphemism, Mack said he was aware that the manure could not be spread until after April 1 and would wait until at least then.

“I’m aware of all those dates,” he said. “I’m not in a big rush. I just had nothing to do now, so I’m helping Mike cleaning up.”

Dunbar said he will also have cattle on the land.

The property is about 55 acres and includes the couple of acres the Charlotte Family Health Center had considered buying to build a new medical office at 251 Ferry Road.

Dunbar plans to renovate and rent the house there that the health center had planned to tear down. The property has sat unoccupied for almost 18 years.

Although the house has sat in ruins for a long time, it is not a “knock down,” Dunbar said. “Actually, under the vinyl siding is the original wood clapboard siding that we’re going to paint.”

He plans to strip the house down to its original timber frame, replacing the roof, keeping the windows and interior doors and adding new electrical and plumbing. Dunbar said, “Then we’ll rent it out, so a nice family can live here and enjoy the town.”

Report from the Legislature

The war in Ukraine and our heating costs



Rep. Mike Yantachka

Surely, we are all horrified by the devastation that is happening in Ukraine. The uncalled-for war initiated by Vladimir Putin has outraged the world and resulted in a unified front against Russia in support of the

Ukrainian people.

The strong economic sanctions are totally justified and must remain as long as Russian forces continue their assault and occupation. We will have to stand firm regardless of the economic pain that the sanctions cause in the U.S. and among our allies in Europe and around the world, because that pain is nothing compared to the pain being visited on the people of Ukraine.

One of the biggest effects in the U.S. is soaring oil prices which are driving already high inflation even higher. With gasoline topping \$4 per gallon and heating oil not far behind, the remainder of the heating season as well as our daily commutes will be more costly than previously expected.

The questions many are asking are: “What can we do about it?” and “How can I handle the added expense?” These questions are at the forefront of policymakers in Montpelier as well. One thing we can do is help Vermonters reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

The governor has proposed, and the House Committee on Energy and Technology has recommended, that \$80 million be allocated for weatherizing 8,000 low-income and moderate-income residences between 2022 and 2026. Vermont homeowners and tenants with low incomes will be eligible for no-cost, comprehensive home weatherization services through Vermont’s Home Weatherization Assistance Program administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity and delivered through six weatherization assistance providers.

Weatherization of buildings with five or more units will be delivered through 3E Thermal, a team of consultants who



Photo by Mike Yantachka

On Tuesday, March 8 the Vermont House passed bill H.717 to send \$643,077, which represents \$1 for every Vermonter, plus \$1,749 from sales of Russian-sourced liquor in Vermont between February 24 and March 2 for Ukrainian war victim relief. In addition, many House members bought sunflowers, the Ukraine national flower, and displayed them on their desks.

help apartment building owners increase energy efficiency and improve building performance. Vermonters with a moderate income will be eligible to receive incentives through Efficiency Vermont and its network of contractors to support the cost of home weatherization. Weatherization will reduce the amount of fossil fuels needed for heating and thereby reduce the cost of heating.

In addition, \$20 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds is recommended for low- and moderate-income Vermonters to upgrade home electrical systems and install energy-saving technologies such as cold-climate heat pumps in conjunction with weatherization. Another \$5 million is recommended to help approximately 3,000 low-income Vermonters who have a fossil fuel water heater at least 10 years old to replace it at low or no cost with a heat pump water heater to reduce their energy costs and emissions. These alternative heating appliances will further reduce dependence on fossil fuels and their associated cost.

While the situation in Ukraine was not a consideration when the Vermont Climate Council proposed a clean heat standard, it may turn out to be an effective tool when combined with the state’s share of American

Rescue Plan Act funds in counteracting the heating costs of Vermonters. By allowing clean heat measures like weatherization, heat pumps, and heat pump hot water heaters installed starting January 1, 2022, to create clean heat credits, we can get a jump start on reducing emissions as well as costs of residential heating. These credits will be readily available for purchase by fossil fuel dealers to meet their clean heat credit obligations that are expected to start in 2024. Or they can generate credits themselves by helping their customers transition to these clean heat measures.

We don’t know how long the war in Ukraine will continue, how the sanctions will affect Putin’s conduct, and what the outcome will be. But fuel prices that were already high before the war will probably continue to be so. For every gallon of heating oil or gasoline we can avoid using, we will further insulate ourselves from the volatility of fossil fuel prices as well as reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. As always, I welcome your emails (myantachka.dfa@gmail.com) or phone calls (802-233-5238). This article and others can be found at my website (MikeYantachka.com).

Deadline approaches for SCHIP grants

The spring deadline for SCHIP (Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects) grant applications is Friday, April 15.

Since SCHIP began making grants, many nonprofits have used their awarded funds to continue their mission to improve the lives of neighbors and strengthen their communities.

Grants range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Grants may not exceed \$3,000 per request, and only one grant can be received within a one-year period by any one entity.

Applicant requirements:

- Be a 501(c)(3) or submit the application through such an organization.
- Projects must serve residents of Shelburne, Charlotte or Hinesburg.
- Funds may not be applied to annual operating budgets or permanent staffing.
- One application per organization per calendar year.

Grants deadlines are April 15 and Oct. 15.

To obtain an application, go to the contacts link on the SCHIP’s Treasure Resale Shop website at schipstreasure.org.

Know someone interesting in Charlotte? We want to interview them and share their story. Email news@thecharlottenews.org The Charlotte News

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Around Town

Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

Congratulations:

to **Ava Rohrbaugh** of Charlotte, whose poem “Flower-pressed Snowman” appeared in the Young Writers Project of the March 4 *Burlington Free Press*. Ava traces the demise of the snowman in her yard as the sun melts him to oblivion. She has kept a record of his loss in her journal, reminding herself that she was not able to save him. Blame the sun.

to **Henry Harmeyer** of Charlotte, who earned placement on the Norwich University dean’s list for fall 2021 semester.

to **Jared Badger** and to **Judy Buxton** of Charlotte, who graduated from Champlain College with master’s degrees in business administration.

to **Isa Kaplan** of Charlotte, who earned placement on the dean’s list of Worcester Polytechnic Institute for the fall 2021 semester. He is majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

to **Stuart Robinson** of Charlotte, who earned student honors for the fall 2021 semester from the Community College of Vermont.

to **Jake Holm**, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who earned placement on the dean’s List this past semester in the College of Letters and Sciences Honors program.

to **Sara Holm**, a senior at Wheaton College, Massachusetts, a political science and psychology major, who earned placement on the dean’s List for her fall semester.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Michael Minchak** of Colchester, who died last November at the age of 64. His surviving family includes his niece Rachel Frost of Charlotte. He and his husband moved to Vermont in 2016 where he joined Shelburne Farms as an educator in the children’s farmyard. Contributions in his memory may be directed to the Millay Society (millay.org) or Shelburne Farms.

is extended to family and friends of **Aiden Colangeli** of Bristol, who passed away Feb. 18 at the age of 16. He was a sophomore at Champlain Valley Union High School. He is survived by his father, Steven Colangeli, of Charlotte. The family asks that donations in his memory be made to Bristol Rescue Squad, Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services or Vermont AMBUCS bikes.

is extended to family and friends of **Stephanie D. Morse** of Bonita Springs, Florida, who passed away Feb. 20 at the age of 80. She served as an instructor at Champlain College after marrying Robert Morse of Burlington and moving to Vermont. Her surviving family includes her son Christopher and his wife, Ria, of Charlotte. The family asks that donations in her name be made to Parkinson’s Association of Southwest Florida, 2575

Northbrooke Plaza Drive, #300, Suite 301, Naples, FL.

Obituary

Edward A. (Andy) Deeds, community leader, accomplished pilot and outdoorsman, died at his home in Charlotte on Monday, Feb. 28, at the age of 88.

Andy was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on Aug. 19, 1933. He graduated from Westminster School and Denison University, where he was captain of the tennis and football teams. Upon graduation, Andy was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force and spent two years on active duty at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, as a squadron adjutant.

As a young man, he developed what would become a lifelong love of flying and flight. In 1961, he combined that passion with his business acumen when he founded Northern Airways, a fixed-base operator at Burlington International Airport. Ten years later, he founded Air North, a regional air carrier that provided commuter service through Washington, D.C., Boston, New York City and upper New York state.

Andy was also an avid polo player, sailor, skier and tennis player. In 1964, having nowhere to play tennis in the winter, he and three friends founded Burlington Indoor Tennis, Inc., or Twin Oaks, which was renamed The Edge and currently has four indoor tennis and sports facilities in the Burlington area.

He was known throughout his community as generous, kind and adventurous, often flying off in his seaplane, a Grumman Widgeon, with his trusty co-pilot and wife, Birgit, to remote destinations such as the northern Ontario lakes and rivers, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Alaska or wherever children or friends needed them. Andy was most comfortable in the air, whether at the stick of his Piper Cub, behind the yoke of his Widgeon or DC-3 (a World War II era cargo plane) or at the controls of a Cessna Citation.

Andy is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Birgit Nielsen Deeds; his six children: Diane Stebbins, Lisa Mackenzie, Andy Deeds III, Susan Griffis, Martha Deeds, Jennifer Huff; four stepchildren: Harald Findlay, Kim Findlay, Lee Potter, and Michael Findlay; 23 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Andy’s independent spirit will be missed by all who knew him, loved him and were inspired by him.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Andy Deeds Junior Sports Scholarship, c/o Mike Feitelberg, The Edge, 75 Eastwood Dr., South Burlington, VT 05403.

Arrangements are in care of Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home, 9 Pleasant Street, Essex Junction, VT.



Edward Deeds

News from The News

Welcome back, Claudia

John Quinney
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

Former network news correspondent Claudia Marshall has rejoined the board of directors of The Charlotte News after stepping down as publisher and president in March last year. We are thrilled to be working with her again.

Claudia brings to the board a rich and varied background in journalism and fundraising. Her early career included hosting morning news broadcasts and managing news coverage at K-EARTH 101 radio in Los Angeles and at KXL radio in Portland, Oregon.

Claudia moved to New York City in the 90s to become a network news anchor at CBS News, then ABC News, broadcasting nationally on both radio and television. From 2001 to 2012 she hosted a morning drive-time talk and music radio show on National Public Radio’s flagship contemporary music station WFUV-FM at Fordham University in the Bronx, hosting live music events and interviewing leading names in music and the arts, from James Taylor and Lou Reed to Colson Whitehead and Peter Max.

Claudia has been recognized widely for her work: she has earned many local and national awards for reporting, writing, editing and producing, and she won a global award for investigative journalism for her work uncovering widespread pesticide poisoning in southern California in the 90s.

Since 2012, when she moved to Vermont, Claudia has worked as an on-air fundraiser for Vermont PBS, produced and reported lifestyle and feature segments for VPR News, North Country Public Radio and the Burlington Free Press,



Claudia Marshall

and created, hosted and produced “Soul Shindig” for Farm Fresh Radio, 102.9 FM. Claudia also worked for three years as the Director of Good Works and Public Relations at Gardener’s Supply Company in Burlington. She is an active volunteer in Charlotte, currently serving as president of the Charlotte Congregational Church. She delights in teaching spin classes at Shelburne Athletic Club. A newly minted grandmother, Claudia says she loves living in Charlotte with her husband, Matt Zucker, their rescue dog, Trudy, and two cats, Manny-Moe and Jack.

Claudia is excited to be back on the board because she says The Charlotte News is both well established and unique as a community newspaper: “Independent, nonprofit news is such a valuable asset to all of us because it represents the diverse voices of so many of our neighbors. And now, more than ever, we need to try to understand each other.”

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Wildlife

Long skate on Lake Champlain turns into loon rescue

Eric Teed
CONTRIBUTOR

Our crew has a lunch policy. “Not a rule mind you, just a policy” put forward years ago by Charlotte resident John Rosenthal.

Lunch may not be taken before noon, seating should be comfortable, in the sun and out of the wind.

Given we had been skating for hours on incredible black ice, we were euphoric and famished. The speck of dirt called Diamond Island in Lake Champlain’s Narrows would have to do. Then, I saw the loons.

I almost missed lunch, and the next day would be one I will always remember.

Nordic ice skating at its extreme takes well-equipped skaters on tours for many miles on variable and dangerous ice. Devotees of this sport learn to read and test ice; they wear dry suits and life jackets and carry safety equipment.

On Saturday, Kevin Boyle, Dan Spada, John Rosenthal and myself were on a more than 20-mile skate on Lake Champlain and came upon a small hole in the ice with five loons in it.

Common loons migrate from their breeding grounds to open water for the winter. Ideally these birds go to the ocean, but sometimes they stop at Lake Champlain. In a mild winter the lake can be a good place for them. But in a year like this when most of the water freezes, it can be a loon’s demise.

In winter, loons molt their flight feathers and cannot fly for more than a month. If the ice freezes suddenly, they can be trapped.

They will swim in circles to keep an area open, but if it is really cold the ice slowly closes in on them. Once trapped, they become easy prey for bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

The increase in loons being trapped in the ice is related to climate change. They should be triggered to migrate by encroaching ice on their breeding lakes in December, but now might wait until January or February. Instead of migrating to the ocean they can end up only getting to lakes like Champlain.

Knowing this, I called Nina Schoch of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation from the ice.

She answered on the second ring. When I told Schoch we were on Lake Champlain, she was direct and to the point: “How many loons do you have?”

A barrage of emails and phone calls followed, and a rescue plan was launched.

“This winter alone in the Adirondacks, we have saved nine common loons from almost certain death, and more than a dozen have been saved in Maine and New Hampshire.”

These beautiful birds, with their wailing call that is the sound of wilderness and suspense, are not on the federal endangered species list but are protected by the Migratory Bird Act. Loons face many threats, including climate change, fishing line entanglement, lead poisoning and human disturbance.

Cody Sears, the center’s wildlife technician, led the rescue. Boyle and I were assigned to ice safety. Loon naturalist Ellie George handled checking the birds’ health once they were captured for transport to safer waters.

Susan Harry and Jackie Miller, also with the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, rounded out our skeleton crew.

First thing Sunday morning we were at the mouth of Otter Creek on Fort Cassin Point. In the distance through a spotting scope, I was able to see 12 bald eagles circling the hole and was disappointed to see only two loons.

Maybe three were already gone.

Boyle and I skated out the mile and a half for a closer look. The eagles dispersed and all five loons were still there. Three had been diving to avoid being eaten by eagles.

We dragged a canoe across the ice, filled with nets and containers for the birds.

When a threat approaches loons will dive and resurface only for an instant to take a breath, but we draped a gill net over part of the hole. One by one, each bird in turn surfaced to become entangled. We



Photo by Eric Teed

Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation wildlife technician Cody Sears and staff member Jackie Miller release one of five rescued loons to open water at the edge of the ice at Charlotte Town Beach.



Photo by Eric Teed

Volunteer Kevin Boyle and Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation wildlife technician Cody Sears untangle the first of five loons rescued on Sunday.

quickly brought them out onto the ice, untangled and placed the loons in plastic bins.

We got all five in short order.

Back on shore the loons were carefully inspected for any wounds or other injuries. All the birds were OK.

One of the birds had been banded. It turns out that bird was twice lucky. It was rescued and banded by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation on Lake George last winter.

Thanks to Rosenthal of Charlotte, we knew that open water and safety for the loons was just 12 miles north of the rescue site at the Charlotte Town Beach.

Shortly, we were back on the ice in Charlotte, sliding the canoe with the boxes and their cargo of five loons across old ice on the inner bay to the edge and open water.

There the loons were released one at a time.

Within moments, the loons found each other again. We could see them swimming together in the distance with another chance to make it through the winter.

After our feverish work to get the loons released quickly and safely, perhaps it was Boyle who summed up our feeling best: “I don’t often get a chance to change the world.”

“These birds are some of the many iced-in loons that we have rescued over the last few years,” said Schoch. “Loon organizations throughout the Northeast have seen an increasing trend in iced-in loons in recent years, and we are now establishing trained rescue teams to respond. This winter alone in the Adirondacks, we have saved nine common loons from almost certain death, and more than a dozen have been saved in Maine and New Hampshire.”

To learn more about loon research and conservation efforts in the Northeast, visit the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation at adkloon.org, the Biodiversity Research Institute at briwildlife.org, the Loon Preservation Committee at loon.org, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies at vtecostudies.org.

PROPERTY TANSFERS JANUARY 2022

Jan. 3 Estate of Louise M. Plante to Ulrich Wendeln, 130.89 acres, 1555 Spear Street, undivided half interest, land only, \$675,000.

Jan. 3 Lucia S. Plante to Ulrich Wendeln, 130.89 acres, 1555 Spear Street, undivided half interest, land only, \$675,000.

Jan. 7 Waller, David A. & Dorothy A. family trust to Robert & Diane Friscia, 5.4 +/- acres, 360 Pease Mtn. Rd. Lot #6, \$175,000.

Jan. 10 Holly Martone to Casey S. Ryan & Sarah O. Ogden, 5.32 +/- acres, 730 Bingham Brook Rd., with dwelling, \$600,000.

Jan. 18 Richard & Margaret Eastman to Reuben & Margaret Mann, 5.2 acres, 1163 Thompson’s Point Rd.,

with dwelling, \$1,700,000.

Jan. 18 Richard & Margaret Eastman to Christie Garrett, .54 +/- acres, 1163 Thompson’s Point Rd., boundary adjustment \$5,000

Jan. 18 Christie Garrett to Richard & Margaret Eastman, .77 +/- acres, 1277 Thompson’s Point Rd., boundary adjustment \$5,000.

Jan. 21 Michael Horgan & Kelly DePaolo, trustees of Sunrize Trust, to Maura Anne Shaughnessy & Bernard John Regenauer Jr., 21.11 acres, 625 Sentinel Cedar Lane, with dwelling, \$6,063,000.

Jan. 31 Alan B. & Catherine C. Hughes to Kinloch Corp., 1 acre, 2222 Ferry Rd., with dwelling, \$485,000.

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



Sports

Champlain Valley Union High dominates on the slopes at state championship

Scooter MacMillan
STAFF WRITER

The Champlain Valley Union High School boys and girls dominated the Vermont state alpine skiing championships at Burke Mountain a week ago.

On Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 28 and March 1, the boys won all the team competitions and the girls won all but one, coach Mike Minnerly said.

The CVU boys, a year after winning their first state championship in program history, took the slalom with 55 points to second-place Woodstock’s 115 points.

The Redhawks were led by George Francisco who came in fifth, Ray Hagios at sixth, Peter Gilliam seventh and Kyle Martin ninth in the top 10 finishers in Tuesday’s slalom.

The Redhawk girls nabbed 119 points on Tuesday for a narrow 1-point victory over Rice (120) and Stowe was third with 129 on Tuesday.

Scoring in the top 10 for the CVU girls in the slalom was Dicey Manning at 10th.

In the giant slalom Monday, Carlynn Strobeck took seventh and Dicey Manning 10th for the Redhawks girls.

The CVU boys took three places in the top 10 in the giant slalom—Jake Strobeck second, Ray Hagios fourth and George Francisco ninth.

The team’s success was not a complete surprise to their coach.

“We had won district and had a pretty good understanding of who we were and what we’re capable of,” Minnerly said. “We’re fully aware that anything can happen, but we also felt that, if we stood up and we skied well, we would be in good shape.”

One of the most dramatic moments at the state championships came on the girls side in the slalom when the Redhawks’ No. 1 Ella Lisle fell on her first run. But she got up, hiked back to the gate and completed the run.

In spite of her fall, Lisle still managed to place 39th out of 73 skiers on that initial run, but nonetheless a big gap to close for CVU to have a chance in the slalom’s combined scores.

“We were going to have to leap frog over teams if we wanted to win,” Minnerly said. “So, we needed her to ski her very best at the very biggest moment for us to have a chance.”

He said that, on her second run Lisle came in first by nearly five seconds, “which is an absolute eternity in ski racing. And the girls won the state



The CVU boys skiers are Ray Hagios, George Francisco, Peter Gilliam, Remy Schulz, Ari Diamond and Kyle Marvin.



CVU girls ski team at the state championships are, from left, Carly Strobeck, Elizabeth Norstrand, Dicey Manning, Marlie Cartwright, Kate Kogut, Zoey Scapof and Ella Lisle.

championship by one point. She jumped from 39th place to 20th place on her second run.”

The future looks bright for the Redhawks with only one senior and three juniors among the teams’ 14 skiers.

Nordic skiers hit the trails

Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

Redhawk Nordic skiers participated in the state championships, as did the downhillers. After the first day, the classic women were in third place behind Burlington and Mount Mansfield. The men’s team trailed Mount Anthony for second place.

Women individuals saw Emma Crum come in third, while the CVU men were led by Geo DeBrosse in sixth.

Among relay teams the Redhawk men placed second; the women third.

Nordic skiers will continue to hit the Craftsbury trails.

Redhawks defeat South Burlington

CVU men’s basketball team topped South Burlington 48-41 in the Division I state quarterfinals. Alex Provost led Hawk scorers with 13 points, followed by Tucker Tharpe with 12, and Sam Sweeney with 10. It took CVU a third-quarter scoring run to gain a lead they did not give up.



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charlottegrangevt@gmail.com

Hi Neighbor!

Brian Just: Happy at chipping away at the fossil-fuel addiction



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

It took seven years but Brian Just is happy to say that his house at Ten Stones doesn't need a CO₂ detector. That's because he and his wife, Erin, have gone completely fossil fuel free.

"We just started chipping away," Just said. "We replaced the boiler with an air-to-water heat pump three years ago and took the propane tank out of the ground. Seeing it being excavated from the front yard is one of my favorite moments."

Saving energy is part of Just's professional life as well as his personal one. He is the director of energy services engineering at Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

"I work with really smart engineers," Just said. "They are figuring out creative ways to solve energy problems and helping to line up great ideas with opportunities inside and outside the state."

After replacing the boiler, Just set his sights on transportation and purchased a used electric vehicle. The couple kept their Subaru until it gave out and then replaced it with an electric SUV.

Then, Just turned his attention to the kitchen where he installed an induction stove.

"We got rid of our propane grill," he said, "and I sold my gas-powered chainsaw."



Photos contributed

Left: Brian in the garden with his children, Kit (left) and Tate. Right: The propane tank being removed from the Justs' backyard.

The couple's home isn't ideal for solar panels so they bought into an array on the Bristol landfill.

"It makes up for the electricity our home and vehicles use," Just said.

In addition, he pulled most of his retirement money out of mutual funds which invest in fossil fuels, a process he admits isn't that easy. "If you're willing to

do the work, you can do it," he said. "It just takes a little commitment."

Just grew up in the prairies of western Minnesota and started his career as a mechanical engineer designing big equipment. After working enough to pay off his student loans, he decided to take a non-traditional route.

"I bought a one-way ticket to Bangkok," he said, "because it was the cheapest fare to a distant place."

Although his initial plan had been to travel for a year, Just didn't return for four years when he turned 30. "I spent a couple of years meandering," he said. "I was in Australia and New Zealand for a brief period, looped through Asia and crossed Russia and Eastern Europe."

He traveled to Africa, the Middle East, South America and Central America. He finished the jaunt on a Greyhound bus, walking the last 13 miles from the bus stop to his parents' home.

Traveling opened Just's eyes to problems that exist in developing nations and he began to think about ways he might be able

to provide solutions.

"I'd been traveling around Borneo, an island whose name sings 'rainforest' to me," he said, "but even venturing inland I saw firsthand how much deforestation there is."

After travelling for weeks far off the beaten path, Just never found true jungle.

When Just was 20, he visited Vermont for a fall foliage weekend and fell in love with the state.

Just was thrilled at the opportunity to move to Vermont when the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation job opened.

"There was a lot of intention," he said. "I have a 200-year view of things. It's hard for me to imagine the place where I grew up not turning into a desert, and I wanted to be somewhere near a coast where a water shortage wouldn't be an issue."

The locavore movement was also a draw.

"There is so much pride here in the agriculture, and land and food and that really fits us," he said.

Just is also happy to have found a community in Ten Stones. "I wanted the opportunity to have closer relationships and to know our neighbors," he said.

For those interested in following in his fossil-free footsteps, Just has some simple advice: "Start with what you can do. When we bought the house, the first thing we did was replace the light bulbs with LEDs, and then we started to chip away more as opportunities arose."

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Stronger Together

Community supported agriculture versus large agribusiness



Linda Hamilton
and Dave Quickel
CONTRIBUTORS

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he comes to Charlotte. But did you know that there is a particular gift that only we can give? It's the gift of support for local agriculture.

Farms are a strong component of the working landscape we live in and love. Farmers are our neighbors. We all have a stake in their success because they contribute to the increasingly important supply of regionally produced food, fiber and value-added products. And they could hardly be in a more important business, because we all eat every day.

Sure, we still have access to somewhat fresh and storable processed food from elsewhere. The best of both worlds, right?

Not really. Loud alarm bells have gone off about the true costs of industrially produced and processed food — costs which have been paid by consumers for years without our realizing it. Damage to our soil, water, air, human and animal health, and destruction of small-scale agricultural economies have mostly been accepted without holding those responsible ... well ... responsible and made to stop harmful ways of doing business.

To make matters worse, government policies and subsidies, which are supposed to protect the public interest, have instead yielded to intense lobbying pressure from big agribusinesses. Conventional agriculture in the U.S. since the 1950s has been molded by these forces. Farms went from being producers for a regional and national market to being under contract with corporations dealing in “commodities.”

Why would they do that? Incentives. These started when companies that produced chemical components of warfare in the 1940s thought up something to switch to after World War II: chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. They incentivized farmers to use these for short-term boosts in production.

Tragically, this put farmers on a treadmill almost impossible to get off. These chemicals damaged soil health and fertility and wiped out natural predators of pests, making farmers dependent on reapplications.

To offset some of the cost, they were persuaded to put more land (or animals) into production, with single crops on larger fields, and to invest in larger equipment. This pushed many farmers' debt to unbearable levels, leaving few options but to sell out. Thus began the steady loss of small- and medium-sized family farms and the rise of large farms under contracts with large agribusinesses. This industrial approach to agriculture

became so influential by the 1970s that Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz famously advocated that farmers should “get big, or get out!” It was no longer about working with the land to produce the nutritious food we need; now it was about how much profit non-farmers could make from “agriculture.”

What does this have to do with Charlotte? Quite a bit, actually, because we are fortunate to have a strong set of small- and medium-sized farms still producing food (and forage, fiber and value-added products), meaning we have the opportunity to buy local products and support small-scale farming practices and businesses.

To put this in real terms, here's Dave Quickel's story of what community support has meant to him and his farm:

After graduating from UVM I paused to consider next steps. Meanwhile I was broke and needed a job, so I rode my bike over to Bingham Brook Farm on the Hinesburg Road. Jay Vogler was growing vegetables for markets in Burlington and hired me on the spot as a farm hand.

Before that, I'd never really thought about food a whole lot. Me hungry, need eat. But suddenly I was doing something with my hands, my back, my mind and spirit that made complete and absolute sense to me. At the end of every day, I was tired as a dog but satisfied with the practicality and usefulness of what I had done.

I worked at Bingham Brook for a few years, until a friend in Oregon asked if I'd help him start a CSA. Now, in the early 1990s Community-Supported Agriculture (asking people to buy a share of a farm's production in advance) was a new concept. I had never even heard of it, but it was farming and an opportunity to be in charge. I jumped in and had an incredible experience running a 180-member CSA in Portland.

The Community-Supported Agriculture component took farming to the next level for me. Not only was I being of use, I also got to know all of these people that were so appreciative of the work I was doing. They would come to the farm, walk through the rows, pick flowers, watch the sunset. They got to experience the thing that I loved so much, and it clearly resonated.

In 1996 I pitched the idea to Jay and Marcia Vogler of a CSA at Bingham Brook. They said yes! Thirty members the first year, then 60, then 100. CSAs were new and our timing was right. But when Jay started Pizza on Earth, it was popular right away and farming became less important to them.

I kept the farm going for a while, until joining my wife Emma while she was in grad school out of state. Before long I was approached by Bunky Bernstein and other Charlotte friends who were concerned about lack of fresh local food and urged me to come back to Charlotte



Photos contributed

Above: Dave is waist-deep in tomatoes.

Right: No farm is complete without a dog.

and farm. Okay. I wanted to try.

Big problem: I had no land. I needed help—a lot of help. The asking process seemed to take forever, but the response that came back was amazing direct and indirect community support and enough to make Stony Loam Farm possible. For starters, Clark Hinsdale worked with Vermont and Charlotte Land Trusts to sell me a parcel in East Charlotte at agriculture value. Between Vermont Land Trust's contribution and Charlotte Land Trust's ability to tap into Charlotte Conservation Fund plus successfully raise additional private donations in town, the land's development rights could be taken out of the equation. I struggled to come up with the money to close the deal, but eventually I found a bank that liked my business plan and experience for running a CSA.

Twenty years ago, my goal was a 250-member CSA. But today, with many farms offering CSAs, the blossoming of farmers markets, the willingness of local grocery stores to stock local produce and local restaurants to feature them, I've learned to use a variety of markets.

Still, the CSA remains the heart of the farm. Even though it is not our sole market, it is vitally important because it connects us so solidly with the community. It is a way for me to provide food to my neighbors and give them a direct connection with where and how that food is grown. And it provides us with key early-season money to buy seeds and all the other things we need to get rolling each year. Win-win.

CSA members appreciate that their weekly share is picked that day right there. And the value is off the hook, typically 30 to 40 percent more than the



retail value and that's not including the value and popularity of u-picks. Being a member of Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's Farm Share program helps me offer reduced-price CSA shares to folks who need that help. Another win-win.

So now, Virginia, you see the specialness of local farms and how we all benefit from their success. Donations to Charlotte Conservation Fund and Charlotte Land Trust, membership in a CSA, choosing to buy local at farm stands or grocery stores, and thanking restaurants for featuring local products all play a role. Thank you for doing your part to keep local farms alive!

Linda Hamilton is a long-time Charlotte resident and a Grange member (charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website or charlottegrangevt@gmail.com).

Dave Quickel produces organic vegetables, herbs and flowers on 10 acres and hoopouses of his Stony Loam Farm in East Charlotte (stonyloamfarm.com).

Farming

Most Charlotte farmers have to supplement their income

Lucie Lehmann
CONTRIBUTOR

The Charlotte Land Trust this week released a study it commissioned to better understand the agricultural landscape in town and identify the roles conservation can play in the future of farming here.

Authored by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont, the Charlotte Agricultural Landscape Study shows that Charlotte is home to a robust and diversified farm community of at least 77 agricultural operations, almost all of which have shifted from dairy farming and moved toward raising meat animals and fodder, as well as specialized operations like berry and flower farms and CSAs that depend increasingly on direct-to-consumer sales.

At least 19 farms sell some of their products directly to the public.

The study also highlights that, while enrolled parcels in the state’s Current Use Program increased between 2015 and 2020, the total number of enrolled agricultural acreage decreased. The average number of acres owned by a farmer in Charlotte was 100, slightly lower than the state or county average, and the majority of farms reported only one employee on a year-round basis.

Charlotte is still a strongly supportive community for farming, including for new, younger farmers. However, key findings also point to significant challenges: the high cost of farmland in an increasingly affluent area where development is occurring; a lack of affordable housing for farm employees; a reliance on off-farm employment and earnings to keep many farms financially viable; confusion over town policies and regulations, especially on farms with conservation easements; and some tensions between farmers and non-farming residents.

Kate Lampton, president of the Charlotte Land Trust, said the study contains no surprises but does provide clearer direction moving forward. Whereas in the past land trust’s emphasis had been simply on “conserving the land before the developer gets it,” now it also will be to support the farming economy.

“We have these farmers coming in who are very entrepreneurial, with a lot of interesting focus on techniques and soil and marketing and all that. So, what can we do to not only conserve the land, but what can we do to support the industry on that land? I think that’s going to be our biggest push,” she predicted.

The study employed a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods to gain as full a picture as possible of agriculture and conservation in Charlotte. While it was impossible to pinpoint the exact number of farming operations due to the absence of a comprehensive database of farms, among other factors, the study did identify most of the farming operations in Charlotte.

In total, out of the 77 agricultural operations, 40 farm owners or operators participated in a specially designed survey for the study, capturing 51.9 percent of the known agricultural operators in Charlotte. They answered questions about demographics, land use, conservation practices, products, sales and viability. In addition, seven farmers from diversified operations took part in two different focus groups, while others, including town officials, Charlotte Land Trust board members and other community stakeholders, provided information to the researchers.

A key finding of the study is that two-thirds of the survey respondents identified conservation as helping them to maintain financial stability and viability in their operations, while some farmers, including Adam Hausmann of Adam’s Berry Farm, said that they wouldn’t have been able to purchase their farms in Charlotte without help from land trusts and other sources, including the Charlotte Conservation Fund.

Currently, Charlotte Land Trust holds 15 conservation easements on properties in Charlotte — some, but not all of them, on farms.

“As there is more development in Charlotte, I would like people to recognize the value of conservation and farming in their landscape and what makes it unique, even in the number of small farm stands that exist here,” Hausmann said.

He hopes the study will generate even deeper community support and attract more young farmers who will get help purchasing conserved land.

The study depicts how financially challenging farming can be. About one-third of the surveyed farmers reported



Grass Cattle Company, Charlotte, VT.

Photo by Steve Schubart

income from other revenue streams as their primary source of income, “while the other two-thirds had at least one principal operator with off-farm employment income sources, indicating a need for additional sources of income.”

The surveyed farms generated less than a third of a household’s income in 2019, and 46 percent of the respondent operators said their farms generated less than \$50,000 in gross sales, although 21 farms reported sales of more than \$50,000 in 2017.

On average, the study reports that “farms in Charlotte earned a net income of less than \$10,000 or experienced a net loss in 2019.”

The Center for Rural Studies offered five recommendations for the Charlotte Land Trust:

“Develop community programming in collaboration with farmers and local town leaders to bridge connections and build a greater understanding of agricultural operations within the community.”

“Consider potential avenues for the Charlotte Land Trust to coordinate education about town planning, zoning ordinances, and regulation while also engaging town leadership to identify ways to address farmer concerns about consistency and transparency.”

“Provide direct support to local farmers interested in learning more about land

conservation and structuring easements while exploring ways to incentivize farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices and begin transition planning within the context of a changing climate.”


“Explore strategic farm properties for conservation that would promote connectivity between previously conserved properties.”

“Convene networking opportunities to meet the needs of today’s Charlotte farmers by re-imagining the concept of the Grange for farmer-to-farmer support.”

Lampton said that as a wholly volunteer-run organization, land trust will of necessity partner with organizations like the Charlotte Grange and others in the community to address some of the concerns, gaps and opportunities identified in the study.

“There was some discussion in the focus groups about frustration at dealing with planning and zoning,” Lampton said. “We aren’t going to be the ones necessarily saying we want to propose these changes to the regulations.”

Lampton will give a Zoom presentation on the study through the Charlotte Senior Center at 1 p.m. on March 23. The event is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Grange. The study is also available at charlottelandtrust.org.



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TOWN MEETINGS
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Selectboard
Monday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m

Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
to 9 p.m

Development Review Board Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Wednesday, March 23,
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**NOTICE OF VACANCIES AND EXPIRING TERMS
ON TOWN BOARDS AND OF TOWN OFFICIAL POSITIONS
March 2022**

The following boards and positions 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)

The following boards and positions have seats with terms ending April 30, 2022:

- Canine Control Officer (1 seat; 1 year term)
- Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (3 seats; 3 year term)
- Conservation Commission (2 seats; 4 year term)
- Emergency Management Director (1 seat; 1 year term)
- Emergency Management Coordinator (1 seat; 1 year term)
- Energy Committee (3 seats; 2 year term)
- Planning Commission (2 seats; 4 year term)
- Recreation Commission (3 seats; 3 year term)
- Thompson’s Point Design Review Committee (1 seat; 3 year term)
- Trails Committee (3 seats; 2 year term)
- Tree Warden (1 seat; 1 year term)

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 by Friday, March 18th to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at dean@townofcharlotte.com. If you have questions, please e-mail or call 802-425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

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Out Takes

Following tracks in the yard to cosmic thoughts



Animal tracks in the woods. Photo by Edd Merritt



Edd Merritt CONTRIBUTOR

*‘Cause I want to live like animals
Careless and free like animals
I want to live
I want to run through the jungle
The wind in my hair and the sand at my feet*
“The Animal Song” – Savage Garden

So, what does this land of snow that I’ve been seeing out my back windows indicate? The white blanket over my backyard shows that a band of living creatures has made my yard their highway to somewhere. Their tracks maneuver through it as though they were heading from point A to point B—and perhaps beyond — with a specific purpose in mind.

Is that purpose to find food? Is it to find kin? Or find a mate? Their tracks enclose the house as though the building might contain the purpose for which they search.

For me that purpose is to better understand other living creatures. Yet, all I can learn about them comes through their tracks through my yard.

Rabbit tracks encircle the house closely. Do these tracks lead to food, a necessity of life, or to mates, another necessity of life? I’m betting food as I see their jaws moving.

Deer seem to be another matter. I see both them and their leftover tracks, using my yard as causeway from my western wood line to my eastern woods. It’s almost as though they smile in my direction as they pass through.

What’s going through a deer’s brain, you wonder? How does it differ from a human brain? Humans take data and cause brain cells to actually change as that data interacts

with this system, providing people with what we refer to as “thoughts.”

Often these “thoughts” lead to a purpose, which is unfortunately happening in the former Soviet Union as we speak. Putin and Russia want to reign over the smaller country of the Ukraine.

Interesting or ironic that not too long ago, Charlotte was the home base for secession from the United States. Charlotter Thomas Naylor, an economist by training, felt Vermont should become its own democracy and not a cog in the wheel of the huge U.S. He was aided in this effort by a fellow secessionist and yak farmer. Naylor died before it happened.

So, back to my yard: Place and being offer an interesting interchange. We like to choose our place to live. That was one reason we chose Charlotte. I was working in Rutland when we bought our property in East Charlotte. The property size and house design suited us and we could afford it. Education of our sons was an issue, and Charlotte proved to be the right choice as they moved forward in life through Charlotte Central School and Champlain Union Valley High School. Given quite different personal talents, they have found themselves in different places on earth, doing different things, both successfully.

So, the footprints in my yard show that the deer and I tromp the land for different reasons. I’m reminded often of the fact that as I near the end of this thing called life, I have no idea where I’ll step next. I don’t think I’ll feel that step. Maybe into a galaxy similar to ours in the universe with, probably, billions of creatures similar to human beings. To follow a cliché, “Man alive, that gives food for thought.”

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Sacred Hunter

Vernacular strategies for flushing an ‘outta stater’ on the ice



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

The milky surface ice has begun to pull away from the rocky, pebbled shoreline of the bay. Tiny vertical prisms are visible in the hoarfrost-like honeycomb of the decaying core.

There is water about 6 inches deep extending out 2 feet from the shore. Some kind fool has placed an 8-foot-long, 2-by-10 board extending from the shoreline out onto the thicker ice. I can see the boot prints of those who have courageously crossed this mini bridge. You may ask yourself, “What kind of person would dare walk out on this ice? Is this display of judgment indicative of how they would live their entire life?”

The answer to this question is buried deep in the soul of the avid outdoorsman. Others may see him or her as someone who may make poor life choices, but to the ice fisherman pursuing the late winter spawn of white perch, it is a calculated risk. I have known eight men who have succumbed to the depths of Lake Champlain.

When I make the decision to walk the plank, it is their memory that causes me to be more cautious than those boot prints before me. In my 30 years of ice fishing, I have learned to read the ice by noticing its shapes, softness, clarity and have considered the effect of sunlight magnifying its strength through the surface. And still, I will always have my flotation suit on, my ice picks ready around my neck, a long rope with a grip loop on one end and a whistle attached to a lanyard.

And I never go alone. I will never be the first guy out on the ice. I may not catch



Bradley Carleton shows off the buckets of whiteys he and others caught while ice fishing. *Photo contributed*

as many as others do, but in my book, even with my love of white perch Thai fish cakes, no fish is worth dying for.

So, tenuously, I walk the plank, after seeing a dozen others before me. I am dragging my old black jet sled with my auger, fish finder, rods and lures that we ice fishermen refer to as “bibbits,” a comfortable folding chair and three large 6-gallon buckets.

The buckets represent the epitome of optimism. A few times in the past, my team of hardcore fishermen have been able to fill all three buckets with white perch known to the academics as *Morone americana* (actually a member of the bass family), but for one of those colloquialisms that Vermonters love so much it has been dubbed the “white perch.”

If you’ve lived in Vermont long enough and been outside of Chittenden County, you’ve been exposed to the local vernacular — words like “Jeezum Crow,” “pahtridge” and “You can’t get there from heah.”

If someone argues with you that this fish is not a perch at all, you’re facing off with either a biologist or some poor college-educated kid from outta state. My advice: Ask them to walk out on the plank with you, to get to the thick ice and fish

with you for the day. If they do, and you “get into the fish,” they will drop their pretense and accept the Vermonter’s true moniker.

So, here we sit, side by side, when the fish finder lights up like a Christmas tree — all the colors of the rainbow in a vertical column from the bottom of the bay at 30 feet to the top just below the surface. Before we can acknowledge that something is registering on the contraption, rod tips slam down to the surface of the augered holes. People around us start yelling out in war whoops.

“They’re here!” someone yells.

Everyone around us is fighting a fish. This is what we have waited for all season.

My rod is pulsating with strong downward pulls. The line runs from side to side of the five-inch cylinder of ice.

“Keep the line from rubbing up against the sides of the hole,” I instruct my protégé. “The abrasion will snap the line.”

These fish are pretty big compared to the yellow perch we catch all season. And boy do they love to fight!

As we bring up the first fish, silvery scales shining in the late winter sun, its fans on its dorsal fin display its very sharp spiny protrusions. Be careful how you handle these fish, or they can give you a powerful sting that doesn’t heal easily. But once you’ve mastered the handling, it all fades into the exhilaration of the moment. It is one fish after another. For hours.

After a couple of hours of non-stop battles, we look around us at the piles of whiteys laying on the ice and begin to think about what we are going to do with that many fish. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has no limits on white perch, because they are an invasive species to Lake Champlain, and they are outforaging the native fish. We look at each other and accept a knowing countenance. This is plenty.

We begin to collect them and toss them into the buckets like so many gold bullions. The sun is high, and this is likely the last day of the season. So, for the next few days we will be making those Thai fish cakes and freezing them for easy meals throughout the year.

There is a note of sadness that the 2022 ice fishing season is over, and we will have to put away all our equipment in the basement. After acknowledging our grief, we look to the future and begin to cheer up when we see the ice melt and the rivers begin flowing their muddy waters out to the lake.

For us, this means it’s “Bullpout Season!” (PS: “bullpout,” “hornpout” and “mud puppy” are just a few more ways of identifying an “outta stater.”)

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

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Answers on page 19

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Into the Woods

Responsible forest management doesn't mean deforestation

Ethan Tapper
CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER

Over the last few centuries, Vermont's forests have been on a transformative journey.

Prior to European colonization, Vermont was about 90 to 95 percent forested. Following the massive clearing of the early-mid 1800s, Vermont rebounded from a low of about 20 percent forested around 1850 to 80 percent forested by the end of the 20th century. In the last several decades, however, the amount of forestland in our state has begun to backslide, decreasing to about 75 percent today.

Deforestation, or forest loss, occurs when forests are converted to non-forest. While both local and global forest loss are driven by a variety of factors, here in Vermont development is one of the leading contributors. The estimates of annual deforestation in Vermont range from 2,000 acres to nearly 13,000 acres per year, depending on how we define the term. Despite uncertainty about the exact amount, it's clear that we are losing forestland in Vermont.

Forests are foundational to our lives: they make our world work and our lives beautiful. Among the many benefits that forests provide are food and shelter for wildlife; clean water and air; protection of biodiversity; renewable resources (wood); scenic beauty; and outdoor recreation. Rightfully, those who care about forests increasingly recognize the problem of deforestation and are looking for solutions. However, understanding deforestation is more complex than it may seem.

When you see tree stumps in the woods, you might assume that deforestation has occurred—that the forest has in some way been lost. However, while deforestation involves the cutting of trees, tree mortality (whether natural or human-caused) is not the same as

deforestation. Within Vermont's forests, tree mortality is an important part of forest growth and development that the plants, animals, trees, fungi and microorganisms that make up the forest community have adapted to over millennia. Forest development is a cycle, a continuous, dynamic process within which the death of trees is a beginning as much as an ending. Every old forest was once a young forest and will be one again.

Deforestation is the only real endpoint for forests, systems that include, and even thrive on, death and disturbances. While the death of trees in a forest may lead to a rich and robust natural response—including the development of unique habitats and robust regeneration—deforestation undermines the natural cycles that perpetuate forests by denying them the opportunity to regenerate. In short, instead of letting forests be forests, deforestation turns them into something else. When deforestation occurs, we lose forests' countless benefits for the foreseeable future; a forest converted to non-forest will no longer sequester and store carbon, no longer provide habitat for wildlife, no longer clean our air and our water to the degree that forests do—and may not do so again in our lifetimes.

While the goal of deforestation is to turn a forest into something else (often to meet human needs), the goal of responsible forest management is the perpetuation of healthy, vibrant, intact forests and the many values they provide. Done well, forest management can be regenerative, working with natural processes to help forests become more biologically diverse, complex, resilient to climate change and rich in habitat for an array of plants, animals and other native species. While cutting trees is different in some ways than natural mortality, it can be done in ways that build on forests' natural resilience and that are ultimately beneficial to the forest community. That said, forest management has tradeoffs: we



Photo by Thiago Japyassu from Pexels

can recognize that forest management can be very positive while also acknowledging that some critiques of forest management are valid, deserve our close attention and highlight opportunities for improvement.

As we endeavor to understand how best to build a healthy, functional, beautiful world, understanding how deforestation is fundamentally different from forest management is one of the many nuances we must explore. Developing a common definition for what deforestation is and how it differs from responsible forest management allows us to work towards common solutions—strategies that ensure healthy forests and the benefits

they provide exist for this and future generations. Having frank conversations about what constitutes responsible forest management is critical, but limiting deforestation—both in Vermont and across the globe—is the single most important thing we can do to protect our forested ecosystems. We must find a way to keep forests as forests.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he's been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he's written at linktr.ee/chittendencountyforester.

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In the Garden

As winter winds down —
root vegetables on our minds



Joan Weed
CONTRIBUTOR

While there are still a few weeks till it's wise to start seeds inside, this is a good time to use up the root vegetables so prolific in the produce stalls at this time of year. Those of us who enjoy eating locally grown vegetables will find quite an array still available.

I'm thinking of beets, carrots, turnips, parsnips, celeriac, potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes. Each offers great nutrition, as well as opportunities to eat local.

It's also a good time to plan on which you might like to add to your own vegetable rows. These happen to be the very items that can take the cool of spring and be planted earliest.

As soon as the snow has gone and the soil can be worked, the above veggies can be planted (excepting sweet potatoes). The soil should not be too wet and have warmed a bit to start. Root vegetables particularly need a loose, friable soil to grow well.

Did you know each beet seed is actually a cluster of seeds?

So, when you plant them, you will have to do some editing, but the tops and baby roots are edible as early spring salad material. A couple of my favorite beet varieties are Detroit dark red, chioggia and bull's blood. These, along with carrots, can withstand cool weather.

One help is to plant radishes in the same row, as they emerge in a few days, whereas carrots and beets can take a few weeks to show. The radishes will mark the row and, as you harvest, loosen the soil.

White potatoes (and the many other colors) prefer to begin life in a trench, with soil pulled up past the plants as they grow, to keep the tubers well covered. Light must be kept out. Seed potatoes can be bought locally or ordered from certified growers.

If you plan to store some potatoes for next winter's meals, you should choose good storage potatoes such as russets. Red-skinned and Yukon gold types are better for immediate uses. Fingerlings, which are delicious just steamed or mashed (with skins), should also be used up first. You might want to cook with skins intact, as they are difficult to peel.

Celeriac does not win beauty contests but is useful in soups or pureed alone or mixed with mashed potatoes. Julienned celeriac with a creamy mayonnaise dressing makes a refreshing salad. The taste is celery-like. A sharp paring knife is needed to trim the knobs and tougher skin, but worth the effort.

Onions and all alliums can be started inside from seeds. They can also be bought in bundles already started or dried as sets from garden centers or hardware stores. I find the sets require the least attention, but your choices are better with seeds.

One of my favorite varieties is cipolline, a flat but plump variety. Very good roasted or caramelized. Of course, basic yellow or red are pantry necessities. Onions depend on day length to do best. We have long days but for a short time in the north. That is why Vidalias are grown in southern climes. Their growing season is much longer, and they can take advantage of all daylight hours. Plant as soon as soil is workable.

Sweet potatoes are root vegetables but require heat to grow at their best. So, hold off planting until soil is warm to the touch.

Here I offer a few recipes with root vegetables that might interest you.

Creme du Barry Soup

- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 fennel bulb
- 1 small celeriac root
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 cups water or chicken broth
- Herbs of choice, if desired—thyme, rosemary, savory possibly.

Trim cauliflower and break into florets. Peel and cube celeriac. Trim top off fennel and slice bulb into chunks. Save fronds for garnish.

Melt butter in saucepan and add vegetables to soften. When translucent. add broth or water, if vegetarian. Simmer till all is softened. With immersible blender or processor, puree soup adding any fresh herbs you might like. Season with salt and white pepper. Dried herbs should be added earlier in the process. No thickener is needed. Snip fennel fronds for garnish when serving.

Sweet Potato Bisque

- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 tablespoons chopped shallots
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons orange zest
- 1 teaspoon dried sage or 1 tablespoon chopped, fresh.
- Water or chicken stock to cover.

Melt butter in saucepan and sauté shallot till translucent. Add sweet potatoes and cover with liquid. Cook till soft, and at end of cooking add sage and orange zest. Season with salt to your liking. Puree with immersible or processor. Serve hot with a dollop of creme fraiche or sour cream.

Beet Salad

- 1 bunch fresh beets, about 6 small
- 1/4 cup Vermont maple syrup
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1/4 cup walnuts, loosely chopped
- Small block of feta cheese or chèvre

Trim beets, removing stems and tails. Wrap each in foil adding a pinch of the garlic, a tiny bit of salt and a few drops of olive oil. Wrap tightly and roast for 45 mins. at 375°. Check for doneness with knife point.

When tender, remove from packets, after cooling. Rub beets to remove skins and cut into chunks or slices. Add maple syrup while beets are warm, along with any liquid in roasting pan/foil. Toasted walnuts are added next. Cool to room temperature. Lastly, add cheese in pieces for serving. A delicious combination.

Cipolline Glazed Onions

- 16 oz. whole Cipolline onions, peeled
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Melt butter in skillet, add whole onions. Sauté 5 minutes. Add garlic and sugar, cook a few minutes to glaze onions. Add wine, put all in casserole dish. Cover and bake 30 mins. at 350°, shaking pan often. Uncover and bake another 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 6. Note: Peeling can be done by dropping onions into boiling water for a few minutes. Drain and cool. After trimming root end, slip off skins.

I tend to be a flexible cook, so I encourage you to be, also. Feel free to add or subtract or improve on my recipes. As the younger set says these days, “You do you!”

Gardening

While garden’s on hiatus try growing greens indoors

Deborah J. Benoit
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Temperatures have dropped, and the garden has been put to bed for the season. There’s not much to do except peruse garden catalogs and shop for veggies in the produce section of the supermarket.

Right? Wrong. While your outdoor garden may be on hiatus until spring, you can still grow greens for a garden-fresh salad indoors.

Leafy greens are easy to grow in containers and, with a little planning, you can enjoy fresh greens until it’s time to wake up the outdoor garden next year. And you won’t need to worry about insect pests and nibbling critters that plague your garden outside.

First, decide what you want to grow. Leftover lettuce or similar seeds from the past growing season can be used.

Or try something different. Leafy green lettuce, mesclun mix, spinach, arugula, kale and other greens are suitable for growing in containers. And if you have a favorite herb you enjoy in your salads, note that many herbs, such as chives, parsley and mint, will grow happily indoors as well.

You also might consider including some

salad extras such as radishes or small carrot varieties. Keep in mind that root crops and herbs will require a deeper container to allow adequate room to grow.

Garden centers may have seed packets available for purchase, and online ordering is always an option. Most seed catalog companies will ship seed orders any time of the year.

Next, find a suitable place for your indoor garden. Select a location away from hot or cold drafts and where you can provide adequate light.

Depending on what you’re growing, a sunny south-facing windowsill that gets direct sunlight most of the day might do the trick. A better option is to provide artificial lighting. A wide variety of grow lights are available, ranging from small lights suitable for a single plant to large, multi-shelf units.

You also can create your own plant stand by using shelves and standard 48-inch shop lights. Hanging the lights from an adjustable chain allows you to keep the light within a few inches of the top of the plants as they grow. For more information on choosing and using grow lights, check out this link: uvm.edu/news/extension/tips-choosing-grow-lights.

Containers can be anything from a

single flowerpot to a window box planter or something larger. Shallow containers (approximately 3-4 inches deep) are fine for growing greens as their root systems are shallow. If you opt to grow small root crops such as radishes or “baby” carrots, check the seed packet to be sure the container you select will be sufficiently deep and has good drainage.

Next, fill the containers with potting mix and plant seeds according to the directions on the seed packet. Sow generously. Once they’ve sprouted, you can thin to allow room for them to grow.

Simply clip the extra seedlings with a sharp pair of scissors near the soil. These thinned seedlings are your first reward, microgreens for use in salads or other dishes.

When your greens have reached 3-4 inches high, begin harvesting. Cut off the



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit
Leafy green lettuce, mesclun mix, spinach and even radishes and baby carrots are ideal choices for growing in containers indoors in winter.

outer leaves, leaving inner leaves to continue to grow.

In order to harvest throughout the winter, plant another container of greens every 2-3 weeks. As one crop is growing, another will be ready to enjoy.

Before you know it, you’ll be preparing to get back to work in the outdoor garden though you may just decide to grow greens indoors all year long.

On Books

Books that can bring a welcome change of mental venue



Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

It is a difficult time for this world. Violence in Ukraine, grim climate news, crazy democracy-toppling shenanigans kicking up in this country and others.

I am not going to go on and on. You read the news. You know what’s up. You know there’s trouble afoot and trouble brewing. And yet, I am thinking, if you are reading this article now, likely you are finding escape, solace, respite, relief, peace, wisdom — who knows what exactly — in the book that is now sitting on your bedside table, quietly waiting in a beam of sunlight for your return.

The novel waiting on my bedside table right now is Willa Cather’s “One of Ours,” which I picked at a second-hand bookstore in Harvard Square around New Year’s. While chatting with the cashier at checkout, I mentioned to him that the store reminded me of our local Burlington Crow Book Shop on Church Street. I told him that the Crow has a similar feel to the Raven.

Yes, he said, he knew of the store; he owned it. So, for those of you who didn’t know, there is a sister store of the Crow in Harvard Square (also rather coincidentally located on Church Street). It’s a bit bigger and it has more books. Do check it out if ever you are in the area!

Why I plucked this paperback from my bookshelf when I did is a mystery even to me, but the timing was perfect. As we pray and wring our hands over escalating violence in Ukraine and blanch with horror and revulsion at new revelations regarding the Jan. 6 insurrection, not to mention fret over the coronavirus and the recent, hopefully not

premature, unmasking of many of us, this book has me whisked off to Nebraska in the early 1900s. A welcome change of venue.

The hero, Claude Wheeler, is a complex, sensitive soul who lives on a farm, has always lived on a farm and is expected to take over the farm from his father, though he doesn’t find much meaning or value, thank you very much, in farming.

I don’t want to idealize the good old days because of course I know as well as you that they weren’t all good. Farming wasn’t an easy profession back then, nor is it now, and in the second half of this novel, the country is on the cusp of entering into the First World War, although no one is calling it that yet. But despite all this, this novel takes one back to a slower time, a time before human beings had desecrated the earth, a time before climate change, air pollution, microplastics, rising sea levels, melting glaciers and the hovering menace of nuclear war — a time when nature felt vibrant, full and nourishing and healthy, a time when women, men and children were living in a more harmonious relationship with the natural world.

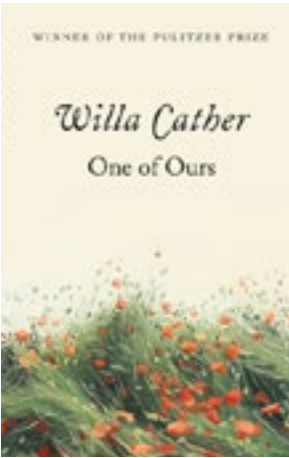
“Every morning the sun came up a red ball, quickly drank the dew and started a quivering excitement in all living things,” Cather writes.

I found the descriptions of farming life, fields of wheat and corn, home-cooked suppers, winter sleigh rides, etcetera calming and steadying, but this is not to say “One of Ours” is a simple, placid read. The characters and their overlapping relationships are nuanced and interesting, by no means all

sweetness and light. Claude is a layered, sometimes torn person, and what he wants from life is blurry at times even to himself, but his process is compelling. And his nature ... well, it resonates ... with me and perhaps with anyone who has ever been 23. An excerpt, which seems eerily on point for these days and this time:

“Claude walked as far as the Yoeders’ place ... and came back across the snow-drifted fields, under the frosty brilliance of the winter stars. As he looked up at them, he felt more than ever that they must have something to do with the fate of nations, and with the incomprehensible things that were happening in the world. In the ordered universe there must be some mind that read the riddle of this one unhappy planet, that knew what was forming in the dark eclipse of this hour. A question hung in the air; over all this quiet land about him, over him, over his mother, even. He was afraid for his country, as he had been that night on the State House steps in Denver, when the war was undreamed of, hidden in the womb of time.”

This book won the Pulitzer Prize in 1923. Before my parents were even born. Though published 100 years ago, still it is relevant to and resonant with this time. Not without



complexity and sadness, I found it also nourishing and soothing to the soul. Beautiful writing.

Another book, more recently written, but which also takes place in an earlier time, that I highly recommend you give a whirl is “The Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles, who also wrote “Rules of Civility” and “A Gentleman in Moscow” (which seems to be on almost everyone’s Top 10 list).

Towles’ latest novel is a romp — an adventure story that’s a little bit funny, a little bit dark, a little bit exciting, a little bit touching, a little bit unnerving, a little bit unsettling, a little bit heartbreaking and a little bit heart-warming. All at once. Great book club read. That’s how I found out about it.

Interestingly, the epigraph of “The Lincoln Highway” is from Willa Cather’s “O Pioneers!”:

“Evening and the flat land,
Rich and somber and always silent,
The miles of fresh-plowed soil,
Heavy and black, full of strength and harshness,
The growing wheat, the growing weeds,
The toiling horses, the tired men,
The long empty roads,
Sullen fires of sunset, fading,
The eternal, unresponsive sky
Against all this, Youth ...”

Till next time, happy reading and peace in Ukraine.



Have a hot news tip?

Call us:
425-4949
or email us at:
news@TheCharlotteNews.org

The **Charlotte News**

Charlotte Central School Newsletter

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard, Contributor)

Charlotte Central School shares mask and other updates

As we ease toward the official beginning of spring, there are many new opportunities and updates to share.

Volleyball for students in 7th/8th grade starts Monday. Please remember to sign your child up for the activities bus if they need to utilize that transportation.

Girls on the Run at Charlotte Central School: Registration for Girls on the Run is now open for students in grades 3-5. Twice a week for eight weeks, girls of all abilities will have fun, build positive connections, learn important life skills, and strengthen their physical and emotional health. Register at gotrvt.org/register-now.

An update on Champlain Valley School District mitigation guidelines was sent out. As of Monday, March 7, masks became optional in the district schools. Anyone

who wants the layer of protection that high-quality masks provide should feel free to wear them.

School transportation: The Centers for Disease Control changed their requirement about masks on school buses. They are no longer required. Anyone who wants to wear a mask on a school bus is welcome to do so.

Schools will have the option of returning to more flexible lunch configurations, including the mixing of students in different learning cohorts.

Mathcounts

Congratulations to all students who participated in this year’s Mathcounts team. Over the course of the season, students played math games and deepened their understanding of different bases, probability, the interior angles of polygons, measures of center and more.

Students had the opportunity to compete in the district and regional competitions, meeting other students who love math and getting to puzzle through all sorts of problems.

Champlain Valley School District Board of Directors’ gratitude

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support of the Champlain Valley School District’s students and schools. The CVSD FY23 budget and related articles all passed in a year that continues to test the creativity, patience and tenacity of each and every one of us. Our community, once again, came together in support of public education.

We welcome you to continue to engage with us at the monthly board meeting. Meeting details, Zoom log-in and agendas can be found on the school board page of the district’s website: cvsdvt.org/Page/604.

District outreach coordinator

District outreach coordinator is a newly created position intended to provide a variety of support to families experiencing instability or homelessness.

The coordinator works alongside the



The Charlotte News file photo.

school support teams to facilitate access to housing resources and make sure all members of the community have the information they need to ensure they are in permanent, safe, stable housing.

There are no requirements to access housing support services in the school district. Housing support services can be accessed by email at jedavis@cvsdvt.org, call Jennie Davis at 802-829-6257, or talk to a teacher, school counselor or school social worker to let them know you are interested in connecting with these services.

Developmental screenings available for children ages birth through 6 years lower cased sub


Children ages birth through 3 years:

Do you have concerns about your child’s development? Families with children from birth through age three may be eligible to receive services, through Children’s Integrated Services. CIS services are family-centered, child-focused and delivered through a network of providers

throughout Vermont. Services could include parenting support, developmental assessments, speech, language, motor or vision services. All children who qualify for early intervention are eligible for these free services, regardless of their family’s income, in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. For information contact: the Family Center of Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, Liz Hamel, elizabeth.hamel@ncssinc.org.

Children ages 3 years through 6 years, prior to kindergarten

Our teams of early childhood special educators, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists are available to help screen your child, ages three to six years, when you have concerns about development. If you or your child’s early childhood teacher have any concerns about your child’s development in the areas of communication, social-emotional, motor, adaptive or cognitive development, please contact Kristin Eisensmith at keisensmith@cvsdvt.org.



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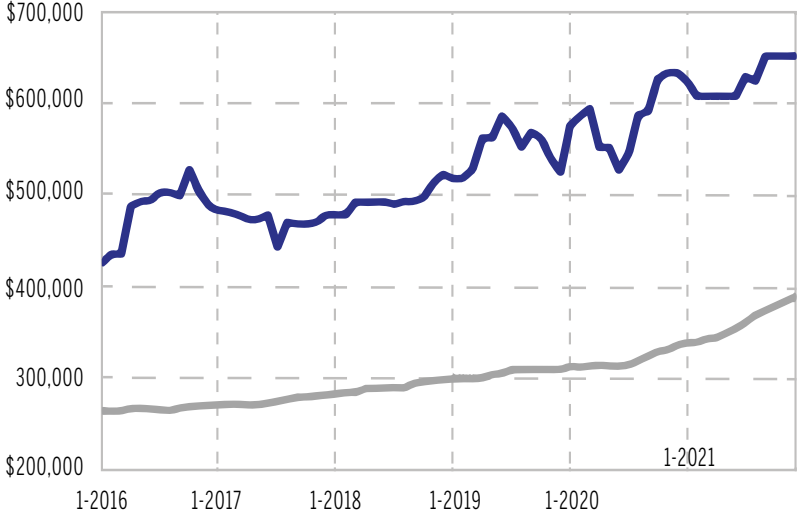
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Charlotte Real Estate Update

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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, March 10, 10-11 a.m.

Climate action-planning: What should towns do to address climate change? Vermont’s first Climate Action Plan has been released. Join Agency of Natural Resources Global Warming Solutions Act coordinator Marian Wolz and Jens Hilke of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department’s community wildlife program to learn about the plan and what towns can do to address these issues. Free Zoom presentation. Register: anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings. Webinar repeats on Tuesday, April 26.

Thursday, March 10 and Monday, March 14, 7:30-9 p.m.

Come together with community members to share stories in fond remembrance of local couple Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan. Tai Dinnan, their daughter, invites friends of Marty and Terry to an evening of sharing memories, via Zoom, on March 10 and/or March 14. Tai welcomes the healing process of storytelling and hearing new and familiar memories about her beloved parents and their shared lives. To be a part of the Zoom sharing and have a scheduled time to speak, please email tai.dinnan@gmail.com with your date preference. Written memories and photos may also be shared by emailing them to illickdinnan@gmail.com. Zoom links are as follows: Thursday, March 10, 7:30-9pm: https://bit.ly/SharedStoriesMarch10 and Monday, March 14, 7:30-9 p.m.: https://bit.ly/SharedStoriesMarch14.

Saturday, March 12, 8-10 a.m.

Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park, at the intersection of Weybridge Street and Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, see ottercreekaudubon.org or call 802-388-6019.

Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The long-standing Vermont tradition of the Penguin Plunge promotes awareness about the needs and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities. This event brings in 40 percent of the operating budget for Special Olympics Vermont. Participants plunge into Lake Champlain as groups or individuals. For more info, see specialolympicsvermont.org/event-details/2022-penguin-plunge.

Saturday, March 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Vermont author and garden designer Ellen Ecker Ogden’s six steps to successful kitchen garden design are based on her years as an artist, gardener, seed saver, author and accomplished cook. Her online workshop, Artful Kitchen Garden Design, is presented by Red Wagon Plants of Hinesburg, and requires pre-registration. See redwagonplants.com or call 802-482-4060. Scholarship assistance available.

Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13

Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee offers \$10 admission to Vermont residents both days between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Most outdoor and indoor exhibits are open; the Songbird Aviary is temporarily closed. For more info, see vinsweb.org or call 802-359-5000.

Sunday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Sunday, March 13, 3 p.m.

A Celtic concert at the Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College, is an informal, session-like celebration of spirited, authentic, traditional songs and dance tunes of Ireland, Scotland and the diaspora. Featuring Irish harp, button accordion, Irish uilleann pipes, whistles,

Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m.

KeruBo Opens Facing the Sunrise Black Performing Arts Series in NEK

Clemmons Family Farm, in collaboration with Catamount Arts, is pleased to announce an evening with Afro-jazz singer/songwriter KeruBo, as part of the Facing the Sunrise Black Performing Arts Series. The series aims to engage audiences with performances that celebrate and teach the Black Experience with positive and uplifting messages from Vermont’s Black artist community. KeruBo, the first artist in the series, will appear at Catamount ArtPort in St. Johnsbury.



She blends African traditional music with influences including Brazilian samba/bossanova, jazz, and blues. She sings African folk music, Afro-pop, and Afro-jazz, ranging from traditional African laments to more modern arrangements that weave in storytelling. Clemmons Family Farm is partnering with Catamount Arts to promote greater racial equity in Vermont’s creative economy, collaborating to offer audiences increased access to members of Vermont’s African-American and African Diaspora Artists Network (VAAADAN). In addition to strengthening community through programming and education about African-American and African diaspora histories and culture, the collaboration will showcase the work of Vermont artists of African descent and model how Black-led and white-led arts and culture institutions can leverage their respective resources for the benefit of all patrons. The performance is free, but tickets are required for this live show. For more info, see catamountarts.org.

Scottish harp, Scottish pipes and voice. The concert is free. For more info, see middlebury.edu.

Sunday, March 13, 4-6 p.m.

Valley Stage Productions of Huntington presents the musical trio Kalos as part of their PM Sundays performance series. The members of Kalos are masters of traditional music with roots in New England and the British Isles. Guitar, fiddle, accordion and vocals combine for a mix of recognizable melodies and original pieces at the Richmond Congregational Church. In-person or streaming tickets available at valleystage.net or call 802-434-4563.

Monday, March 14, 4 p.m.

Favorite local weather forecast program, “Eye on the Sky,” is celebrating 40 years on the air. Join Vermont Public Radio (VPR) listeners and Fairbanks Museum forecasters for an online anniversary party. Event is free and streams live on YouTube. For more info, or to pre-register, go to the VPR site.

March 14-18

Welcome to New England Museum Week. Celebrate how your local organizations support civic life in your state. Raise awareness of museums across the region, as they make a huge difference in our daily lives and communities. On Friday, March 18, a webinar focusing on Vermont and New Hampshire museums will take place from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Find out what 2022 holds for potential government impacts on local museums. To learn more, or sign up for the webinar, see nemanet.org.

Wednesday, March 16, 5-6:30 p.m.

The Vermont Community Garden Network offers free Gardening 101 workshop series between March and September (five workshops). The first virtual workshop on March 16 tackles three basic steps for garden planning. All levels of experience are welcome, but the classes are geared toward beginners. You may attend one or all sessions. To register, see vtgardens.org or email abbey@vcgn.org.

Wednesday, March 16, 6-7 p.m.

Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas, and Madame Pompadour’s Underwear: The Surprising History of Common Garden Vegetables, a talk by writer and scientist Rebecca Rupp at the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library in Williston. Pre-register for this in-person talk, part of the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau series. Info at damlvt.org.

Wednesday and Thursday, March 16 and 17, 7-8 :30 p.m.

Local business SunCommon presents the Climate Action Film Festival to share stories of individuals putting their energies into this worldwide challenge. Tune in online for two evenings of short films and presentations, including Q&A panels with filmmakers and activists. Tickets are by donation, to benefit climate action partners. For more info, see climateactionfilmfestival.com.

Wednesday-Friday, March 16-18

A film about artist Alexander Calder will be streamed over three days as part of the

Architecture + Design Film Series. Alexander Calder is a portrait of one of the pre-eminent artists of the 20th century who invented the art form of the mobile. This film shows Calder at work in his studio and the inventiveness in his more than 16,000 pieces. Free screening. Info at adfilmseries.org.

Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

The Air National Guard Band, Flightline Brass, presents a free concert at the Vergennes Opera House. The group performs Dixieland, jazz, popular music and other works for military and civilian functions. For all ages. For more info, see broadwayworld.com or call 802-877-6737.

Thursday, March 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Vermont’s Bread and Puppet Theater performs its new show, Finished Waiting, at ArtsRiot in Burlington. Finished Waiting is a show for all ages. According to creator Peter Schumann, the show will star “the clock and its customers, skies, cities, mountains, forward dancers, backward dancers, a stop officer and an eye divinity who teaches seeing to non-suspecting eyes.” Doors open at 6:30. For tickets or more info, see artsriot.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 18-20

Cochran’s Ski Area in Richmond hosts their Rope-a-Thon fundraising event over the weekend, weather permitting. Each year, Cochran’s serves thousands of local school kids, racers and families, regardless of their ability to pay. The Rope-a-Thon is the most important annual fundraiser for the non-profit ski area; supporting them ensures they can keep skiing and riding affordable and accessible to all. Join for any portion of the weekend festivities. There will be food, drinks, prizes and lots of competitive fun. Sign up for free; ask friends and family to sponsor your ski runs. For more info, see cochranskiarea.com or call 802-434-2479.

Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Winter Birding in the Champlain Valley is a program by the North Branch Nature Center of Montpelier. The Champlain Valley is one of New England’s premier inland destinations for winter birdwatching. Join avid birder, guide and executive director Chip Darmstadt on a trip to explore the shores, fields and forests of the Champlain Valley in search of eagles, waterfowl, raptors, owls, snow buntings, winter finches and more. Inclement weather date is March 20. Spotting scopes will be provided. For more info or to register, see northbranchnaturecenter.org.

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

Julie Rubaud from Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg presents an in-person workshop called First Time Vegetable Gardener Workshop. Learn some easy steps to get on the path to gardening success. Rubaud discusses how to get the right plants to meet your garden goals and how to take care of them until harvest. Pre-registration required at redwagonplants.com and. Scholarship assistance available. For info call 802-482-4060.

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

Vermont Land Trust and Women Owning Woodlands Vermont present an outdoor workshop called The Nuts and Bolts of Forest Management. When done correctly, forest management can benefit landowners and forest ecology in multiple ways, including increasing the diversity of tree species and ages, enhancing habitat for songbirds, protecting soil and water quality, and improving forest health. Free but pre-registration required. For info, see vlt.org.

Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., two-hour slots

Discover maple sugaring at this family event at Shelburne Farms. Head into the woods to see a sugarhouse in action, tap a sugar maple and taste some delicious maple syrup. Roland Bluto of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation will share a story of how the Abenaki came to acquire maple syrup. Program repeats on March 26. Dress for being outside; pre-register at shelburnefarms.org.

Saturday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

The inimitable Rusty DeWees will present a year’s worth (or more!) of new material for a night of humor, storytelling and music at the Vergennes Opera House. DeWees is known and loved for his performances as “The Logger,” in which he blends “blue collar comedy meets Prairie Home Companion.” Doors and cash bar open at 6:30. For tickets and info: vergennesoperahouse.org or 802-877-6737.

Monday, March 21 deadline

On July 12, Antiques Roadshow will be at Shelburne Museum filming for season 27 of the popular PBS show. Tickets are required to attend this event and are awarded only via the Antiques Roadshow Ticket Sweepstakes. Sweepstakes entry deadline is midnight on March 21. Shelburne Museum does not dispense tickets to this event and will be closed on July 12, except to those with tickets. To enter for tickets or learn more see pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/ontour.

Wednesday, March 23, noon

The Vermont Historical Society hosts a free Zoom talk by historian and author Rachel Hope Cleves as part of its Winter Speaker series. Her subject is the relationship between Charity Bryant and Sylvia Drake, who were recognized as a married couple by their kin and community in Weybridge where they lived together from 1807 to 1851. Cleves explores the roles that family, work, religion, love and sexuality played in the women’s lives. In 2014, Cleves published “Charity and Sylvia.” To register or for info, see vermonthistory.org.

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

Join author and nationally recognized arts writer Bob Keyes, along with Tom Denenberg, director of Shelburne Museum, in a conversation about Keyes’s recent book, “The Isolation Artist: Scandal, Deception, and the Last Days of Robert Indiana.” Keyes shines a spotlight on the deceptive world that surrounded the reclusive millionaire artist who died in 2018, leaving behind dark rumors and scandal, as well as lawsuits and accusations of fraud. Pre-register for this free webinar at shelburnemuseum.org.

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Attend an in-person movie screening at the Middlebury New Filmmaker’s Festival at the Town Hall Theater. Geared toward families, the theme of this series is Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds. Today’s documentary, rated PG, is “Buck.” Directed by Cindy Meehl and winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, it is an examination of the life of acclaimed ‘horse whisperer’ Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people. For info and trailer, see middfilmfest.org or call 802-382-9222.

You can find this calendar
of events online at:

charlottenewsvt.org/category/local-events/

Town Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Welcome to the library. We look forward to seeing you as you browse our collections, enjoy our new (and familiar) spaces and perhaps attend a program. Please take note of the registration instructions for each program when you sign up.

As we start to reopen our doors and restart our program schedule, the staff and board of the Charlotte Library would like to remind the community of the circulation rules here. These rules ensure that all in our community have equal access to books and other materials in a timely and fair manner:

1. All materials except for a few special items circulate for two weeks.
2. Patrons are requested to return or renew materials by the due date.
3. Patron accounts are restricted when materials are overdue by eight weeks. This restriction applies to circulation here and at all Homecard libraries.
4. Restricted patrons may not check out any materials until the account is cleared. However, we are happy to keep books on two-day “layaway” until overdue items are returned or paid for.
5. If you need help identifying overdue materials, we can provide a receipt listing all items checked on your account.

We appreciate your support and assistance as we strive to provide the best service at the library and best stewardship of this community resource. Please call or email us with any questions.

2022 Seed Catalog

Have a look at our new 2022 Seed Catalog, now available at charlotteseedlibrary.org and at the front desk.

We’re offering many past favorites, plus some which may be new to you. All are tried and true heritage varieties of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers which are easy to grow and easy to save seeds from. We invite you to add some of these to your garden this year.

You do not need to be an expert gardener to do this. We provide guidelines for eco-friendly gardening and successful seed saving so you can enjoy the fruits of your labors this year and have seeds ready for 2023 for yourself and to share with others. To request small packets of seeds from the 2022 catalog (no charge), email us at Seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org. We will let you know when your seeds are ready for pick up in the foyer later in March. Seed Library coordinators Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton wish you happy garden planning!

Happening at the library

Teens & adults Take and make

Make a cheery daffodil bouquet or decoupage a mini Altoid tin with colorful stamps. Available at the circulation desk while supplies last.



Kids Cloud mobile

Make a mobile of four kinds of clouds: cumulonimbus, cirrus, cumulus and nimbostratus. These clouds are different shapes, and they can mean very different things for upcoming weather. This mobile of feathery clouds will twist and turn in a gentle breeze, plus a March rain cloud with sparkling showers!



Drop-in craft projects

We’ll begin offering drop-in craft projects that are fun and simple enough for all ages. Families are welcomed and encouraged to share this creative time together. A few craft stations will be set up in the children’s room with all the materials necessary for the project. To start off the program, there are two stations of coloring sheets — one with a castle theme and one with an African Plains theme.

Book chat

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.

Hack Club

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., March 1 - 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). For queries and registration, contact Christina Asquith at christinaasquith@yahoo.com.

Knitting drop-in at the Library Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Swing by for knitting night at the library. Dust off those old projects you’ve been wanting to finish, start a new project,



or even pick up a new skill.

Jessica Card, a Shelburne Craft School knitting teacher, will be hosting and is excited about growing the in-person community of town knitters. She will be around to get people started, help with existing projects and working on a knitting project.

Garden Chat: Seed Saving Friday, March 11, at 11:30 a.m.

Join seed library coordinators Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton to share questions and tips for successfully saving seeds from your vegetable garden this year. Register here: bit.ly/3JG4zJW.

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. Join Chittenden Solid Waste District 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.

Workshop will cover what really in the blue bin and why other items can create big problems for the recycling system. Then it will go beyond the blue bin and explore the “special recycling” options for lots of things that can’t go in there. (Spoiler alert: You can bring some of them to this library.) There will be time to answer questions and settle family arguments (only about recycling), so bring your trickiest items and try to stump the recycling staff.

Short story selections Thursday, March 17, at 1 p.m.

Join library director Margaret Woodruff to discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors. One or two stories will be featured each session. Stories will be emailed to participants one week ahead of discussion session. Register at bit.ly/ShortStorySpring2022.

RESCHEDULED: Media Literacy Take 2 Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m.

A conversation from last fall will be revived. There continue to be more



COVIDhelp 05445

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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 with The Citizen, the Shelburne News, The Charlotte News and The Charlotte Bridge. Wegman is an editorial board member of The New York Times. Register in advance at bit.ly/3H0X4wr.

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for the monthly newsletter on the library website. (Use link for web post: 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



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Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Lori York
DIRECTOR

What do Scrabble, backgammon, cribbage and Texas hold ‘em have in common?

They are all new groups forming at the senior center. If board and card games are not your cup of tea, then grab a bowl of popcorn from

our café and join us for a film screening.

The senior center is buzzing with lots of conversation, laughter, many new faces and returning friends. How refreshing it is to be able to start socializing again.

New this month are a coffee and canvas session, a program about navigating Zoom and a workshop on how to record your oral history using your smart phone.

Welcome spring with the return of birding expeditions with Hank Kaestner. And don’t forget to join the Zoom presentation about the Charlotte Land Trust’s new farm study and what it reveals about farming, our economy and way of life in Vermont.

The senior center’s March newsletter is now posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org, or follow on Facebook at facebook.com/charlotteseniorcentervt.

Meals and conversation

Monday lunches: Lunch is served every Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Take-out is an option. Suggested lunch donation of \$5.

Monday, March 14: Chicken tortilla soup served with salad and a homemade dessert.

Monday, March 21: Homemade macaroni & cheese, salad and frosted German chocolate cupcakes with ice cream.

Men’s breakfast

For breakfast and conversation, join the next men’s breakfast on Thursday, April 14, from 7-9 a.m.

The guest speaker is Andrea Rodgers, founding member and former CEO of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Rodgers will be speaking about the issues around performing arts in Vermont, especially during COVID. To register, please email Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com by Tuesday, April 12.

Suggested breakfast donation: \$5.

Grab & Go Meals provided by Age Well:

Pick up on Thursdays 11 a.m. - noon at

the Charlotte Senior Center. Pre-register by Monday for the Thursday meal by email at lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org or call 802-425-6345.

Thursday, March 17: Beef round, boiled potatoes, cabbage and carrots in beef stock and leprechaun cake with frosting.

Thursday, March 24: Roast pork with sauce, mashed potatoes, peas and onions, and oatmeal raisin cookie.

Open café

Friday mornings, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Come join us for some coffee or tea and enjoy a morning treat. This is a great opportunity to join your friends or meet new ones while spending time in our sunny café.

Upcoming program and events

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

Award-winning film screened with Sean Moran of the adaptation of 1929 novel by Nella Larsen. Set in the 1920s New York City, this is the story of a Black woman finding her world upended when her life intersects with a former childhood friend who’s passing as white.

Free, but registration is required as there is limited seating. Call 802-425-6345 or stop by the Senior Center.

Coffee and canvas

Wednesday, March 16, 10-11:30 a.m., \$25. Register by Monday, March 14. Limited to 12.

Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing morning sipping coffee and Picasso-inspired acrylic painting on canvas with Sherry Senior. Explore and create your own unique painting, but don’t worry, there will be plenty of inspiration and lots of instruction. No prior experience needed. All materials included.

Birding expedition with Hank Kaestner

On Wednesday, March 16, meet at the center 10 minutes prior to 9 a.m. departure to carpool to spectacular bird-watching location. Free but registration required by email to csbirding@gmavt.net. Include your name and phone number.

Capturing your oral history by audio recording with Dan York

Friday, March 18, 1-2:30 p.m.

You may have heard that story from a relative a hundred 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 using just a smartphone.



Photo by Lori York

Jonathan Hart teaches beginners the game of backgammon on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at the senior center.

Registration required by Wednesday, March 16. Group size is limited. Free.

Navigate Zoom with Susanna Kahn

Wednesday, March 23, 11 a.m. - noon
Everyone is on Zoom these days. Join tech librarian Susanna Kahn and learn the Zoom basics. Take-home instructions will be provided as well as an opportunity to practice your new skills with a follow-up meeting on Zoom. Registration required by Monday, March 21. Free.

Duplicate bridge

The senior center is looking for someone to teach a class on duplicate bridge for beginners.

There is also interest in a duplicate bridge class for students having some bridge experience. If you are available to instruct a six- to eight-week program on the basics of duplicate bridge, contact Lane Morrison at lmorrison@gmavt.net.

Upcoming presentation

Farms in Charlotte: Who, what, where and how?

Wednesday, March 23, 1 p.m. Zoom only.
Presented on behalf of the Charlotte Land Trust and facilitated by the Charlotte Grange. Learn what a new study by the Charlotte Land Trust reveals about farming as it impacts our economy and way of life.

Ongoing exercise and health classes

The center offers daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and

activities levels. A complete list of our exercise programs is on our website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Questions? New to the area? Thinking of Volunteering?

The senior center is at 212 Ferry Road in Charlotte. Hours are M-F from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, or call 802-425-6345, or email director Lori York at lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Residents over 50 from other communities are always welcome.

PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 12

9	7	4	6	8	5	2	1	3
3	1	6	4	9	2	7	5	8
5	8	2	3	7	1	6	4	9
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1	2	3	9	4	7	8	6	5
6	9	5	1	2	8	4	3	7
2	5	8	7	3	4	1	9	6
7	3	9	2	1	6	5	8	4
4	6	1	8	5	9	3	7	2

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.

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

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS: FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

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



Adventurers in snowshoe wonderland



Photo by Bill Fraser-Harris

A group tried out snowshoes on a hike at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, Feb. 27. The snowshoers saw bird and beaver activity as well as fresh bobcat tracks in the new snow. Sponsored by the Charlotte Recreation Commission, the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Park Oversight Committee.

