

*Your nonprofit community news source since 1958*

# The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 20

*Photo by Lee Krohn*



# The Charlotte News

April 7, 2022

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

Vol. 64, No. 20

## Conservation commission objects to DRB waivers

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

The process of revamping Charlotte’s application process has hit another bump on the road to development planning and rural preservation harmony.

The conservation commission sent a letter to several town boards charging that the new development review board is making decisions that could permanently alter the process of making developments adhere to the town’s land use regulations.

The letter, penned by chair Kevin Burget with the approval of the rest of the commission, objected to at least two recent subdivision applications that have contained requests for driveways to properties that have less than 300 feet of road frontage, but which have a right-of-way easement to put in a driveway across a neighbor’s property.

The conservation commission’s letter says the development review board has made a mistake, incorrectly granting an exception to the regulations: “It is a misinterpretation that begs the question: In what possible circumstance could a property owner not evade the need for road frontage?”

The development review board has granted these modifications as a “matter of course” rather than being justified by “special circumstances,” said the letter which was sent to the town planner, selectboard, development review board and planning commission on March 22.

At its meeting on March 23, members of the development review board said these decisions are typical of decisions the town has been making for years and won’t damage the town’s rural vistas and areas of high public value or violate its conservation values—and, in at least one instance, make the proposed driveway safer.

Discussing a subdivision application by Laurie Curler to cut off about five acres of her 72-acre property on Guinea Road for a family member to build on and for a drive to the new lot, development review board member

SEE **WAIVERS** PAGE 3

## Pilgrimage or hike — walking the Camino de Santiago



See the full story on page 3.

## Edd Merritt leaves big journalistic shoes to fill

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

The town of Charlotte suffered a big loss on Wednesday, March 23, with the death of Edd Merritt. But for The Charlotte News this was a huge loss.

For more than two decades, Merritt was a massive contributor to this newspaper. In 2001 he became editor of the newspaper and continued in the role as co-editor or contributing editor for many years.

For most of his tenure with The Charlotte News, Merritt wrote three articles for the paper—a roundup of Champlain Valley Union High School sports; “Around Town”—a roundup of goings on around Charlotte; and “Out Takes”—a roundup of Merritt’s unique musings on things that struck his fancy or got his dander up.

Edd Merritt was born in Rochester, Minnesota in 1942. He got his undergraduate degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin.

He served in the Navy for several years. After his time in the service, he moved to New York City.

“He always said he moved to New York because he didn’t have anything better to do,” said his wife, Beth Merritt, who started at the newspaper before her husband in the 1990s and has worked since as a copyeditor and proofreader.

She was living in New York when he arrived. Beth and Edd had known each other at Beloit College but hadn’t dated. However, when they met again at a party she and her roommate threw, the sparks flew.

They were married in 1970 and Edd Merritt got his doctorate in college administration from Columbia University.

In 1978, they left New York and Edd worked at University of Hartford and Manchester Community College in Connecticut.

They moved to Vermont in 1980 when Edd became dean of students at Johnson State College. In 1983, he took a job setting



The Charlotte News file photo

Edd Merritt.

up and running an engineer in training program for Pizzagalli Construction Company.

After a few years they moved back to Minnesota and Edd took a job in medical administration at the Mayo Clinic.

They moved to Charlotte in 1987. For a year he commuted to Rutland where he was working for Central Vermont Public Service, so their sons could stay on their Chittenden-South Burlington hockey teams.

After a year, Edd opted for the shorter commute to Burlington and began working as a healthcare administrator for Fletcher Allen Health Care.

“That was two name changes ago,” Beth Merritt said of the medical facility now known as the University of Vermont Medical Center.

He retired after eight years and, in 2001, he took a job as managing editor of The Charlotte News.

This was work he’d had a hankering for over the years. When Edd was first out of the service, he went to a job placement consultation and told the interviewer he’d like to write for The New York Times. The

“He truly enjoyed the community involvement. Many people might tire of going out in the field to cover events, but not Edd. He particularly relished going to the games when he was covering the local school sports.”

— Pati Naritomi

consultant told him he should move back to Minnesota and work his way up from a smaller newspaper.

He ignored this advice, taking a job that was sort of similar to being a reporter, copywriting for ethical drug companies. Over the years, he wondered out loud what was ethical about prescription drugs.

Edd claimed either he had a very interesting resume or he couldn’t hold a job. Beth Merritt said: “That was his line.”

She said her husband was always interested in learning new things.

He worked in various capacities on the editorial side of The Charlotte News, sometimes in a paid position, but for much of the time as a volunteer crafting copious amounts of copy and proofreading the final product.

Both of the Merritts’ sons were three-sport

SEE **EDD MERRITT** PAGE 6

## Clemmons Family Farm celebrates arts funds

### Appropriation to turn ‘Big Barn’ into performing, visual arts facility

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

A group of about 60 gathered at a barn on Greenbush Road to celebrate a new purpose for an old structure on the afternoon of March 26.

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) joined the group to celebrate the \$500,000 he had helped secure to renovate the barn, known as the Big Barn, into an arts center on the Clemmons Family Farm.

The funds were part of a \$1.5 trillion 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill President Joe Biden had signed a week and a half earlier to fund the government for the rest of this fiscal year.

In her introduction of Leahy, Lydia Clemmons, director of the Clemmons Family Farm, noted that the farm was established by the McNeil family in the late 1800s, the same family that started the first ferry in Charlotte in the 1700s.

“That ferry was apparently connected to the Underground Railroad,” Clemmons said. “In the late 1700s in Vergennes, Ferrisburg and right here in Charlotte, Black American farmers were establishing farms and farming until the mid 1800s.”



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Lydia Clemmons said that growing up she would enter the barn at 5 a.m. before going to Charlotte Central School and be greeted by a chorus of jubilees shouted in the multiple languages of cows, ducks, chickens, pigs and horses: ‘That has to be one of the very best ways to start your day, to open a door and walk into a room where everyone is so overjoyed to see you.’

When her parents bought the farm in 1962, there were no other Black farming families around.

“This farm where we’re sitting today is one of the rare Black-owned farms left in the United States. It is one of just 0.4 percent,” Clemmons said.

Her father, Jack, and mother, Lydia Clemmons, are now 99 years old, she

said. Over the span of their life, African Americans nationwide have lost 93 percent of their land assets.

“Lost,” she said, “is really a polite euphemism for having our land assets stolen through very discriminatory policies and

SEE **CLEMMONS** PAGE 3



CLEMMONS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

practices.”

The money Leahy helped get for the Clemmons Family Farm is part of \$170 million he helped get for projects across the state of Vermont. The appropriation to the 146-acre nonprofit farm will be used to turn the Big Barn into space for performing and visual arts and to renovate another building, the Authentica Art Gallery, into a space for artist residencies.

In his remarks Leahy said he was sure Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson would be confirmed as the first Black female member of the Supreme Court, calling her “one of the most extraordinary people he knows.”

He said the nomination was important because it was time for the Court to reflect some of the rest of America besides white men.

The African American Civil Rights Preservation Grants program was started years ago and appropriated funds across the United States, Leahy said. The money going to the Clemmons Family Farm “is going to be the first use of the program here in Vermont.”

“This farm where we’re sitting today is one of the rare Black-owned farms left in the United States. It is one of just 0.4 percent.”

— Lydia Clemmons



Photo by Scooter MacMillan  
Patrick Leahy shows pictures of his grandchildren to artist Julio Desmond.

WAIVERS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Gerald Bouchard said similar waivers had been given to property in that area years ago.

Bouchard said he didn’t see any reason to deny the request for the driveway because it was something that had been given to other people in town; it would be safer; it more than meets fire department requirements; and the proposal increases the amount of open space.

“I don’t see any negative,” Bouchard said.

“I don’t really know why we would try to hold people to a really hardcore standard of solving every single requirement, if some of them clearly don’t fly.”

— Larry Lewack, town planner

In a phone conversation, Burget said such a waiver is supposed to take into consideration the intent of the land use regulations by preserving the character of the rural district and are generally granted to property designated as a planned residential development.

If having a right of way across a neighbor’s property is used as a justification for a waiver, then it defeats the purpose of having a linear property frontage restriction, Burget said.

If you subdivide your property into more than three parcels of land, you are prohibited from subdividing again for 10 years in rural districts in Charlotte, he said. So, in the 11th year you can take those three subdivisions and divide each of those into three lots and now you’ve got 10 houses. If you have enough property to meet the five-acre per lot requirement, by year 21 you would have 30 lots with houses, he said.

said.

The desire to help landowners get approval for projects on their property is understandable, he said, but “when you hand out waivers as a matter of course, I don’t know why you would even call it a waiver. You call it development.”

Town planner Larry Lewack said, after the development review board consulted with the town attorney and did a lot of study of town regulations and the underlying state statutes, it came to the conclusion it was appropriate and legally permissible to grant the projects a bye.

The applicants met every other condition, except for not having the minimum of road frontage, Lewack said.

Applying for the subdivision as a planned rural development requires a property owner to set aside 50 percent of the property as a conservation easement, he said. However, one of these proposed subdivisions had already set aside more than 60 percent of the land in a conservation easement.

These applications are just for one home, Lewack said, and a planned rural development is for a project where there are a cluster of homes.

“We don’t think the same standards should be required of a single lot. There is some disagreement about that,” he said. Some members of the planning

commission share the conservation commission’s opinion.

Lewack’s interpretation of the town plan is that it encourages these kinds of subdivisions as long as they don’t damage natural resources and particularly in at least one of these applications where the property owner is protecting natural resources.

“It’s a good thing for the town, good for the families and for the community schools,” Lewack said. “I don’t really know why we would try to hold people to a really hardcore standard of solving every single requirement, if some of them clearly don’t fly.”

And he disagrees with people who don’t think the development review board has the authority to accept a right of way in lieu of having 300 feet of road frontage.

Lewack said that an update of the land use regulations is planned. Because of the town’s change from a zoning board to a development review board, there are many places in the regulations where the text needs to be changed from planning or zoning board of adjustment to development review board.

“I think there are a lot of folks in town who are still a little fuzzy on the details of what happened this past winter in terms of that big shift to the development-review-board model,” Lewack said.



**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 Charlotte 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](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org) as attachments in .doc format and must contain the writer’s full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, contact phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
- All published letters and opinion pieces will include the writer’s name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

**Editorial Staff**  
**Editor:** Scotter MacMillan ([scotter@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:scotter@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Production Manager:** Anna Cyr ([anna@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:anna@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Copy editors:** Beth Merritt, Katherine Arthaud  
**Proofreaders:** Mike & Janet Yantachka

**Business Staff**  
**Ad manager:** Christy Hagios ([ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Bookkeeper:** Susan Jones ([billing@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:billing@thecharlottenews.org))

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

**Subscription Information**  
The Charlotte News is delivered at no cost to all Charlotte residences. Subscriptions are available for first-class delivery at \$60 per calendar year.

**Want a subscription? Subscribe on our website,** [charlottenewsvt.org](http://charlottenewsvt.org)

**Postmaster/Send address changes to:**  
The Charlotte News, P.O. Box 251,  
Charlotte, VT 05445 Telephone: 802-425-4949  
Circulation: 2,100

Copyright © 2022 TCN, Inc., dba  
Member of the New England Newspaper  
and Press Association, LION Publishers  
and the Vermont Press Association.

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

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

The Charlotte News

A colorful illustration of a row of houses in various colors (yellow, orange, green, blue) with trees in front of them.

**NEXT PUBLICATION DATES**  
**April 21, 2022**  
Copy Deadline: Friday, April 15  
Ads Deadline: Friday, April 15

**TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:**  
[ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org)

**SEND YOUR CHARLOTTE NEWS TO:**  
[news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)



# Pilgrimage or hike — walking the Camino de Santiago

Scooter MacMillan  
EDITOR

In the old days when someone went for a long walk, they called it a pilgrimage. Today they call it a hike — most of the time — but sometimes people still go for hikes that they call a pilgrimage.

When Tom McAuliff of Charlotte walked the Camino, officially the Camino de Santiago, it was a hike for him.

But making that trek is still a pilgrimage for many walking the historic network of more than 10 trails that are paved with years of spiritual significance.

Pilgrimages to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition says the remains of the apostle James are buried, are recorded back to at least the 9th century. But pilgrimages really picked up in 1492 when Pope Alexander VI declared the Camino de Santiago one of the three great Christian pilgrimages, along with Jerusalem and Rome.

In 2013, McAuliff and his wife Janella Pennington had planned to take 30 days for their hike on the Camino, but she took a bad fall at a remote bed and breakfast and they were in a bad way.

After getting medical treatment and the diagnosis that Pennington would need to be on crutches for at least three weeks, their hike on the Camino was over for that year.

But their problems were compounded because they’d been taken by a transport service for a remote area. And they had no idea where they were.

As they stepped out of a tourist office where they’d gone seeking advice, but found the attendants who had never heard of people with their problems and had no idea what McAuliff and Pennington should do, they ran into a group of six French Camino hikers they had met on their first day on the trail.

“We were rescued by a bunch of French hikers. I use the word ‘rescue’ because we didn’t know what to do. We didn’t know where to go. We didn’t know where we were in France,” McAuliff said.

The hikers took them under their wing and took them to their homes, where they stayed for a few days. McAuliff, Pennington and the group of French hikers became good friends.

For several years, until 2019, McAuliff and Pennington went back to France and hiked the Camino in sections when their

French friends were hiking on their vacations.

Eventually, they completed the trail to the Camino de Santiago and beyond to the end at the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Finisterre, Spain. Finisterre is from the Latin for “end of the world.”

Now, their Camino days are done. Recently, McAuliff has been dispensing with his maps and guidebooks via social media.

This is the hike featured in “The Way,” the 2010 movie featuring Martin Sheen, written and directed by his son Emilio Estevez. The film tells the story of a doctor who hikes the Camino after his son dies while hiking the route from France to Spain — except for the deceased son, it was a pilgrimage. In true Hollywood fashion, the father starts out on a hike that becomes a pilgrimage.

Since “The Way,” McAuliff said the numbers of those hiking or pilgrimaging have soared. More than 200,000 a year and growing by 10 percent annually, according to the internet.

“I did not hike it for a religious reason,” McAuliff said. “If you go into this thinking, ‘This will transform me,’ you’re probably better off transforming yourself in place, through therapy or some other things.”

## More of a pilgrimage or a walk than a hike

Jane Horowitz, formerly of Charlotte and an advertising representative for The Charlotte News in the 1990s, hiked the Camino in 2013.

For her, the experience was more of a pilgrimage than a hike, but not in a traditional religious sense. And for Horowitz, who’s accustomed to traversing the steep trails of Vermont, the flatter route to Santiago de Compostela was more of a walk than a hike.

She was inspired to make the journey by the movie “The Way” and by the Shirley MacLaine book “The Camino: A Journey of the Spirit.” For MacLaine, the Camino experience was a pilgrimage and a spiritual quest.

Much of MacLaine’s book is about the history of the pilgrimage and the saints commemorated in the many churches along the way.

For Horowitz a big part of the Camino experience “was surrendering to the universe to allow whatever happened to happen.”

Before she went, Horowitz didn’t make reservations at places to stay along the way. “I just decided I was going to show up at a town and find a place to stay. So that was a surrender. I did not have everything planned and noted.”

It was an exercise in learning to live with the unknown, and Horowitz feels like she was changed by the experience. But it’s still a work in progress.

“It’s hard to surrender to the universe



Photo contributed  
Tom McAuliff and Janella Pennington at the beginning of one of their adventures on the Camino at Alto del Perdón outside of Pamplona with its metal sculptures of pilgrims.



Photo contributed  
Tom McAuliff and a French hiker they met along the way.

because we like to feel like we have control over things, but we don’t. That’s an illusion,” Horowitz said. “It was just a really uplifting, challenging, sweet and physical experience. It is all those things and an adventure.”

The year after hiking the Camino, she hiked the Long Trail, but in sections hiking on weekends.

Although the Long Trail was more of a hike, it had elements of a pilgrimage.

She said, “Whatever kind of walk or hike you do, you always know that people have been on the path before and there will be

people on the path after you.”  
When she hiked the Camino she listened to music, mostly chanting. When she hiked the Long Trail, she didn’t listen to music.  
“The wilderness is a very spiritual lesson,” Horowitz said. But there wasn’t any kind of wilderness spiritual lesson on the Camino where there is no wilderness.

Although the Long Trail wasn’t a spiritual pilgrimage like the Camino, her prayers were answered — she didn’t see a bear.

“I really didn’t want to see a bear.”

“It was just a really uplifting, challenging, sweet and physical experience. It is all those things and an adventure.”

— Jane Horowitz



Photo by Jane Horowitz  
This is one of the many statues depicting the pilgrim.



Photo by Tom McAuliff  
An example of the panoramic fields along the Camino with a village where travelers can find a place to stay.









Edd Merritt 1995

## EDD MERRITT

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

athletes at Champlain Valley Union High School, and Edd was very involved with Chris and Ian Merritt’s athletic interests. Earlier he coached Little League and was “a dad-coach” of his sons’ Chittenden-South Burlington hockey teams, Beth said. After Chris and Ian graduated, Edd continued his involvement with Redhawks athletics, covering the school’s games for the newspaper. Edd Merritt was known for his vast knowledge and penchant for referencing all sorts of unexpected things, but particularly his encyclopedic knowledge of music, in conversation and his “Out Takes” columns. “Sometimes I’d be nervous about what he was going to write,” Beth Merritt said. Pati Naritomi, who worked in The News advertising from 1994, said she really enjoyed working with Edd because of his even, capable, energetic personality and because he always had the best interest of

the newspaper in mind. “He truly enjoyed the community involvement. Many people might tire of going out in the field to cover events, but not Edd. He particularly relished going to the games when he was covering the local school sports,” Naritomi said. “He so loved the small-town environment.” He was the newspaper’s jack of all trades, said Naritomi, “He really covered a lot of things.” He was smart and had a great sense of humor, attributes he used to calm tense deadline nerves. “We might be pulling our hair out to make it all work out,” Naritomi said. “But he definitely made you feel like ‘things are going to be OK.’” After a septic infection in a bone in his foot in 2014, his left leg was amputated. He spent a brief time in a wheelchair but quickly learned to walk with a prosthetic. In time he had to use a cane, but this didn’t stop him from driving Toyota pickup

trucks, of which he was proud and which many people mentioned in talking of the memories of Edd Merritt. “You know, men and trucks,” Beth Merritt said. A few years ago, his health declined to the point that he was confined to a wheelchair and could no longer drive. Vince Crockenberg, a recent publisher of The Charlotte News, said every time he saw Edd he was impressed that, in spite of his diminished mobility, his sense of humor was always spry and hearty: “He just never lost his sense of humor. He just never lost his sense that life was a joy, and he was going to enjoy it as much as he possibly could.” Edd Merritt believed The Charlotte News is the heart and soul of Charlotte and holds the community together, Crockenberg said, and he believed working on the newspaper “was valuable work, and he was going to do it until he couldn’t do it anymore.” And he did.

## The undertaking of ‘Out Takes’

Alex Bunten

I liked Edd immediately. He had a giddy laugh; he loved Tom Waits and Bob Dylan and was happy to chip in where needed. His wandering prose challenged me as an editor in my short time at the helm of The Charlotte News but taught me an important lesson. The challenge was in making heads or tails of some of his “Out Takes.” I over-edited them a few times, and Edd wasn’t very happy ... even though I thought they made more “sense.” I realized, probably long after, that making “sense” or having a style guide isn’t the most important part of a community paper—it’s giving voice as best one can, as messy as that can be, to all the characters that make up the town. It’s the people that make the paper, not the task of making it. Edd certainly was a character and will be sorely missed. Edd’s first official “Out Takes” was Jan. 15, 2004. In describing what he hoped to do with the monthly contribution, this line stood out to me as something Edd might have quoted before one of his own thought pieces: “For me, I’m discovering the simple pleasure in the challenge of putting my own thoughts into words, wrestling with language until it becomes an adequate expression of an idea triggered by some kind of neural-emotive switch. I no more know how it works than I understand the intricacies of my lawn tractor’s engine, which also trips a neural-emotive switch when it won’t start.” He delights that it only took him 60 years, but he finally found his “voice.” If only we all found our voice that soon. Thanks for taking us along the journey, Edd. Hope that tractor works where you’re going.

*Alex Bunten was a former Editor from 2015-2016.*

## A storyteller’s mark on time and place

Brett Sigurdson

***Just remember that death is not the end. — Bob Dylan***

Edd Merritt was as solid as the iron ore underneath the northern Minnesota land his ancestors settled. Bob Dylan country. Zimmie and Minnesota were subjects of several of his Out Takes columns, and they

were subjects that united Edd and me (a fellow Midwesterner) when I took over as editor of The Charlotte News in 2012. In some ways, Edd was as Minnesotan as hotdish, and I immediately felt a kindred spirit in Charlotte and Vermont, two places I knew little about before taking the job. After receiving word Edd passed away recently, I again thought about Bob Dylan. I began to think of a Dylan mural on the side of a building on Fourth Street in Dinkytown, the Minneapolis neighborhood that borders the University of Minnesota. In part, it was because Dylan attended the university, and I’m about to complete a Ph.D. there. But I think it had more to do with the way Minneapolis claimed Dylan as a native son, the way he has become bound in the city’s fabric. In my mind, Edd Merritt is similarly enmeshed in the town of Charlotte’s lore. After all, he was with the The Charlotte News for, what, 20 years? How many editors have come and gone in that time? How much has the town changed in two decades? And how many stories did he write about Charlotte and Charlotters over the years? And if newspapers are a vital record of a time and a place, how could such a storyteller not be a part of the warp and weft of a place’s fabric? Stories. They’re what I’ll remember most about Edd. There are the stories he would tell, the way he would sit back, set his head, clear his throat, and—twinkle in his eye—unfurl one of his fantastic yarns about going to Woodstock or pushing Hemingway in a wheelchair at Mayo Clinic or when Dylan wrote a song about a kid he knew from Rochester. Sometimes his wife, Beth, would look at him as if to say, “Here he goes again ...” I’d laugh because I knew she’d heard these stories thousands of times. Then he’d tell them once more in an “Out Takes” column. And then there were the stories he’d help The Charlotte News publish. I can’t count how many times he’d come into the office with a picture of a Charlotter doing something interesting or a brief writeup of some event I didn’t know about. I often marveled at his ability to get these stories, how he seemed to know so many people, how he could move so easily between East and West Charlotte and navigate the different perspectives they embody. But I think the best stories Edd told were through the “Around Town” feature he compiled each issue. By providing a capsule summary of Charlotters’ successes, nuptials and deaths, Edd cast a light on the triumphs and losses that mark the grand story of a small town. Edd would probably smirk at

my putting his work in such lofty terms, but I can’t help it. I have romantic notions about newspapers and the people who devote themselves to telling a place’s story. People like Edd. Regrettably, since leaving Vermont in 2016 to begin my studies, I lost contact with Edd. Still, I vowed that when I finished my Ph.D., I’d reconnect with him so that he could share my good news with Charlotters in an “Around Town” column. This would give me a chance to hear a few more stories from him. I’m heartbroken I won’t be able to hear them now.

But I also know that whenever I think about my time in Charlotte—and I do often—my memories will be inextricably linked to the pleasure of knowing and working with one of its best storytellers, Edd Merritt. May his stories live on in The Charlotte News and beyond.

*Brett Sigurdson was a former Editor from 2012-2015.*



The Charlotte News Staff, July 2015. Left to right: Elizabeth Phillip-Morris, Ruah Swennerfelt, Brett Sigurdson, Shanley Hinge, Monica Marshall, Beth Merritt, Edd Merritt and Alex Bunten.



The Charlotte News file photo May 23, 2013 Edd Merritt goofs around at the Old Brick Store with former The Charlotte News editor Rowan Beck and their friend Doug Hartwell.



## Report from the Legislature

# Security from cyberattacks requires us to be prepared



Rep. Mike Yantachka

Having finished our work on bills initiated in the House, committees turned their attention to bills coming from the Senate and to other matters of importance.

The Biden administration recently issued a nationwide alert for Americans to elevate their cybersecurity posture in anticipation of a Russian response to economic sanctions imposed by the West because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Vermont is vulnerable to such an attack on many fronts, and it is imperative to be prepared to both minimize vulnerabilities and respond quickly if an attack is successful. The House Energy and Technology Committee started taking testimony on the state of preparedness of critical IT infrastructure in both the public and private sectors.

“It’s not if, it’s when, our systems get breached” is a line the House Energy and Technology committee heard repeatedly during our two days of testimony on Vermont’s cybersecurity defenses.

Cyberattacks can take many forms: phishing scams, malware, spyware, data breaches, ransomware and others. It is the responsibility of every entity that relies on a computer system connected to the internet to take the best precautions possible to prevent a cyberattack in the first place and to have a plan of action in case a breach is successful.

In addition to hearing from leadership at the Agency of Digital Services and the departments of Public Safety, Public Service and Financial Regulation, we heard from University of Vermont Health Network about lessons learned from the ransomware attack they experienced in October 2020.

We also heard from representatives from Vermont utilities and banks about their cybersecurity efforts to prevent loss of confidential information, financial resources and service. We explored how these organizations are working together to share best practices, intelligence on cyber threats, and how they are coordinating with state and federal governments to protect Vermonters’ data and infrastructure.

Banks and other financial institutions, regardless of size, are required by the federal government to maintain strong security measures for their systems and

to have incident response plans in place. The Vermont Bankers Association told us that inter-bank competition stops at the cybersecurity door, that there is excellent sharing of information among its members. Vermont’s electric utilities are subject to National Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection requirements. Also, the Vermont Public Utilities Commission requires Vermont utilities to report annually on their cybersecurity programs.

### Be alert and be aware

The testimony we heard gave us considerable assurance that strong protections are in place. But it also brought to our attention that we as individuals also have a part to play.

We need to know how we can be used and how to protect ourselves. The entry point for a breach is often accomplished by “phishing” a user, that is, sending an email or text that seems to be from a legitimate website, colleague or company with a link or attachment to open. The result is the surreptitious installation of malware or spyware on the user’s computer, or asking a user to verify a user ID and password or other personally identifiable information to allow the hacker to bypass security in a system.

With the possibility of attacks coming from many directions, protection of our data and the systems we depend on is both a collective and a personal responsibility. Here are some steps we can all take:

- Never click on a link or open an attachment unless you are expecting it or can verify that the sender is who they purport to be.
- If the email is from a company you have an account with, go to the website and log in there instead of clicking on a link.
- Use two-factor authentication if possible. This is an option that requires not only a password, but a verification code sent to your phone or email account to successfully log in.
- Maintain different passwords for different accounts. Password managers like Lastpass, Keeper or Zoho can remove the anxiety of having to remember multiple passwords.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Vermont groups continue the call to end U.S. participation in the war on Yemen

To the Editor:

On Sunday, March 27, activists from Brattleboro to Burlington again coordinated rallies calling for the Vermont delegation to act further to end the U.S.-backed war on Yemen. The Congressional Progressive Caucus statement of March 25 urged Pres. Biden to act but did not present a timeline for their next step, the introduction of a new Yemen War Powers Resolution. We thank Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for being one of the four senators signing that statement.

On March 1 in Burlington, at the offices of Rep. Welch (D-VT) and Sen. Sanders, Vermonters called for a new resolution

from Congress to force a floor vote in Congress to end U.S. participation in the catastrophic conflict, which has entered its eighth year.

Participants in Charlotte, Burlington and Brattleboro included members of Champlain Valley Cohousing, Windham World Affairs Council, Centre Congregational Church, The Vermont Workers’ Center, Burlington Friends Meeting, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Indigo Radio, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Action Corps, Brattleboro Solidarity and the owner of Everyone’s Books.

The U.S.-backed, Saudi-led invasion of Yemen began during the Obama administration and was meant to quickly oppose and topple the Houthi regime which had seized power. The invasion has degenerated into a bloody civil conflict. Despite Biden’s repeated statements that the U.S. should end its aid to Saudi Arabia for this war, and in his first days in office

that he was going to do just that, the U.S. continues to use our tax dollars to send weapons to Saudi Arabia and provide logistical support to the Saudi air force. This aids in perpetuating the war and the blockade that keeps food, medicines and fuel from reaching the starving population of Yemen. I definitely don’t want to be complicit in this or any war.

Catherine Bock  
Charlotte

### Thanks to our Legislators

To the Editor:

It is one thing to voice support for a cause. It is another to actually succeed with legislative action.

An antiquated state statute has limited

potential earnings on endowment funds by nonprofit cemeteries for years. The board of Morningside Cemetery reached out to Rep. Mike Yantachka and Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale for help. Both visited the historic property in East Charlotte and helped us write a bill.

They then shepherded the statutory changes through the House and Senate committees, including close examination by the state treasurer. The bill was signed into law by the governor last week.

Charlotte’s representation in Montpelier is in very good hands.

Nancy Richardson  
Charlotte  
*Richardson is president of the Morningside Cemetery Association.*

# “Celebrating Charlotte” Auction

Don't miss this seven day, online auction happening April 2 - 10

Start your bidding at: [charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website](http://charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website)



Featuring a wealth of items donated by generous Charlotte residents and businesses. For example:

- Gift certificates for local landscapers and craftsmen
- Legal work
- Tool sharpening
- Private music concerts
- Massage
- Accommodations
- CSA shares
- Rides to the airport and more!

*Funds raised will help support the the Charlotte Grange and our work in the community.*

To Advertise in

# The Charlotte News

Contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)

Commentary

We should not be killing predator species for recreation

Katerina Brumer

Humans share the planet with many different species of wildlife. Some receive protections as endangered species, like the Canada lynx in Vermont, while others receive little to no protections at all. Bobcats, close cousins to the Canada lynx, and coyotes are grouped in the latter category. As apex predators on Vermont’s landscape, these animals are vital contributors to healthy, vibrant ecosystems, but they’re often misunderstood and unfairly maligned.

One of the main roles coyotes and bobcats play are that of scavengers consuming carrion, mainly when their preferred food source is scarce. By eating the remains of dead animals, they clean the forest floor and may help stop the spread of diseases such as brucellosis. This may reduce the spread of the disease that could harm livestock, dogs, and humans.

It begs the question: why do some farmers shoot every coyote they see, especially in cases where the coyote is causing no harm at all? Both coyotes and bobcats prey on rodents that may carry Lyme disease, as well as small mammals like groundhogs and other species that may cause crop losses.

Many people are surprised to learn that coyotes are omnivores and eat berries and other plants, which aids in seed dispersal, the mechanism by which plant seeds are transported to new sites for germination, something we all benefit from. And for many of us, one of their most important roles is providing us with the opportunity to simply catch a glimpse of them and enjoy their

beauty and embodiment of what it means to be wild and free.

But despite all these ecological services, there are more than a few in Vermont who’d be happy without them here. Too often we hear, “We need to manage predator populations!”

Well, science would disagree. Unlike deer and other prey species, bobcats and coyotes do not need human interference to manage their population levels. Coyotes, for example, will defend a territory of 4-8 miles against other coyotes. This means that territory naturally limits coyote numbers. Despite that, coyotes may be hunted year-round, day and night, which not only conflicts with modern science, but with the ethics of hunting.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife allows hunting, including the use of hounds, and trapping seasons on both species for a mere \$23 trapping license and \$28 hunting license — small price tags to kill these animals merely for “sport.” Hunters bait both coyotes and bobcats with animal carcasses, call them into close range with high tech game-calling devices, and also unleash packs of hounds on them, an activity that has caused so much outrage that a bill, S.281, was introduced last month to ban it (for coyotes).

When I recently asked Fish & Wildlife why there are seasons on bobcats, they said, “As long as trapping or hunting does not impact the long-term sustainability of the population, we believe it is a legitimate way for people to access a local, free-ranging source of clothing and food.”

But no one eats bobcats or wears their fur in 2022. I was surprised to learn that as



Bill Lea Photography

A coyote romps in the snow.

long as an animal’s population can sustain hunting and trapping, Fish & Wildlife will allow it as a recreational opportunity. Most people would likely assume that, if there’s a hunting or trapping season on an animal, there’s some biological imperative. That is not always the case. Sometimes the reason is solely to offer more opportunities to “sportsmen.”

Bobcats and coyotes deserve society’s attention and respect not only for the benefits they provide to humans, but for their intrinsic

value as well. Wildlife faces a multitude of threats from rodenticide and lead poisoning to loss of habitat to new diseases, just to name a few.

In this era of climate change and other threats, both known and unknown, impacting wildlife, we should tread lightly. A good start would be no more killing solely for recreation.

*Katerina Brumer is a student at the University of Vermont with a major in animal science and a minor in wildlife biology.*

Puzzle

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19					20			21	22				
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

dish

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$69<sup>99</sup> MO. for 12 Mos.

America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card

1-888-416-7103

Offer ends 4/13/22

Blazing Fast Internet!

ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99 a/mo. where available

Prima Code: DSH100

dish

All offers require credit qualifications. 24 month commitment with early termination fee and scheduling. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper+2, Hopper+3, Hopper+4, Hopper+5, Hopper+6, Hopper+7, Hopper+8, Hopper+9, Hopper+10, Hopper+11, Hopper+12, Hopper+13, Hopper+14, Hopper+15, Hopper+16, Hopper+17, Hopper+18, Hopper+19, Hopper+20, Hopper+21, Hopper+22, Hopper+23, Hopper+24, Hopper+25, Hopper+26, Hopper+27, Hopper+28, Hopper+29, Hopper+30, Hopper+31, Hopper+32, Hopper+33, Hopper+34, Hopper+35, Hopper+36, Hopper+37, Hopper+38, Hopper+39, Hopper+40, Hopper+41, Hopper+42, Hopper+43, Hopper+44, Hopper+45, Hopper+46, Hopper+47, Hopper+48, Hopper+49, Hopper+50, Hopper+51, Hopper+52, Hopper+53, Hopper+54, Hopper+55, Hopper+56, Hopper+57, Hopper+58, Hopper+59, Hopper+60, Hopper+61, Hopper+62, Hopper+63, Hopper+64, Hopper+65, Hopper+66, Hopper+67, Hopper+68, Hopper+69, Hopper+70, Hopper+71, Hopper+72, Hopper+73, Hopper+74, Hopper+75, Hopper+76, Hopper+77, Hopper+78, Hopper+79, Hopper+80, Hopper+81, Hopper+82, Hopper+83, Hopper+84, Hopper+85, Hopper+86, Hopper+87, Hopper+88, Hopper+89, Hopper+90, Hopper+91, Hopper+92, Hopper+93, Hopper+94, Hopper+95, Hopper+96, Hopper+97, Hopper+98, Hopper+99, Hopper+100, Hopper+101, Hopper+102, Hopper+103, Hopper+104, Hopper+105, Hopper+106, Hopper+107, Hopper+108, Hopper+109, Hopper+110, Hopper+111, Hopper+112, Hopper+113, Hopper+114, Hopper+115, Hopper+116, Hopper+117, Hopper+118, Hopper+119, Hopper+120, Hopper+121, Hopper+122, Hopper+123, Hopper+124, Hopper+125, Hopper+126, Hopper+127, Hopper+128, Hopper+129, Hopper+130, Hopper+131, Hopper+132, Hopper+133, Hopper+134, Hopper+135, Hopper+136, Hopper+137, Hopper+138, Hopper+139, Hopper+140, Hopper+141, Hopper+142, Hopper+143, Hopper+144, Hopper+145, Hopper+146, Hopper+147, Hopper+148, Hopper+149, Hopper+150, Hopper+151, Hopper+152, Hopper+153, Hopper+154, Hopper+155, Hopper+156, Hopper+157, Hopper+158, Hopper+159, Hopper+160, Hopper+161, Hopper+162, Hopper+163, Hopper+164, Hopper+165, Hopper+166, Hopper+167, Hopper+168, Hopper+169, Hopper+170, Hopper+171, Hopper+172, Hopper+173, Hopper+174, Hopper+175, Hopper+176, Hopper+177, Hopper+178, Hopper+179, Hopper+180, Hopper+181, Hopper+182, Hopper+183, Hopper+184, Hopper+185, Hopper+186, Hopper+187, Hopper+188, Hopper+189, Hopper+190, Hopper+191, Hopper+192, Hopper+193, Hopper+194, Hopper+195, Hopper+196, Hopper+197, Hopper+198, Hopper+199, Hopper+200, Hopper+201, Hopper+202, Hopper+203, Hopper+204, Hopper+205, Hopper+206, Hopper+207, Hopper+208, Hopper+209, Hopper+210, Hopper+211, Hopper+212, Hopper+213, Hopper+214, Hopper+215, Hopper+216, Hopper+217, Hopper+218, Hopper+219, Hopper+220, Hopper+221, Hopper+222, Hopper+223, Hopper+224, Hopper+225, Hopper+226, Hopper+227, Hopper+228, Hopper+229, Hopper+230, Hopper+231, Hopper+232, Hopper+233, Hopper+234, Hopper+235, Hopper+236, Hopper+237, Hopper+238, Hopper+239, Hopper+240, Hopper+241, Hopper+242, Hopper+243, Hopper+244, Hopper+245, Hopper+246, Hopper+247, Hopper+248, Hopper+249, Hopper+250, Hopper+251, Hopper+252, Hopper+253, Hopper+254, Hopper+255, Hopper+256, Hopper+257, Hopper+258, Hopper+259, Hopper+260, Hopper+261, Hopper+262, Hopper+263, Hopper+264, Hopper+265, Hopper+266, Hopper+267, Hopper+268, Hopper+269, Hopper+270, Hopper+271, Hopper+272, Hopper+273, Hopper+274, Hopper+275, Hopper+276, Hopper+277, Hopper+278, Hopper+279, Hopper+280, Hopper+281, Hopper+282, Hopper+283, Hopper+284, Hopper+285, Hopper+286, Hopper+287, Hopper+288, Hopper+289, Hopper+290, Hopper+291, Hopper+292, Hopper+293, Hopper+294, Hopper+295, Hopper+296, Hopper+297, Hopper+298, Hopper+299, Hopper+300, Hopper+301, Hopper+302, Hopper+303, Hopper+304, Hopper+305, Hopper+306, Hopper+307, Hopper+308, Hopper+309, Hopper+310, Hopper+311, Hopper+312, Hopper+313, Hopper+314, Hopper+315, Hopper+316, Hopper+317, Hopper+318, Hopper+319, Hopper+320, Hopper+321, Hopper+322, Hopper+323, Hopper+324, Hopper+325, Hopper+326, Hopper+327, Hopper+328, Hopper+329, Hopper+330, Hopper+331, Hopper+332, Hopper+333, Hopper+334, Hopper+335, Hopper+336, Hopper+337, Hopper+338, Hopper+339, Hopper+340, Hopper+341, Hopper+342, Hopper+343, Hopper+344, Hopper+345, Hopper+346, Hopper+347, Hopper+348, Hopper+349, Hopper+350, Hopper+351, Hopper+352, Hopper+353, Hopper+354, Hopper+355, Hopper+356, Hopper+357, Hopper+358, Hopper+359, Hopper+360, Hopper+361, Hopper+362, Hopper+363, Hopper+364, Hopper+365, Hopper+366, Hopper+367, Hopper+368, Hopper+369, Hopper+370, Hopper+371, Hopper+372, Hopper+373, Hopper+374, Hopper+375, Hopper+376, Hopper+377, Hopper+378, Hopper+379, Hopper+380, Hopper+381, Hopper+382, Hopper+383, Hopper+384, Hopper+385, Hopper+386, Hopper+387, Hopper+388, Hopper+389, Hopper+390, Hopper+391, Hopper+392, Hopper+393, Hopper+394, Hopper+395, Hopper+396, Hopper+397, Hopper+398, Hopper+399, Hopper+400, Hopper+401, Hopper+402, Hopper+403, Hopper+404, Hopper+405, Hopper+406, Hopper+407, Hopper+408, Hopper+409, Hopper+410, Hopper+411, Hopper+412, Hopper+413, Hopper+414, Hopper+415, Hopper+416, Hopper+417, Hopper+418, Hopper+419, Hopper+420, Hopper+421, Hopper+422, Hopper+423, Hopper+424, Hopper+425, Hopper+426, Hopper+427, Hopper+428, Hopper+429, Hopper+430, Hopper+431, Hopper+432, Hopper+433, Hopper+434, Hopper+435, Hopper+436, Hopper+437, Hopper+438, Hopper+439, Hopper+440, Hopper+441, Hopper+442, Hopper+443, Hopper+444, Hopper+445, Hopper+446, Hopper+447, Hopper+448, Hopper+449, Hopper+450, Hopper+451, Hopper+452, Hopper+453, Hopper+454, Hopper+455, Hopper+456, Hopper+457, Hopper+458, Hopper+459, Hopper+460, Hopper+461, Hopper+462, Hopper+463, Hopper+464, Hopper+465, Hopper+466, Hopper+467, Hopper+468, Hopper+469, Hopper+470, Hopper+471, Hopper+472, Hopper+473, Hopper+474, Hopper+475, Hopper+476, Hopper+477, Hopper+478, Hopper+479, Hopper+480, Hopper+481, Hopper+482, Hopper+483, Hopper+484, Hopper+485, Hopper+486, Hopper+487, Hopper+488, Hopper+489, Hopper+490, Hopper+491, Hopper+492, Hopper+493, Hopper+494, Hopper+495, Hopper+496, Hopper+497, Hopper+498, Hopper+499, Hopper+500, Hopper+501, Hopper+502, Hopper+503, Hopper+504, Hopper+505, Hopper+506, Hopper+507, Hopper+508, Hopper+509, Hopper+510, Hopper+511, Hopper+512, Hopper+513, Hopper+514, Hopper+515, Hopper+516, Hopper+517, Hopper+518, Hopper+519, Hopper+520, Hopper+521, Hopper+522, Hopper+523, Hopper+524, Hopper+525, Hopper+526, Hopper+527, Hopper+528, Hopper+529, Hopper+530, Hopper+531, Hopper+532, Hopper+533, Hopper+534, Hopper+535, Hopper+536, Hopper+537, Hopper+538, Hopper+539, Hopper+540, Hopper+541, Hopper+542, Hopper+543, Hopper+544, Hopper+545, Hopper+546, Hopper+547, Hopper+548, Hopper+549, Hopper+550, Hopper+551, Hopper+552, Hopper+553, Hopper+554, Hopper+555, Hopper+556, Hopper+557, Hopper+558, Hopper+559, Hopper+560, Hopper+561, Hopper+562, Hopper+563, Hopper+564, Hopper+565, Hopper+566, Hopper+567, Hopper+568, Hopper+569, Hopper+570, Hopper+571, Hopper+572, Hopper+573, Hopper+574, Hopper+575, Hopper+576, Hopper+577, Hopper+578, Hopper+579, Hopper+580, Hopper+581, Hopper+582, Hopper+583, Hopper+584, Hopper+585, Hopper+586, Hopper+587, Hopper+588, Hopper+589, Hopper+590, Hopper+591, Hopper+592, Hopper+593, Hopper+594, Hopper+595, Hopper+596, Hopper+597, Hopper+598, Hopper+599, Hopper+600, Hopper+601, Hopper+602, Hopper+603, Hopper+604, Hopper+605, Hopper+606, Hopper+607, Hopper+608, Hopper+609, Hopper+610, Hopper+611, Hopper+612, Hopper+613, Hopper+614, Hopper+615, Hopper+616, Hopper+617, Hopper+618, Hopper+619, Hopper+620, Hopper+621, Hopper+622, Hopper+623, Hopper+624, Hopper+625, Hopper+626, Hopper+627, Hopper+628, Hopper+629, Hopper+630, Hopper+631, Hopper+632, Hopper+633, Hopper+634, Hopper+635, Hopper+636, Hopper+637, Hopper+638, Hopper+639, Hopper+640, Hopper+641, Hopper+642, Hopper+643, Hopper+644, Hopper+645, Hopper+646, Hopper+647, Hopper+648, Hopper+649, Hopper+650, Hopper+651, Hopper+652, Hopper+653, Hopper+654, Hopper+655, Hopper+656, Hopper+657, Hopper+658, Hopper+659, Hopper+660, Hopper+661, Hopper+662, Hopper+663, Hopper+664, Hopper+665, Hopper+666, Hopper+667, Hopper+668, Hopper+669, Hopper+670, Hopper+671, Hopper+672, Hopper+673, Hopper+674, Hopper+675, Hopper+676, Hopper+677, Hopper+678, Hopper+679, Hopper+680, Hopper+681, Hopper+682, Hopper+683, Hopper+684, Hopper+685, Hopper+686, Hopper+687, Hopper+688, Hopper+689, Hopper+690, Hopper+691, Hopper+692, Hopper+693, Hopper+694, Hopper+695, Hopper+696, Hopper+697, Hopper+698, Hopper+699, Hopper+700, Hopper+701, Hopper+702, Hopper+703, Hopper+704, Hopper+705, Hopper+706, Hopper+707, Hopper+708, Hopper+709, Hopper+710, Hopper+711, Hopper+712, Hopper+713, Hopper+714, Hopper+715, Hopper+716, Hopper+717, Hopper+718, Hopper+719, Hopper+720, Hopper+721, Hopper+722, Hopper+723, Hopper+724, Hopper+725, Hopper+726, Hopper+727, Hopper+728, Hopper+729, Hopper+730, Hopper+731, Hopper+732, Hopper+733, Hopper+734, Hopper+735, Hopper+736, Hopper+737, Hopper+738, Hopper+739, Hopper+740, Hopper+741, Hopper+742, Hopper+743, Hopper+744, Hopper+745, Hopper+746, Hopper+747, Hopper+748, Hopper+749, Hopper+750, Hopper+751, Hopper+752, Hopper+753, Hopper+754, Hopper+755, Hopper+756, Hopper+757, Hopper+758, Hopper+759, Hopper+760, Hopper+761, Hopper+762, Hopper+763, Hopper+764, Hopper+765, Hopper+766, Hopper+767, Hopper+768, Hopper+769, Hopper+770, Hopper+771, Hopper+772, Hopper+773, Hopper+774, Hopper+775, Hopper+776, Hopper+777, Hopper+778, Hopper+779, Hopper+780, Hopper+781, Hopper+782, Hopper+783, Hopper+784, Hopper+785, Hopper+786, Hopper+787, Hopper+788, Hopper+789, Hopper+790, Hopper+791, Hopper+792, Hopper+793, Hopper+794, Hopper+795, Hopper+796, Hopper+797, Hopper+798, Hopper+799, Hopper+800, Hopper+801, Hopper+802, Hopper+803, Hopper+804, Hopper+805, Hopper+806, Hopper+807, Hopper+808, Hopper+809, Hopper+810, Hopper+811, Hopper+812, Hopper+813, Hopper+814, Hopper+815, Hopper+816, Hopper+817, Hopper+818, Hopper+819, Hopper+820, Hopper+821, Hopper+822, Hopper+823, Hopper+824, Hopper+825, Hopper+826, Hopper+827, Hopper+828, Hopper+829, Hopper+830, Hopper+831, Hopper+832, Hopper+833, Hopper+834, Hopper+835, Hopper+836, Hopper+837, Hopper+838, Hopper+839, Hopper+840, Hopper+841, Hopper+842, Hopper+843, Hopper+844, Hopper+845, Hopper+846, Hopper+847, Hopper+848, Hopper+849, Hopper+850, Hopper+851, Hopper+852, Hopper+853, Hopper+854, Hopper+855, Hopper+856, Hopper+857, Hopper+858, Hopper+859, Hopper+860, Hopper+861, Hopper+862, Hopper+863, Hopper+864, Hopper+865, Hopper+866, Hopper+867, Hopper+868, Hopper+869, Hopper+870, Hopper+871, Hopper+872, Hopper+873, Hopper+874, Hopper+875, Hopper+876, Hopper+877, Hopper+878, Hopper+879, Hopper+880, Hopper+881, Hopper+882, Hopper+883, Hopper+884, Hopper+885, Hopper+886, Hopper+887, Hopper+888, Hopper+889, Hopper+890, Hopper+891, Hopper+892, Hopper+893, Hopper+894, Hopper+895, Hopper+896, Hopper+897, Hopper+898, Hopper+899, Hopper+900, Hopper+901, Hopper+902, Hopper+903, Hopper+904, Hopper+905, Hopper+906, Hopper+907, Hopper+908, Hopper+909, Hopper+910, Hopper+911, Hopper+912, Hopper+913, Hopper+914, Hopper+915, Hopper+916, Hopper+917, Hopper+918, Hopper+919, Hopper+920, Hopper+921, Hopper+922, Hopper+923, Hopper+924, Hopper+925, Hopper+926, Hopper+927, Hopper+928, Hopper+929, Hopper+930, Hopper+931, Hopper+932, Hopper+933, Hopper+934, Hopper+935, Hopper+936, Hopper+937, Hopper+938, Hopper+939, Hopper+940, Hopper+941, Hopper+942, Hopper+943, Hopper+944, Hopper+945, Hopper+946, Hopper+947, Hopper+948, Hopper+949, Hopper+950, Hopper+951, Hopper+952, Hopper+953, Hopper+954, Hopper+955, Hopper+956, Hopper+957, Hopper+958, Hopper+959, Hopper+960, Hopper+961, Hopper+962, Hopper+963, Hopper+964, Hopper+965, Hopper+966, Hopper+967, Hopper+968, Hopper+969, Hopper+970, Hopper+971, Hopper+972, Hopper+973, Hopper+974, Hopper+975, Hopper+976, Hopper+977, Hopper+978, Hopper+979, Hopper+980, Hopper+981, Hopper+982, Hopper+983, Hopper+984, Hopper+985, Hopper+986, Hopper+987, Hopper+988, Hopper+989, Hopper+990, Hopper+991, Hopper+992, Hopper+993, Hopper+994, Hopper+995, Hopper+996, Hopper+997, Hopper+998, Hopper+999, Hopper+1000, Hopper+1001, Hopper+1002, Hopper+1003, Hopper+1004, Hopper+1005, Hopper+1006, Hopper+1007, Hopper+1008, Hopper+1009, Hopper+1010, Hopper+1011, Hopper+1012, Hopper+1013, Hopper+1014, Hopper+1015, Hopper+1016, Hopper+1017, Hopper+1018, Hopper+1019, Hopper+1020, Hopper+1021, Hopper+1022, Hopper+1023, Hopper+1024, Hopper+1025, Hopper+1026, Hopper+1027, Hopper+1028, Hopper+1029, Hopper+1030, Hopper+1031, Hopper+1032, Hopper+1033, Hopper+1034, Hopper+1035, Hopper+1036, Hopper+1037, Hopper+1038, Hopper+1039, Hopper+1040, Hopper+1041, Hopper+1042, Hopper+1043, Hopper+1044, Hopper+1045, Hopper+1046, Hopper+1047, Hopper+1048, Hopper+1049, Hopper+1050, Hopper+1051, Hopper+1052, Hopper+1053, Hopper+1054, Hopper+1055, Hopper+1056, Hopper+1057, Hopper+1058, Hopper+1059, Hopper+1060, Hopper+1061, Hopper+1062, Hopper+1063, Hopper+1064, Hopper+1065, Hopper+1066, Hopper+1067, Hopper+1068, Hopper+1069, Hopper+1070, Hopper+1071, Hopper+1072, Hopper+1073, Hopper+1074, Hopper+1075, Hopper+1076, Hopper+1077, Hopper+1078, Hopper+1079, Hopper+1080, Hopper+1081, Hopper+1082, Hopper+1083, Hopper+1084, Hopper+1085, Hopper+1086, Hopper+1087, Hopper+1088, Hopper+1089, Hopper+1090, Hopper+1091, Hopper+1092, Hopper+1093, Hopper+1094, Hopper+1095, Hopper+1096, Hopper+1097, Hopper+1098, Hopper+1099, Hopper+1100, Hopper+1101, Hopper+1102, Hopper+1103, Hopper+1104, Hopper+1105, Hopper+1106, Hopper+1107, Hopper+1108, Hopper+1109, Hopper+1110, Hopper+1111, Hopper+1112, Hopper+1113, Hopper+1114, Hopper+1115, Hopper+1116, Hopper+1117, Hopper+1118, Hopper+1119, Hopper+1120, Hopper+1121, Hopper+1122, Hopper+1123, Hopper+1124, Hopper+1125, Hopper+1126, Hopper+1127, Hopper+1128, Hopper+1129, Hopper+1130, Hopper+1131, Hopper+1132, Hopper+1133, Hopper+1134, Hopper+1135, Hopper+1136, Hopper+1137, Hopper+1138, Hopper+1139, Hopper+1140, Hopper+1141, Hopper+1142, Hopper+1143, Hopper+1144, Hopper+1145, Hopper+1146, Hopper+1147, Hopper+1148, Hopper+1149, Hopper+1150, Hopper+1151, Hopper+1152, Hopper+1153, Hopper+1154, Hopper+1155, Hopper+1156, Hopper+1157, Hopper+1158, Hopper+1159, Hopper+1160, Hopper+1161, Hopper+1162, Hopper+1163, Hopper+1164, Hopper+1165, Hopper+1166, Hopper+1167, Hopper+1168, Hopper+1169, Hopper+1170, Hopper+1171, Hopper+1172, Hopper+1173, Hopper+1174, Hopper+1175, Hopper+1176, Hopper+1177, Hopper+1178, Hopper+1179, Hopper+1180, Hopper+1181, Hopper+1182, Hopper+1183, Hopper+1184, Hopper+1185, Hopper+1186, Hopper+1187, Hopper+1188, Hopper+1189, Hopper+1190, Hopper+1191, Hopper+1192, Hopper+1193, Hopper+1194, Hopper+1195, Hopper+1196, Hopper+1197, Hopper+1198, Hopper+1199, Hopper+1200, Hopper+1201, Hopper+1202, Hopper+1203, Hopper+1204, Hopper+1205, Hopper+1206, Hopper+1207, Hopper+1208, Hopper+1209, Hopper+1210, Hopper+1211, Hopper+1212, Hopper+1213, Hopper+1214, Hopper+1215, Hopper+1216, Hopper+1217, Hopper+1218, Hopper+1219, Hopper+1220, Hopper+1221, Hopper+1222, Hopper+1223, Hopper+1224, Hopper+1225, Hopper+1226, Hopper+1227, Hopper+1228, Hopper+1229, Hopper+1230, Hopper+1231, Hopper+1232, Hopper+1233, Hopper+1234, Hopper+1235, Hopper+1236, Hopper+1237, Hopper+1238, Hopper+1239, Hopper+1240, Hopper+1241, Hopper+1242, Hopper+1243, Hopper+1244, Hopper+1245, Hopper+1246, Hopper+1247, Hopper+1248, Hopper+1249, Hopper+1250, Hopper+1251, Hopper+1252, Hopper+1253, Hopper+1254, Hopper+1255, Hopper+1256, Hopper+1257, Hopper+1258, Hopper+1259, Hopper+1260, Hopper+1261, Hopper+1262, Hopper+1263, Hopper+1264, Hopper+1265, Hopper+1266, Hopper+1267, Hopper+1268, Hopper+1269, Hopper+1270, Hopper+1271, Hopper+1272, Hopper+1273, Hopper+1274, Hopper+1275, Hopper+1276, Hopper+1277, Hopper+1278, Hopper+1279, Hopper+1280, Hopper+1281, Hopper+1282, Hopper+1283, Hopper+1284, Hopper+1285, Hopper+1286, Hopper+1287, Hopper+1288, Hopper+1289, Hopper+1290, Hopper+1291, Hopper+1292, Hopper+1293, Hopper+1294, Hopper+1295, Hopper+1296, Hopper+1297, Hopper+1298, Hopper



## Commentary

# Don’t wait to contact ‘Permit Whisperers’ about projects

### Permits may take longer than you expect

Larry Lewack  
TOWN PLANNER

If you’ve been thinking about building an addition, toolshed or adding an accessory apartment to your Charlotte home, you’re not alone. As the weather warms, many residents are dreaming of freshening up their living space, adding storage capacity or other construction. Some may even be planning to build a new home, add to their acreage or subdivide land for sale.

But which of these projects need a permit? Many do, some don’t, and some projects may not even be allowed. How to know the difference? And, where do you start?

#### Permit Whispers ready to help

Charlotte’s professional planning and zoning staff team, aka “the Permit Whisperers,” stand ready to help. We can answer your questions about what projects

need permits, how Charlotte’s land use regulations (LURs) affect what you can build and where, and assist you in the process of getting the permit(s) you may need.

First up, an introduction to the players:

- Keith Osborne was recently hired as the town’s new zoning administrator. He brings over eight years of experience in planning and zoning from the Lake George region of northern New York. His roles include handling zoning permit applications for most simple building projects, writing those permits, zoning enforcement and reviewing and writing permits for water and wastewater systems.

- Larry Lewack is the town planner. He assists applicants who are proposing subdivisions, boundary adjustments and site plans for non-residential projects. He works with applicants to prepare projects for consideration by the town’s development review board (DRB) and staffs board meetings when those projects are discussed. He also assists the planning commission in preparing updates to the land use regulations and to the town plan.

- Rebecca Kaplan is the planning and zoning assistant. She also works with applicants and staffs the development review board for conditional use and

variance reviews. As a licensed architect, Rebecca has a background in project development.

#### Development review board changes

One important change is the town’s recent consolidation of all permit reviews into a single development review board. Prior to last December, some projects were approved by the zoning board of adjustment, some by the planning commission and some projects by both boards. Now, our intrepid new development review board handles all reviews.

The development review board has been very busy. Its members include Charles Russell, Gerald Bouchard, JD Herlihy and Christina Asquith. The board meets twice per month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays, at Town Hall.

Back to your project ideas: If you’re new in town or new to the process, here’s a comforting fact: 80-90 percent of projects can be approved with a simple zoning permit within two to three weeks of submitting a complete application.

But, please don’t make assumptions and start building without first securing the permits you may need. Projects built without needed permits are subject to enforcement action, including potential fines of up to \$200 a day. “Do I Need a Permit? Zoning FAQs.” provides a good introduction. It is available on the town

website or here [tinyurl.com/kewa7x2y](https://tinyurl.com/kewa7x2y). Because Charlotte has authority from the state of Vermont to approve wastewater system permits, those applications are processed locally. Those permits are received and managed by Keith Osborne, with support from an outside septic engineer contracted by the town.

#### Projects that require development review board consideration

Please note: If your project involves one or more of the following elements, it will need development review board consideration and approval with additional fees and an extended time frame, which can take two to six months from the original application:

- Subdivision of land for new building lots or to modify a previously approved subdivision and/or building lot
- Site planning, for commercial building and shoreline modifications
- Any building projects or tree removal on Thompson’s Point
- Adjusting lot lines between parcels, for land swaps and sales
- Approving a change in use (e.g., from a single-family home to a bed & breakfast inn or to another commercial use)
- Allowing a variance from lot line standards for setbacks, height limits, etcetera.
- Appeal of a zoning permit.

Required application forms and fees for these projects vary, depending on the specifics of your project. The permit fee schedule and a link to all permit forms is in the FAQs document linked above.

We realize it can be challenging to understand and navigate Charlotte’s complex land use regulations. That’s why your planning and zoning staff provides free, upfront assistance in the form of a preliminary consultation. We encourage you to call or email us with your questions and to schedule an appointment if you have project ideas but don’t know where to start. Contact zoning administrator Keith Osborne for a meeting to discuss your plans and review what permits are needed at 802-425-3533 ext. 207, or via email at [zoningadmin@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:zoningadmin@townofcharlotte.com).

If you’re not building anything this year but have concerns about a land use project that’s been proposed in town, many details are available on the town website. Here’s a page with links to projects currently under review by the development review board: [bit.ly/DRB\\_current\\_projects](https://bit.ly/DRB_current_projects). All of the projects listed there have had, or will have, public hearings publicized in advance. Adjoining property owners receive written notification ahead of a hearing and have the right to speak and be heard. Another page lists all recent development review board permit decisions: [bit.ly/DRB\\_2022\\_decisions](https://bit.ly/DRB_2022_decisions).

Outside of the permitting process, the town planner also works with members of the town’s planning commission to improve the land use regulations. We prepare draft updates to these regulations to rationalize and streamline the town’s permitting process. We also look for opportunities to update the community’s vision for its future via updates to the town plan.

The current town plan is due for an update in 2024; that process begins this year.

The planning commission is currently working on two rounds of updates to the land use regulations. These drafts will be presented for public hearings this summer, to be followed by town votes this fall and winter. More details on planning work in progress can be found here: [bit.ly/PC\\_draft\\_2022\\_LURs\\_amendments](https://bit.ly/PC_draft_2022_LURs_amendments).

Your planning and zoning staff can be reached Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with additional hours available by appointment. If you want to get something built this year, it’s best to get started early.

Please call us at 802-425-3533 ext. 2. We’re ready to answer your questions and get you the permits you need.



**PEASE MOUNTAIN LAW**

WE HAVE MOVED!

Our office is now located at:

73 Charlotte Road  
Hinesburg, Vermont

Business Formation & Transactions  
Land Use Permitting  
Real Estate Transactions  
Wills & Trusts

Michael T. Russell  
(802) 264-4888

[peasemountainlaw.com](https://www.peasemountainlaw.com)  
[info@peasemountainlaw.com](mailto:info@peasemountainlaw.com)



**KILEY LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION**

Full Service Landscape Installation

Stone Work—  
*Walls, Steps, Walks & Patios*

Plantings

**Tree Spade**

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

Est. 1993  
Deedle Kiley • 425-2882





# Hi Neighbor!

## Jessica Lahey: Parenting from a teacher’s perspective



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

Jessica Lahey was a teacher for two decades, but writing was her first love. Now, The New York Times bestselling author has the best of both worlds, as a writer whose work is geared toward those who teach children.

“I’ve written since I was little,” Lahey said. “I was editor-in-chief of my school newspaper, and my first publication was in the student edition of The Boston Globe.”

Her husband, Tim, suggested she write about teaching since that was her passion.

“I told him nobody wanted to read about teaching,” she recalls, “but I began blogging about what I did in the classroom.”

After a few years, Lahey’s blog was noticed by someone who managed the Core Knowledge Foundation blog for people in education policy and she was asked to write for the foundation. Lahey initially demurred because she wasn’t a policy expert, but eventually she agreed to do it.

Her breakthrough came in 2013 when she wrote about an Australian study on the impact of overparenting. Deciding it was more than just a blog post, she submitted it to The Atlantic magazine on a Monday.

“They accepted it on Tuesday,” she said, “and by Friday I was doing national media in New York.”

Lahey’s experience in the classroom includes grades six through 12 in both public and private schools, but her heart is in middle school. She planned for her 2015 book, “The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go so Their Kids Can Succeed,” to center it around middle school students, but her editor convinced her to include all ages.

“While the book covers all grades, I think the spirit is really centered in middle school,” Lahey said.

Lahey’s family has a history of alcoholism. After getting a publisher for “The Gift of Failure,” she knew she wouldn’t be able to work full time and

write if she continued drinking.

“I got sober on June 7, 2013,” she said.

Her experience with substance abuse helped inform her second book, “The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence.” Lahey had been teaching at Valley Vista, an addiction treatment facility in Bradford and wanted to explore what could be done differently for the kids in rehab and help keep them out of rehab in the first place.

In the book, Lahey discusses the inoculation theory, which comes from sociology.

“I needed to know what the experts meant when they said, ‘Substance use disorder is preventable,’” she said.

Lahey describes ways to help kids feel comfortable refuting certain canards like “everyone does drugs” or “it’s no big deal.” She added that those skills can also help kids avoid pitfalls like having sex before they are ready or getting into a car with a drunk driver.

Lahey has written a number of articles for The Atlantic and for several years she wrote a semi-weekly column in The New York Times called “Parent-Teacher Conference.” Of late, she has been a contributor to The Washington Post. After being interviewed on Vermont Public Radio, she became one of their regular commentators. That experience helped her gain enough confidence in her vocal skills to be the voice behind the audio version of “The Gift of Failure.”

“The book was written in my teacher voice,” Lahey said, “so it was important for me to do it.”

Lahey is currently working on two different projects. She had almost completed an 80-page proposal, market analysis and sample chapters for one book when she began to visualize a second one and is currently working with her agent to decide how to prioritize her time.

In between writing, Lahey has begun learning other skills, she said. “We moved here two and a half years ago, and there are a number of changes we wanted to make to the house. I just gutted and refinished a bathroom by myself.”

After reading a book called “The Standards-Based Classroom,” which was written partially by people involved with



Jessica Lahey

Photo contributed

Champlain Valley Union High School, Lahey and her husband decided to confine their house search to towns in this area.

“What’s been really rewarding about

coming to Charlotte is that it’s been a really cool place to go through the pandemic,” she said. “People really care about each other here.”



**The Charlotte News**

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST AND GET THE LATEST TOWN NEWS ONCE A WEEK!

SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE

[CharlotteNewsVT.org](http://CharlotteNewsVT.org)



Four Seasons



# Welcome to the High Velocity Market Era



-80.0%

Home Inventory in Charlotte

+58.2%

Median Sales Price in Charlotte

-66.7%

Months Supply of Inventory in Charlotte

Source: Northwest VT Board of Realtors FEB 2021 vs. FEB 2022 Charlotte, VT



We are calling this a High-Velocity Market - You can sell your property for extraordinary premiums in a matter of 5 days. We help you maximize multiple offers and find the next property efficiently. Many buyers will allow you to lease back for 3-6 months while you find a property to buy.

There are good options if you are prepared. That’s where we come in. We balance and negotiate multiple offers to success. And we prepare you on how to buy in this fast paced market.



Contact us today for a free consultation!

550 HINESBURG RD. | S. BURLINGTON

802.343.9433 | 802.578.9552 | [FourSeasonsSIR.com](http://FourSeasonsSIR.com)

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



## Business

# Lake Champlain Chamber taking applications for leadership class

From Lake Champlain Chamber

Leadership Champlain, the Lake Champlain Chamber’s workforce development program, is accepting applications for the class of 2023. Established in 1989, Leadership Champlain is a professional development and community engagement program intended to foster leadership in professionals who will serve the local community. The application deadline is April 18.

“The challenges facing our state right now—workforce, affordability, healthcare, diversity, housing, the pandemic—will only be resolved with concerted efforts from community members willing to step up,” said Alex Bunten of Charlotte, Leadership Champlain program director.

Leadership Champlain participants take part in retreats, full-day seminars, service projects, leader interviews, discussion groups and community tours from September to June, meeting monthly to explore community issues, to explore themselves as leaders and to build relationships.

“The success of this program over the years is a testament to how much graduates gain from it,” said Cathy Davis, president of the Lake Champlain Chamber.

Leadership Champlain is limited to 36 people and the application process is competitive. The ideal applicant for Leadership Champlain is someone who exhibits a potential for leadership and demonstrates a commitment to the



community.

Tuition for the 2022–23 program is \$2,300 for chamber members and \$2,800 for non-members. Tuition assistance is available on a limited basis. See application for further details.

Lake Champlain Chamber is also accepting service project proposals from area nonprofits and municipalities for the class of 2023; that deadline is also April 18.

Around six service projects are chosen from the proposals, and a group of up to six cohort members work to complete the projects over nine months period from October to June. The service projects are designed to be a leadership learning experience for the participants and a benefit to the organization.

“This is a great opportunity for organizations to receive pro-bono assistance from a team of motivated and engaged professionals,” said Bunten.

Recent projects have dealt with strategic planning, marketing issues and communications, but applications are open to any project with a community focus and defined scope.

Over 200 projects have been completed since Leadership Champlain was established in 1988. Each cohort contributes over 2,500 volunteer service hours to the selected projects.

To find out more about the leadership program or the service projects, or to apply, visit [lccvermont.org/leadership](http://lccvermont.org/leadership). Contact Bunten with questions at [alex@vermont.org](mailto:alex@vermont.org).

## Trimming the trees



Photo by Vince Crockenberg

On a brisk, overcast Sunday morning this week, Charlotte Tree Tribe members VJ Comai, who is also Burlington’s city arborist, and Sue Smith, Charlotte’s deputy tree warden, trimmed the young maple trees on the south side of Ferry Road downhill and just west of the intersection with Greenbush Road. The trees were planted as saplings with money provided by the Rutter Family Charlotte Beautification Fund, which made the town’s roadside tree restoration project possible.

*The*  
**Charlotte News**

**SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS!**  
Are you proud of your little sluggers and want to see your children featured in the newspaper?  
Send your sports photos to [news@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:news@TheCharlotteNews.org)  
We would love to publish them!

A background image showing a group of children in red jerseys and black shorts playing a sport, possibly soccer or football, on a grassy field. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting motion.

Give yourself the edge with  
**THE SHARPER BLADE**

A high-quality kitchen knife with a black handle and a large, sharp silver blade, shown horizontally.

**Kitchen Knives Sharpened**  
Fast turnaround • Convenient Charlotte drop off  
For more information contact **Bill Lowell**  
(802) 363-2447 • [TheSharperBlade109@gmail.com](mailto:TheSharperBlade109@gmail.com)

**Update the look of your home or business**

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

**802-345-2038** or  
[classicshadespainting@gmail.com](mailto:classicshadespainting@gmail.com)  
Local references available.

**High quality work at an affordable price**

The logo for Classic Shades Painting features a stylized yellow house with a blue roof and a blue hand holding a paintbrush. Below the house, the words 'CLASSIC SHADES' are written in large, bold, blue letters, and 'PAINTING' is written in smaller blue letters below that.A close-up image of a paintbrush with a yellow handle and a blue ferrule, with a small amount of white paint on the bristles.



# Stronger Together

## There’s more to learn than reading, writing and ‘rithmetic



Louis Cox, Ruah Swennerfelt and Linda Hamilton  
CONTRIBUTORS

When East Charlotte’s Lyceum Schoolhouse served local children (approximately 1870–1950), the “Three Rs” of reading, writing and ‘rithmetic were core teachings. Today the building is home to the Charlotte Grange and the core teachings include the “Eight Rs” of responsible use of natural resources—respect, refuse, reduce, reciprocate, reuse, repurpose, repair and recycle. Here’s why.

When the Grange movement began in America after the Civil War, cities were growing and grocery stores were replacing farmers markets. Urban residents were forgetting where their food came from, forgetting about the needs and concerns of farmers who raised their food, and forgetting about the importance of healthy soil, clean air and water. The Grange was determined to remind us to support rural communities.

At that time, most consumer products were made of natural materials and recycling was the norm. Old clothes became writing paper or patchwork quilts. Leftover kitchen scraps were food for chickens and hogs. And worn-out items biodegraded easily into non-toxic residues. Nowadays many products, from food packaging to automobiles, are difficult or impractical (if not impossible) to recycle. And today vast amounts of non-biodegradable and toxic wastes are overwhelming the atmosphere, the oceans and the soil, severely damaging the health of our living planet.

Tossing recyclables into a blue bin just isn’t enough. Responsible use of resources means we also need to thoughtfully reduce our overall material consumption and find ways to reuse materials in order to cut down the volume of castoffs. Here are the “Eight Rs” that can guide our efforts:

**Respect:** Choose manufactured products for durability, low environmental impact and economic justice for those who make those products, not just price and convenience. Seek out products made from recycled materials to strengthen the market for them.

**Refuse:** Refuse to support wasteful



Louis Cox collects electronic waste for recycling at Green Up Day.

Photo by Ruah Swennerfelt

practices. Keep reusable bags handy for shopping. If your favorite eatery uses non-recyclable or compostable containers/utensils, bring your own; and encourage the manager to switch to something more eco-friendly. Refuse to buy products that are over-packaged or in single-use plastic containers, even if cheaper.

**Reduce:** Whenever possible, buy quality goods that don’t need replacement or repair as often. Shop where products are available in bulk or minimal packaging, bringing reusable containers from home, labeled with their tare weights.

**Reciprocate:** Share tools/supplies with friends and neighbors, to avoid duplication of expensive items with limited or seasonal use.

**Reuse:** Look for used items before buying new. Use rechargeable batteries when possible. Try home-canning and home-brewing, which reuse the same glass containers. Donate to and shop at charitable organization outlets such as thrift stores to keep useful items circulating in the community.

**Repurpose:** Find new uses for old items, such as worn-out clothes for cleaning rags, emptied jars to store shop and household supplies, and newspapers/cardboard as garden mulch. Turn kitchen

scraps into compost.

**Repair:** Learn how to make simple repairs at home or use local repair services.

**Recycle:** Yes, there is also the official blue recycling bin. But sadly, it rarely leads to true recycling — that is, breaking down items into basic components and making more of the same items from the recovered materials. Most “recyclable” materials are “down-cycled” — that is, processed into lower-grade products, but only if the cost is less than making those items from new materials.

We are in the habit of acquiring and throwing away a huge amount of “stuff” without thinking too much about it. The Grange joins the increasing call for more thoughtful and responsible consumption in order to minimize our ecological footprints and leave a livable world for future generations.

For more help understanding and facing this challenge, see [storyofstuff.org](http://storyofstuff.org) and also our list of local opportunities.

*Louis Cox, Ruah Swennerfelt and Linda Hamilton are members of the Charlotte Grange ([charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website](http://charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website)). Cox and Swennerfelt are also on the board of Sustainable Charlotte ([sustainablecharlottevt.org](http://sustainablecharlottevt.org)).*

### Where To Find Local Help

**Charlotte Library:** collects/recycles small electronics, batteries, corks and stretchy plastic; also, annual book sales.

**Sustainable Charlotte** partners with the Charlotte Library, the Grange, and Good Point Recycling of Middlebury to collect/recycle electronic waste on Green Up Day (May 7); also Repair Cafes for requesting/offering simple repairs to common household items (April 30).

**Onion River Co-op, Healthy Living and Shelburne Market** offer many staples in bulk. Farm Craft VT (on Route 116 in Shelburne, [farmcraftvt.com](http://farmcraftvt.com)) offers minimally-packaged personal care products, teas and herbs produced organically on site.

**Charitable donation/resale stores nearby:** SCHIP in Shelburne and Twice is Nice in Hinesburg (mostly clothing); Sweet Charity in Vergennes (household goods, small furniture); RePlay in South Burlington (household goods and clothing); Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Williston (household goods, appliances, furniture, clothing); ReSource in Williston (household goods, appliances, furniture, building supplies, clothing, jewelry).

**Chittenden County Solid Waste** District transfer stations in Hinesburg and Williston collect a wide range of material for recycling; and [cswd.net](http://cswd.net) offers extensive information on what and how to recycle.



Send us  
your photos!

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

The  
Charlotte News



## Education

# CVU powers to first robotics state championship

Staff report

The Champlain Valley Union High School RoboHawks won Vermont’s FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics championships.

FIRST Tech Challenge is an international robotics program that more than 30,000 students worldwide participate in.

The 16 teams in the state competition on Saturday, March 19 included for the first time CVU’s junior varsity team—the JV Redhawks Robotics.

Both CVU teams made it to the elimination round, and the semi-final match featured the JV team against the varsity team — and the JV team almost won.

In other competition, the RoboHawks, in an alliance with a team from U-32, Bubbert Innovations, made it to the finals to battle the team alliance from South Burlington and Essex high schools. In the best-of-three finals, the RoboHawks won the first match, but lost the second match after taking penalty points. The RoboHawks-Bubbert Innovations alliance took the tie-breaking third match 138-124.

Although the robot is the physical representation of their work, the FIRST program work involves more than just a robot. Students also completed a

presentation where the team is judged on design, community outreach and teamwork. Judges focus on teams’ abilities to clearly and effectively record and communicate their design thinking and process.

The RoboHawks won four awards, the most prestigious of which was the Inspire Award, granted to the team that best embodies the spirit of the competition and FIRST Robotics core values.

With the wins, the CVU RoboHawks secured a place in the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston, Texas, in April, an event featuring teams from all over the United States and the world.

It is rare for a Vermont team to make it to the World Championships, and this is the first time the CVU Robohawks have ever qualified for this competition.

Besides being an opportunity for these students to share their passion with some of the best high school engineering students from all over the world, they will be able to see and discuss the solutions to the same problems they have worked to solve.

The RoboHawks are working to raise \$7,500 dollars to attend the World Championships in Houston. To contribute, visit [robohawks5741.com](http://robohawks5741.com) or email [overdonk@cvsdvt.org](mailto:overdonk@cvsdvt.org).



Photo contributed  
The Champlain Valley Union High School RoboHawks won Vermont’s FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics championship and now prepare to head to the International competition in Houston, TX.

# ‘High School Musical, Jr.’ brings energy and joy to school

Naomi Strada  
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Some of this week’s highlighted learning experiences seen by Charlotte Central School administrators in classroom visits during busy week of learning included:

- The final Red Clover book read-aloud in K–4 library classes is always a special experience

- In STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math), students in 5th grade have been working to code using Code Blocks in the TinkerCad platform. There were many great examples of students thinking, creating and making, as well as collaborating, persevering and redesigning based on their successes and challenges.

- Third graders are writing fractured fairy tales — taking traditional fairy tales and exploring ways to change key story elements such as plot, characters, setting and point of view to create their own take on the tale. This is a great writing process that blends imagination and skill development!
- Volleyball is coming to a close and it has been an excellent “mid-season” experience.

moments with students taking positive risks, delivering wonderful performances, the sense of community on display, the wide-eyed wonder of many of the school’s youngest classes and the exuberant support from the student body for their schoolmates up on the stage.

### Planning for next year

The staff is deep into planning for the upcoming school year, which includes looking at data and determining the highest priorities to be addressed, including the use of pandemic-response Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

Some of the funds will be used for shoring up social-emotional learning and mental health supports for students by expanding the current half-time school services clinician position from the Howard Center to full time.

### Fifth and Sixth Grade Band Concert Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

The 5th and 6th grade bands and chorus will present their first-ever concert in the multi-purpose room. Students should arrive at 6 p.m. and go to the band room first. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Down Syndrome Day

March 21 was World Down Syndrome Day. In 2013, the theme of Wearing Odd Socks was initiated to raise awareness about Down Syndrome. The idea was created because chromosomes are shaped like socks and people with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome.

### High School Musical, Jr.

Last week the Spring Musical returned to Charlotte Central School with “High School Musical, Jr.”

Many weeks of hard work by cast, crew and directors went into the first all-school gathering since spring 2020, and our multi-purpose room was full of such great energy and joy.

There were also lots of teary eyes among faculty and staff at spectacular

## THE THICK ENVELOPES ARE IN!

**Congratulations on Acceptances to ...  
with over \$1 Million in Merit Awards!!**

American University  
Dickinson College  
Drexel Univ. Fashion Design  
George Washington Univ. (two!)  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Indiana University  
Mass. Institute of Technology (MIT)  
Univ. of Massachusetts - Amherst  
University of Rochester  
University of Vermont (many!)

... Check out the complete list of colleges and scholarships at [CollegeEssayCoach.com](http://CollegeEssayCoach.com) including one U.S. Presidential Scholar Nominee!

*Plus, summer programs at BU, Champlain, Drexel, Georgetown*

Founded by Margo Bartsch, celebrating 18 years of success



**College Essay Coach<sup>SM</sup>**

[www.CollegeEssayCoach.com](http://www.CollegeEssayCoach.com)  
[mbartsch@CollegeEssayCoach.com](mailto:mbartsch@CollegeEssayCoach.com) • (802) 985-3770



# Book Review

## Some books are beach reads, some books ... not so much



Katherine Arthaud  
CONTRIBUTOR

A few years ago, I wrote about a trip I took with family and friends to the Galapagos.

Between snorkeling adventures, sea lion sightings, sunsets and naturalist-guided walks around the sandy paths of the islands there, a few of us would retreat to our rooms or deck chairs with whatever book we had brought with us on the journey. My sister had brought some weighty paperback philosophy tome, a friend a treatise on modern educational practices, someone else had brought some articles ... basically, reading they had been wanting for some time to get around to.

Me, I brought a hot-off-the press, page-turning, Lisa Scottoline thriller, which (as you might guess or remember) ended up getting passed around to every reader on board, while the more serious literary works got tossed to the wayside for later or never. Seriously, I had a waiting list for this book.

Well, fast forward a half-decade (maybe more) and picture me on a sandy, sunlit beach in Florida with the current book club read in hand: Markus Zusak’s “Bridge of Clay.” I had a week or so to finish it and figured what better place to do so than on my vacation. Well ... I tried, I really tried — ask my daughter, she saw it all — but I ended up having to accept that, for this reader at least, while it may be many things to many people, this book is not a beach read.

“Bridge of Clay,” while at first appearing simple, turns out to be a rather complex and confusing story, peppered with hints, flashbacks and vaguenesses whose significance is not revealed till later. One example: a peg. Another: a murderer. Another: a mule.

“In the beginning,” the book begins, “there was one murderer, one mule and one boy, but this isn’t the beginning, it’s before it, it’s me, and I’m Matthew, and here I am, in the kitchen, in the night — the old river mouth of light — and I’m punching and punching away. The house is quiet around me. As it is, everyone else is asleep.”

Murderer? Did someone say murderer? Is this a mystery? A crime novel? I won’t spoil anything by saying much more, but this is an unusual and challenging read.

Zusak is also the author of the well-loved “The Book Thief,” published in 2005 — international bestseller, translated into 63 languages, sold 16 million copies, and read by most of our middle-schoolers back in the day.

I read “The Book Thief” a few years ago and really liked it. I don’t recall it being nearly as confusing or complex as “Bridge of Clay” (published 13 years later). In “The Book Thief,” which takes place during World War II, Death is a character, and also the narrator, and a constant presence throughout ...

though not quite in the way one might expect. At one point, Death says, “Even death has a heart.” In “Bridge of Clay,” death is not a character, but it is, I would say, a recurring theme. Right away, there is this murderer, and it takes a while to learn what this means. And right away, the reader learns this book is by a family devastated by loss.

I finished the book, eventually. (I usually do finish books, though on one occasion, I did hate a book so much that I hurled it into a recycling bin, never to retrieve it.) It provided excellent fodder for a book club discussion, but as I said, would not be my first pick for a beach vacation.

So ... to continue the story begun above ... what I did, once I realized I was not getting very far with “Bridge of Clay” on Sandy Beach, was to put it back in my suitcase and read something else.

I found the replacement right away in the tiny library at the place I was staying. “The Judge’s List” by John Grisham. “Perfect!” I thought when I saw it on the new releases counter.

And it was perfect. The minute I started it I was in love. In love with the straightforward narrative, the simple (but not boring) characters, the plot, which started at a point in time and galloped forward at a fast clip. Great literature? I don’t know but who cares. Just right for vacation reading. Beach, airport, plane, hotel ... this book was a perfect and entertaining companion. Just what the doctor ordered: fast-paced, exciting, linear. Phew.

“The Judge’s List” builds on characters introduced in Grisham’s 2016 novel “The Whistler,” in which investigator Lacy Stoltz works on a case involving a corrupt judge taking bribes from a crime syndicate. In “The Judge’s List” we meet up with Lacy again, a few years older and wiser, weary of her job at the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct, and ready to make some kind of change, till a woman with many names contacts her with a case involving a cunning, ruthless, patient killer, who also happens to be a Florida judge.

I will say no more, but highly recommend you think about bringing this with you on your next vacation. Trust me, you won’t even notice the turbulence on the plane ride there or the seagull stealing your lunch.

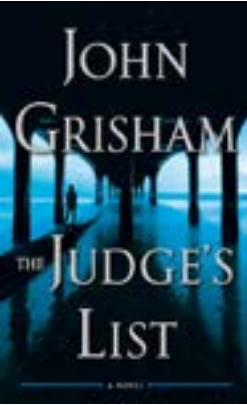
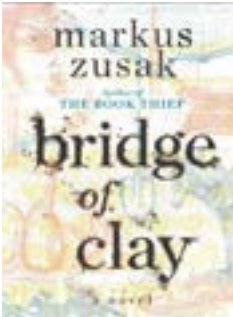
I will never forget when Grisham’s “The Firm” came out, back in 1991. I had heard it was good, brought it on vacation with me, and literally could not, would not, put it down, to the point where I was walking through the airport, dragging my luggage (and probably several children) behind me, paperback held up in front of my face, eyes glued to the text, desperate to find out what in the world was going to happen next.

I guess, in the end, the moral of the story is that there is a time and a place for everything. I will try to remember this when next I pack for a vacation.

A book that might be just great for winter evenings by the fire might not work so well on a lounge chair by the ocean with the sun pouring down, waves rolling in and out, seagulls crying, frisbees flying ...

Suddenly I am missing vacation so much, I cannot go on. But hopefully spring is around the corner.

Happy reading!





# Weed’s in the Garden

## Gardeners take your mark, get seeds, get ready, go



Joan Weed  
CONTRIBUTOR

Are you feeling those subtle hints that gardening season is truly coming? This month, I plan to repeat some instructions from five years ago. We have new readers and I hope new gardeners can benefit.

Seed starting! Yes! Gardeners, start your engines — finally.

You know all those seed packets you just couldn’t resist tossing in your cart in mid-winter? Well, the time has finally come for starting some.

I say “some” because all seeds are not best begun inside. Many prefer direct sowing in the garden. Here we’ll deal with those that need a head start inside where we live.

First of all, you might be asking why start seeds inside at all? You can buy perfectly grown plants at your local nursery.

The main reason to my way of thinking is to have the precise varieties you’d like. And besides, it’s fun.

Start those that take a while to germinate and become a size that can withstand outdoor wind and weather—vegetables such as eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, parsley, basil, cabbages, broccoli, leeks and lettuces.

Flowers to begin inside are perennials, mostly. Annual flowers do well with direct garden sowing.

Seeds can be held over from year to year if stored properly. That means completely dry and in a neutral temperature setting. A few kinds of seeds perform best when bought fresh each season, such as alliums and parsley.

To test for viability of saved seeds,

place a few in a folded, damp paper towel and then in a jar or plastic bag. Observe for a few days and the percentage of your test seeds usually corresponds with those remaining in the packet.

Some seeds remain viable for many years. If you’d like to save seeds and have them come in true, you must save only open-pollinated varieties. Hybrids are not good candidates.

Some seeds need preparation before sowing. Peas, beans and parsley could benefit from an overnight soaking first. There is also a legume inoculant for pea and bean seeds that aids in germination.

Others need scarification, like moonflowers. This means nicking the outer coating with a sharp knife to allow moisture to penetrate the shell more easily. Then there is stratification, which means planting in moist starting mix and placing (covered) in a cool environment (like the refrigerator) for months. Cardinal flower is one that comes to mind for this treatment.

Here, think what Mother Nature would do for a hint about which could use this method.

You’ll need a few supplies to begin. First, a soilless mix for filling your containers. Containers can be specially bought divided planters or old yogurt cups. Clamshell containers from salad or such make good planters and come with their own covers to hold in moisture. This should be removed once germination takes place. Depends on your budget. Drainage is important, so holes might need to be added to the bottom.

You’ll need trays to hold your choice of planters because you will want to water from below so as not to wash away your seeds. Some sort of labels are essential and a sharpie or grease pencil. I sometimes cut used cottage cheese or yogurt containers into V-shaped labels to stick in the planters.

Lighting is important, especially after germination takes place. I have used



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Many varieties of seeds can be successfully started indoors in potting soil or peat pellets with proper light and moisture.

ordinary shop lights on adjustable chains with good results. You will want to raise the lights as the plants grow. If the source of light is not close enough to plants, they will reach for it and become leggy and weak.

Although somewhat expensive, a gardener’s heating pad to place under your tray will ensure success. It can be used every year thereafter, so the investment is worth it.

One reason for the early demise of seedlings is “damping off,” which will have your baby plants falling over suddenly. To avoid this, always water from the bottom, and it could benefit your plants to have a sprinkling of sand or gravel on top of the planting medium.

Lightly brushing your newly started plants daily with your hand helps them to be strong. Another idea is to run an oscillating fan nearby. A timer for your lights is also a good idea, as you will want the light to shine for 14-16 hours a day.

Once our last frost date has come and the weather warms, you will want to “harden off” your plants. They should be introduced to their permanent garden space by setting outdoors in a shaded but bright area a little bit each day and brought inside at night. After a week or so of this, you may plant in the garden.

One trick I have used to protect newly

planted vegetables like tomatoes is to cut the bottom off a soft plastic pot and push it into the ground around your plant. This protects the plant from wind and shades it just enough till it gets strong. You can leave in place all season, as your plant will grow right up and out.

Don’t be too anxious to start your seeds, as you will be taking care of them for many months. Packets usually have loads of valuable information about planting depth, days to maturity, whether light is needed for germination or dark.

There are books available also. Our library has some, as well as free seeds from the seed library. It is hoped you will add some seeds at the end of the season for next year’s offerings. One of my favorite books about propagating plants is *Making More Plants* by Ken Druse.

Seeds for squash, beets, corn, carrots, beans, radishes, cucumbers, melons and peas are best planted directly in your garden beds when the soil temperature is warm and all danger of frost is past.

There are still many plants that our local nurseries do better than we do, so visit and purchase some starts. Knowing something about the beginnings of a plant’s life will make you a better shopper.

If you are new at seed starting, begin with a manageable few. Before you know it, you’ll catch the fever.

# STONE'S THROW

## Wine Club Alert!

Stone's Throw Wine Club launches April 1

Sign-up on our website.  
[stonesthrowpizzavt.com](http://stonesthrowpizzavt.com)

86 Ferry Rd Charlotte  
802-539-2084  
OPEN 4 - 9 Tue-Sun

*Advertise with us and  
let us create your next ad!*

# The Charlotte News

Contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)

## NIGHT EAGLE WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

A unique summer camp for boys, ages 10-14, located in Vermont's Green Mountains

- tipi living ▲ nature crafts
- ▲ canoeing ▲ hiking ▲
- wilderness skills ▲ swimming
- ▲ atlats & 'hawks ▲
- cooperative work & play
- ▲ backpacking ▲ & lots more! ▲

1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 week sessions

802-855-8661 | [NightEagleWilderness.com](http://NightEagleWilderness.com)



## Gardening

# Hellebores bring a stunning display and herald spring

Nadie VanZandt  
University of Vermont Extension Service

For a stunning display of blooms in early spring, most New England gardens would benefit from the addition of a remarkable perennial — the hellebore. Among the first plants to herald spring, hellebores have gained huge popularity due to their many laudable qualities.

Hellebores are non-invasive evergreen perennials coveted for their resistance to cold and their abundant, durable and colorful blooms. They can thrive for over two decades and are undeterred by hungry deer and rabbits.

Helleborus (hellebore) is a genus of about 20 species of extremely cold-hardy, herbaceous perennials in the Ranunculaceae (buttercup) family. This plant is native to mountainous regions of Southern and Central Europe from the eastern Alps through Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy to the northern Balkans.

One particular species, Helleborus orientalis, is commonly known as the Lenten rose because it blooms during the weeks leading up to the Easter holiday. Helleborus orientalis cross-pollinates well with other species of hellebores, resulting in stunning specimens.

During the 1980s and 1990s, devoted German and British breeders used Helleborus orientalis to develop many stunning cultivars. These hybrid hellebores featured extraordinary colors from whites and greens to pinks and dark purples in single or double blossoms.

Hellebores have a relatively young history in the American garden. In the mid-1990s, American collectors caught the hellebore fever and gained national and international recognition for breeding exceptional cultivars.

Countless selections of hybrid hellebores are available to consumers, though they can be difficult to identify because many cultivars were incorrectly



Photo contributed

Although hellebores are pricey their heartiness can make them worth the extra investment.

classified in the trade. This dilemma led to their reclassification as Helleborus x hybridus (where the x indicates that species have been crossed). Their former name, Helleborus orientalis hybridus, erroneously referred to a naturally occurring variety.

Hybrid hellebores grow into mounds up to 24 inches tall and 30 inches wide. Although their foliage varies in shape and color, most share glossy palmate leaves with serrated leaflets.

Their stunning, long-lived blooms are not flowers, but large colorful sepals that remain on the stems until the seeds mature. Although the blooms change color following pollination, they do not lose their aesthetic appeal.

Hybrid hellebores are easy to grow in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 4-9. They thrive in partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. In

New England, they can grow in full sun provided they receive sufficient moisture.

Hellebores tolerate most soils and will benefit from a yearly application of compost, preferably in the spring. You can plant them any time from early spring through early fall to allow ample time for strong root growth.

When planting, take care to keep the crown at soil level by digging a hole as deep as the pot they came in. Burying the crown too deep will discourage blooms.

Loosen the root ball if needed, level the plant in the hole and water the roots. Continue to cover the roots with soil, taking care not to bury the crown. If you plan to spread mulch, be sure to keep it away from the crown.

If your hellebore is established, consider pruning the previous year's foliage to keep your plant looking fresh and to prevent the spread of diseases from

the old leaves. Creating a hybrid cultivar is a meticulous, time-consuming process that involves a lot of trial and error. Additionally, when grown from seeds a plant may take five to six years to reach marketable size. These factors have prompted many breeders to patent their cultivars and charge growers royalties and licensing fees, ultimately resulting in high consumer prices. Although hellebores are pricey, don't let this intimidate you from investing in such robust plants, especially ones that will take center stage in your shade garden for the next 20 years.

*Nadie VanZandt is a University of Vermont extension master gardener from Panton.*

The  
**Charlotte  
News**

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



**SIGN UP ON  
OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.CharlotteNewsVT.org](http://www.CharlotteNewsVT.org)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**Go Solar with  
AllEarth  
Renewables**

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


[allearthrenewables.com](http://allearthrenewables.com) CALL 802.872.9600 x122



[www.DeePT.com](http://www.DeePT.com)  
23 San Remo Drive  
SOUTH BURLINGTON | 865.0010  
166 Athletic Drive  
SHELBURNE | 985.4445  
52 Farmall Drive  
feel good again! HINESBURG | 482.3333

**BRUSHHOGGING**  
by Adam

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



**(802) 578-8347**

**Advertise your business here!**  
Only **\$25 per issue** or **\$20 per issue** when you run six months or more .  
To advertise your business contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)



# Sacred Hunter

## When fishing with intention and discipline, who gets ‘hooked’?



Bradley Carleton  
CONTRIBUTOR

One of the few things my father handed down to me was a deep abiding love of trout.

My appreciation, nay, obsession for the iridescent sheen of the rose-colored flank of a rainbow flashing in the sunlight as it leaps into the air of a hidden pool began as a simple exploration of flyfishing at an elite trout club in Berea, Ohio.

My father would hold meetings in the clubhouse with potential investors. He

would send my brother, Miles, and I to figure out flyfishing techniques on the upper pools, which were stocked with behemoth brown and rainbow trout that had been fed pellets in a tightly controlled oxygen-rich environment.

I was 10 years old, and my brother was just 6. We had no instruction other than an awkward cast that heaved large flies called wooly buggers. We were given a bag lunch of sandwiches and gouda cheese from the bar in the clubhouse and soon figured out that those wooly buggers worked a lot better when we molded a small ball of the cheese onto the hook.

Before long, we had piled up a half cord of these monster rainbows when one of the gamekeepers alerted my father that his boys were draining the pond of their biggest fish and that they would be added to his tab at \$3 a pound.

It was years before I learned about etymology and proper conservation concepts. I had been “sent away” to boarding school at Vermont Academy, where my educators taught us the finer points of flyfishing and how to read a stream. We picked up bugs from underneath rocks in a crystal-clear river and brought them back to the classroom in glass jars to study them.

We learned the major distinct species of mayflies, stoneflies and caddis. We studied water clarity, oxygen measurements and the difference between a freestone and a lime stream. We studied alkalinity, temperature, and phototropism. And to graduate from these classes we had to perform a proper roll cast and demonstrate how to properly load a rod based on its action — slow, medium or fast.

I did not know at the time that we were learning respect for the ecosystem and the species. Our goal was still to catch trout but now we did it with intention and discipline. That, in turn, led us to deepen our understanding and love of the sport.

Decades later, I sneak quietly into a hidden pool, using the green canopy overhead and shadows as camouflage. Having hiked miles into the headwaters of a mountain stream that feeds one of Vermont’s major rivers, I am conscious of every element of the area.

I check the rocks and examine the surface from 20 yards downstream of the pool to see what insects are hatching



pixabay.com

Trout are smart. They use as little energy as is required to feed when the water is warmer and are much more aggressive when the water is still cold.

and which, if any, are spinning on the surface to be slurped into the vortex of a rising trout’s mouth. I check the water’s temperature and study the current to figure out where a hungry rainbow or brookie might hang out waiting for a delectable meal to float into its lane.

Trout are smart. They use as little energy as is required to feed when the water is warmer and are much more aggressive when the water is still cold. This time of year, it is still quite cold. I cautiously move upstream to stand behind a big boulder that sits just downstream of the pool. As I peek over the top of the rock, I notice a small whirlpool form just past the tail of the current. Within minutes, it happens again, but this time I catch the tip of a nose poking out of the whirlpool.

He’s feeding. Selectively. Being 63 years old, and having flyfished for over 50 years now, I have accumulated enough wisdom to identify the hatch of flies and tie on a terrifyingly accurate deceiver, my favorite, the yellow elk hair caddis with a rust-colored thorax.

But being 63 I also have accepted that I’ve had to make some adaptations to my passion. I now use 3.5x glasses to thread the hair-thin tippet through the eye of the fly. Even then it takes a few tries. Sometimes my hand begins to shake a bit and I curse Father Time for what he’s done to my body.

But I’ve learned to be disciplined in my concentration. Let me tell you that when a

fish is rising in front of you, and you must maneuver a 6x tippet onto a size 20 fly, your hand will not respect that you need to be expeditious in your actions.

Finally, the tiny fly is drawn back behind my right shoulder and as the rod bends backwards, I can feel the loading of the shaft. I let the fly finish its arc and gently but forcefully thrust the line forward. The line unravels in front of me and as it completes its forward arc, the fly floats tenderly to rest on the water, just below the riffles.

I stare at the fly as it swirls a bit in the current. It floats with its wing patterns extending upward from the rusty thorax. Just as it begins to play out of the riffles, it happens. The big rainbow slurps the caddis into his mouth and in a split second recognizes his error.

With a powerful thrust of his forked tail, he jettisons into the air, his flank flashing a pink rose stripe reflected against his silvery body. This moment is what drives old men to overcome their physical obstacles and engage in the oldest game on the planet. Is it the fish or is it me that’s hooked?

The glorious opening day of trout season in Vermont begins this Saturday, April 9.

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



**The Town of Charlotte**  
**TOWN MEETINGS**  
**AND AGENDAS**  
**Visit [charlottetv.org](http://charlottetv.org)**  
**for more information**

**Selectboard**  
Monday, April 11  
6:30 p.m.

**Community Center Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 13  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Development Review Board**  
**Regularly Scheduled Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 13  
at 7 - 9 p.m.

**Planning Commission: Regular Meeting**  
Thursday, April 21  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE SPORTS CAR CLUB OF VERMONT PRESENTS**

**THE HISTROIC MT. PHILO HILLCLIMB**

**Apr 30-May 1, 2022 AT MT. PHILO IN CHARLOTTE, VT**

The Mt. Philo mountain road and hiking trails will be closed to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. A historic hillclimb is a speed event up the mountain road with drivers racing against the clock.

We thank the residents of Charlotte and the State Parks for being a wonderful host for this historic event. Thank you! [www.SCCV.org](http://www.SCCV.org)



## Farm-Crafted Compost™

“Compost and topsoil for gardening connoisseurs”

- ⚙️ **Made locally from 100% farm manure**
- ⚙️ **Approved for use on organic farms**

**Convenient Low-Cost Delivery**

**Also Available:**

**Topsoil Plus - Raised Bed Mix™:** A weed-free blend of compost, silt, peat moss, high-carbon wood ash and broad spectrum rock dust.

**Topsoil Plus - Lawn Mix™:** A weed-free blend of compost and silt providing optimum water holding capacity for lush green lawns.

**Champlain Valley Compost Co.**  
Serving NW Vermont gardeners since 1996  
**363-3930 | [www.cvcompost.com](http://www.cvcompost.com)**





# Calendar of Events

**Calendar compiled by Mary Landon**  
Event listings may be sent to calendar@thecharlottenews.org.  
Weather cancellations and COVID guidelines are available on individual websites.

**Music at Shelburne Vineyard**  
**Thursday, April 7, 6-8:30 p.m.**  
Unwind with some wine and live music from Tom Pearo. Free event and no tickets required. A portion of bar sales benefit the Shelburne Food Shelf. Music is outside if weather is nice enough for blankets and lawn chairs. For more info, see shelburnevineyard.com.

**Ecological gardening**  
**Thursday, April 7, 7–8 p.m.**  
KidsGardening and Charlie Nardozi help celebrate Kids Garden Month. Register for this webinar about no-dig methods, companion planting and using a garden to teach kids about relationships between people, plants, animals, fungi and other microorganisms. For more info or to register see kidsgardening.org.

**Band recital**  
**Friday, April 8, 7:30–8:30 p.m.**  
The University of Vermont Concert Band presents its free spring concert with a variety of musical offerings. The public event is held at the University of Vermont Recital Hall.

**Classical piano concert**  
**Friday, April 8, 7:30–9 p.m.**  
The Charlotte Congregational Church hosts Burlington-based pianist Claire Black for her performance “Poetic Unity.” Black returns for several area concerts after a two-year absence. Her program features pieces by Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann and Ludwig van Beethoven. Free but donations appreciated. For more info, call 802-425-3176.

**Try a telescope**  
**Friday, April 8, 7:30–9 p.m.**  
Hinesburg’s Carpenter-Carse Library has a telescope which patrons may borrow, much like taking out a book. A member of the Vermont Astronomical Society will give a tutorial on how the telescope may best be used. If weather permits, the group goes outside for hands-on experience of the heavens. In case of inclement weather, event happens April 9. Watch carpentercarse.org for updates. Pre-register by emailing meg@carpenter-carse.org.

**Let’s go fishing**  
**Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**  
Become a certified instructor in this Vermont Fish & Wildlife program. Pass on local fishing traditions and knowledge to future generations. A one-day training workshop is held April 9 in Castleton or **April 23** in Montpelier. No charge; learn more and pre-register at vtfishandwildlife.com.

**Vergennes book sale**  
**Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m.–noon**  
Find interesting bargains on children’s and adult’s books at the Bixby Library book sale. For more info call 802-877-2211.

**Edible woody landscape design**  
**Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m.–noon**  
Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg hosts Jacob Holzberg-Pill for a practical workshop on well-known and unusual species for the home garden. Discover the best trees and shrubs for a delicious, cold-hardy landscape. To register, or for more info, see redwagonplants.com.

**Vermont Youth Strings**  
**Saturday, April 9, 2:30 p.m.**  
Spring concerts will be presented by the Vermont Youth Strings as well as Da Capo (woodwind and brass ensemble) at the Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael’s College in Colchester. Both groups are part of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association. For more info, see vyo.org or call 802-655-5030.

## Stay out of the kitchen

**Saturday, April 9**  
**10 a.m.–noon**

Symphony? Woody shrubs? Marathon? Book sale? So hard to choose an activity today from the many that are offered. Not only is it the opening day of Vermont’s trout season, but it’s opening day of pickleball season at the Charlotte beach courts. It’s a fast game, guaranteed to make you laugh and have fun. Greg Smith is a welcoming coach; lessons and equipment provided for newcomers starting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. That’s where you’ll learn about the kitchen. Games for experienced players are on Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30 till it’s too dark to see. For more info on this and other recreational activities, see the town recreation website.



## Holy Week services

### Charlotte Congregational Church

**April 10, 10 a.m.**  
Palm/Passion Sunday  
Childcare and Sunday School available

**April 14, 7 p.m.**  
Maundy Thursday  
Service of Tenebrae (Shadows)

**April 15, 4 p.m.**  
**Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross walk behind church meet in church parking lot at 4 p.m.

**April 16, 12 noon, Holy Saturday**  
**Community Easter Egg Hunt in Church yard**

**April 17, Easter Sunday Sunrise service 5:45 a.m.**  
Meet in parking lot for walk up to clearing behind church. No livestream of this service.

Worship service, 9 a.m., Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge preaching; worship service, 11 a.m., Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen preaching. Childcare available for 9 and 11 a.m. services



**Vermont wind ensemble**  
**Sunday, April 10, 3–4 p.m.**  
The free spring concert of the University of Vermont (UVM) wind ensemble is held at the UVM Recital Hall. D. Thomas Toner conducts an imaginative program.

**Vermont Youth Philharmonia**  
**Sunday, April 10, 5:30 p.m.**  
The Youth Philharmonia and Percussion Ensemble, both part of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, present their spring concert at the Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael’s College in Colchester, VT. For more info, see vyo.org or call 802-655-5030.

**Natural resource planning**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 9–10 a.m.**  
The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department joins the Vermont Natural Resources Council for a free webinar on town plan changes, competing values, and natural resource issues that most towns face. These two departments have completed their decennial review of every town plan, including zoning, subdivision and ordinance information, in Vermont. They share insights into best practices for Vermont municipalities. Webinar will be repeated on Tuesday, May 10, 1–2 p.m. For more info or to register see vtfishandwildlife.com.

**Vernal pools**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 7–8 p.m.**  
Join an ecologist and a herpetologist as they discuss the small but mighty wonders contained in vernal pools. These wild areas may be over-looked, but provide critical breeding habitat and contribute to the ecological health of forests. Presented by the Vermont Land Trust, this free webinar is for all ages. To learn more or register see vlt.org.

**Contemporary quilts**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 6–7 p.m.**  
Shelburne Museum, as part of its 75th anniversary celebration, offers a webinar on the museum’s extensive collection of decorative bedcovers. Presenter Katie Wood Kirchhoff speaks about the upcoming exhibit titled Maria Shell: Off the Grid, opening May 15. Shell’s dynamic contemporary pieces present unique use of lines and shapes in quilting. For more info or to register see shelburnemuseum.org.

**For kids by kids**  
**Thursday, April 14, 4–4:45 p.m.**  
KidsGardening hosts a livestream garden chat with three young gardeners, ages 6,14 and 16. Learn how they became interested in gardening, what gardening brings to their lives and what they’re working on now. Fun talk for all ages. For more info or to register see kidsgardening.org.

**The Pie Guy**  
**Thursday, April 14, 5:30–7 p.m.**  
Gary Stuard learned the cozy and comforting art of baking from his mother and grandmother. In this live-streamed class, Gary takes participants through the steps to create a sweet and tart favorite, strawberry rhubarb pie. For more info or to register see citymarket.coop.

**Owls: Souls of the Night**  
**Friday, April 15, 6–7 p.m.**  
The Vermont Institute of Natural Science hosts a virtual talk all about owls with author and researcher Scott Weidensaul. He speaks about understanding owl biology and ecology. Free but donation suggested. For more info or to register see vinsweb.org or call 802-359-5000.

**Hip hop artist Omega Jade**  
**Saturday, April 16, 7 p.m.**  
The Clemmons Family Farm and Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury collaborate for an evening of stand-up comedy, hip hop and poetry with Vermont-based performer Omega Jade. Jade is part of the Facing the Sunrise Black Performing Arts Series and is a teaching artist at Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte. The event in St. Johnsbury is free; tickets required to reserve seats at catamountarts.org.

**Tuesday, April 19, 6--7 p.m.**  
**Bixby Book Club**  
Join in person or via Zoom link for a discussion of Julia Alvarez’s book, “In The Time of Butterflies.” The Vergennes library has chosen this book for its April meeting; next month’s title is

“Independent People” by Halldor Laxness for readers who like to get a head start. No pressure to read the complete book, just join for some spirited sharing. For more info or to reserve a copy of either book email laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org.

**Worm composting**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 6–7 p.m.**  
Composting food scraps keeps waste out of the landfill and creates rich humus to add back into gardens. Learn the basics of increasing soil health in this instructional workshop from Chittenden Solid Waste Management staff. Free event is held at the South Burlington Public Library and requires no pre-registration. For more info, see southburlingtonlibrary.org.

**Wine and story**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 7–9 p.m.**  
Treat yourself to a night of shared stories and award-winning wines at Shelburne Vineyard. Come just to listen or to share a story. The prompt is: When life takes a sharp right turn ... or another meaningful topic of your own. No notes, be practiced, 5–7 minute time slots, \$5 and be entered to win a bottle of wine. For more info: shelburnevineyard.com.

**Earth Day teen retreat**  
**Wednesday, April 20, to Friday, April 22**  
Spaces are available for teens to attend a rejuvenating retreat at NorthernShire in Underhill. The ReTribe organization hosts programs for adults, teens and children at this intentional community with a hostel, shared spaces, dorms, woods, pond, gardens and trails. Connect with other teens, enjoy nature-centered activities, make art and learn traditional skills. For ages 13–19. For more info or to register see retribe.org.

**Shine a Healing Light**  
**Thursdays starting April 21, 4:30 p.m.**  
A collaborative workshop will be held over four weeks at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Through art, writing and personal creative expression, event participants share their perspectives over two years of the pandemic. Facilitated by Linda Reynolds and Melanie Stultz-Backus, the workshop is interactive and self-directed. Dates are April 21, April 28, May 5 and May 12. An exhibition and reception close out the workshop on Sunday, May 15. For more info email rev.kemg@gmail.com or call 802-425-3176.

**Evening of poetry**  
**Thursday, April 21, 6–8 p.m.**  
Celebrate local live poetry at the Bixby Library in Vergennes. All voices and all talents encouraged. Perform or watch live or via Zoom. Space is limited. Hosted by A. Jay Dubberly of Zig Zag Lit Mag. To sign up to read or listen, see bixbylibrary.org.

**What are timberdoodles?**  
**Thursday, April 21, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
Join the Friends of the Missisquoi and Green Mountain Audubon as they welcome Liam Berigan in a talk about tracking the American woodcock, including some birds tagged in Vermont. Berigan covers the ecology of this forest-dwelling shorebird and discusses the evolving understanding of woodcock migration. Register for this free Zoom event at greenmountainaudubon.org.

**No Other Lake movie**  
**Thursday, April 21, 7–8:30 p.m.**  
In 2021, University of Vermont student Jordan Rowell set out on a two-week kayak trip along 120-mile-long Lake Champlain. The resulting conservation/adventure documentary celebrates the beauty of Lake Champlain and highlights some of its challenges. The movie screens at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington and is followed by a discussion with the filmmakers. To learn more or purchase tickets see eventbrite.com.



# Library News

## Library has opened to in-person but is also Zooming



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

The library has opened doors to in-person programming while also offering a Zoom option for many programs. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or suggestions.

### Ongoing Programs

#### Free Little Art Gallery opening

Introducing the smallest art gallery in Charlotte. Come by the circulation desk for a visit. Feel free to take a piece that you like, add a piece of your own artwork, or both! All media is welcome as long as it fits inside. Use your own materials or pick up the April Take & Make for supplies to make your own masterpiece. Thank you to Marcia Vogler for her help and inspiration.

#### Preschool Story Time resumes Tuesdays, April 5-May 17, 10-11 a.m.

Join us Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the library for Preschool Story Time fun with stories, crafts and play time. The program will be held in the program room unless it is warm enough to be held on the library porch. All children 2 years of age and over and their guardians must wear a mask at all times per library policy when indoors. No registration required.

#### Knitting drop-in Wednesdays, 5:30–7 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 local knitting teacher at Shelburne Craft School, will be hosting the knitting night and is excited about growing the in-person community of knitters in town. She will



Photo contributed

Little Free Art Gallery is the smallest art gallery in Charlotte. You can see it and add a piece of your own artwork when you visit the Charlotte Library.

be around to get people started, help with existing projects, and will be working on a knitting project as well. No registration required.

#### Book Chat Fridays beginning April 8, 9:30-10:30 a.m., on Zoom

Join Margaret Friday mornings on Zoom to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Margaret selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Register here: [bit.ly/3BtebDj](https://bit.ly/3BtebDj).

#### Programs & Activities *Please note that some programs take place at the library, some on Zoom and some offer both options.*

#### Recycling Right: In the blue bin and beyond! Saturday, April 9, 10:30 a.m.

Join the Chittenden Solid Waste District staff in person 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. They will cover what really belongs

in the blue bin and why other items can create big problems for the recycling system. Then they’ll explore the “special recycling” options for lots of things that can’t go in the blue bin. (Spoiler alert: you can bring some of them right to this library.) We’ll also have plenty of time to answer questions and settle family arguments (only about recycling), so bring your trickiest items and try to stump them. Register at [tinyurl.com/buhyj73d](https://tinyurl.com/buhyj73d).

#### True Crime with podcaster Toby Ball Tuesday, April 12, 7-8 p.m., on Zoom

The true crime genre has always been with us, but it is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. There are entire television channels devoted to true crime, and it’s one of the dominant genres in podcasting. Toby Ball, from the podcast “Crime Writers On ...,” will talk about the growth in popularity of the genre, how it’s different from the past and some of the best true crime shows and podcasts.

#### Short story selections Thursday, April 14 & 28, 1–2 p.m., on Zoom

Join Library Director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Register at [bit.ly/ShortStorySpring2022](https://bit.ly/ShortStorySpring2022).

#### Farming in Charlotte Thursday, April 14, 7-8 p.m., hybrid event

The recently completed Charlotte Agricultural Landscape Study from the Charlotte Land Trust looks at farming



today in Charlotte and describes the changes taking place. The presentation provides a look at the study findings and includes discussions with three Charlotte farmers on the innovations that help make their farms successful, the opportunities for farmers in Charlotte and the challenges of a changing agricultural environment. Registration required.

#### Spring vacation Vermont Fish and Wildlife furbearer kit April 18-May 4

Thanks to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the library will have a large display of pelts, skulls, track sets, scat sets and track field guides on display. On April 18, 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to noon, the items will be out for hands-on investigation. Come learn about Vermont’s furbearing animals, such as mink, beaver, fisher, and red fox. No registration required.

#### Bake for Good Tuesday, April 19, 4-5 p.m., on Zoom

Bake for Good is King Arthur Baking Company’s free outreach program for students in third through eighth grades. They have three goals: learn, bake and share. Students learn the math and science of making bread from scratch. With supplies from home and a mini baking kit from King Arthur (recipe booklet, \$1 flour coupons, yeast and dough scraper) they watch a live instruction video from a King Arthur Flour expert baker on their home computer and then bake the bread at home anytime over spring break. The recipe makes two loaves, one to keep and one to share with someone in need or as an act of kindness. Registration required, email [youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

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

**Library Contact Information**  
Margaret Woodruff, director  
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian  
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864 Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)



New Construction  
& Renovations.

Quality Work.  
Cheerfully Done!

Peter Fenn  
802-734-0353

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 8

ASHES	MAO	WIDE
TWIXT	EMU	SHREW
MAFIA	OPT	VOILE
PILLOW	DRESSES	
EAR	COAL	
WAR	GALA	PTOSIS
ONES	TORE	ECASH
MINE	EVADE	ALSO
ALERT	EVEN	SLUR
NEWBIE	ANNA	YET
	PEEN	USA
SEATTLE	KISSED	
TABOO	RAN	EPROM
USURP	ICE	SEGUE
NETT	ERE	SNORT

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

Locally Owned & Operated • 802-658-9336  
257 PINE STREET, BURLINGTON • [www.NEFCVT.COM](http://www.NEFCVT.COM)



## Senior Center News

# Don't let old people assumptions keep you away



Lori York  
DIRECTOR

*"I thought the Senior Center was only for really old people. Now that I have started coming, I wish I had started coming years earlier."*

This quote from a participant illustrates a common misconception about the Charlotte Senior Center.

Participants are age 50 and older. They join activities ranging from kayaking and hiking to birdwatching, exercise classes or art programs and board games. Come visit the Senior Center. You will be surprised about the variety of programs.

The April newsletter is on our website: [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

You can also follow "CharlotteSeniorCenterVT" on Facebook and Instagram for a glimpse into the activities happening at the center.

### Featured artists

Local artists Barbara Lane and Brenda Myrick are showing their works in "Together—A Mother & Daughter Show." Barbara Lane is displaying her watercolor paintings of Vermont barns, florals and scenes from her travels. Her daughter, Brenda, works in oil and acrylic and is displaying her expressive semi-abstracts and abstracts.

### Blood drive

**Thursday, April 14, 2–7 p.m.**

Please consider donating blood at the Charlotte Senior Center. The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter "Charlotte" to schedule an appointment.

### 'Ruth Stone's Vast Library of the Female Mind'

**Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.**

A feature-length documentary with presentation by Nora Jacobson. A film about the poetry and life of Ruth Stone, who forged her art out of loss and inspired

countless others to create from her hilltop home in the Green Mountains of Vermont. See [offthegridproductions.com](http://offthegridproductions.com) for more information. Co-sponsored with the Charlotte Library.

### 'Wasted: The Story of Food Waste'

**Wednesday, April 20, 1 p.m.**

Documentary about food waste that's produced and narrated by chef Anthony Bourdain and will be followed with a discussion led by Chittenden Solid Waste District staff. Approximately 85 minutes.

### 'West Side Story'

**Friday, April 8 and 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

The Senior Center is offering two screenings of the 2021 version of "West Side Story," with Sean Moran. The 1957 musical has been reimagined with Ansel Elgort and Rachel Zegler as the young lovers torn apart by a climate of intolerance and hate. Free but registration required because of limited seating.

### Programs

#### Birding expedition with Hank Kaestner

**Wednesday, April 13, 9 a.m.**

Meet at the Center 10 minutes prior to 9 a.m. departure so the group can carpool to the location for spectacular bird watching. To register for the April trip, email [csbirding@gnavt.net](mailto:csbirding@gnavt.net) and include your name and phone number. Free but registration required because group size is limited.

#### Coffee and Canvas

##### Sunflowers with Sherry Senior

**Friday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.-noon**  
**Cost: \$25, Register by Monday, April 11**

Unlike traditional paint and sips, Coffee and Canvas will allow you to explore and create your own unique painting, but don't worry—there will be plenty of inspiration and lots of instruction. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included.

### Volunteers needed

The Senior Center needs your help. Do you have a couple of hours weekly or monthly to volunteer at the Senior Center? Volunteering is a great way to be of service while making new friends and connections within our community. Adults of any age are welcome.



Photo by Lori York

Frank Califano and Gail Martin chat during Friday Arts Group.

Do you enjoy our weekly Monday lunches? Or would like to see the return of our Wednesday meals? Consider volunteering on the kitchen teams—and as a perk you will receive your lunch for free. To find out more, contact Susan at [susanfosterhyde@gmail.com](mailto:susanfosterhyde@gmail.com) about the cooking teams.

Available to help with dishes? Contact Brian at [brian@bock.com](mailto:brian@bock.com). The Senior Center is also looking for reception desk hosts to welcome visitors and help answer questions. Interested? Stop by or call 802-425-6345.

### Meals

Menus are posted on the website: [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

### Monday lunches

Served weekly. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m., or when there is no more food. Suggested lunch donation of \$5.

### Monthly men's breakfast

**Thursday, April 14, 7–9 a.m.**

Note: change in guest speaker. The guest speaker will be Scooter MacMillan, editor of

The Charlotte News. To register, email Tim McCullough at [cubnut5@aol.com](mailto:cubnut5@aol.com) by Tuesday, April 12. Suggested breakfast donation of \$5.

### Weekly Grab & Go Meals

Pick up meals provided by Age Well on Thursdays 11 a.m.-noon at the Senior Center. Register by Monday for the Thursday meal by emailing [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org) or calling 802-425-6345.

### Exercise classes

The senior 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, [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

### Questions?

The Senior Center staff would love to meet with you. The center is located at 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte. Hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Call 802-425-6345 or email director Lori York at [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org). Residents from other communities are always welcome.

## Take your palate globe trotting at Munches

Susan Ohanian  
CONTRIBUTOR

*After a good dinner, one can forgive anybody, even one's relations*

—Oscar Wilde

The world definitely looks better after good meals with good conversation at the Charlotte Senior Center. April Monday Munches offer a rich, globe-spanning variety—from stroganoff to salsa.

**Monday Munch, April 11, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** or until the food is gone. Be aware of the popularity of these meals. Takeout is available. A \$5 donation is suggested. Volunteers are needed!

**Menu:** Ground beef stroganoff, green salad, almond cake with whipped cream and fruit.

This famous beef dish got its name from 19th century diplomat Count Pavel Stroganov, but he neither invented nor cooked it. Russians usually attached the names of famous households, not chefs, to their noteworthy cuisine.

Over the years, the dish has varied: Henrietta Nesbitt, FDR's executive housekeeper, put it in "The Presidential Cookbook;" Campbell's Soup published "Souper Stroganoff," calling for a can of mushroom soup; Better Homes & Gardens published Mitch Miller's version. In her cookbook, Alice May Broch noted, "This was probably the most popular dish in the

restaurant." Yes, that restaurant, the one Arlo Guthrie made famous.

### Thursday, April 14, Men's Monthly Breakfast: 7–9 a.m.

A busy day. Check the Senior Center for the program and sign up for the good food and good company. Please register by April 12. Contact Tim McCullough: [cubnut@aol.com](mailto:cubnut@aol.com). Suggested donation \$5.

### Grab-and-Go

**Pick up 11: a.m.-noon**

Baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, Capri blend vegetables, dinner roll, Easter cake

**Remember:** for these Thursday meals, you need to register by Monday. Call or e-mail: 802-425-6371 or [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)

There is no charge for Grab-and-Go meals, but Age Well always appreciates donations.

### Monday Munch, April 17

Mexican taquitos with mango salsa, rice with black beans, cole slaw, chocolate chip pudding fudge cake with blueberry sauce.

### Thursday, April 21 Grab-and-Go

\*Beef with barbecue sauce, baked beans, broccoli florets, dinner roll, pumpkin cookie.

Although these Thursday meals come ready made, please know that the Charlotte Senior Center needs volunteer hosts and servers, as well as Monday cooks and dishwashers. People are agitating for a return of the great Wednesday meals. This cannot happen without volunteers!



Let's celebrate Monday's blueberry sauce. Robert McCloskey's "Blueberries for Sal" makes a great read for a young child in your life.

There are many recordings of the song. Here are a few:  
**Gene Krupa:** [tinyurl.com/2pnhd8eh](http://tinyurl.com/2pnhd8eh)  
**Glenn Miller:** [tinyurl.com/mv6ra3nd](http://tinyurl.com/mv6ra3nd)  
**Gene Autry:** [tinyurl.com/yeyu2a8u](http://tinyurl.com/yeyu2a8u)  
**Fats Domino:** [tinyurl.com/3p3r8at4](http://tinyurl.com/3p3r8at4)  
**Elvis Presley:** [tinyurl.com/574hap6v](http://tinyurl.com/574hap6v)  
**Elton John:** [tinyurl.com/af6j3vma](http://tinyurl.com/af6j3vma)  
**The Beach Boys:** [tinyurl.com/35h29s32](http://tinyurl.com/35h29s32)

Every time Richie made a connection on "Happy Days," viewers heard "Blueberry Hill": [tinyurl.com/af6j3vma](http://tinyurl.com/af6j3vma).

Finally, Vladimir Putin provides a sour note: [tinyurl.com/342bt82z](http://tinyurl.com/342bt82z)

## Classifieds

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

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](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org) Let your voice be heard.







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