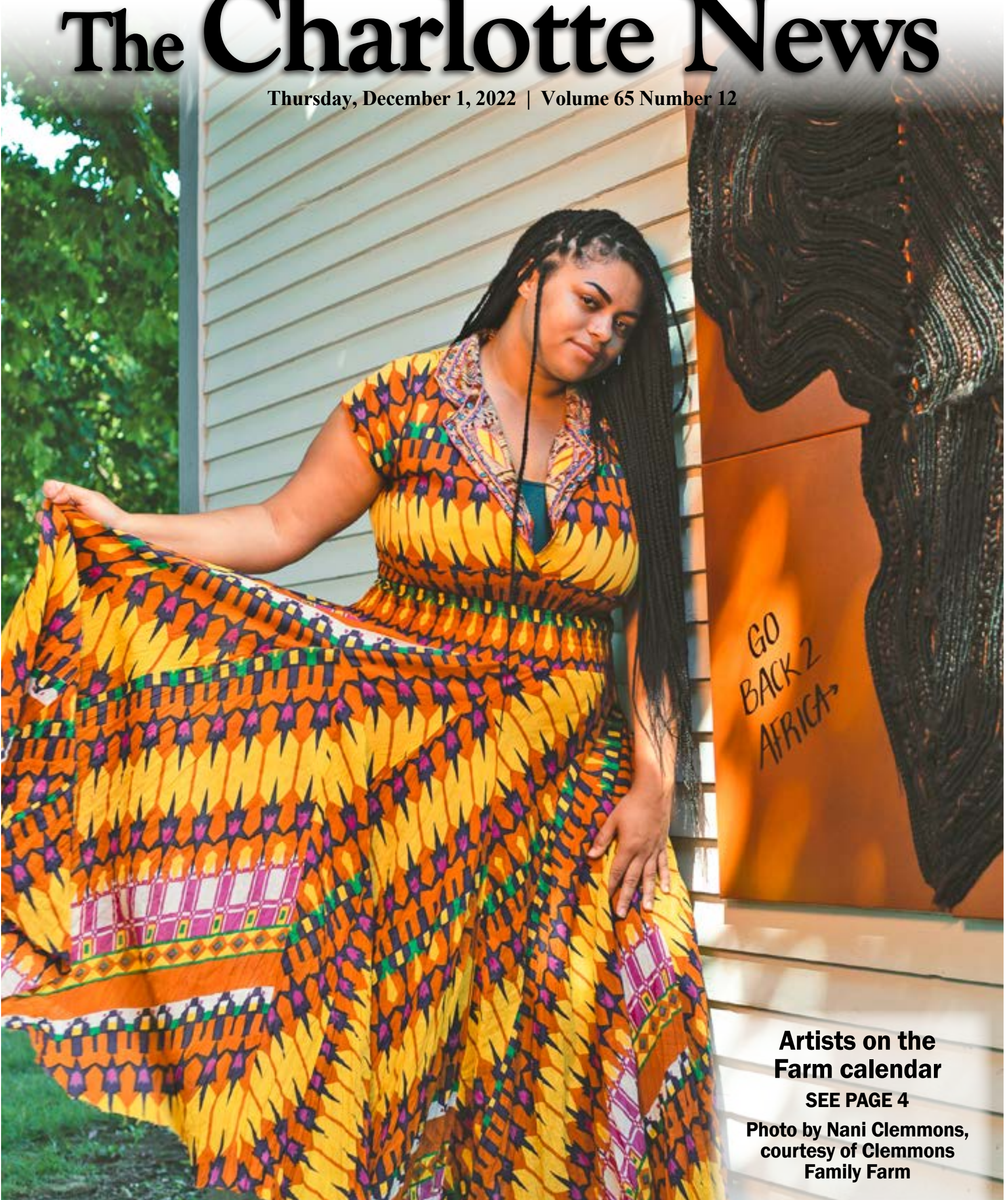


Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

Thursday, December 1, 2022 | Volume 65 Number 12



**Artists on the
Farm calendar**

SEE PAGE 4

**Photo by Nani Clemmons,
courtesy of Clemmons
Family Farm**

The Charlotte News

December 1, 2022

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

Vol. 65, No.12

Christmas celebrations aplenty during the coming month

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

It's December, so Christmas is in full swing with celebrations planned by a number of town organizations.

Charlotte Senior Center

This Friday, Dec. 2, the Charlotte Senior Center plans to start its Yule revelry by decorating its Christmas tree from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The senior center's volunteer cooking teams of cooks, bakers and dishwashers will have a holiday party at noon on Dec. 9.

The center will also repeat the sort of drop-in it sponsored on Thanksgiving, with the facility open on Christmas morning for people who are alone for the holiday invited to drop by for coffee, pie and conversation.

will visit the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service 1-3 p.m.

Charlotte Historical Society

The Charlotte Historical Society will celebrate with a Christmas Party at the Charlotte Museum on Church Hill Road 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

Although the historical society tried to have a Christmas in July party, it didn't work out, said president Dan Cole. This will be the organization's first Christmas party with all the seasonal trappings since COVID hit.

The museum will be open with free admission, but there will also be a fire pit on the lawn. Light refreshments will be served, and books on local history will be available for sale.

The rain date is Dec. 11. For more information email info@charlottetvhistory.org.



Photo by Molly King

Volunteer Fire and Rescue

This Saturday, Dec. 3, Santa

SEE **CHRISTMAS** PAGE 2

Dan Cole helps a younger Charlotte history fan get a drink at the Charlotte Historical Society's Christmas party in 2019.

Selectboard sets up commercial cannabis commission

Scooter MacMillan
Editor
Juliann Phelps
Contributor

After hearing from a number of residents who live near proposed commercial cannabis growing operations, Charlotte officials are looking into such enterprises.

But it appears the town is limited in what it can do.

Town administrator Dean Bloch told the selectboard at its Nov. 21 meeting, he didn't think the town could outright deny permits for commercial cannabis growing, but licensing for such operations would be subject to the town's conditions — if they are passed.

As a first step, the selectboard decided to form a cannabis control commission. The cannabis control commission will be like the town's liquor control board, which means that, for the time being, it is the selectboard.

Like the liquor control board, at meetings

“It just establishes a level of transparency as to when and where these operations are taking place.”

— Lewis Mudge, Charlotte Selectboard

the selectboard could vote to convene as the cannabis control board when the town needs to consider license applications.

“Let's do the same thing we do for the liquor control board — have the selectboard be the cannabis control board in its infancy,” chair Jim Faulkner said. “As we get more feedback, we may want to make a separate board.”

The advantage of having a cannabis control commission is that it gets the town some skin in the game, so to speak, because once the state knows Charlotte has such a board, it will confer with the town when considering a commercial cannabis license in Charlotte.

The state will ask for Charlotte's opinion about a commercial cannabis application, Faulkner said. “It doesn't give us any authority to do anything.”

But it gives the town the opportunity to be heard before a decision is made by the state. It's just an advisory role, and the state could still issue a permit, Faulkner said.

Charlie Russell, chair of the development review board, said the selectboard should consider designing the application process so applicants only have to go before the development review board rather than having to go before the selectboard (functioning as the cannabis control commission).

He also urged the selectboard to pass an “interim bylaw” listing commercial cannabis operations as a conditional use in a rural district. He said this step could prevent litigation if a permit is denied.

Board member Frank Tenney said that now, such endeavors are only allowed in the industrial area of Charlotte and proposed crafting the regulation so that is the only area where commercial cannabis is allowed.

Faulkner acknowledged that Russell's and Tenney's concerns are legitimate but argued that these details be “flushed out” later. He said it was important to go ahead and form a local cannabis control commission, so the state is aware of Charlotte's request to have an advisory role in the permitting process.

With board member Matt Krasnow absent, the board voted 4-0 to form a cannabis control commission comprised of the members of the selectboard.

The selectboard is not the only town body in Charlotte considering commercial

SEE **CANNABIS** PAGE 2

Lean, mean plan for the future of The Charlotte News

John Quinney
Publisher and President

Here at The Charlotte News, we've been busy making big plans, specifically, a brand-new, five-year strategic plan. We have a new mission and a new vision, and we're pretty excited. We think you will be onboard, too.

We started work on this plan in the spring and wrapped it up just three weeks ago. And while we worked on that, we also published papers and email newsletters (on schedule), kept our website humming, gratefully received donations and sold ads.

In short, we both worked on the new plan and kept the presses rolling.

Why should you be interested? We hope you will share the optimism that we feel, and agree that your independent, nonprofit community paper is on a positive, upward trajectory, as we near our 65th year.

How did we get this done? We might not have if it weren't for board member Bill Regan, who led the process. He kicked things off by interviewing board members, staff, advisors and Charlotte residents, to learn about what they viewed as the paper's strengths and weaknesses, and where they

saw opportunities and threats.

More meetings and debates ensued with the staff, the board and our advisors. The final five-year plan was adopted by the board at our Nov. 10 meeting. Our strategic plan provides a framework for our work for the next five years and includes new mission and vision statements, and a summary of our values, goals and objectives.

For example, the new mission of The Charlotte News is to engage and inform Charlotte and nearby communities by:

- Publishing rigorous, in-depth reporting on town affairs.
- Providing a home for stories from our neighbors and friends.
- Reporting on how other towns have addressed challenges similar to our own.

Our vision for the future:

- The Charlotte News is the first place people turn for news about the town, is informative and entertaining and is indispensable to community life.
- The Charlotte News is a well-governed, financially sustainable and efficiently managed organization.



“Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.”

— John Lennon

- Charlotte is an even more attractive place to live and a better governed and stronger community.

Overall, it's a lean, mean document of just two pages, available on our website at charlottenewsvt.org/about.

Now the real work starts — using the framework provided by our strategic plan to set priorities for next year, to establish metrics to track our progress, and most important, to make sure that our strategic plan is a living document, referred to frequently for guidance and focus.

None of this happens without you. As a nonprofit newspaper (and website!) the future of The Charlotte News really is in your hands. Your year-end gift will help ensure that we have the funds we need to bring you

the paper you deserve. It's quick and easy. To make your tax-deductible gift on our website at charlottenewsvt.org scan this QR code, or if you're more of a pen-and-paper person, send your check to P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445.



Whether you donate online or mail a check, all gifts of up to \$1,000 will be matched by our NewsMatch grant. When you give \$10, we receive \$20; give \$50 and we receive \$100, and so on.

Thanks so much for considering The Charlotte News as part of your year-end giving ... and thanks also to the dozens of readers who have already made their gifts.

CHRISTMAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Quinlan School

Sunday will also offer another option for a historical Christmas celebration with festivities planned at the Quinlan School 1-4 p.m. The former one-room schoolhouse is behind the Charlotte Library.

Charlotte Congregational Church

As always, the Charlotte Congregational Church has a full calendar of Christmas observances.

This Sunday’s 10 a.m. worship service will have music from “Messiah” performed by professional musicians. There will be no holy communion, but the church will celebrate with the lighting of the Advent wreath candles of hope, peace, joy and love during the service, as it will at Sunday 10 a.m. services through Dec. 18.

Following the Sunday, Dec. 11, service there will be a blessing of the church’s new Peace Pole which will include a moment to observe the 10th anniversary of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The church’s annual Christmas Pageant will feature an imaginative enactment of the Christmas story at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.

The sanctuary of the church will be open for prayer and meditation 5:30-6:30



Photo by Molly King

The wooden device under this Charlotte Historical Society Christmas tree is a jack jumper, basically a ski with a seat attached. This one is probably from the early 1900s or before. The sport was invented in New England in the late 1800s, and the world championships are held in Vermont every year.

p.m. on Mondays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19.

At 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve carols will be sung around the Charlotte Congregational Church’s Christmas tree. The 5 and 7 p.m. services will have lessons and carols and include readings, special music and a candlelight singing of

“Silent Night.”

The church will have a shorter service at 10 a.m. on Christmas morning with carol singing, a short message and a few surprises.

CANNABIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cannabis applications. The planning commission mapped out its work plan for the next year and cannabis is first on its list.

During a meeting on Nov. 17, commissioners were briefed by town

planner Larry Lewack on his research into what other towns are doing about commercial cannabis in the context of state regulations and licenses.

They also heard from the town zoning administrator Keith Osborne, members of the public and a local cannabis business owner. “The burden is on us to figure this out,”

said Lewack. “It puts us in a difficult position.”

Lewack said the town did have the authority to require cannabis businesses to apply for a conditional-use permit.

Osborne told the commission he issued notices to the two tier 2 licensed cannabis businesses in Charlotte to submit an application for conditional use review and approval by the development review board. He said he has not received any applications yet.

Tier 2 businesses have operations larger than 1,000 square feet. Tier 1 businesses are under 1,000 square feet and not subject to local zoning as per Act 158.

Prior to the selectboard’s decision, the planning commission also discussed establishing a local cannabis control board. Lewack said the board could require businesses to obtain a local permit before a state permit, “which would give the town greater leverage than we have now.”

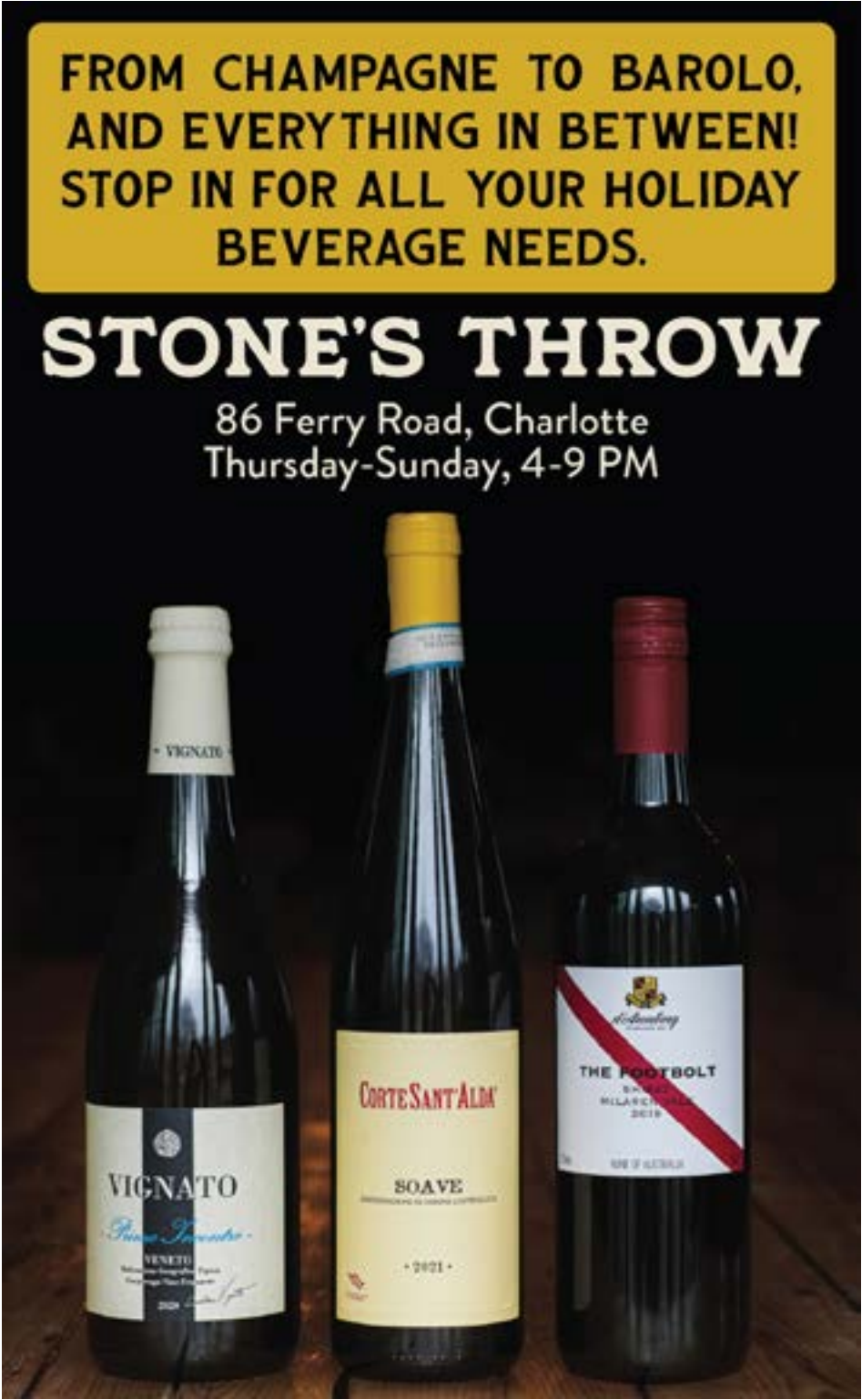
Members of the public spoke in support of cannabis regulations. “You are way more ahead on it than I anticipated,” said Jennifer Adsit of Spear Street.

Residents of Prindle Road, Andy Hale and Jen Banbury, commented as well. Banbury said she has a “strong feeling it’s the time to get on top of it” and “appreciated the commission taking it seriously.” Hale referenced a letter he and other residents submitted to the commission.

John Stern offered his perspective as a tier 1 commercial cannabis business owner. He said he was willing to provide input if the commission requested it, citing specific examples such as lighting. “If Charlotte adopted stable and sustainable rules, it would be good for all of us,” he said.

Lewack offered a final option for discussion, adopting interim by-laws. He said, “If the selectboard decided it needed to fast track something specific and no standard exists, they can task staff and the planning commission to put something together, call public hearings and adopt interim by-laws.”

After the selectboard meeting, board member Lewis Mudge said he was glad the board had made the motion to form a cannabis control commission, even though it might not be able to deny a permit. “It just establishes a level of transparency as to when and where these operations are taking place. Because before this commission, we just didn’t have any idea what was going on; we didn’t know if they were happening.”



Mission Statement

To engage and inform Charlotte and nearby communities by:

- Publishing rigorous, in-depth reporting on town affairs.
- Providing a home for stories from our neighbors and friends.
- Reporting on how other towns have addressed challenges similar to our own.

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

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Letters to the Editor

A wonder-filled surprise visit from Honduras

To the Editor:

On Friday night, Mario from Tela, Honduras, texted me: “I just flew into Boston and rented a car to come to Vermont.”

Mario is the owner of Juventud, our construction-materials supplier for our Hands to Honduras-Tela projects. We’ve worked with him for 15 years plus.

My question to Mario: “What’s up?”

To make a long story short: He has a hotel reservation in Montpelier and wants to come visit and bring his niece Valeria to meet my husband Al and me.

Valeria is a sophomore on scholarship majoring in civil engineering at Norwich University.

Mario said, “We’ll come Saturday morning at 10 a.m.”

We quickly prepared for their visit — to The Brick to buy yummy fresh scones, cut up local apples to make warm applesauce, fill a platter with Shelburne Farms cheese, maple cookies and strong hot coffee.

We expected two from Tela but it turned into five: Valeria, her mother Osiris, father Marcos, uncle Mario and aunt Blanca.

After three plus hours of Spanish-English chatter about Charlotte, Tela, the world, they wanted to tour the house, especially the basement as they don’t have basements in Tela.

We showed them the collection of clothes, medical supplies, etcetera, that we are packing to take to Tela for the Hands to Honduras-Tela February service trip. They also were curious about the garage as covered garages are not common in Tela.

It was a fun day with these wonderful Hondurans, filled with interesting and lively conversation.

They love Vermont. Plans are already in



Linda Gault Gilbert and her husband Al had a surprise visit from Mario, Linda, Blanca, Al, Marcos, Valeria and Blanca from Honduras.

place to return to fish and hike; Mario will bring his son. Valeria knows we will visit her at Norwich and bring her to Charlotte to meet more family and Hands to Honduras-Tela volunteers. She also knows she can call us any time.

When they left, we guided them to Church Street in Burlington. Then, next stop, Portland, Maine, where they made reservations for two nights. The goal – eat lobster; they have never had it before.

Days like this make the world feel a little more comfortable.

Linda Gault Gilbert
Charlotte
(Linda Gault Gilbert is director of Hands to Honduras-Tela.)

Important to support our neighbors during the holidays

To the Editor:

The recent news about more tragic mass shootings is made even more painful now that we are entering the holiday season, a time when people will be missing loved ones around the table because of senseless and preventable gun violence. Additionally, the murders in Colorado Springs specifically targeted the LGBTQ+ community, reminding many of the pain of finding a place to belong and a chosen family where you can be who you are without rejection or persecution.

We are working on a range of firearm safety proposals and protections for trans youth in the upcoming biennium that

begins Jan. 4, but it is also up to each and every one of us to support those grieving from a loss or experiencing the pain of losing access to family or safe, welcoming places. For now, I am holding the victims’ families and loved ones in my heart, and as I give thanks, I also recommit to action and change.

Speaking of being thankful, please also take a moment to help those in your life and your community who may be struggling to meet their needs through the holidays and winter months. I urge you to offer your time or resources to the Vermont Foodbank (vtfoodbank.org) to aid in their mission of distributing nutritious food to people in need. If you or someone you know is struggling with food insecurity, you can find a map to help you find food shelves in your area here: vtfoodbank.org/agency-locator.

Additionally, the Department for Children and Families has recently announced the release of \$20 million in additional Low Income Energy Assistance Program funding this winter for households that heat with fuel oil, propane, kerosene, electricity and natural gas. You can access information regarding eligibility and specific details of this program at dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/crisis-fuel.

As the days get colder and the holidays get underway, we must do all we can to support our neighbors. Thank you for reading and ensuring no one is left behind or feeling unsafe.

Please be in touch. It’s a privilege to serve you.

Kesha Ram Hinsdale
Shelburne
(Kesha Ram Hinsdale is a member of the Vermont Senate, serving the Chittenden district.)

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October 4 James R. & Gloria Slautebeck to Ronald Stettlor & Josephine Manzano-Stettlor 304 Natures Way \$1,420,000 1.68 acres w/dwelling.

October 6 Dylan Preston & Chelsea Kaigle to Peter Cole & Lisa Rubin 2616 Guinea Rd. \$325,000 .85 acres w/ dwelling.

October 9 Judith Peitscher to Christopher Cheever& Mallory O'Reilly 52 Tavern Rd. \$585,000 4.17 acres w/dwelling.

October 13 Sandra J. Haseldine to Philo Ridge LLC 2201 Mt. Philo Rd. \$385,000 3.04 acres land only.

October 17 Perry Blanchard to Wesley Carroll & Kaitlin Steiert 83 Old Carriage \$345,000 3.5 acres w/dwelling.

October 17 Clarke W. Hinsdale III to VLT & VHCB n/s Bingham Brook Rd. \$355,000 34.99 & 23.80 acres.

October 19 Chrissey McCarty to Stewart & Alexandra Tashjian 38.87 acres \$680,000 land only.

October 20 Melinda Hinsdale to Jonathan & Ashley Berliner 749 Meadowside Drive \$625,000 3.24 acres w/dwelling.

October 21 George & Robin Evarts to Justin & Cara Worthley 1055 Prindle Rd. \$1,550,000 w/dwelling.

October 25 Catherine Bock to Nicole & Asher Noor 25 Common Way \$370,000 .04 acres w/ multi-family.

October 31 Estate of Shirley Bruce to Yellowwood Design Farm LLC 213 Ferry Rd. \$175,000 .50 acres w/dwelling.

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



Farm artists

Yanna Marie (cover) and Omega Jade (left) are two of 15 artists featured in the Clemmons Family Farm’s 2023 Artists on the Farm calendar. The 13-month 2023 wall calendar, featuring members of a state-wide network of Vermont’s Black artists, can be ordered at clemmons-family-farm.square.site or by emailing clemmonsfamilyfarm@gmail.com to schedule a time to pick up a calendar at the historic, nonprofit farm.

Photo by Nani Clemmons, courtesy of Clemmons Family Farm

News from The News

We have much to be thankful for

John Quinney
Publisher and President

What a difference a year makes in the life of a community newspaper. Just 12 months ago, deep in year two of the pandemic, we learned that our editor was leaving. After working with six editors in nine years, we knew that the position wasn’t a part-time gig, despite being billed as such. So, we asked you — our friends, neighbors, readers and donors — to provide the funds that we needed to hire the paper’s first, full-time editor. You came through for us. Thanks to your remarkable generosity, and to a NewsMatch grant, we were able, earlier this year, to hire Scooter MacMillan as our full-time editor. He joined the hardworking, talented team that makes this paper happen. You met them in the last edition of the paper —



our employees, proofreaders, community writers, freelancers and volunteers. They are a remarkable group of people, and I am deeply thankful to them for their contributions to The Charlotte News and to the life of this town. I’m thankful also for our donors and advertisers.

These days, it costs about \$150,000 to publish 25 issues of the paper a year, to distribute our weekly emails, to maintain and develop our website and to manage our social media presence. Together, our advertisers and donors provide the revenue that is needed to cover these costs. In the last 15 years, more than 20 percent of this country’s newspapers have closed as advertising revenues have disappeared, and digital has replaced print. We’re bucking the trend. The Charlotte News is the oldest community newspaper in Vermont and next year marks its 65th year in business. Our longevity is a tribute to this caring and generous community, one that knows the value of local news and is willing to provide the support that keeps the presses rolling. Thank you, Charlotte. Happy Thanksgiving.

The Holidays are Coming

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Environment

EV trip proves to be EZ

Tom Scatchard
Contributor

We never knew there was a southern section of the Outer Banks, but last year Ebeth and I visited Beaufort, N.C., a beautiful town located a ferry ride away from Cape Lookout National Seashore.

This year, we decided to escape November stick season by driving our Hyundai Ioniq 5 electric vehicle (EV) for the more than 2,000-mile, round-trip venture. Because of the fast charging and long range of this car, we were quite confident that we could achieve environmentally friendly travel for our first electric-vehicle road trip.

But we knew this would not be quite as simple as taking a credit card for gas and aiming the car south.

By the way, Hyundai provides free charging at Electrify America’s very fast direct current sites for two years. How do you pass up non-internal combustion, free-fuel travel?

In preparation for our trip, I accessed the Electrify America website to plan out charging points about every 220 miles. The car has a range of over 300 miles, but at interstate speeds the range is reduced, so why push it.

It was very easy to find fast chargers along the I-95 corridor, but more of a challenge taking a route through Pennsylvania in order to dodge the big cities. We opted to stick with the main interstates for peace of mind. Charging points are coming online so rapidly, I expect that by next year traveling smaller roads will not be an issue. Another interesting aside is that many of the Electrify America fast chargers are located in Walmart parking lots. Hmmmmm.

The day we headed south was the last of the sunny, warm November days — an excellent day for a road trip. The only surprise of the trip came on day one when the Electrify America charging station in Newburgh, N.Y., which we were planning to be our first charge, wasn’t working.

Fortunately, we discovered this long before arriving by using the Electrify America phone app. This app is crucial for long-distance electric-vehicle travel. It shows every one of their chargers (which are the fastest ones currently available), and it’s how you communicate with the charger to begin a charging session. The Electrify America website on the computer is useful for seeing charging sites along potential routes, but it doesn’t always have the same up-to-date charger information as the phone app.

Because of our heads-up from the phone app to not expect a fill-up from Newburgh, we used the app to locate a fast charger closer to New York City. That worked out OK (the fast charging performed perfectly), but unless you have greater patience for local roads around the New Jersey Turnpike than I do, avoid trying to charge in urban areas.

Once we escaped New York, we made our way to our planned overnight stay in

Maryland (near fast chargers in a Walmart parking lot). After replenishing the Hyundai’s battery, we discovered a Jamaican-style restaurant with unbelievably delicious jam jam shrimp, and we were happy.

The next day we headed off with a full charge, which we boosted at Walmart #2295 near Richmond, Va., then headed further south to Sheetz #504 in Rocky Mount, N.C., for a final charge before heading to the less electrified coast.

We charged about 30 minutes each time (because that’s how long the free charging allowed), which averaged about 160 miles per charge, depending on factors such as temperature (colder is slower), whether it was a 350 kW or 150 kW charger (350 kW is faster), and the number of other cars at the site (more cars slows the electricity output).

Everything went just about as easily as filling up with gas, with the unexpected advantages of finding an over-the-top gift for a holiday tacky party and the best submarine sandwiches we had ever tasted. The glories of road tripping!

How nice it was to be wearing shorts and T-shirts when the Vermont forecasts were talking about 30-degree temps and snow. Some of the days were windy enough that long pants and heavyish shirts were appropriate, but other days we comfortably wore lighter clothes when we took ferries out to islands where we found beaches covered with shells, wild horses that were unafraid of humans and many varieties of flying and diving birds.

Beaufort, N.C., (pronounced Bo-fort as opposed to Beaufort, S.C., where the same spelling is pronounced Bu-fort) is a very cool historic seaport with many interesting boats passing through, lots of tempting shops and a variety of terrific restaurants. The area is a take-off point for ferries to the Cape Lookout National Seashore and Shackleford Banks, both of which are undisturbed barrier islands and part of the Outer Banks. A very beautiful and low-key area.

Back to the electrons. The place we were staying had an outlet in the garage where we were able to plug in the 120-volt slow charger that came with the car, which brought the car to 100 percent charge over several days.

I can’t estimate the dollar value of the electricity we used, but I’m quite certain the VRBO host will not even notice the cost on the November electric bill.

Not to get too geeky, but in the garage there was also a 240-volt dryer outlet. I had made a connector to allow us to plug our 240-volt charging device from Vermont into the dryer outlet in case we needed faster charging. In certain circumstances, the five times faster 240-volt on-site charging could be an option, but it’s nice to know that the 120-volt can handle the job as long as there aren’t a lot of long drives while staying at the destination. (Even out-of-the-way places like Beaufort have faster 240-volt public charging stations, which can easily be located with



Photo by Tom Scatchard

A wild pony on Shackleford Banks, N.C.

the PlugShare computer and phone app, but they’re not nearly as fast as the very fast Electrify America direct current stations.)

Enough with the tech stuff. We headed back to Vermont (and the cold) after eight warm days in North Carolina. There’s nothing to report from the trek back north, except for waiting 10 minutes one time for a charger to open up.

I can truthfully say that travel with an electric car is very doable now and will be even easier in the future. The electric vehicle differences are: possibly one additional stop in a 450-mile day (not a bad thing for older folks like Ebeth and me); a bit more planning needed to scope out fast-charging spots and hotels having chargers (or being near fast chargers); less cost, even if not free, because

electricity is certainly cheaper than gas; feeling a bit of pioneering spirit by doing something new (which will be the way of the future); and, duh, the biggest difference — less environmental damage using a cleaner mode of travel.

Granted, the method of generating the electricity that’s consumed impacts the environment, but research says electricity and electric cars are one of our best hopes for slowing down climate change.

(Tom Scatchard, a diligent volunteer for The Charlotte News, will be happy to chat with people who have electric car travel questions or thoughts at scatchardtom@gmail.com.)

Yes siree Bob



Photo by Meg Berlin

This photo taken on private property next to the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge seems to indicate that this bobcat believes that, private or town, it's still their property.

Town

Charlotte plans future of trees in right of way

Mark Dillenbeck
Charlotte Tree Warden

In the fall of 2020, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 171, which established new laws regarding the authority of town tree wardens.

The new legislation upholds the traditional responsibility of the tree warden to protect trees on public property and along roadsides, and it also gives towns wider latitude to decide what trees, or what areas, are subject to protection. These new statutes have important implications for the trees in our public rights of way.

The old laws, dating from the 1920s, specified that the removal of “shade trees” on public land or within the public right of way was prohibited without authorization by the town tree warden. What, however, is a “shade tree”? This was left open to interpretation, and different towns took different approaches.

Here in Charlotte, my predecessor, Larry Hamilton, considered all trees to be shade trees since all trees provide shade. This was a common interpretation employed by other towns and municipalities. The implication of this was that a landowner needed to have permission from the tree warden to remove any tree within the public right of way, which varies in width, but is generally 25 feet from the road center line.

The 2020 legislation clarifies the meaning of a “shade tree” by defining it as “a shade or ornamental tree located in whole or in part within the limits of a public way or public place,” provided that the tree was planted by the municipality or is designated as a shade tree in a municipal shade-tree preservation plan. The “public way” is the rights of way held by a municipality and a “public place” is any public property, excluding forested areas such as town forests or parks. Properties owned or controlled by the State Agency of Transportation, like the Route 7 corridor, are also excluded.

Lacking a shade-tree preservation plan, therefore, the only trees protected from removal under current laws are trees that were planted by the town.

Act 171 anticipates that many towns will expand the limited default authority of the tree warden to cover other trees in public ways and places. This can be accomplished

by designating certain trees as “shade trees” in a shade-tree preservation plan.

I have convened a task force to collaboratively develop such a plan for Charlotte. We are working on draft elements of the plan and are seeking public input to help with the process. To that end, we are hosting a public hearing on Dec. 14 5:30-6:50 p.m. at the Charlotte Town Hall. There will be a Zoom option for people who want to participate remotely.

The purpose of the hearing will be to explain additional details about a possible plan, outline options and invite public input. Our goal is to have a shade-tree preservation plan to present to the selectboard for consideration this coming spring.

Options for allowed tree removals in the right of way include:

- Default/current: Only town-planted trees are protected. Landowners can remove any non-town-planted tree in the right of way without permission.
- Diameter limits: Trees above a certain diameter size would require permission to remove. Diameter limits discussed range from 3-12 inches.
- Designated trees/designated areas: Specifically designated trees and areas would be protected.
- Basal area: This is a measure of tree density. Landowners would be required to maintain a minimal density of trees within the right of way.

When a town shade-tree preservation plan is ultimately approved by the selectboard, it will include guidelines for allowed removals of hazard and invasive trees and shrubs, road cuts and road sight lines, as well as for thinning for tree health.

In addition to the planned public hearing, Charlotters may provide feedback directly to me or members of the Shade Tree Task Force, which includes Frank Tenney (selectboard), Junior Lewis (road commissioner), Alexa Lewis (deputy tree warden), Sue Smith (deputy tree warden), Robin Coleburn (tree tribe), Vince Crockenberg (tree tribe), Brett Towle (tree tribe) and VJ Comai (tree tribe and Burlington city arborist).

Our goal is to create a plan that contributes to the beauty of our town and that fosters the environmental benefits of trees. To that end, we appreciate any public input.

Hi Neighbor!

Dave Quickel: Growing produce and community connections



Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Stony Loam Farm is more than just an agricultural endeavor. Owner Dave Quickel’s mission statement includes building community and providing education about local, sustainable agriculture. Since 2002, Quickel has been doing all of that on his organic farm.

Quickel’s original business plan had been to run Stony Loam Farm purely as a CSA (or community-supported agriculture), but he was soon producing more food than his members could handle. The CSA now constitutes a quarter of his business while three quarters of his produce is sold to Shelburne Market, Healthy Living, City Market, City Market South, Archie’s and Stone Soup.

This year, the farm’s biggest crops were head lettuce, salad mix and tomatoes which comprised roughly half of the wholesale business.

“I tell people who join my staff mid-summer that they’ll be picking cherry tomatoes all day, every day,” Quickel said. “We probably pick 700,000 individual cherry tomatoes.”

It’s been two decades, but Quickel still loves what he does.

“I still enjoy the flow of the farm and the chaos of it,” he said. “I’m at my best when it’s most chaotic.”

The chaos ends around Thanksgiving after the crops are done, and Quickel’s staff has headed off to school or other seasonal employment.

This year, he’s going to take advantage of his down time to build a barn. The two-story structure will have an upstairs apartment while the lower level will allow

Quickel to work on his tractors and have extra storage space; something which might allow the farm to push the seasonal boundaries and add a winter CSA.

Staffing is often a problem, although Quickel recognizes that this is true for most small businesses. He hopes to continue hiring area youngsters.

“I like my hippie kids,” he said, adding that he feels a connection with the young people on his staff. He enjoys providing an education to those who work with him and hopes they’ll leave with an understanding of how a farm really functions. He noted that many members of his staff have gone on to work at other farms or even started their own agricultural endeavors.

Quickel believes Stony Loam Farm operates best with four full-time employees but this year that didn’t happen.

“I probably employed 20 people this summer,” he said. “I had some for a day or two, some for a week or two, and some for a good long period of time but not for 40 or 50 hours a week.”

This fall, when members of his crew left for college, Quickel was tempted to use the H-2A temporary agricultural workers process to hire workers with agricultural visas. The week he started looking at the paperwork, two former crew members stopped by to ask if he needed help, and he was happy to welcome them back.

When COVID hit and the Shelburne Farmers’ Market closed, Quickel suddenly had Saturday mornings to himself and discovered that he enjoyed the downtime. He misses the social interaction but is happy to have more time to focus on farm chores.

Besides, Quickel gets plenty of social interaction during the two pick-up nights for his CSA. He has known many of his customers for years and is always happy to greet new ones. He has enjoyed



Photo by Dave Quickel

Dave Quickel and Sylvie on Poseidon’s Chair at Martha’s Vineyard.

watching many of their children grow up.

Quickel isn’t convinced that CSAs are a particularly lucrative business model, but he doesn’t want to give up his connection to his customers.

“Dropping boxes on a loading dock is easier money,” he said, “but it’s not as much fun. The CSA is the heart and soul of the farm for me.”

Quickel said that the day he paid his property taxes he ran into four CSA members in the 15 minutes he spent at town hall. He loves it when people tell him about meals they’ve made with his produce or send him photos of the flowers they’ve cut on their dining room tables.

Some even bring him presents like salsa that they’ve made with his tomatoes.

Community is one of the points in Stony Loam Farm’s mission statement and it’s one that Quickel doesn’t take lightly. Before he started the farm it was a hayfield with very little noise or dust.

“I feel like I’m the worst neighbor ever because I work all the time and make dust and have noisy machinery,” he said.

For that reason, Quickel has told his Valley View Drive neighbors they don’t have to ask; they can just come onto the property and pick whatever they need. It’s all about a connection to the land and a connection to the community.



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Education

CVSD educational support wins again



On Nov. 16, Gloria Mantagaris, a paraeducator at Shelburne Community School, was named the Vermont NEA's Education Support Professional of the Year. This is the second year in a row that an educational support professional from the Champlain Valley School District won this award. Last year, bus driver Jimmy Johnson took home the award. As this year's winner, Mantagaris will receive \$1,000, an all-expenses-paid trip to the national conference in March and will represent the state in the national Education Support Professional of the Year contest, which carries a top prize of \$10,000.

Outstanding educators



Hannah Carey (left photo) and Heidi Huestis (right) were recognized in November at the University of Vermont's 42nd Outstanding Educator event. Carey is a math teacher at CVU and Huestis is the librarian at Charlotte Central School. They were nominated by their peers and building administrators.

Champlain Valley School District leads the way



Of the 22 Vermont educators who completed the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont School Leadership Project, a 17-month program, seven were from the Champlain Valley School District. They are, from left, Caitlin Bianchi, math coordinator, Williston Schools; Arthur Chiaravalli, Fairbanks house director, Champlain Valley Union High School; Jensa Bushey, CVSD district literacy leader; Angela Filion, principal, Allen Brook School; Jennifer Roth, principal, Charlotte Central School; Courtney Krahn, assistant principal, Charlotte Central School; and Sarah Crum, CVSD director of learning and innovation.

Courtesy photos

Food Shelf News

Community sustained by many generous donations

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

As the days grow cold, our community is sustained by the warmth and generosity of its members and the traditions that are woven into the fabric of our shared lives.

Many community members shared their bounty and helped provide Thanksgiving dinners for 18 families. The Charlotte Food Shelf thanks all the teachers, students and parents from Charlotte Central School who provided nonperishable food for the baskets.

The food shelf also thanks Betsy Lloyd at Charlotte Central School, who has been able to connect families in need to food shelf resources.

The food shelf is grateful to Champlain Valley Union High students Linni Goldsmith,

Claire Lyons, Dicey Manning, Libby Manning and Grace Murray, who worked alongside Jim and Peggy Sharpe to fill the baskets with healthy nonperishable and perishable food.

The food shelf thanks the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary for donating turkeys, which completed the basket feasts.

Thanks also to Gerard Werle, Julia Gilbert and Nathan Cleveland, Meredith and Peter Moses, Kathleen Nolan, Rice Lumber, Evan and Catherine Metropoulos, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom, Ruth Uphold and Mary Provencher and Charlotte Organic Coop for their generous financial support.

The food shelf is also grateful for wonderful organic produce donated by the Head over Fields Farm and delicious rolls from Stewart's Bread twice monthly.

Looking forward to the December holidays, the food shelf thanks Carrie Fenn who delivered gingerbread house and cookie kits, and church members who help sustain the decades-long tradition of the giving trees. These trees are hung with decorations on which kids' wishes are written. Those who wish to donate a specific gift to a child may use these to guide their purchases. Kelly Stockwell at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Susan and Jim Hyde at Charlotte Congregational Church spearheaded this important effort at their respective churches.

Any community member who did not get a child's wish from the giving trees at the churches and wishes to donate can still do so. Consider purchasing a gift card or sending a check to the food shelf that can be used to purchase warm children's clothing.

During this busy month, the food shelf thanks the many shoppers who shop for the children. CVU student Nick Blasius is appreciated in his new role as shopper, as is outgoing CVU shopper, Wolfie Davis, for his many years of service.

The food shelf will be the grateful recipient of the "Give Back" promo in December. The Backyard Bistro will partner with Zero Gravity to benefit the Food Shelf each Thursday in December. Diners can enjoy an entrée and Zero Gravity beer knowing that a portion of the proceeds will benefit the food shelf.

Dates to remember:

- Deadline to return the Children's Giving Tree Wishes to your respective church is Sunday, Dec. 11.
- Holiday basket and children's gift pick up for registered families is Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to noon.
- The food shelf is open for food distribution 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays, Dec. 14 and 28.

As winter promises to bring both beauty and cold, the food shelf has utility assistance available to residents of Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh. If you or someone you know is facing utility shut-off or another unexpected hardship, help is available. Simply call 802-425-3252 or fill out a request form. Request forms are available during Food Shelf open hours or on the website at charlotteucc.org/copy-of-charlotte-food-shelf-1.

The Charlotte Food Shelf is located at 403 Church Hill Road in back of the Charlotte Congregational Church. Masking is encouraged during the ongoing pandemic.

For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130. If you cannot come to the food shelf due to COVID symptoms or seek further information about the food shelf, please call 802-425-3252.

Monetary donations are appreciated, are tax deductible and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Sports

CVU cross country teams finish season out front

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

After a 12-year run of state championships, the Champlain Valley Union High girls cross country team had a one-year hiatus last year. But the Redhawks started another streak this year, taking the state championship again at the end of October.

The boys cross country team came in second in the state meet, just missing the top spot by four points to St. Johnsbury, whose boys took the top spot at the state meet for a second straight year.

Senior Matthew Servin of Charlotte took first place in the individuals on the boys' side.

The team results at the state meet were outstanding for CVU with sophomore Alice Kredell of Shelburne finishing first with a time of 19:49.0

Counting Kredell's first, five of the top 10 finishers were members of the Redhawks' girls team — fourth, Estella Laird, 20:14.4; seventh, Audrey Neilson 20:48.1; eighth, Amelie Scharf, 20:53.8; and tenth, Lydia Donahue, 21:18.9.

Besides Servin — Jack Crum, fifth, 17:14.8 and Dan Knight, eighth, 17:21.1 — finished in the top 10 for the CVU boys, who finished second as a team at the state meet.

After success at the state level, the CVU cross country teams continued to compete and excel out of state.

In November at the New England Championships in Rhode Island, the girls placed second, losing to Glastonbury High School of Connecticut. The Redhawks were competing against 30 teams.

The top six teams from each of the five New England states qualified for this meet, so the girls' finish is impressive. As a team, they just missed first place by 19 points, a very narrow margin in cross country meets of this size.

Kredell finished 44th. For the year, she had three first place finishes, two seconds and a third in Vermont cross country competitions.

Scoring in cross country is like downhill ski racing — a team gets one point for a runner finishing first, two points for a second



Photos by Paul Lamontagne/vt.sportsimages.com

Left: Sophomore Alice Kredell of Shelburne finished the season with three first-place finishes, two seconds and a third at in-state cross country competitions and led the team to a state championship.

Right: Senior Matthew Servin of Charlotte had four first-place finishes at in-state cross country competitions this year and led the Redhawks to second in the state championship.

place and so on. So like golf and skiing, the lower the score, the better the finish. The winning team has the fewest points.

The boys team finished ninth at the New England Championships with Servin also placing ninth as an individual, which is impressive running against more than 250 runners, coach Nicole Gorman said.

In state meets during the season, Servin took four firsts in cross country.

Gorman is in her second year as coach. She took over from Scott Bliss, who had coached for at least 20 years and was at the helm during the girls' run of 12 state titles.

Gorman said Bliss was an amazing coach and an amazing mentor.

He was an amazing coach, an amazing mentor and "just a really, really impressive, supportive person."

Although the girls fell short of the state championship last year, it's not like they lost;

they took second, missing first by five points. The boys had a tough, injury-filled year in 2021, Gorman said.

This past weekend the members of the team ran at the Nike Cross Northeast Regional in Wappingers Falls, N.Y., a corporate event and not a high school sanctioned meet. So, the runners were competing as the Champlain Valley Cross Country Club and not as the high school.

The girls from CVU came in fourth as a team and Kredell finished 20th as an individual.

Things are looking very optimistic for the future for the girls. Only one of the runners

who regularly finishes in the top seven for CVU is a senior. Three of the Redhawks' top runners are freshmen.

"We have a young team. We have a very talented team," Gorman said. "We're looking forward to next year."

For the boys, Servin came in sixth with a time of 15:57.3. The top five individual runners were invited to the nationals in Oregon. The fifth runner, Patrick Gandini of New Hampshire, finished with a time of 15:56.7, so Servin missed an invitation to travel across the country to compete in cross country at the national level by .6 of a second.

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Arts

Images of residents adorn Charlotte Library walls

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

A group of musicians ended a song about how their good-looking date is going to appear, everything’s going to sound like a rhapsody and it’s all going to be different — when the songwriter paints his masterpiece.

After the performance of Bob Dylan’s “When I Paint My Masterpiece” at a Sunday reception for an art exhibit at the Charlotte Library, singer Duker Bower noted how the lyrics were something many of those in attendance could relate to.

The exhibition was of portraits created at an unnamed gathering of artists on Thursday afternoons at Tonya Bates’ studio on Mt. Philo Road. Bates’ studio doesn’t have a name. The exhibit at the library also doesn’t have a name. Somehow being serenaded by a song from a troubadour who once appeared in a western movie as a character named Alias seems fitting.

These gatherings have been going on for about 20 years, said Bower, who, coincidentally, originated the artist gatherings at his Inn At Charlotte.

The gathering location has changed several times over the years. When Bower became tired of scheduling a different model each week for the artists’ inspiration, it moved to Vergennes and then it moved to Shelburne.

When Bates became the host, it initially was at her home on Thompson’s Point, but when she moved to Mt. Philo Road, the gathering completed the circle, moving with her and back to near where it started.

“We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started,” said T.S. Eliot.



Tonya Bates sponsors Thursday afternoon artist gatherings at her studio on Mt. Philo Road.

That seems fitting as well.

Every week there is a model from the community, who sits for four hours while the artists explore ways to recreate their image as a painting or drawing. In the early days there was some sculpting, Bower said, but that died out.

Bates said earlier there had been some nude models, but that has died out as well. One reason, she said, is that nude paintings don’t sell well. In Vermont, landscape paintings are popular. That also seems fitting.

Another reason for not having unclothed models is that Bates is tired of nudes. When she was a student, she painted so many nude models at The Art Students League in New York that she’s had enough of it.

The reception at the library was interesting because many of the people whose images hung on the walls were in the crowd. Clothed.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Tom Marrinson and Allison Beach hold two different versions of themselves and a third hangs behind and between them on the wall at the Charlotte Library art exhibit.

And it was a crowd. The event was very well attended.

Instead of Andy Warhol’s 15 minutes of world fame, the subjects of the portraits at the library will get a month and a half of Charlotte fame, until the exhibit comes down at the end of December.

The group keeps an email list of artists and of models. Each week Bates sends an email to artists to see who’s interested. The group is limited to 12 and it costs \$15.

It is not a money-making venture. The goal is just to have enough money to pay

the models. If money starts to accumulate in the envelope where they keep their funds, they reduce the cost a couple of bucks for a few weeks.

The models enjoy it. They get paid \$80 for four hours of being still on a Thursday afternoon. The models come from both ends of the age range; it appeals to older people and high school students who like getting paid for doing nothing except looking interesting.

Charlotte Recreation Department

Winter programs announced

Nicole Conley
Recreation Director

The Charlotte Recreation basketball program provides a venue for athletes to learn and master basketball skills in a fun and positive environment. Winning is not the primary objective, but rather, development of sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for others and discipline.

Basketball

The Charlotte recreation basketball season starts next week and ends Feb. 11. Practice will be on weeknights 6-7:30 p.m. or Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon. Times will be posted as coaches determine their availability.

Mini Hoops (kindergarten-second grade) — Teams will practice once a week.

Junior Hoops (first-second grade) — Teams will practice twice a week.

Third-fifth grade — Teams will practice twice a week with games on Saturdays.

All teams are dependent on roster size and volunteer coaches. Coaches are needed.

Registration is \$80. The deadline for registering is this Friday, Dec. 2.

Jump Rope Club

Join the fun and jump around on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at jump rope club. Kids will learn the jump rope techniques while having fun bright and early.

Session 2: Jan.3-27

Grades: Kindergarten-fourth

Location: Charlotte Central School

Cost: \$25

Martial arts

Most children and teens will receive some benefit from Villari’s martial arts after training for just a few short months, but the real benefit comes from long-term training. It helps with confidence, focus, health, work ethic and attitude.

Session 3: Wednesdays, Nov.16-Dec.21

Session 4: Wednesdays, Jan.4–Feb.1

Kindergarten-eighth grade

Time: 1:50-2:50 p.m.

Location: Charlotte Central School

Fee: \$85

Safe Sitter courses

Safe Sitter courses prepare teens to be safe when they’re home alone, watching siblings or babysitting. The course offers four main content areas: safety skills, child care skills, first aid & rescue skills and life & business skills.

Lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Teens will practice choking rescue and diapering. Register for one date that works best for your child. Register with the town offering the program. Sixth-eighth grades.
Cost: \$60.



Hinesburg: Saturday, Dec. 10

Williston: Saturday, March 11

Charlotte: Saturday, May 20
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ski & ride program

March session at Bolton Valley

Dates: March 8, 15, 22 and 29

More information will take place at the parent meeting in January 2023.

Adult programs

Adult pickleball

Pickleball in Charlotte will take place at 3 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays through late fall.

Intro to pickleball

Come at 10 a.m. Saturday mornings for free pickleball instruction at the Charlotte Town Beach.

Pick-up basketball

Join the basketball fanatics on Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Charlotte Central School. Please note, pick-up will move to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5. All levels and ages are welcome.

Ice skate swap

If you would like to participate in a skate exchange, bring unused ice skates to drop in the labeled bin at the town hall. All sizes.

The recreation department hopes to stockpile enough skates to allow community members to swap during the coming skating season. The bin will remain available all winter 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Full and partial scholarships are available for all youth recreation activities.

To register visit charlotterec.com. Questions? Email Nicole Conley at recreation@townofcharlotte.com.



Calendar by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to calendar@thecharlottenews.org at least three weeks in advance.

Family contra dance
Friday, Dec. 2, 6-9 p.m.
Vergennes Parks and Recreation presents a family contra dance at the Vergennes Opera House to kick off the town's Holiday Stroll event. Atlantic Crossing plays; no experience required. More info by calling 802-877-6737.

Library book sale
Friday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m. & Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The Richmond Free Library holds a book, DVD and CD sale to benefit library programs. For more info, see richmondfreelibraryvt.org or call 802-434-3036.

Museum open house
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
The Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury has its holiday open house; museum admission is waived. Live holiday music, a Christmas tree raffle and a trains exhibit. Fun for all ages. For more info, call 802-388-2117.

Season of light
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.
The Vermont Choral Union presents music for Advent and Chanukah, singing at the College Street Congregational Church in Burlington. For more info and tickets, see vtchoralunion.org/events.html.

Vermont holiday market
Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
See a variety of artists and craftspeople, makers of clothing, jewelry, wine, mead, woodcrafts and more at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Admission charged at the door. For more info, see cvexpo.org/event/vermont-holiday-market.

Good trade market
Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 3-4, noon-6 p.m.
At HULA Lakeside in Burlington, shoppers see 100 of the best makers from around

School holiday market

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Charlotte Central School holiday market welcomes community shoppers to visit over 50 exhibitors, a children's craft table, a silent auction and several on-site food options. Vendor fees go to the Parent Teacher Organization to support a variety of student enrichment programs including STEM, theater, athletics, as well as their community emergency care fund. Entry into the market is free and open to the public. Direct questions to ccsholidaymarket@gmail.com.



the country. Purchase food and drinks; meet the creators. Tickets and more info at goodtrademakersmarket.com.

Community carol sing
Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 and 5 p.m.
Dress warmly for this singalong of traditional holiday favorites, held at Richmond's Old Round Church. The historic building has no heat, only what you create by singing vigorously. Event is subject to cancellation due to Covid concerns; see oldroundchurch.com/index.php/home for updates.

Cold-hardy grape conference
Saturday, Dec. 4-Wednesday, Dec. 7
Cold-climate viticulture is a growing industry in Vermont and around the world. Join some of the wine growing industry's top minds for a conference featuring lectures, tastings and panels. The event, which happens every three years, attracts wine growers and makers from around the world. To learn more or register for Vitinord 2022, which takes place at Hilton Burlington on Battery Street, see vitinord.org.

Christmas bird count
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7-8 p.m.
This 100-year-old tradition was launched by the Audubon Society and is a popular community science project. Participants

monitor bird sightings in a particular area over a certain time. The Vermont Land Trust presents this free online discussion on how the count works and why it's important. Learn more and pre-register at tinyurl.com/3r68f7kp.

Immigrant-owned markets
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.
Vermont Humanities presents Charlotte Barrett of Historic New England discussing the Burlington and Winooski food markets with immigrant and refugee owners. Barrett will talk about the strong social support and connection these markets provide to the owners and others in their communities. Free talk is at the Brownell Library in Essex Junction in person. Call 802-878-6955 for info about online streaming.

Student recital
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Students in the University of Vermont music department give a performance at the Recital Hall building on the Redstone campus in Burlington. Free event. Call 802-656-3040 with questions.

Winter Lights ice bar
Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:30-10 p.m.
This special evening happens during Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. Ticket holders may visit two outdoor ice

bars, stocked with drinks and snacks, for visitors 21+. Ticket purchase includes all of the Winter Lights displays, plus two each of food and drink tokens to enjoy throughout your meander around the museum. For more info or to buy tickets, see tinyurl.com/4jhsp6ur.

Leonard Cohen documentary
Thursday, Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m.
Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song is the featured movie at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. This event is part of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. For a complete schedule of films, plus trailers and tickets, see tinyurl.com/2n222xxb.

Gingerbread construction
Friday, Dec. 9, 4-5:30 p.m.
At the Richmond Free Library, ages 8-12 are invited to make gingerbread houses, complete with all the decorative details. Limited spaces for free event; register by calling 802-434-3036.

Solstice music
Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
The American roots band Low Lily joins forces with mandolinist Matt Flinner and double bassist Steve Roy, to celebrate the winter solstice with the warmth of energetic instrumentals. The musicians also sing in three- and four-part harmonies. Concert is at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Tickets and more info at tinyurl.com/5xyfuynw.

Broadway in Vergennes
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
The Vergennes Opera House brings the sounds of Broadway to the stage, with a professional and amateur cast. The program features tunes from Guys and Dolls, Ragtime and Hairspray. Doors and cash bar at 6:30. For tickets and more info, see tinyurl.com/y6exf33d.

The Addams Family
Fri., Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. & Sat., Dec. 10, 2 & 6 p.m.
The Very Merry Theatre presents free performances of a kooky, spooky adaptation of The Addams Family, the hit Broadway musical about a ghoulish American family with an affinity for

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Library News



Margaret Woodruff
Director

Are you a knitter, crocheter or just like to shop?

The Mitten Tree is up at the Charlotte Library and waiting to be decorated with handmade or new cold-weather gear.

The library is also a designated food shelf drop-off location. All items collected will be going to a local non-profit organization.

The library is working to build its bird community. See who you can find on our new feeders on the way into the library and maybe spy a squirrel on a tractor.

Looking for more bird watching opportunities?

Consider joining the National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count: audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count. If you need some tips to get started, check out the bird-watcher book list at charlotte.kohavt.org/MyAccount/MyList/1538.

Cookie Cutter Week Begins Dec. 1: Baking up a batch of cookies for a friend? Check out the library’s baking selection for ideas: charlotte.kohavt.org/MyAccount/MyList/3491.

The Friends of the Charlotte Library are holding the third annual Get Cozy Raffle to provide cheer and goodwill. The centerpiece is a comfy quilt made by Amanda Herzberger. It is surrounded by an assortment of great books.

Tickets are \$10 for 10 entries or \$20 for 25 entries and on sale until Dec 14. The drawing will be at noon on Dec. 15. The library will notify the winner by email. Enter the raffle at tinyurl.com/4xcr4acv. All proceeds will benefit the Charlotte library.

Ongoing programs for all ages

Kids crafts

See what fun activity youth services librarian Cheryl Sloan has concocted for younger library fans. Pick up your monthly craft kit in the library entryway.

Book Chat Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet at the library to discuss new books, old books and books that might have been missed. Each week, library director Margaret Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Please check the library calendar at charlottepubliclibrary.org for dates.

Short story selections First & third Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Join Woodruff Dec. 7 and 21 via Zoom 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.

Book Chat Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

Meet on Zoom to discuss new books, old books and books you might have missed. Friday is a recap of the Wednesday porch session. Please check the library calendar at charlottepubliclibrary.org for dates. Register in advance for Zoom link: bit.ly/3BtebDj.

Preschool story time Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Come to the Charlotte Library for preschool stories, crafts and activities. No registration required. Age 2 and over.

Preschool free play Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the

world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. Join play-based learning in the library program room. Ages 3 and 4.

Adult programs

Stillwater Meditation Saturdays, Nov. 19-Dec. 17, 9 a.m.

Gathering together for four weeks this fall as the light changes, we will explore poetry and meditation as sacred community. Respect for all beings and faiths is a foundational quality of our time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many or all meetings. Free. Stillwater Meditation is an offering of Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

Legumes, beans, grains and seeds Friday, Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m.

Join Charlotte Library and Mara Welton of Slow Food USA to talk about the deeply biodiverse world of legumes and grains and the lessons to learn from them in a wide-ranging conversation about climate resiliency, nutrition and food sovereignty. The talk will feature the cookbook *Grist: A Practical Guide to Cooking Grains, Beans, Seeds, and Legumes* by Abra Berens. Whether you’re new to beans and grains or have been cooking and eating them your whole life, this conversation will have something for everyone, and we will all come away with a deeper appreciation about the interconnectedness of our food, why where it comes from matters and how beans and grains fit into our food system. Register at bit.ly/3TuVvwj.

Human Rights Week expression wall Dec. 10-17

Human Rights Week is a week of events to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signed by the United Nations General

Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948. In recognition of this, the library is hosting a “free expression” wall in the program room and invites the community to share what human rights mean to them. Stop by to share your ideas by word or illustration.

One-on-one tech help Thursday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m.

Email enigma? Kindle conundrum? App apprehension? Computer questions? Or maybe you want to learn how to use your library card to read or listen to books on a device. Sign up for a 30-minute, one-on-one session at the Senior Center with Susanna Kahn, Charlotte Library’s technology librarian, for some tech support. She will troubleshoot with you and provide suggestions for next steps. Make sure to bring your device and any necessary login information. When registering, please provide a specific topic or item that you need help with and include the device you will be bringing to the session (e.g. Windows laptop, Mac laptop, Kindle, iPhone, iPad, Android phone, etc.). Registration required, please call 802-425-6345.

Holiday hours

Please note the library will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 26; and Friday, Dec. 30.

Library contact information

Margaret Woodruff, director
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org
The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Education

Charlotte Central School precepts

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

For the broader Charlotte community, it may be useful to understand the precepts which guide their local school. Simply stated, the core beliefs at Charlotte are: We take care of ourselves; we take care of others; we take care of this place.

We take care of ourselves. — Throughout the building students are developing their skills for self-advocacy to meet their physical, emotional and academic needs — taking a walk, grabbing a snack, finding a quiet space to read or write, getting help with a math problem.

We take care of others. — Classrooms in grades K-4 are gathering donations for Thanksgiving food baskets. This has been a tradition for many years as we partner with our local food shelf to gather the necessary fixings for community members.

We take care of this place. — Charlotte Central School middle level students took time to plan and implement a project to care for their community, including fundraising for the Charlotte Central School library, fundraising for the Humane Society, reading to first grade students, holding a food drive for Charlotte Food Shelf, writing letters to seniors in isolation.

Vermont Kids Against Tobacco club

Amy Sayre, student assistance program counselor at Charlotte Central School, is starting a Vermont Kids Against Tobacco club for fifth and sixth grade Charlotte Central School students after school on Mondays. Sayre received a grant from the Vermont Department of Health to launch this program throughout the district, which promotes health education for students interested in teaching their peers and community about the dangers of smoking or

vaping. The first meeting will be on Dec. 5, 3-4 p.m. in room 211.

Music news

Please mark your calendars for the Winter Concert featuring the Charlotte Central School Jazz Band and the fifth-sixth grade bands. This special event will take place on Monday, Dec 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The concert is free and open to the public.

2022-23 Champlain Valley School District budget meetings

Champlain Valley School District invites all community members to learn about and join in on the budget development process by attending upcoming School Board meetings. All members of the Champlain Valley School District community are always welcome to attend board meetings. See the topics and schedule on the budget page of the district’s website at cvsdvt.org/budget.

Links to join the virtual meetings will be available on that page and on the website calendar. Presentations from the meetings will be posted on the budget page afterward for those who cannot attend.

Penny jar celebration

At the November whole-school morning meeting, students celebrated reaching the first goal in the 3-foot tall glass penny jar in the school lobby where students are challenged to deposit pennies. Students voted about how they would like to celebrate their accomplishment. An hour of board games beat out the other options — a whole school dance party with Champ or schoolwide bingo.

So, on a Thursday, the school paused to play an hour of games with peers and adults.

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802-734-0353**

Senior Center News

Senior center abbreviating hours for the holidays



Lori York
DIRECTOR

Recently retired or new to the area? Looking to make new connections and friendships?

Visit the Charlotte Senior Center, tour the building and learn about the classes and volunteer opportunities. The senior center offers programming for adults age 50 and older from Charlotte and surrounding communities.

There is no membership fee to attend, though the center relies on volunteers to provide the wide variety of programming. The senior center is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and it also offers some weeknight and weekend programming. Stop by and check it out.

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening at the senior center? Sign up for the email newsletters at charlotteseniorcentervt.org. The “Week Ahead” email is sent out on Friday mornings with activities, lunch menus and special programming for the upcoming week.

Holiday hours

Friday, Dec. 23, closing at noon.
Monday, Dec 26, closed in observance of Christmas.
Monday, Jan. 2, closed in observance of New Year’s Day.

For the week between Christmas and New Year’s (Dec. 27-Dec. 30), the Charlotte Senior Center will be closing at noon. Please check the calendar at charlotteseniorcentervt.org to confirm that a program is being held.

Community events

Blood drive
Thursday, Dec. 8, 2-7 p.m.

Please consider donating blood during the holiday season at the American Red Cross blood drive at the senior center. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: CHARLOTTE to schedule an appointment.

Presentations
Quinlan Schoolhouse
Thursday, Dec. 1, 1 p.m.

Join members of the Quinlan Schoolhouse committee to learn more about this historical gem in the community. A video will be shown (length: 39 minutes) about the story of the historic Quinlan Schoolhouse. After the video, there will be a guided tour of the schoolhouse that is located between the Charlotte Library and the Town offices. Come learn about this gem in Charlotte.

Art exhibit
Wind Castles – and Beyond
Photography by Rachel Doran

Photographer Rachel Doran has been exhibiting for about 25 years. This exhibit includes many photographs of Vermont landscapes, as well as glimpses of New York State and Ontario, Canada. It is designed to show the beauty around the region, as well as hints of what is happening because of climate change.

Exercise classes

The senior center offers daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activity levels. A complete list of exercise programs and class descriptions is at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Programs
Shape-note singing
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-3 p.m.

Traditional a cappella, four-part harmony sung for the joy of singing, not as a practice for performance. Search “sacred harp” on YouTube for examples,

then come and sing. Introduction to shape notes and scales is recommended and offered 30 minutes before each first Sunday singing. Contact Kerry Cullinan (kclynxvt@gmail.com) to schedule. There is no cost.

Holiday glass ornament decorating
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-2 p.m.

Join Lynn Cummings and learn to decorate one-of-a-kind transparent glass or glass-like ornaments in this short, fun workshop. Inks, two transparent balls and other necessary supplies will be provided. If you wish to make more than two ornaments, please bring a few transparent glass or plastic balls. Ribbons will be provided, but feel free to bring additional small ribbons (1/8 to half-inch ribbons about 18 inches long). Registration and pre-payment required. Space is limited, so register soon. Cost is \$25 and includes supplies.

Play reading
Thursday, Dec. 15, 1-3:30 p.m.

This is table reading fun — no experience is needed. The group meets monthly and is for people who enjoy reading plays aloud or listening to others. This is a good-sized group but always welcomes newcomers. There are many women to play the roles but the group is currently short on men. Scripts are provided and parts assigned. If you have questions or would just like to stop by and listen to the group, reach out at ssnfoley@icloud.com.

Coffee & canvas – winterscapes
Friday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Unlike traditional paint & sips, this “coffee & canvas” will allow for exploring and creating a unique painting. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included. The cost is \$25. Registration and payment required to hold your space. Register by Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Volunteer opportunities

A key component of the Senior Center’s continuing success is the involvement of many volunteers, without whose work the center could not operate as it does. Hosts greet and direct participants; cooking crews dish up delicious weekly lunches, wash dishes, bake and make treats. Volunteers maintain our garden areas; present special lectures and programs; and staff the plant sale, social events and Red Cross blood drives. Interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities at the senior center? Contact Kerrie Pughe at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org or 802-425-6345.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Men’s breakfast
Thursday, Dec. 8, 7-9:30 a.m.

On the second Thursday of the month, the men gather for breakfast and conversation. December’s guest speaker is John Cohn, an expert in artificial intelligence and distinguishing fantasy from reality. Register by noon Tuesday, Dec. 6, by emailing contact Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com. Suggested breakfast donation of \$6.

Monday lunches
Served weekly. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., or until the food runs out. No registration required. Suggested lunch donation \$5.

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals
Pick up on Thursdays 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Kerrie



Photo by Lori York

Ruth Whitaker of Shelburne stands with a quilt created by members of Quilts of Valor, whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with quilts.



Photo by Lori York

The Charlotte Senior Center recognized the traditional Thanksgiving values of sharing time and food with family and friends by holding a pie and coffee drop-in on Thursday morning. About a dozen people showed up; some who had never visited the center before. There will also be a drop-in on Christmas morning.

Pughe at 802-425-6345 at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Senior center contact info:
Lori York, director, lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
Kerrie Pughe, coordinator, kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org

212 Ferry Road, Charlotte
802-425-6345
charlotteseniorcentervt.org
Follow the Senior Center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.

Write Ingredients

Expect more good food and conversation than sea urchin omelet or monkfish livers at senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Consider the plight of volunteer cooks at the Charlotte Senior Center. The deadline for the Dec. 1 newspaper is Nov. 25. Yes, the day while people are still recovering from a culinary extravaganza. But time waits for no man, nor can newspaper presses pause for volunteer cooks.

Thinking about other special meals — a recent New Yorker (Nov. 2) offers “Ingredient Substitution Guide for Thanksgiving Recipes.” These hilarious substitutions need not be confined to Thanksgiving repasts. See newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/ingredient-substitution-guide-for-thanksgiving-recipes.

In “Foodimentary: Celebrating 365 Food Holidays with Classic Recipes,” we find that national food holidays run the gamut: National Turkey Neck Soup Day (March 30) to National Chocolate Cookie Day (Aug. 4).

Certainly, December being National Fruitcake Month offers dubious delight. Calvin Trillin pointed out, “Nobody in the United States has ever bought a fruitcake for himself.”

Johnny Carson realized, “There’s only one fruitcake in the world, and people keep sending it to each other.”

Fruitcake worries aside, consider these two culinary adventures. In “We Are What We Ate: 24 Memories of Food,” Julia Alvarez notes that her husband likes to tell about when, before they were married, she invited him over for dinner: “I served him salad with bottled dressing with a side plate of fried onions and tofu squired with chili sauce. ... I’m always

aggrieved that he forgets the dinner rolls, which I bought at Grand Union bakery.”

In contrast, there’s Jim Harrison’s eating extravaganza, “A Really Big Lunch” (The New Yorker, Aug. 29, 2004). Before Harrison and 11 comrades embarked on their 37-course (and 13 wines) meal, meticulously drawn from 17 cookbooks published between 1654 and 1823, the chef had one word of advice: “Courage.”

After five different soups, came hors d’oeuvres, with oysters and cream of Camembert on toast — the only item Harrison didn’t eat.

After calf’s brains, omelet with sea urchins, filet of sole with champagne sauce and monkfish livers, he did “pause to consider whether all these hors d’oeuvres might dampen my appetite for the main courses.”

After suckling pig stew, hare terrine with plums and poached eel, Harrison wondered if he should fax the menu to his cardiologist before proceeding with the third service.

Rest assured: Diners at the Charlotte Senior Center won’t encounter sea urchin omelet or monkfish livers. They will find good conversation while enjoying good homestyle food. For a look at the menus for Monday munches and Thursday Grab & Go meals, see the website at charlotteseniorcenter.org/lunch/meals.

It’s December, and time for “Winter Wonderland,” covered by more than 200 artists since it was written in the 1930s. Here’s the original: youtube.com/watch?v=L2msLwz5V-U.



Photo by Lori York

From left, Janet Morrison (Charlotte), Sue Foley (South Burlington), Carol Geske (Charlotte) and Andy Hodkin (Shelburne) working on a Monday lunch in November.

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