

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

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Archery champ Whitney Williams
Story in sports on page 8

Ensuring broadband access

Juliann Phelps
Contributor

Tired of slow streaming or spotty cell service? There is now a way to check and report correctly if you have broadband — and accuracy matters — there’s millions of dollars of public funding at stake.

Reviewing your details on the Federal Communications Commission Broadband Map (broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home) is fairly straightforward. Type in your address and you receive a list of service providers. If any of the information is incorrect, the Federal Communications Commission has links to a form to submit a “location challenge” or “service availability challenge.”

Once the form is submitted, you receive an email response shortly thereafter. Once the Federal Communications Commission notifies the provider, they have 60 days to respond to the challenge and 30 days to update the map. The Federal Communications Commission also provides step-by-step videos (gov/broadbanddata/consumers) on how to submit a challenge.

For example, I submitted an availability challenge for my address on Nov. 22, which listed several internet and cellular broadband providers. More than half of them, including Comcast, Hughes Network, Starlink and VTel do not service my forested address. I received the first of several messages stating my “challenge was under review.” A week later the Federal Communications Commission notified the provider of the challenge and on Dec. 27 I received the first result of my submitted challenges. “The provider... has conceded the challenge and is required to submit a correction.” And that’s it. The provider updates their entry on the broadband map.

In recent weeks Vermont state leaders, including former Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Peter Welch and Christine Hallquist, executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, have issued a call to action for Vermonters to review the broadband map, citing the need for accurate information.

“The map is missing or incorrectly lists the location of over 60,000 broadband-serviceable locations,” Hallquist said in a release.

What’s the urgency behind accurate information? The updated broadband map will be used for state allocations of federal funding for high-speed internet access.

Federal allocations of funding from the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program provided a minimum of \$100 million to each state for high-speed internet. In addition, states are required to match 25 percent, which is mostly coming from prior pandemic funding like the American Rescue Plan Act. And then there is the remaining pot of \$37.1 million, which will be allocated in June to states with underserved areas — based on the broadband map. The time frame is short — challenges will be accepted until this Friday, Jan. 13.

In December the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration also announced that Vermont is receiving \$5.5 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to plan for the

SEE **BROADBAND** PAGE 5

HUMBLE SUPERSTAR



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

From left, Kelly Butnor, David ‘Bebo’ Seward, Yvonne Janssen-Heininger and Sharon Mount at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Many think these researchers, medical workers and Charlotters may be on the verge of changing for the better how lung cancer is treated across the world.

Janssen-Heininger and group from Charlotte taking giant steps in treatment of cancer

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Superstar — the word comes up again and again when you talk to people about Yvonne Janssen-Heininger of Charlotte.

Janssen-Heininger is a researcher at the University of Vermont and an internationally recognized expert in biochemical medicine because of her quest for ways to prevent or treat cancerous tumors caused by environmental factors.

Superstar — sound a little grandiose for a scientist whose research will most likely take years to come to fruition and with no ironclad guarantees that her endeavors will actually pan out? Well then, consider: Janssen-Heininger has recently nailed down grants from the American Lung Association and the National Cancer Institute totaling almost \$6 million. She was also named UVM’s most recent University Distinguished Professor.

“She is an advocate for women scientists, having organized gender equity sessions at national meetings. She is also an outstanding mentor. She initiated our annual Research

Day and other efforts to support our investigators,” Debra Leonard, chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the department where Janssen-Heininger works, told Vermont Medicine Magazine.

Before Leonard finishes, that word pops up: “She’s a superstar, and I am so proud she is a member of our department.”

Try to get Janssen-Heininger to talk about her accolades and nary a trace of the word nor any hint of the superstar swagger comes up. She invariably steers the conversation to her colleagues. Janssen-Heininger loves the cooperative research atmosphere at the University of Vermont. And Charlotte.

“Charlotte should be extremely proud of the people who are contributing and collectively doing this research,” Janssen-Heininger said. “UVM is also very collegial. We work together to get things done.”

Among colleagues she mentions who have collaborated on her cancer research are four Charlotters — Brooke Mossman, David “Bebo” Seward, Kelly Butnor and Sharon Mount.

She is also very proud of the university,

mentioning researchers she works with who have come from Duke, Michigan and other top research universities around the United States.

For a smaller university, UVM is playing in the big leagues when it comes to medical research. Janssen-Heininger has had many job offers elsewhere, but she doesn’t want to lose the experience of working with the “very interesting crowd of scientists” she collaborates with. Nor give up the rural beauty of Vermont.

“I’m not a city person. I need to have that quiet,” she said. “I need to have those moments at Whiskey Bay.”

Charlotte at the forefront

There’s a real possibility that major advancements may be made in how cancer is treated across the world — and this group of Charlotters could be crucial to those medical developments.

Discovering effective ways to treat lung cancer caused by environmental factors like smoking, coal mining or asbestos has a very personal connection for Janssen-Heininger. Originally, from Holland, both her grandfathers worked in coal mining there and died from work-related lung disease.

SEE **JANSSEN-HEININGER** PAGE 3

Charges filed for vandalizing book drop box

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Vandalism at the library that started in two phases has hopefully ended in a third phase — the arrest of the alleged perpetrator.

Library director Margaret Woodruff said the problems started with someone leaving vodka lemonade containers in the book drop-off box.

So, the library started locking the drop



Dillion Bothwell

box. On Dec. 16 the Charlotte Library posted on social media a message that the box would be locked when the library was closed, because it was being used as a trash receptacle.

Apparently, locking the box angered the consumer of the prefabricated cocktails and initiated phase two. On at least two subsequent evenings — or mornings, more accurately, because law enforcement officials believe this mischief happened between midnight and 1 a.m. — the box was pushed over.

Locking the box in large part defeats its purpose, Woodruff admitted, but the staff was worried about liquid that might remain in the discarded drink containers

and leak onto books that were dropped off there.

People coming into the library were completely sympathetic and understood that, although inconvenient, it was necessary for the box to be locked, Woodruff said.

In a release, state police said the box was pushed over on Dec. 28 and 30. On Wednesday, Jan. 4, they arrested Dillion Bothwell, 25, of Charlotte, alleging that he intentionally damaged the box and a library sign.

He was charged with unlawful mischief and cited to appear in Vermont Superior Court — Chittenden County Criminal Division on Feb. 2.

JANSSEN-HEININGER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

She was already involved in research about environmental causes of cancer when, about 15 years ago, her father died from cancer probably caused by exposure to asbestos from his work on the docks.

She came to Vermont for the opportunity to work in the lab with Mossman. It was supposed to be a temporary experience. That was more 30 years ago.

The notion that Charlotte could prove to be at the nexus of major breakthroughs in cancer research is not at all farfetched, she said. For example, much of the research she’s involved in is directly inspired by research that Mossman did on mesothelioma.

“She is the world’s expert on mesothelioma,” Janssen-Heininger said, adding Mossman’s research made possible her own advancements and projects in the area of biochemistry. Mossman has not only been her mentor; she has been her inspiration.

Scarring connected to tumors

Mesothelioma is cancer that develops in the mesothelium, a thin layer of tissue that covers the lungs and other organs. The vast majority of instances of mesothelioma are caused by asbestos exposure, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Mossman worked in cancer research at UVM for over 30 years when a woman in that field was a rarity. In addition to her discoveries in cancer research, she paved the way and encouraged other women to go into an area of science many had felt intimidated by. Mossman was also named a UVM Distinguished Professor and is now retired as professor emeritus at the university.

It is a tribute to her legacy that four of the five Charlotte researchers are women. Janssen-Heininger continues that tradition by initiating gender-equity initiatives in the field.

The researchers at UVM, a good number from Charlotte, are using brand new technologies that give them a better look at how a tumor responds to interventions such as chemotherapy or drugs, Janssen-Heininger said.

She started her research years ago in chronic scarring, or fibrosis, in organs that was caused by environmental factors, most notably in the lung. Much of her research has

“It takes a lot of funding and a lot of time to get these initiatives started. It takes a lot — and it takes a big team.”

— Yvonne Janssen-Heininger

been focused on fibrosis because once you develop a scar the chance of developing a tumor is much greater.

Other Charlotte medical stars

Another Charlotter in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine who helps with the analysis of tumor tissues is Seward.

In early November, Seward was also awarded almost \$500,000 from the National Cancer Institute’s for his research into immunotherapy and lung cancer. He shares Janssen-Heininger’s enthusiasm for their Charlotte-centric group of colleagues.

“There are more unanswered questions than there are people and time, but we’ve got a really strong group,” Seward said. “We’ve been making progress on multiple fronts. We have a pretty diverse set of educational backgrounds, and we come at the problem from different sides.”

Seward is one of those who uses the term “superstar” in talking about Janssen-Heininger and shares her optimism about what UVM researchers from Charlotte might accomplish in the fight against cancer.

With an expertise in molecular and genetic pathology, for 75 percent of his time, Seward works on interpreting the mutational profiles of cancer tumors and talking with oncologists about what therapies might be best. For the other 25 percent of his time, he is doing research and writing grants.

Butnor is “a fantastic lung pathologist” who helps the team analyze tumor tissues, Janssen-Heininger said.

“I examine tissues from that are taken from patients either from biopsies or from surgery for pathologic diseases of the lung and diagnose them,” said Butnor. “I’m a physician who advises the physicians who are directly caring for the patient on what I see under the microscope, what the next step should be for the patient.”

As the medical director of the autopsy

service at UVM, Mount has been a big help in getting tumor tissues for Janssen-Heininger and her team to analyze.

Mount confirms the other Charlotters’ diagnosis of Janssen-Heininger’s superstar status. When Mount was working on her master’s of public health, she went overseas to take a course she needed in public health at the University of Maastricht where she was amazed to see pictures of Janssen-Heininger.

“She’s famous in the Netherlands,” said Mount.

Janssen-Heininger’s excitement about her research is tempered by at least two sources of frustration. One is how long it takes to get from science and discovery to actually helping patients.

“Some of these drugs take 20 years to develop. And then some of them get shelved, and maybe they get shelved too soon,” she said. “I really would like to poke through some of this.”

Another source of concern is how much the research costs. Although getting almost \$6 million in funds is wonderful, Janssen-Heininger said, it’s not enough. Not when a single experiment can cost \$50,000.

“It takes a lot of funding and a lot of time to get these initiatives started. It takes a lot — and it takes a big team,” Janssen-Heininger said. Her current research project with the Lung Cancer Center at UVM has been in the works for over 10 years.

“We have a new, very outstanding director at the UVM Cancer Center,” she said of Randall Holcombe, who has recently come on board as director.

She’s optimistic that under his leadership the center may find ways to speed up the cancer research process. Holcombe is really interested in taking biochemical research results into phase one clinical trials to help more people sooner. And not just those with lung cancer, but other kinds of cancer, as well.



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.

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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:

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News from The Charlotte News

A community newspaper in more than name

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The Charlotte News is truly a community newspaper.

Abraham Lincoln said we have a “government of the people, by the people, for the people,” and this nonprofit newspaper was established in that same spirit. The Charlotte News is news of Charlotte, by the people of Charlotte, for the people of Charlotte.

To achieve that goal, it is necessary that a large number of residents help to keep this newspaper alive by contributing their writing and photographs of matters of interest to their fellow residents.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you who stepped up to the plate and took a swing at writing, submitting photos or volunteering your time to keep Charlotte’s sole nonprofit news source in the community news game.

Thank you for your efforts and time in helping to create the substance that gives this newspaper life:

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News from The Charlotte News

This newspaper continues because of your generosity

Claudia Marshall,
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We want to share our gratitude for the 320 people who made more than 400 gifts to help keep The Charlotte News alive and thriving as we enter our 65th year of nonprofit journalism in Charlotte.

Our goal was \$60,000 and we got to within \$2,500 of that number ... which we feel is pretty darned good, given the state of the economy and the many urgent appeals we all receive asking for our charitable dollars. So, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to this kind and generous community. We wouldn't be here without you.

With the donations we received in November and December, we qualified for an additional \$16,000 grant from NewsMatch. And \$6,000 of these donations was matched by the board of directors and friends of The Charlotte News.

Below we've listed everyone who made donations to The Charlotte News last year. In some instances, we've been able to include the spouses and partners that are such an important part of our donor community. In other cases, that information wasn't provided, so we apologize for the oversight.

In fact, because we've not done this before, we realize that we may have made some mistakes such as spelling errors, missed changes in family situations, and so on. Please forgive us if this is the case.

Better yet, send an email to John at john@thecharlottenews.org or call him at 802-318-7189 and let us know. We'll make sure we are able to give credit where credit is due. Thank you!

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The Charlotte News

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The Charlotte News

Town

Charlotte deals with Nor’easter and holiday bomb cyclone

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Charlotte got its first decent snowfall on Dec. 17 — nothing historic but a few good inches that looked promising for a white Christmas.

However, much of that snow melted during the next week.

Then about 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 23, the area was hit with what meteorologists called a bomb cyclone. Blowing in during the morning it grew into a blizzard-like wind that last a few hours, but that didn’t leave a huge amount of snow.

What it did leave was damage, several hundred homes without power and a significant portion of residents facing the prospect of a dark Christmas, most because of trees and limbs that fell on power lines.

“The most recent severe windstorm produced the most damage of any widespread wind event since the Oct. 30, 2017, storm and will likely rank as a top-three overall storm in terms of statewide impacts since 2008,” said Jay Shafer, the chief science officer at Disaster Tech, which provides storm forecasts to Vermont utilities. “The last two weeks have brought Vermont a rare one-two punch of severe widespread power-outage producing storms. The Nor’easter last week produced more outages at its peak than any other wet storm since 1980, and there has not been a combination of two severe outage-impacting storms within such a short time period at least going back over four decades.”

Green Mountain Power said that 558 Charlotte homes lost power from 14 different incidents on the eve of Christmas Eve.

By late in the day on Christmas Eve most had power back.

One of those was Gretchen Williamson who lives off Converse Bay Road. She said her family was without power for over 24 hours. Without a generator, they heated by leaving the burners on their propane-fueled stove on — which is to say, not much heat.

Besides being cold, they were without water, which meant filling up 5-gallon buckets at her sister-in-law’s house on Lake Road who still had power.

Williamson said it was about 45 degrees in their bedroom. The power came on early enough on Saturday for her to bake pie to take to her daughter’s home for a holiday meal on Christmas Eve.

Road commissioner Junior Lewis said this year’s Yule bomb cyclone was not nearly as much work for him and his crew as last year’s holiday ice storm.

“I preferred this one,” Lewis said, which is understandable because during last year’s

pre-Christmas ice event, the garage where his road clearing equipment was housed burned down.

There was very little Lewis could do this year because most of the problems were trees on power lines and his crew can’t touch those trees. Green Mountain Power has to take care of those incidents.

Bruno Murphy, who lives on Ash Road off Spear Street about 2 miles south of Hinesburg Road, said they lost power in the morning of Dec. 23. Green Mountain Power got power restored later that morning, but it went out again in the afternoon when the hard wind came.

The electricity appeared to have been taken out near Bingham Brook Road just north of his home by a whole line of trees that was knocked down, breaking the power lines there.

“It was pretty bad,” Murphy said. This time they didn’t get power back for about 12 hours, just after midnight on Christmas Eve. After seeing the storm damage, he expected to be without power for much longer than that.

Murphy was impressed by the dedication of the Green Mountain Power employees who worked through the cold, snowy and windy weather on the cusp of the holiday: “To come through, clear the trees, re-string the lines and get the power back on was pretty good.”



Photos by Louisa Schibli

Above: The Dec. 23 bomb cyclone left the road on Mt. Philo iffy for walking. Right: The Nor’easter the week before left the road looking like a winter wonderland.



Photo by Bruno Murphy

The bomb cyclone took out power and shutdown traffic after the wind blew a hoop house over power lines on Mt. Philo Road just north of Hinesburg Road.



BROADBAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed internet service throughout the state.

So where does Charlotte fall in all of this? The Vermont Department of Public Service Broadband Deployment map at tinyurl.com/5j2rzmfd shows that 59.8 percent of Charlotters, or 1,150 households, are being served speeds of 100/100 mbps. (An upload speed of 100 megabytes per second and 100 megabytes per second on download.. The bulk of Charlotters, 91.5 percent (1,758 households), are being served speeds of 100/20 mbps or better.

Is this information true for your household? If not — submit your broadband map challenge.

Broadband is still a town hall topic, however town administrator Dean Bloch acknowledged progress is slow.

Nearly a year ago last January, members of the selectboard voted to approve almost \$44,000 of town American Rescue Plan Act funds (3.5 percent of total allocation to be matched by the Vermont Community

Broadband Board for fiber buildout in Charlotte. Bloch said the money has been pledged but not disbursed yet.

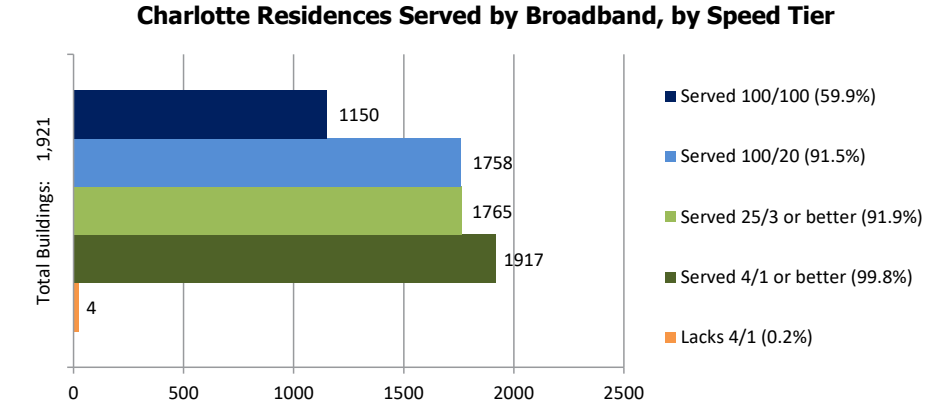
In October, the Vermont Community Broadband Board announced it approved \$26.5 million dollars in Act 71 construction grant awards for buildouts in underserved communities, including a portion awarded to Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom which is “adding a full buildout in the town of Charlotte.”

When he was state representative Mike Yantachka supported the bill creating Act 71, and current state Rep. Chea Waters Evans said broadband was also on her radar.

Kurt Gruendling, vice president of marketing and business development at Waitsfield and Champlain Valley, said approximately 70 percent of customers are currently served by fiber, with approximately 745 addresses left to build and convert from copper to fiber.

“Because of the higher amount of buried construction required, this project is coming in significantly higher than our original estimates,” said Gruendling. The cost of the remaining buildout is estimated at \$3.2 million.

Gruendling said fiber is already available



Source: VT Dept. of Public Service broadband data as of Sept. 8, 2022 (publicservice.vermont.gov/telecommunications-and-connectivity/broadband-high-speed-internet-availability-vermont)

to a large portion of Charlotte. He listed the following areas as complete: most of Route 7 from Lime Kiln Road south, Dorset Street, Spear Street and Mt. Philo Road (south of Hinesburg Road), the majority of Lake Road (Town Beach south to Converse Bay Road), the Cedar Beach area and Wings Point.

“Higbee Road is being spliced now and fiber service will be available there shortly,”

Gruendling said. The remainder of the buildout is in the final stages.

In the remaining days, check the accuracy of broadband information for your address on the broadband map.

“The best thing for people to do if they don’t have access, or can’t get service, is to make a note of that,” Yantachka said.

Opinion

Where do we go from here — One year later

Peter Joslin
Contributor

This column first appeared in The Charlotte News one year ago. The focus has been on development in town, where it is and is not occurring, and the lack of housing stock for moderate income buyers. Looking back, little has changed on this front with the exception of town approval of amendments to accessory dwelling units. Change takes time in small towns.

Many years ago, with the intent to prevent sprawl, the town-initiated changes to the land use regulations in concert with the town plan to protect the rural areas and focus most growth in the east and west villages. Has it been successful? It depends, I suppose, on what you think “sprawl” looks like and what constitutes development. One moving here from an urban environment might laugh at the thought that sprawl is occurring in Charlotte. I get it.

Perhaps sprawl is like bankruptcy as Hemingway described it: “two ways ... gradually and then suddenly.” Are we going to wake up one morning in the future and find much of the farmland and rural landscape gone and the east and west villages looking the same?

There is a housing crisis nationally, statewide and right here in Charlotte. A recent article in Seven Days, “Expensive Housing is Limiting Who gets to Live Where in Vermont — and Clouds the State’s Future,” is their final segment of “Locked Out, Vermont’s Housing Crisis” series. This article, as with prior pieces, focused on the housing crisis in Vermont,

primarily for lower to middle income buyers.

The article references Chuck Lacey, a longtime resident of Jericho, since 1988, who wanted to add an apartment to his duplex for his mother, but zoning regulations required him to build a separate house. To understand how this came to be, he researched the town’s history of land-use regulations. According to Seven Days’ reporter Derek Brouwer, this research revealed the town “drafted and adopted local zoning rules that outlawed mobile home communities and mandated large lot sizes that curtailed starter homes. Fewer- and bigger homes were built, commercial development was strictly controlled, property values rose, and resident incomes skewed higher.”

Brouwer also said, “Selectboard chair Catherine McMains, who has lived there for 31 years, describes her neighbors as artists, retirees and liberals — not “wealthy folks,” like those who live in Charlotte, the richest town in Chittenden County.” Ouch, sound familiar?

We are into the first month of the new year, a good time to consider where we go from here. We have a lot going on in our small town: construction of a new town garage; onboarding a fire and rescue department into town governance (including the escalating costs to support it and staffing challenges); ongoing concern about speeding on the town’s major roads; and a lack of affordable and moderate housing. These challenges are not unique to Charlotte. Hinesburg has postponed its attempt to create an ambulance service and voters have mandated a reduction

in the police budget. With significant growth expected over the next decade, Hinesburg has hired a consultant to review its public safety strategy. The town has also contemplated a merger with a neighboring town’s police department.

Kyra Miller and Bob Bloch, Charlotte planning commissioners, have proposed partnering with Community Heart and Soul to plan for all aspects of Charlotte’s future. Patricia Sears, community coach for Community Heart and Soul said, “Community Heart and Soul supports the ‘smart growth’ approach to community planning, reminding communities they have the power ‘to create livable places, healthy people and shared prosperity by working with elected officials at all levels, real estate developers, chambers of commerce, transportation ... and residents to improve everyday life for people.”

The Vermont Institute for Government said, “Planning is the process of designing a community’s future.”

And, from the Vermont Planning Information website: “In its most basic form, planning is the art of understanding how things are in our communities today, how we’d like things to be tomorrow, and then figuring out how to get there.”

But the planning commission can’t do this alone, they need help and support from the selectboard and most importantly, from you. Community participation and creative ideas are critical for success.

Community Heart and Soul can help us create a roadmap to the future.

Let’s resolve to engage Community Heart and Soul in assisting us to map out our future by answering these, and other

- critical questions:
- How much growth do we want over the next 10 years?
 - Where and what kind of growth: continue in the rural areas or redirect the focus to the villages?
 - What is the impact of rural development on farming and its future?
 - Do we want a more mixed community in which folks of various income levels and ages can become part of the Town fabric?
 - How (or should) we address our aging population?
 - Should the town consider providing some level of wastewater and water in the village districts?
 - Should the town investigate consolidating resources such as fire and rescue and police with other towns?

Postscript: The recently approved O’Donnell/Donovan three-lot minor subdivision at 125 Lake Road may turn out to be an example of the law of unintended consequences. Originally proposed as a tightly clustered nine-lot major planned residential development with open space, it was preliminarily approved by the planning commission in December 2021. The final approved three-lot minor subdivision by the development review board divided 124 acres into 44.54 acres, 16.79 acres and 62.97 acres.

Based on current land-use regulations, all three of these parcels have the potential for further subdivision. Apparently, there is a possibility that one lot may be conserved in the future. However, what was approved by the development review board does not conserve or designate any of the 124 acres as open space.

Commentary

Former Lt. Gov. Gray: An unprecedented two years

Molly Gray

On the morning of Jan. 5, I gaveled-in the Vermont Senate one last time. I’m grateful for the opportunity to have served the people of Vermont; what an extraordinary and unprecedented two years it has been.

I was sworn-in as Vermont’s 82nd lieutenant governor on Jan. 7, 2021, a day after the January 6th insurrection with the State House surrounded by security. I assumed my new role as Senate president in a largely empty State House at the height of the pandemic. I gaveled-in the Senate each day to senators joining via Zoom from makeshift home offices. It was not until March of the following year, that I presided over an in-person Senate. From the distribution of COVID relief funds, to investments in transportation and workforce development to the passage of the reproductive liberty amendment, the Senate persisted amidst an unprecedented global pandemic.

When I took office, I didn’t anticipate how much our pandemic response would be front and center. For the first year, I joined Gov. Scott every Wednesday for pandemic updates, used shared information about vaccine deployment and volunteered at clinics across Vermont. It was all-hands-on-deck addressing the pandemic and putting the needs of Vermonters first. There are few places nationally where Republicans and Democrats meet regularly, let alone talk. I am proud that we were able to show up united for Vermont and in a shared belief in good government.

I found ways to keep my office open and bring the voices of Vermonters to the State House utilizing technology. I hosted a virtual “Seat at the Table” series on topical issues facing Vermont communities from climate change and food insecurity to refugee resettlement. We followed these public conversations with letters to legislative leaders, drawing attention to

policymaking opportunities.

In 2021, when we learned that Vermont would receive \$2.7 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funds, in large part due to Sen. Leahy, I spent six months traveling the state completing a needs assessment and giving Vermonters a voice in how funds should be invested. We brought together Vermonters from all 14 counties for community conversation, meeting with 60 different organizations and businesses. In advance of the 2022 legislative session, I drafted a public report for Gov. Scott and legislative leaders with recommendations.

We also welcomed hundreds of students and teachers to the State House virtually as part of a “lieutenant governor for a day” program. Students from every corner of Vermont gaveled-in the Senate and learned about the inner workings of the office and legislature. It felt important to me that young people, especially kids from rural communities and girls, knew that my office was their office and they too could be lieutenant governor.

Over the last two years, there were other moments that give me great pride. As the daughter and sister of service members, I enjoyed working with our Vermont National Guard. It was an honor to represent Vermont in North Macedonia as part of a long-standing state partnership program and to welcome North Macedonia’s minister of defense to Vermont. I also advocated for ending the tax on military retirement pay — an opportunity I hope the legislature will prioritize in 2023.

Finally, this December I co-hosted a legislative summit on child care and paid leave. I ran for lieutenant governor, in part, because of my own personal struggles balancing care for a loved one with holding-down two jobs, paying student loans and making ends meet. My story isn’t unique and I believe Vermont has the responsibility to make paid family and medical leave a reality for every Vermont

worker in 2023.

I have learned so much running for office and serving in elected office. First, you have reinforced my belief that Vermonters care deeply about their communities and want them to be thriving, welcoming places. Second, you have shown that Vermonters care deeply about their democracy and show up for elections — even those during a pandemic. I hope young Vermonters, especially women, see there is a place for them in our government and in holding elected office.

Finally, and, most meaningful to me on a personal level, you have shown that a woman can come from “nowhere” (or a little town called Newbury) and serve as lieutenant governor.

I want to thank my fellow Vermonters for your faith in me. Thank you for welcoming

me into your homes and businesses. Thank you for sharing your concerns and ideas for Vermont’s future. Thank you for your calls, letters and emails. Thank you for your feedback and for holding me, and the State, accountable. Thank you for making our democracy stronger, more inclusive and resilient. Serving you and our State remains the greatest honor of my life.

I look forward to seeing you in your community, continuing to learn from you, and the good work we will continue to do together.

(Molly Gray served as the 82nd lieutenant governor of Vermont. She was elected in 2020 and her term ended earlier this month. She ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2022.)

Around Town

Condolences

Will Raap

Idealistic capitalist, steward of land and people.

Will Raap, community visionary and iconic entrepreneurial activist, loving husband, father and friend, died unexpectedly Dec. 12 at the age of 73.

He accomplished so much, and set in motion so much still to be done.

How to describe Will? His intelligence, his humor, his practicality, his grace, his ease. His deep love of the natural world. His lack of emphasis on his “legacy,” his total lack of pretense. The adjectives pile up. But mostly his deep belief in and respect for the worth of every person, a belief in the power of an individual to make a difference, and for the power of the collective to change the world. Will lived this, as comfortable packing boxes and pulling weeds and sweeping up pigeon poop alongside his family and co-workers, as speaking at conferences and petitioning politicians to get on board and make something happen.

Will redefined and modeled what it was to be a leader in our society, or should be. Yes, he was driven, highly charismatic, highly competitive and held high expectations. But this was rooted in collaboration, emotional openness, compassion and empathy.

A native Californian, Will lived much of his life as a dedicated Vermonter and always as a global citizen. He completed his education at the Haas School of Business at Berkeley, and what he subsequently experienced working in planning in the Central Valley very much shaped his life’s mission. Seeing the effect of large-scale agriculture and the patent



idiocy of compromising our environment to ship a hard tasteless tomato across the country or around the world, Will envisioned a future rooted in local business and local agriculture.

He did not find fulfillment in a “traditional career path,” so he headed to Scotland to join the Findhorn intentional community, based in spirituality, ecology and cooperative operation.

It was there he also met his wife Lynette, who would be his guide, his co-conspirator, and his life and spiritual partner for the next 45 years.

Upon returning to the United States, Will and Lynette landed on the East Coast where Will joined Lyman Wood at Garden Way, a business founded to promote a living-off-the-land ethos.

At the time Will was working at a division called Gardens for All, which promoted home gardening and published National Gardening magazine. Forced to figure out a means to better monetize their readership, Will began selling products through the pages of the magazine. Will would subsequently spin this activity off into an independent catalog business, and in 1983 Gardener’s Supply was born.

Four years after founding Gardener’s Supply, Will steered the company toward employee ownership through the early adoption of an ESOP – an employee stock ownership plan. Although the business grew in value and Will could have sold it for a premium, he eventually sold the company to the employees; Gardener’s Supply became 100 percent employee owned in 2009. Gardener’s Supply has grown to more than \$100 million in annual sales and 300 year-round employees.

It was one afternoon in the early 80s when retrieving his stolen and abandoned car that Will became acquainted with the Intervale, which was literally “the wrong side of the tracks.”

It was there that Will saw the unrealized agricultural potential of the fertile soils. The Intervale was home to the last dairy farm in Burlington, acres of cow corn, abandoned tires and petty crime. In the belief that a good use would chase out bad, Will moved Gardener’s Supply there in 1986.

He promptly formed Intervale Farm and Garden, which became the non-profit Intervale Center, with the mission of incubating new farms and new farmers, reimagining post-dairy Vermont agriculture and growing 10 percent of Burlington’s fresh produce.

He went on to form many other businesses, ranging from commercial greenhouse sales to wood products manufacturing. He collaborated with his kids to start Green State Gardener and Upstate Elevator Supply Company, and recently launched Steep Hill Labs, a leading Vermont cannabis testing facility.

At the age of 72, he acquired the former Nordic Farm in Charlotte, embracing a dynamic ecosystem of agricultural start-ups, a living demonstration project for a re-envisioned future for specialty agriculture in Vermont and renaming it Earthkeep Farmcommon.

He and Lynette had ties to Costa Rica, and there Will replicated similar for-profit and non-profit initiatives to support ecological entrepreneurship.

Yes, Will grew ideas and businesses, but he also grew people. Foremost are his creative and caring children Dylan, Kelsy and Addison, independent souls all, the true expression of the practicality, persistence and spirit of Will and Lynette.

Will was generous with his time, unsparing with his opinions, and modeled confidence without pretense, wrapped in modesty. He was a model of “servant leadership,” never asking of anyone something he would not do himself.

Will had a “why not?” attitude to taking risks. The more you told Will “you can’t” the more determined he was to prove

that “you can.” This did not always serve him best, he sometimes held onto ideas, businesses and even relationships too long. But out of every setback came learning, and a new path to a better outcome.

His family feels immeasurable gratitude for the profound love he showed them — and the love he taught them to cultivate as concern for the welfare of others and how to dedicate themselves to improving conditions for our shared home, Planet Earth.

In addition to his wife and children, Will is survived by two adoring sisters, Linda Kramer of Lafayette, California, and Sherrie Crumpler of Malibu, California.

A celebration of life will be planned for Earth Day, Will’s favorite holiday; details to follow.

In lieu of flowers or gifts and to further Will’s work, please make a contribution to the Raap Family Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation online at vermontcf.org/RaapFamilyFund. Checks can be mailed to 3 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05456.

Pamela D. Volk

Gentle into that good night she did not go.

Our mother, Pamela Dow Volk, left this world a little better on Dec. 22, 2022, after several years of declining health.

Pam was a daughter, sister, wife, grandmother, great grandmother and friend to many. She lived her life fiercely and independently, lovingly and generously. Her strength and courage were unmatched. She was direct and often outspoken. You always know where she stood.

Born April 21, 1928, in New York City to an artist father (John Dow) and an educator mother (Sarah Pickering Dow), she grew up first in Greenwich Village and then in Tarrytown, New York, following her parents’ divorce.

She graduated from Irvington High School and soon married the love of her life, Bobby (WW II Veteran Robert Dobson Volk). After four children and long before the advent of two-career households, she studied to be a licensed practical nurse (with a perfect score on her licensing examination) and began her chosen career.

It’s likely that her experience caring for others led to her fierce advocacy for women’s reproductive rights. She was a regular on the Letters to the Editor page of the Tarrytown Daily News, pushing political leaders to legalize abortion in New York and then nationally.

Pam loved the water (the family vacationed on the Jersey Shore for many years) and with Bobby retired first to the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont




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SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 7

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The **Charlotte News**

AROUND TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

(North Hero) and later to the Outer Banks of North Carolina (Duck). When Bobby became ill, they returned to Vermont, and she cared for him at home until his death. She continued to live in Vermont close to family and then moved to Baldwinsville, New York, to be near her daughters.

Pam was forever learning new ways to express her creativity. She was a lifelong sewer and knitter, and later she learned quilting, embroidery, ceramics, basket weaving, needlepoint, rug hooking, painting (watercolors) and who knows what else. Her family has the goods to prove it: winter sweaters, Afghans, quilts, hooked rugs and paintings, among other treasures. She also embraced computers and was a proud owner on an early Mac and could be found taking lessons at the Syracuse Apple Store.

Pam leaves four children (Kathie Rhein of Burlington, Debbie Deeb of Niskayuna, Cindy Volk-Delucia of Baldwinsville and Tim Volk of Charlotte) and their spouses, six grandchildren, five great grandchildren (soon to be six), as well as a brother-in-law, a niece and nephew (John, Jennifer and Geoffrey Farrell) and many Volk nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister (Diana Farrell), a grandson (John David Deeb), Bobby and many lifelong friends.

Christmas was her favorite holiday, so it seems fitting to remember her during this season of light.

Birth announcement

Congratulations to Emma (Volk) and Eamonn McDermott of Shaker Heights, Ohio, on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Mary.


Charlotte was born on Dec. 28. She is the granddaughter of Tim and Mary Volk. The birth brought a measure of happiness to a family dealing with the loss of great grandmother Pamela Volk.



Her grandmother Mary Volk said, although Charlotte’s name is pronounced like a city in the South, she is sure it is a nod to the town where Emma grew up.

Academic achievement

Jakob Holm of Charlotte, who is studying in the College of Agricultural & Life Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison, was named to the dean’s list for the fall semester.



The Town of Charlotte
MEETINGS
Visit charlottevt.org
for more information.

Martin Luther King Day observed
(Town Offices closed)
Monday, Jan. 16

Planning Commission:
Regular Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 19, 7-9 p.m.

Selectboard
Monday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Development Review Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7-9:30 p.m.

Emergency Planning
Thursday, January 26, 6:30-9 p.m.

Gratitude for a generous community

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

This holiday season, Charlotte Food Shelf is so grateful for the community generosity that has helped support multiple households, including 26 children, who are in need. Hundreds of people, including teachers, shoppers, bakers, the young and the elderly, contributed to our community’s safety net, one that has brought basic sustenance, as well as warmth and joy.

Some of these are noted below; if we missed some contributors, please accept both our apology and gratitude.

Monetary donations were gratefully received from Robert and Toni Monsey, Aileen Kraus, Virginia Foster, Donna and Remo Pizzagalli (in honor of Roberta Wood), Jill Morse, Charlotte Shelburne Rotary, Charlotte Congregational Church, Mary Mead and Maurice Harvey, M. Teena and Richard Flood, Karen D. and William H. Bruett and the Windham Foundation, William Lockwood Jr., Katherine Arthaud, the Proutt Family Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, Valerie Graham and the Vermont Community Foundation, Sharon Richards and Douglas Weaver and the Richards Weaver Family Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, Cynthia Langley (in honor of grandson Parker Trono), Christy and John Hagios, Deborah Cook, Anne Castle, Ronda Moore DVM, Elizabeth Bassett and John Pane, Diane and Peter Rosenfeld, Suzanne Laurie and Steven Wisbaum, Lorna and Thomas Bates, Nancy Pricer, Helen Toor, Earthkeep Farmcommon, Karen and Bill Doris (in loving memory of Anne and William Doris Sr.), Aerodyme Corporation, Carleen Tufo, Elisabeth and Charles Deslauriers, Anne and John Mahoney, Horsford Gardens and Nursery, Backyard Bread, Lawrence Lehman and Kathleen Nolan, Sharon Mount and Barry Finette, Leslie Lewis and Hugh Lewis Jr. (in memory of Cowboy and Arline Lewis and Father G. Ragis), Rocki-Lee Dewitt and Paula and Peter Joslin.

In a creative spirit, several raffles were used to benefit the food shelf. The painted sled raffle, featuring a children’s sled painted by Alexandra Lehmann, raised funds from multiple participants. A World Cup pool at the Backyard Bistro facilitated a generous donation by Nigel Mucklow.

Donations also came from groups such as the Sanctuary Lane and Crosswind neighborhoods, represented by Heather and John Dwight, Loretta and Kirk Walters, Anne Kelton and Tomas Cosinuke, Carolyn and John Kovac, Eleanor and Mark Capeless, Jeanne Ladue-Sudbay, Rex and Lell Forehand, Kathleen and William Posey, Lenore and Myron Sopher, and Lynne and Robert Jaunich. The Polar Picklers and Lynne Cluff made a group donation that was much appreciated. Zero Gravity partnered with Backyard Bistro to raise additional funds for the food shelf that were gratefully received.

We thank many other individuals and organizations who made the holidays special for the children in our food shelf families.

Thanks to WowToyz of Vergennes who, year after year, graciously and generously donate toys thoughtfully geared to each child we serve.

Thanks to the Flying Pig Bookstore of Shelburne for including the Charlotte Food Shelf in its Snowflake Book Program, which provides each child with an age-appropriate book. This year, because of an anonymous donation by a Charlotte family to the Snowflake Program, each child received two books. We also thank Meaghin Kennedy for her gift of children’s holiday books.

Thanks to the congregants at Charlotte Congregational Church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel who participated in the Giving Tree Program, where individual congregants have the opportunity to select and grant the holiday wish for an individual child from our Food Shelf



Photo by Lynn Cluff

The Polar Pickle Ball team had a food drive. They completely filled a car with food from family and friends and brought it to the Charlotte Food Shelf.

families. Thank you to Jim and Susan Hyde and Kelly Stockwell for coordinating the Giving Trees this year.

Thank you to Evan Metropoulos for his long-term commitment that provides a special surprise each year for each child.

Thank you to additional members of our community who contributed to making this such a special holiday. These contributions came in the form of time, toys and gift cards including Laura Iglehart, Susan Iglehart, Jon Davis, Wolfie Davis, Amy Rohrbaugh, Ava Rohrbaugh, Amy Harrison, Stephanie Wells, Susanne and Chris Davis, Cindi Robinson, Julie Wetzels, Sage Bagnato, Karen Frost, Angela DeSanctis, Deenie Galipeau, AnneMarie Andriola, Kelly Stockwell, Amanda Herzberger, Carol Chenevert and Champlain Valley Union High students Nik Blasius, Linnie Goldsmith, Grace Murray and Claire Lyons. A special thank you is offered to Ava Rohrbaugh for her embroidery skills and Betty Meng for her infant care items, as well as to Tim Palmer for delivering gift certificates for our seniors from the HAMS senior meal program.

Food donations have been gratefully received each month by parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in response to our monthly wish list. We also appreciate donations of honey from Jen Slater, Cabot Cheese from an anonymous family, vegetables from Ms. Lubic and from the Adams Berry Farm, venison from Andrea and Jason Harvey and various foodstuffs from a food drive organized by Charlotte Community School eighth graders Dana’e and Serena. In addition, Holly Rochefort’s coordination of bakers who provided enormous donations of fresh baked muffins, bars, cookies and candies made the holiday baskets special. Charlotte Central School’s donation of nonperishables for the baskets was a wonderful continuation of a lovely tradition, and we thank teachers, students and their families for these gifts.

In continuation of another lovely 20-year tradition, Horsford Gardens and Nursery donated balsam wreaths with red velvet bows, accentuating the beauty of the season.

As we now move into 2023, we thank



Photo by Karen Doris

Bill Doris handed out wreaths donated by Horsford Gardens and Nursery to people picking up food. Horsford has been donating wreaths to the food shelf during the holidays for 20 years.

the community, including anonymous donors, and hope that this year will bring kindness to us all.

Winter brings special economic challenges. Please know that help is available to residents of Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh if you or someone you know is facing utility shut-off or an unexpected hardship. Simply call 802-425-3252 or fill out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf open hours or on our website charlotteucc.org/copy-of-charlotte-food-shelf-1. All requests and grants are kept private.

The food shelf is open for Food Distribution from 4-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Our address is 403 Church Hill Road behind the Congregational Church in Charlotte. Masking is encouraged during the ongoing pandemic and its new virus variants. 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, tax deductible and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445.

Sports

Redhawks wrestling beefing up after COVID decline

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The pandemic pinned the sport of wrestling for way longer than a three-count. Understandably, a sport where opponents are literally and quite unavoidably in each other’s faces was completely shut down. While other sports have begun to thrive again, wrestling has been slow getting up off the mat. At Champlain Valley the sport went into a severe decline, just like it did at high schools statewide. But last year wrestling began to bounce back, and coach Scott Bissonett thinks the Redhawks could bounce even higher this year. In 2019, the wrestling team had 22 kids, after the hiatus Bissonett has been building the team back up. Last year, the first year back after COVID, the team had eight wrestlers. This year the team has a dozen. “Kids got away from the sport, and then they found other things to do,” Bissonett said. “It was a statewide issue.” But student athletes are starting to rediscover the sport. And last year, for the first time ever, CVU hosted the state tournament. It had been planned to be there the year before, but was postponed because of COVID. The coach is encouraged by how the season is going so far with the team notching significant wins as individual wrestlers and as a team. He’s particularly please with how well the Redhawks are

doing with two of his varsity wrestlers taking the mat for the first time. On Saturday, Jan. 7, at Mt. Anthony Union High in Bennington, the Redhawks took seventh out of 16 teams, scoring 70 points in a tough field of competitors. Camden Ayer wrestled to a third-place finish in the 120-pound weight class and Thomas Murphy also took third in the 182-pound weight class. Jacob Underhill (152 pounds) and Griffyn Bowen (170 pounds) both finished fourth in their weight class. Bissonett was also plesed with the Redhawks’ performance in the Hubie Wagner Memorial Tournament in Middlebury, Dec. 28 and 29. The team finished sixth out of 21 teams from Vermont, New York and New Hampshire. Murphy of Charlotte was the 182-pound champion of the tournament. The junior pinned all six of his opponents and didn’t give up a single point. Ninth grader Ayer of Hinesburg was runner-up at 120 pounds, while Underhill, a junior from Williston, took third at 152 pounds. Bissonette is encouraged by the team’s progress at this point in the season. “We’ve got some kids with some talent. We just have to keep working on things we need to improve on,” he said. “We’ve got some high hopes come the state tournament.” The state tournament will be in Vergennes this year at the end of February.



Courtesy photo
CVU’s Thomas Murphy lifts Isaac Whitney of Otter Valley Union before pinning him at the Hubie Wagner Memorial Tournament in Middlebury.

Congratulations
Whitney Williams of Charlotte celebrated the beginning of Vermont’s archery season in December by winning her division at the Bucky Classic Tournament in St. Albans, scoring 294 points out of a possible 300 points. Williams was competing in the adult recurve female division although she is 15 years old. She became interested in archery when she was 7 after seeing the Disney movie “Brave,” which is about a

Scottish princess who’s deft with a bow and arrow. Williams went to the United Kingdom and won the Junior Nationals Indoor Championships at 11. She has won several national competitions and holds national records. She shoots at home, at Pelkey’s Archery in St. Albans and in Connecticut, where her coach Roxanne Reiman is based. Williams hopes to compete in the Olympics — sooner rather than later.

Hi! Neighbor

Tom Scatchard: Molding young minds for four decades

Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Tom Scatchard built his own house for just over \$5,000 without an engineering or architectural background and designed two golf courses without having previously golfed. Much like the starship Enterprise, he has a tendency to boldly go where he hasn’t gone before. Teaching is where his heart and expertise lie. He spent almost four decades in front of classrooms at Charlotte Central School and has continued his affiliation with the school as a volunteer. Scatchard started his teaching career with second graders in 1975. He taught combined third and fourth grade classes and fifth and six grade classes, enjoying the variety of moving back and forth among the different ages. For a time, he had another title. “I was the computer coordinator at the dawn of the technology age,” he said, noting that cutting edge technology at the time was a Commodore 64.

Scatchard’s focus was on the computer’s word processing program although the school found other uses for the machines. He took part in a conference on information technology in 1990 to help set guidelines for how Vermont students could use the new technology. For many years, Scatchard was the only man teaching at the elementary school level but that didn’t bother him. “The young grades are where you can have a powerful impact,” he said. Scatchard’s favorite group was his third and fourth grade classes. He felt that at that point in their academic careers they had been given the basics by previous instructors and were then able to use some of that knowledge. A year after he started teaching, Scatchard and his then-girlfriend, now wife, Ebeth decided to build their own home, a process interesting enough to have been written about in a book called Green Lumber Building. Scatchard described the 1,100-square-foot, two-bedroom home as a log cabin made from 4x12 rough lumber pine beams, joking

that his experience playing with Lincoln Logs as a child prepared him for the work. The home’s foundation only cost \$200 because it was built out of Sonotubes which are cardboard tubes into which concrete is poured. The \$3,000 worth of lumber was the most expensive part of the \$5,200 home. Thirty-five years and several additions later, Scatchard sold the house and built another 100 yards south on the same property. Just like the first iteration, he and his wife designed on graph paper. This time the beams were 6x8s, but the basic construction was the same with Scatchard, his sons and one of their friends doing the work, aided by a more knowledgeable builder acting as the foreman. Scatchard’s property extends for several acres, and over the years, he has tried to figure out what to do with it. Although he had never played golf before, Scatchard decided to design an 18-hole course, mowing the areas where he thought a ball might be hit. The course had some challenging terrain including a pond, a cliff and a swamp. Since then, Scatchard has opened up another section of land and created a nine-hole course which he refers to as the archaeological site because the land in question was used for pasture and haying and had several barns which burned down. As a result, there are pieces of old farm equipment and vehicles which Scatchard has mowed around. He concedes that calling it an archaeological site is tongue-in-cheek, but the various pieces add to the enjoyment of the course. “The only reason I’m golfing is to do something with the land,” he said. “If I was a real golfer, I wouldn’t consider what I’m doing.” After he retired from Charlotte Central School, Scatchard spent a few years volunteering for the after-school enrichment program. He subsequently waded back into the technology field by working on a process where kids could share things about their lives with students in other states or countries. Unfortunately,



Courtesy photo
Ebeth and Tom Scatchard on the deck of their homemade home. Tom is holding a mail box designed to look like golf clubs for one of the Memorial Day tournaments they hold on their homemade golf course.

the sharing part of that program never got off the ground, but Scatchard is still proud of the work he did with the kids. Another connection to the school is Scatchard’s work condensing a weekly Charlotte Central School column created by the school secretary for publication right here in The Charlotte News. He also helps deliver the paper. Scatchard became a mentor for an eighth-grade student who is now at Champlain Valley Union High School. “We share our music with each other,” he said. “I’m learning about the 21st century and he’s leaning about the 60s.” He may be retired after years of teaching, but Tom Scatchard is still looking towards the future.

Education

Charlotte Central School off to big start in new year

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Charlotte Central School has been on holiday break, but there have been a number of important activities happening at the school before and after the vacation.

In the last weeks of December: fifth grade student authors shared their narrative writing with classmates who wrote them Post-it notes of positive feedback; second graders completed their poems and shared them with classmates; fourth grade students presented their Revolutionary War books; the fifth-eighth grade bands performed a variety of songs for a full house in the multipurpose room; and the fifth-eighth grade chorus pulled together some seasonal songs of snow that had an enthusiastic crowd up and dancing.

In addition to the creative student projects, the school community provided a teacher appreciation luncheon for the staff before vacation. The staff room was filled with soups, pasta dishes, salads and lovely sweets, which the teachers truly appreciated. Thank yous are extended to everyone who contributed to the luncheon.

January brings a unique point in the school year. With the first winter break behind, students returned this week and demonstrated that the expectations and procedures they’ve been building and practicing since September have solidified and become routine.

Although transitions back to school after a long break can come with challenges, it’s fair to say that students and staff found their rhythm as a community shortly after arriving on Tuesday, Jan. 3. As the front doors of the school opened for arrival; melodious tunes were spilling from the jazz band room; there was laughter in the hallways; colleagues were reconnecting after their time apart; and classrooms were bright. Soon thereafter, students and teachers alike were settled into their morning meetings and advisory circles.

Much appreciation is extended to the second-grade cohort for leading the Friday whole school assembly. Structured like a morning meeting, every member of the school community greeted each other and shared a favorite snowflake pattern. The assembled school listened to the story *Snowy Day* by Ezra Jacks Keats, especially enjoying the beatbox sound effects. The next activity stood everyone up to do the *Snowky Pokey* dance. Whether in kindergarten or eighth grade, laughter and cheers showed the joy of this activity. Congratulations to the second graders for spreading joy throughout the school community.

Spring theater and spelling club

A theater production is something Charlotte Central School feels is important for students, but there was not the capacity as a school to do it alone. When the community was asked for support, a Champlain Valley



The Charlotte News file photo.

School District parent came forward with a vision of making it happen. As a result, Charlotte Central School will be partnering with Full Circle Theater this spring to put on a spring performance. More information will be available as the process evolves.

A Charlotte Central School parent reached out asking about supporting a spelling club for kids using materials from the Scripps Spelling Bee. It may become possible for students in third through eighth grades to participate in a spelling club during their

lunch/recess block. Kids in these cohorts who are interested in working with words and rich literature would be invited to join.

Details are being worked out, which include a few parent or community volunteers to support this endeavor. The commitment would be two days a week from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (actual days still being determined). If you are interested in supporting this, please email jroth@cvsdvt.org.

Environment

Tips for driveway salting for less environmental impact

Anna Marchessault
Contributor

Did you know that the United States uses an estimated 20 million metric tons of salt on roads every year? In places like the Lake Champlain basin the long, cold winters mean a lot of salt applied on our roads and sidewalks, but all of that salt can pollute our soils and waters and harm local ecosystems.

“Road salt can make its way via streams to local lakes and ponds,” explains Lake Champlain Sea Grant Associate Director Kris Stepenuck. “Once there, it will only accumulate and can cause unsafe — or even toxic — conditions for fish and other aquatic life.”

Want to know what you can do to protect your nearby forests and waterways? Follow these easy guidelines:

- Check to see if the conditions are right. Salt depresses the freezing point of water, which makes it effective at reducing ice formation and accumulation on streets and sidewalks in the winter — down to a certain temperature. Sodium chloride, the most common type of road salt, is not effective when the pavement temperature is colder than around 16F (-9C). So be sure to check the temperature of the pavement with an infrared thermometer before you salt. If it’s too cold, opt for an alternative such as gravel, sand or even cat litter. These materials will provide extra traction to help prevent

slipping. These materials will also absorb more heat from sunlight which helps melt the snow.

Don’t have a paved driveway? If your driveway is gravel or dirt, applying salt is even more harmful for the environment and can cause dangerous conditions for driving, and experts don’t recommend using salt at all. Instead, try salt alternatives like gravel, sand, or cat litter to increase traction.

- Salt before the snow

You just checked the forecast to see if it’s the right temperature to apply salt and saw a big storm rolling in. What can you do? If you salt before the storm, it provides a buffer between your driveway and the snow which makes shoveling easier and driving safer.

Bonus points if you dissolve the salt in water first and spray the mixture on your driveway. “Using a 23 percent salt-water solution acts like butter in a frying pan,” says Stepenuck. “This reduces the ability of snow and ice to bond with the surface. Using a salt-water mixture can reduce total salt use and make it easier to plow or shovel after the storm. Plus, since any dry salt you spread must combine with water to minimize ice formation, the mixture can work its magic more quickly than if you spread dry salt.”

- Shovel, then salt.

If you apply salt to your driveway when it already has a layer of snow on it, the salt will need to seep through the layer of snow before it can start working, meaning you

would need more salt to keep the driveway free from snow and ice. Instead, shovel first and apply the salt as close to the pavement as you can.

- Use the right amount.

Salt is often spread on driveways and sidewalks without much rhyme or reason, but the amount of salt you use matters. A good rule of thumb is to spread no more than a cup or a cup and a half of rock salt for every 10 sidewalk squares or every two parking spaces. There should be about 3 inches between each of the salt grains. Using more than that doesn’t make it more effective, it just allows more salt to run off into the environment, to be tracked into the house or to damage doors, steps or other structures, and wastes money.

If you used too much salt and see it on your driveway or walkways after the snow is gone, sweep it up. You can save it and use it for the next storm. Otherwise, this excess salt will slowly infiltrate into the soil around it or run off your driveway ultimately polluting a nearby waterway.

- Tell your neighbors.

The best way to increase your impact is to get other people on board. Share these tips with your friends and neighbors so that we can all have a safe and sustainable winter.

To learn more about what you can do to



Rock salt Adobe Stock photo

become salt savvy and to help reduce salt use in the Lake Champlain basin, check out the Lake Champlain Sea Grant road salt and water quality page.

If you have any questions, please contact seagrant@uvm.edu.

(Anna Marchessault is program assistant with the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Institute which is a cooperative effort of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and the Lake Champlain Research Institute at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.)



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The Charlotte News

Sacred Hunter

A weird winter of dreaming for ice fishing to start

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

It has been a strange beginning for the winter. This past week we actually paddled our canoe out of the swamp where we had it lashed to a tree for our duck hunting season. There was virtually no ice. Mallards and a few geese were still using the unusually high water and roosting instead of migrating south as is normal.

With just a couple of cold nights this week, we are praying that the shallow bays in the islands up north lock up with some good clear black ice. So, this is how I imagine the scene playing out on Saturday: My band of merry souls will include my wife, Chris Thayer of Charlotte, Doug Hartwell of Vergennes and his gal, Jessica from Williston, maybe Ozzie (if his wife will let him out of the house) and our newest member, Trevor Coles of Manchester, N.H., who is studying pediatrics at University of Vermont Medical Center. We always send out the heaviest guy first. This year, I believe that will be Ozzie, with me in a close second, having managed to lose 36 pounds this fall — by accident.

So, we will prod Ozzie out first, dragging his shanty and an old wooden box with his gear. Ozzie likes old stuff. So do I. Maybe it's just nice to use things that have been around long enough to have a sentimental relationship with old hand lines, nylon line and simple double hook set ups. Maybe it just feels good to know that just because you're older, you haven't lost your relevance or effectiveness.



Courtesy photo

Katie Carleton holds up a large yellow perch — or a “slabber.”

I follow, tenuously, listening closely to the sounds of the ice. Not all cracking sounds are bad. When ice expands and thickens it makes these haunting sounds only describable as “sonic booms.” It takes several years to get used to. I have my hand spikes wrapped around my neck in case I have to pull myself back on to the surface after an arctic dip.

We head out on to the bay with a stunning sunrise behind us. In a line staying about 10 feet apart. Ozzie checks the thickness every few yards with the heavy iron spud,

slamming it into the ice surface. If it does not go through, it's likely safe. Using our Navionics app, we locate a shelf with a down to 12 feet and some kind of “structure” on the bottom. Fish like structure.

We set up in a circle and begin drilling holes. Some of us use the new cordless drills with our augers, and those with a respect for the authenticity of the humble beginnings of this sport, still use hand augers. There is a certain honor that goes with those who are still holding out on technology.

Back when I started ice fishing, Ozzie and I would drive my old 1977 Jeep CJ-7 out on the ice off Porter's Point in Colchester. It was “customized” to allow us to sit in the cab with the heat on and the floorboards had stainless steel hinged doors that allowed us to fish directly underneath the Jeep.

We used wooden handlines with nylon line and a snap swivel leading to a piece of simple 2-pound rated monofilament with a sinker and a No. 2 hook. We would buy minnows from an old commercial fisherman who lived in a small house just across the road from the access.

Fast forward to today. We are using Vexilar sonar fish detectors, short ultra-sensitive ice rods with super thin tips, micro reels with ball bearings and drags that can be set for any size fish we might encounter. We have pullover shanties with bucket seats, propane heater/cookers, hundreds of colorful bibbits (lures) shaped like tears with holographic and iridescent paint. Personally, I like to catch fish, so I do use a lot of these technological advances, but every once in a while, Ozzie and I like to “go retro” and just

enjoy the challenges of yesteryear. We sit facing one another, staring intently at the tips of our rods and watching to see if the new fluorocarbon line moves across the 5-inch hole. The tension is palpable. Everyone wants to be the first to yell “one” and tease everyone else who is still jigging.

We are all in our own world. Every time one of us raises their arm, we quickly divert our gaze to see if they are setting a hook or just trying to tease us all. We all fall for the deceitful gesture the first few times and after a few too many tricks we stop paying attention to the ones who are intent on fooling us. And that is when it happens.

We're all staring down the icy cylinders between our feet, when Katie, without saying a word, raises her rod up — with no dramatic flair at all — and begins to slowly reel in her line. None of us are paying attention this time. Her rod bends down, bowing toward the hole, and she begins quietly, steadily reeling up the line. No one notices. Katie says nothing.

One by one, each of us in the circle beings to notice that she is no longer looking down the hole. She sits up proudly on her pickle bucket and with a stinging grin on her face, encircled by a fur hood, holds up a large yellow perch we call a true “slabber.” With all of us now staring incredulously at her, she quietly says “one.”

(Bradley Carleton is the founder of Sacred Hunter.org, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature through hunting, fishing and foraging. He can be reached by email at sacredhunter.org@gmail.com.)

Agriculture

Free course helps farmers explore grass-fed dairy

Susan Brouillette
Contributor

Rising organic grain prices and production costs have many dairy farmers considering a transition to a grass-fed dairy.

To help farmers make an informed decision about switching their cows to grass- and legume-based diets, the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program is

sponsoring a free four-week online course this winter. It will focus on the unique aspects of this production system and practical considerations to explore before starting a transition.

Registration is required at go.uvm.edu/registergrassfeddairycourse. For more info: 800-639-2130 or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu.

Classes each day will start at 10:30 a.m. and include two separate sessions. Dates and topics are as follows:

- Jan. 20 — Introduction to Grass-Fed Dairy and Land Base Assessment
- Jan. 27 — Soil Fertility and Dairy Nutrition and Agronomy
- Feb. 3 — Herd Management and Monitoring and Cost of Production
- Feb. 7 — Review of Key Points and a Grass-Fed Dairy Farmer Panel

Course materials, including the newly published Grass-Fed Dairy Production Manual, recordings of the presentations, speaker bios and supplemental resources will be available through an online resource hub. Farmers without internet access will have a call-in option for the weekly classes and can request to receive course materials, included a printed copy of the manual, by mail.

As an optional bonus, participants will have the opportunity to meet in-person at the Vermont Organic Dairy Producers



Image by JackieLou DL from Pixabay

Conference, March 9 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center.
(Susan Brouillette works for the University of Vermont Extension.)

Into The Woods

Animal personality diversity crucial to our forests’ future

Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

Each of Vermont’s tens of thousands of native species fills an ecological niche, influencing its environment and the species around it in different ways. While an important component of managing for healthy, biologically-diverse forests includes managing for species diversity (different species of wildlife, trees and plants), there are also differences in behavior between individuals of the same species.

The emergent study of intraspecific behavioral variation — also known as animal personality — has illuminated the behavioral diversity within individual species. Studies of animal personality focus largely on five traits: boldness/shyness, aggressiveness, activity, exploratory behavior and sociability. Across a growing body of scientific literature, species from birds and grizzly bears to worms and salamanders exhibit a range of personalities which influence the way that they forage, reproduce, rear their young and more.

A recent study by researchers from the University of Maine, detailed in The New York Times, examined animal personality by looking at synzoochory, the dispersal of seeds by seed-caching animals. Synzoochory is thought to be a mutualistic (mutually beneficial) relationship between trees and the animals which cache their seeds. This study found that some deer mice and red-backed voles were more mutualistic — more likely to spread and cache viable acorns, while others were more antagonistic — more likely to consume acorns or to cache them in places where they would be unable to sprout.

Research into animal personality has given rise to another fascinating concept: the keystone individual. Many of us are aware of the idea of a keystone species: a species, like beaver, whose behavior supports an array of habitats and natural processes. A keystone individual is a single animal whose behavior is disproportionately valuable to the ecosystem that it inhabits, to other species, or to groups of their own species. For instance, the mice and voles which were more likely to cache viable acorns could be called keystone individuals because they distributed and planted oaks across the forest, thus serving an invaluable ecological role. In social animals from birds to fish to spiders, keystone individuals have also been observed to change the personality and the behavior of colonies, flocks and schools of their own species.

While some animal personality traits may seem to be “better” than others, it is suspected that a behavioral diversity exists because different personality traits are beneficial at different times and in different situations, and because there are trade-offs associated with different traits. For example, a bolder deer may be more successful at eating backyard apples — a highly valuable food resource — but more likely to be killed by a hunter. A shyer deer may be better at avoiding predators but less successful at mating and foraging at times when boldness is necessary.

Biodiversity is key to forest resilience and



Photo by Gary Sturgis

Both bold and shy chipmunks are important in the forest for a variety of plants and animals.

adaptability, providing different pathways forward as ecosystems and species face both the harmful legacies of the past and an uncertain future. Researchers now suggest that behavioral diversity is important for the same reason: that a diversity of personalities affords a species more ways to respond to a changed and changing world.

In our relatively young and simple forests, we have skewed animal personalities towards certain traits which are adaptive under these conditions. To encourage behavioral diversity, we need to invoke many of the same practices that we also use for a variety of other objectives: from providing habitat for declining songbirds to improving the climate resilience of our forests. Managing forests to be more diverse and complex, with different species of trees, different sizes and ages of trees, some big old trees and lots of dead wood on the forest floor will help encourage a diversity of animal personalities.

We also need to encourage landscape-level diversity: a landscape which is a connected mosaic of forests of different ages and in different stages of development and which are managed in different ways. Managing for habitats which may be underrepresented across our landscape — such as early successional forest — is important, as is encouraging some areas of unmanaged forest.

Animal personality is yet another example of the many intricacies of forest communities and another testament to the importance of managing them thoughtfully. As is the case with so many things, diversity is crucial both for protecting what we have and for moving into the future.

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

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Gardening

Gardening in a terrarium

Deborah J. Benoit
Contributor

Terrariums are miniature gardens in lidded, clear-glass containers. Their closed environment requires little care and only occasional maintenance.

The container can be a jar, a glass globe or an unused aquarium. Whatever size container you choose, just be sure it's been thoroughly cleaned.

Select plants that either are naturally small and slow growing or that can be pruned to remain small. Plants not suited to growing inside the limited space of a terrarium will soon outgrow the container and overcrowd their companion plants. For best results, choose plants with similar light and humidity requirements.

Plants to consider include miniature ferns, such as maidenhair fern (*Adiantum microphyllum*) and button fern (*Pellaea rotundifolia*), the palm-like little tree plant (*Biophytum sensitivum*), polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachea*) and miniature African violets (*Saint paulia*). Carnivorous plants, such as Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) or sundew (*Drosera*), will appreciate the humidity a terrarium provides. In addition, mosses can be the star of a tiny terrarium or serve as ground cover in a large one.

To provide a good foundation for plants to grow, begin with a 1- to 2-inch layer of coarse gravel or small stones. Use the thicker layer for a larger container. This layer provides necessary drainage since the terrarium's container has none.

Next, add a thin layer of activated charcoal. The charcoal will help prevent odors and bacterial growth.

The top layer in which plants will grow is made up of two to three inches of light potting soil that contains perlite and/or vermiculite.

Plan the arrangement of plants using a plate or a piece of paper the size of the planting area within the container. Taller plants should be placed behind shorter ones. Allow enough room, particularly near the walls of the container, for plants to grow.

When satisfied with your design, remove the plants from their pots, working away excess soil and freeing roots. Make a hole in the terrarium's soil and spread roots to accommodate the shallow soil depth. Gently press soil around the base of each plant.

Depending on the container, it may be difficult to use your hands to place plants in the terrarium. You can use a long-handled spoon, dowel, chopsticks, tongs and other items to place each plant and firm it in soil.

Water sparingly by misting or adding spoonfuls of water. Soil can be covered with sand, gravel, colored aquarium stone or a living ground cover such as moss. Consider adding shells, miniature figurines and other decorative accents. Finally, secure the lid in place to create a closed environment that will need minimal maintenance.

If excess moisture accumulates on the inside of the glass, briefly open the lid. Conversely, if the seal is not tight, the terrarium may need to be watered periodically. If you have a lid with a good seal, you may not need to add water for months.

As plants grow, they may need to be groomed periodically with pruning to remove unhealthy or damaged growth or to maintain shape or size.

Select a location for the terrarium with bright light but avoid placing in direct sunlight as the glass will magnify the sun's rays and overheat the environment inside the terrarium, damaging the plants.

If you'd like a terrarium featuring cactus and succulents, which prefer far less humidity, you can accommodate them by making an open terrarium in this same manner. Omit the lid to allow air to circulate. Monitor and water as needed.

Large or small, terrariums are a wonderful way to enjoy a tiny, private garden even in the middle of winter.

(Deborah J. Benoit is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County chapter.)



Photo by Karolina Grabowski/Pexels

Plants that are either naturally small and slow growing or that can be pruned to stay small will work well in terrariums.



Photo by Karolina Grabowski/Pexels

After laying out the arrangement of plants on a plate or a piece of paper the size of the container's planting area, carefully place inside the glass container.

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Calendar of Events

Calendar by Mary Landon

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

*Some events may be cancelled due to lack of snow, too much snow, lack of ice or COVID concerns. Always check ahead.

Access CVU classes winter/spring schedule

Check out the extensive list of classes offered through Access CVU, based at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg. Possibly you'll discover a new skill or craft or cuisine that intrigues you. Registration is now open for this season's offerings. Or consider teaching a class to others. For all the info, see cvsdvt.ce.eleyo.com.

Online cooking class
Thursday, Jan. 12, 5:30-7 p.m.

Share in the annual South Indian Pongal celebration by learning about sweet and savory dishes, spices and cooking techniques. Pongal honors the fresh rice harvest. City Market offers this free livestream class with a Cordon Bleu graduate. Registration required at tinyurl.com/5hc32w7t.

Zen workshop
Saturday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a practical and authentic introduction to the mind/body disciplines of Zen Buddhism at Vermont Zen Center in Shelburne. To register and learn more, see tinyurl.com/bdyw3ezj.

Wool felting project
Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-noon

Meet a sheep at Shelburne Farms and learn how to turn some of its wool into a felted flower. Recommended for ages 7 and older with accompanying adult. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/3jbvnxyp.

Revolutionary War event
Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fort Ticonderoga was a key supply depot for the Northern Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The soldiers in New York kept supplies moving north to troops fighting in Quebec City during January, 1776. Learn about the lives of our soldiers, and the ox sleds, loaded with provisions, making the journey north along the frozen lake. Experience the hardships of Fort life, including procuring scarce supplies and caring for the wounded. Dress for unpredictable weather. Details and tickets for this living history event in Ticonderoga, N.Y., are at tinyurl.com/3x5b3w5v.

BIPOC Community Day
Saturday Jan. 14, 2-5 p.m.

Burlington Parks and Recreation presents a day of outdoor activities, food, a bonfire, and more at Leddy Park in Burlington. Gear for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating and sledding is provided at no cost. Complimentary food available on site. An event for all ages that is weather dependent. Questions may be directed to Andrew at 802-809-1167. More info at tinyurl.com/2744azvw.

Sledding party
Sunday, Jan. 15, noon- 4 p.m.

With the weather's cooperation, there will be a family sledding event at Catamount

Charlotte's heart and soul
Friday, Jan. 20, 5-6 p.m.

Join fellow community members for a free chili dinner at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Organized by Community Heart and Soul, a project of Vermont's Orton Foundation, the evening brings the town together to share ideas about the town's future and what makes people happy about living here. Hear different perspectives on growth, change and what matters to our residents. More info by emailing charlottecommunityhands@gmail.com or see heartandsoulcharlotte.org. All residents and ideas are welcome.

Outdoor Family Center in Williston. Bring your sleds, gather by the fire for s'mores, and follow a scavenger hunt. No registration required; donations gladly accepted. For directions and more info, see catamountoutdoor.org/events/sledding-party. Phone 802-879-6001 to confirm weather status.

Abenaki erasure
Sunday, Jan. 15, 2-4 p.m.

Hear Vera Longtoe Sheehan, director of Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, speak on 'Abenaki Erasure, Eugenics and Ethnocide' in a Zoom presentation organized by Burlington's Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. All are welcome to watch this free event. More museum info at ethanallenhomestead.org. Use this same website to access the Zoom link.

Healthy batch cooking
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

Expand your knowledge of batch cooking for a healthy start to the new year. All recipes presented are free of gluten, dairy and refined sugar. Cook along with a nutritional therapist for this free virtual City Market class. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/5crswy8z.

Wildlife tracking
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. & Saturday, Jan. 21 9-11:30 a.m.

Audubon Vermont presents a two-part event: part one is an online class covering the basics of tracking. Part two is held in person at the Audubon Center in Huntington to practice tracking skills along their trails. Dress for walking outside. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/bzftzree. Contact Audubon Vermont at 802-434-3068 to confirm class, if there is no snow.

The fountain of youth
Thursday, Jan. 19, 7-8 p.m.

Mountaineer Martin Pazzani presents a virtual talk based on his book, Secrets of Aging Well: Get Outside. This free event, organized by the Green Mountain Club, focusses on the particular benefits of hiking for a healthy life. Donations gladly accepted at registration at tinyurl.com/269a7uj7.

Make a basket
Saturday, Jan. 21, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This one-day class will result in the creation of a black ash berry basket, perfect in size to be worn around the neck when picking.

Learn about the traditional and useful skill of weaving while you see a basket materialize in front of you. Class is held at the Shelburne Craft School and requires registration. More info at tinyurl.com/pf7xmasz.

See the sea caves
Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 21-22, 10 a.m.-noon

Dress for the weather in this outing to the sea caves off of North Avenue in Burlington, near the empty Burlington High School. Short trek is led by a nature educator from Petra Cliffs Climbing Center. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/mtear5pd. Call Petra Cliffs at 802-657-3872 about weather cancellations.

Be a wildlife detective
Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-noon

Fingers crossed there will be adequate snow for a morning of animal tracking at Shelburne Farms. This program is best for ages 6 and older. Participants hunt for tracks and other animal signs in the farm's forests and fields. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/25akthp8.

Crafts and cocktails
Saturday, Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m.

The Old School Art Studio in Richmond is offering a class in Japanese embroidery (sashiko) for ages 21 and over. The fee includes one drink, appetizers and all supplies. For more info and to register, see oldschoolartstudio.com/crafts-cocktails-winter.

Americana and blues
Saturday, Jan. 21, 6-8 p.m.

Shelburne Vineyard hosts Vermont native Reid Parsons in a loft performance. She'll finger-pick her special brand of folk/blues with jazz influences. Seating in the loft is on a first-come basis. For more info on this free event, see tinyurl.com/3aut67bw.

Sock knitting
Monday, noon-2 p.m., Jan. 23-Feb. 6

Join others at the Shelburne Craft School for a three-week class on knitting socks. Class will cover the necessary steps for this slightly complicated, but rewarding, project. For all the info and to register, see tinyurl.com/ynuz3nfp.

Music without borders
Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

A fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on a variety of instruments, including harp, at Richmond Congregational Church. For tickets and more info, see valleystage.net/special-events.

Mite control for bees
Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

Learn from a panel of professional beekeepers about a new method for Varroa mite control which has been approved for use in Vermont. The free workshop takes place at the Middlebury Rescue Squad Building near Porter Hospital and is appropriate for experienced beekeepers or those thinking of keeping bees. There will be an ask-me-anything-about-beekeeping session. No registration required. For more info, see vermontbeekeepers.org.

Dead Ringer screening
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

The movie "Dead Ringer," starring rock legend and actor Meat Loaf, was made in 1982 and never released. It follows the star as he is about to start a world tour

for his most recent album and how he is coping with his immense success. Enjoy a rare opportunity to see this unique film at the Essex Cinemas in Essex. Director Allan Nicholls will attend the screening and conduct a Q&A after the film. Tickets available at the door or purchase in advance at vtiff.org.

Long Trail record holder
Thursday, Jan. 26, 7-8 p.m.

Learn how novice backpacker Liz Derstine became the women's record holder for fastest known hiking time, unsupported, on Vermont's Long Trail. Her journey to achieve that honor was a process, and she eventually became a confident solo hiker, both day and night. She presents her story via Zoom, thanks to the Green Mountain Club. To register for her talk, see tinyurl.com/msh8u7wv.

Free (ice) fishing day
Saturday, Jan. 28, all day

No fishing license is needed to fish today in Vermont, for residents and nonresidents. This event may turn out to be simply free fishing day, due to lack of adequate ice. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department staff will be on hand at Silver Lake State Park in Barnard to help participants get started with ice fishing 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Dress appropriately. Please email corey.hart@vermont.gov or call 802-505-5562 to confirm the Barnard event in case of poor ice. Register at tinyurl.com/2p96ctaw. Check the ice wherever you go.

Owl pellet exploration
Saturday, Jan. 28, 10-11:30 a.m.

Dissect an owl pellet to see what food the raptor might have digested. At Shelburne Farms, put on your science detective hats as you investigate the contents of the pellet while learning about owl eating habits. Live owls from Outreach For Earth Stewardship will be visiting the class. Recommended for ages 5 and older. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/4583um2p.

Magic in the air
Saturday Jan. 28, 2 p.m.

Alyx is a Vermont-based magician and she promises an afternoon of humor and sleight of hand that will amaze the whole family. She performs at the Vergennes Opera House; doors open at 1:15 p.m. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/ywf3frtb.

Try cross-country skiing
Sun., Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Catamount Trail Association partners with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center to offer a community ski day where participants may try cross-country ski gear and snowshoes for no charge. Today's event happens at Winooski's Gilbrook Nature Area and is weather-dependent. To confirm event, see catamounttrail.org/community-ski-days or call 802-864-5794.

The whole hog
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6-8 p.m.

By publication time, Philo Ridge Farm may still have a ticket or two available for their animal butchery workshop in Charlotte. Learn how an entire hog gets broken down into familiar cuts. Ticket price includes nacks, drinks and a family-style meal. For tickets and more info, see tinyurl.com/bdeuey2z.

See more events on our website:
charlottenewsvt.org/category/local-events

Library News

Library welcomes program, book ideas for new year



Margaret Woodruff
Director

Thank you to all who helped to make 2022 one of the best years at the Charlotte Library. We were delighted to open our doors completely and welcome everyone back. From the gardens to the bookshelves to the program room, community support and interest made things happen here.

If you have a program idea or a book suggestion in this New Year, we would love to know about it so please be in touch. In the meantime, we hope to see you at one of the programs or book discussions at the library this month.

Resolved to do more reading this year? Start out with the Winter Reading Challenge. From Jan. 1-31, Vermonters are challenged to read and log at least 20 minutes per day. Register at vermont.beanstack.org.

Experience all the feels this winter: Explore the importance of emotions, learn about the history of emojis and discover fun activities to express yourself fully — all while earning badges on a virtual bingo card.

Children’s programs

Young children’s story time
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

No registration required.

Kindergarten/first grade story time
Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jan. 17-Feb 21

This after-school program has a few openings for this session. If you were part of the last group in the fall, you are on a waiting list.

Preschool free play
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks, play dough — these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning at the Charlotte Library. Ages 2-4. No registration required.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife scat and track family program

Get outside this winter and explore the Vermont landscape in a unique way. Each week for four weeks, your family will watch a pre-recorded video highlighting a particular critter focusing on the habitat, life cycle and identification before diving into how to locate signs of the species.

Then head outside to see what you can find and record in a nature journal.

The species covered this year will be white-footed mouse, ruffed grouse, mink and skunk. Vermont Fish and Wildlife have informative videos on their website to learn more about different Vermont species highlighted in past years at vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/conservation-education/scat-and-tracks-program.

Pick up a packet at the Charlotte Library and make sure to leave your email so the weekly videos can be sent to your family.

Programs for adults

Book discussion: Our Better Nature
Mondays, Jan. 9-Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

Grounded in experience and science, Our Better Nature: Hopeful Excursions in Saving Biodiversity presents readers with stories, essays and resources to guide and inspire action in favor of nature everywhere. This beautiful new book inspires individuals and communities to carry Vermont’s thriving framework for sustaining biodiversity beyond all borders and into meaningful actions that protect nature around the world. At the final session, Feb. 6, we’ll be joined by Eric Hagen and other contributors.

Books are available to borrow or purchase through the library.

Stillwater Meditation
Saturdays starting Jan. 14, 10 a.m.

Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many or

all meetings. No registration necessary. Stillwater Meditation is an offering of Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

Book Chat
Wednesdays, 3 p.m., Jan. 11-25

Meet each week 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. No registration necessary.



Mystery book group: The Verifiers
Monday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m.

Copies of the book by Jane Pek are available at the library circulation desk.

Short story selections
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m.

Join Library Director, Margaret Woodruff, to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors and two to three stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Register here: <http://bit.ly/3QmFrwy>.

A Conversation about parenting young children
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m.

What is your child’s behavior trying to tell you? What are age-appropriate expectations? How to handle life’s challenges and transitions. Recognizing and dealing with anxiety in young children.

Maya Burr, early childhood interventionist and author of Little Siblings, Big Feelings, will discuss and explore. Register at <https://bit.ly/3VloVO1>.

Men’s book group: Fun Home
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Copies of Alison Bechdel’s book are



available at the library circulation desk. Discussion via Zoom.

Your electronic waste: Where does it go?
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Many Charlotters have left their electronic waste at the Charlotte Library recycle bin or brought it to Charlotte Central School on Green-Up Day. Come learn about the amazing journey of that waste from Charlotte to Good Point Recycling in Middlebury and beyond from Good Point’s owner, Robin Ingenthron. Register here for the Zoom discussion at bit.ly/3v6LITl.

Book discussion group: This is Happiness
Thursday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Copies of the book by Niall Williams are available at the library circulation desk. Via Zoom.





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Senior Center News

Cello, crafting ... all kinds of cures for post-holiday blues



Lori York
Director

Feeling the post-holiday blues? How about joining a class at the senior center? There is a wide range of programs for all interests ranging from sewing and crafting, languages, art, music and exercise classes. Come for lunch, a cello performance or consider spending some time volunteering.

The senior center offers programming for adults 50 and older from Charlotte and surrounding communities. Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening? 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.

Community events

COVID-19 & flu vaccine walk-in clinics Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1-6 p.m.

Garnet Healthcare is offering COVID-19 vaccines, updated (bivalent) boosters and flu vaccine walk-in clinics at the Charlotte Senior Center. No appointments necessary. Flu vaccines are only available for those under 65 years.

Cello performance Thursday, Jan. 26, 1-1:45 p.m.

Join us for this solo cello performance at the senior center with Jonah Hutchin, a premier young adult performing cellist of Charlotte. Check out jonahhutchin.com. No charge for this performance.

Chat with Chea Monday, Jan. 23, 1 p.m.

Bring your questions and concerns for a legislature meet-and-greet with Chea Waters Evans, your newly elected Chittenden-5 representative. She is interested in hearing from you so she can bring forward your issues in Montpelier.

Art Exhibit Wind Castles — and Beyond

A photography show by Rachel Doran, who has been exhibiting for about 25 years, includes many photographs of Vermont landscapes, as well as glimpses of New York State and Ontario, Canada. The exhibit will be on display through the end of January.

Upcoming programs

Kirtan Sunday, Jan. 15, 3-5 p.m.

Join Charlie Nardoizzi and Heidi Kvasnak for a Sunday afternoon Kirtan. Kirtan is an ancient Yoga gathering where musicians play traditional instruments and sing simple chants. Some chants are call and response and others are singalongs. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. Register by Friday, Jan. 13. Cost is free. Questions? Please contact Charlie Nardoizzi at cnardoizzi124@gmail.com.

Beginner Guitar II Wednesday, 7-8 p.m., Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22 & March 1

Interested in learning guitar? This class is for those who have a basic understanding of beginner guitar and is a continuation of the fall Beginner Guitar 6-week class. If you have questions about whether this class would be appropriate for your specific skill level, please reach out to John Creech at sonjohncreech@gmail.com. There will be no class on Feb. 8. Cost is \$75. Register by Friday, Jan. 13.

Snowshoe expedition Wednesday, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Let’s snowshoe! Weather permitting,

the group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the winter months, starting on Jan. 18. The outings will be approximately two hours with locations to be determined on trails around Charlotte and neighboring towns. Bring your own equipment, snacks and water. The group is also looking for some trip leaders. The cost is free. Registration is required. To register or indicate your interest in leading a snowshoeing trip, contact Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com.

Ukulele Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22 & March 1

Join John Creech as you learn to play the ukulele in this fun and easy-going class. Ukuleles are easy to learn, even if you have no musical background. This group is for anyone who already plays and just wants to play in a group as well as beginners interested in learning. Bring a ukulele, along with an electronic clip-on tuner, and the curiosity for learning something new. There will be no class on February 8. Registration required by Friday, Jan. 13. Cost is \$75.

Free eBooks and audiobooks on your Apple Device Wednesday, Jan. 18, 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Join us at the senior center as tech librarian Susanna Kahn leads a hands-on class where you will learn how to borrow ebooks, audiobooks, videos and music with the Hoopla app and your library card to enjoy on your Apple device. Expand the possibilities of your iPad or iPhone with Hoopla! Please bring your library card and Apple ID and password (for downloading the app). Need a library card? Stop by the Charlotte Library and sign up. If you are not a Charlotte resident, make sure your library offers Hoopla. Cost is free. Registration required.

Sewing for beginners Thursdays, 2-3 p.m., Jan. 19, 26 & Feb. 2

Have you always wanted to learn how to sew? Join us and learn how to use your machine by creating a patchwork quilt top pillow. The end result is a 14x14 inch finished pillow. Learn basic stitching and cutting. Supplies include a choice of fabric and pillow form. Please supply basic white thread, pins, scissors and your sewing machine. Registration required by Tuesday, Jan. 17. Cost: \$45 (including supplies).

Italian for total beginners Fridays, 10-11 p.m., Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24

You’ve never studied Italian? Do you dream of traveling to Italy and ordering a cappuccino in a sun-drenched piazza? Feeling tongue-tied? Then this class is for you. Join Nicole Librandi as you begin your study of Italian — and have fun along the way. Cost is \$48 for the six-week session. Registration by Jan. 17.

Watercolor: Tips from British artists Tuesday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-noon

Lynn Cummings will lead a discussion about several of her favorite contemporary British artists. Short video clips will be shown and discussed. Explore how these British artists work their magic and what techniques could be incorporated in your own personal paintings. Registration is required since class size is limited. Cost is free.

Watercolor in winter Tuesdays, Jan. 31-March 7, 9 a.m.-noon.

In this six-session class with Lynn Cummings, a variety of topics will be explored ranging from “painting whites” and winter wildlife, to details that can be added to paintings, like insects, bubbles and water lets. Cost: \$240. Registration and payment by Jan. 20.



Photo by Lori York

Twenty-two people joined at the senior center for a Christmas morning breakfast.



Photo by Dan York

John Creech- beginner guitar class at the senior center.



Photo by Susan Hyde

From left, Cyndie White, Kate Mesaros, Susan McDonald, Susan Mills and Laura Cahners-Ford on a snowshoe expedition.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website t.charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

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 10-11a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Kerrie Pughe at 802-425-6345 at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. \$5 suggested

meal donation.

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.org.

Write Ingredients

Enjoy Hot Tea and National Oatmeal month at senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Knowing that January is Hot Tea Month and National Oatmeal Month may not cause anyone to burst into song, but certainly January is the time to celebrate snow.

While you’re enjoying good meals at the Charlotte Senior Center, note that on Jan. 15, 1885, Jericho farmer Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley became the first person to photograph a snowflake, the first of over 5,000 photos.

The Natural History Museum in London has digitized a book of Bentley’s photos, allowing us to see for sure that no two snowflakes are alike at tinyurl.com/4b5bxvc.

Even better, visit the wonderful Bentley exhibit at the Old Red Mill in Jericho, maintained by the Jericho Historical Society. You’ll see the actual camera he used as well as lots of his photographs. Add to the delight by enjoying “Snowflake Bentley” by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, a children’s book beautifully illustrated by another Vermonter, Mary Azarian.

As you enjoy your lunch at the Charlotte Senior Center, contemplate that beans, an important part of every known cuisine for 10,000 years, are good nutrition. Beans are cholesterol-free and high in vitamins, minerals and soluble fiber.

That said, we can still appreciate humorist S. J. Perlman’s observation: “Any dietician will tell you that a running foot of apple strudel contains four times the vitamins of a bushel of beans.”

Strudel isn’t on the menu at the Charlotte Senior Center, but take note of that chocolate bread pudding.

Monday, Jan. 16
Monday Munch

Hot dogs, baked beans, brown bread, and chocolate bread pudding.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 10-11 a.m.
Grab & Go meal pickup

Oven fried chicken breast, diced potatoes with parsley, peas and onions, wheat roll with butter, date Craisin bar and milk. Meal provided by Age Well.

Don’t forget to register for the Thursday Grab & Go meal: 802-425-6345 or kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday, Jan. 23
Monday Munch

Menu to be announced. Check the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

Thursday Jan. 26, 10-11 a.m.
Grab & Go meal pickup

Barbecue pork rib, fried potatoes, carrots,



southern biscuit with butter, fruit crisp with cream and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday.

Thursday Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Potluck lunch, music and art

Come enjoy a potluck lunch in the café, followed by a photography show and a cello performance in the great room. Please sign up at the host desk so we know how many are coming.

All month, enjoy “Let it Snow,” written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Style in a 1945 July Hollywood heat wave, sung here by Frank Sinatra at youtube.com/watch?v=sE3uRRFVsmc.

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