Come to the Charlotte Senior Center and celebrate spring with good food and good conversation. Monday Munch on March 27 features some presidential favorites. When Columbia University persuaded Gen. Dwight Eisenhower to become its president, the Eisenhowers were asked to contribute a recipe for a cookbook, "What's Cooking at Columbia." Cookbook compilers expected something from Mamie, but she wasn't much of a cook, and Ike sent his recipe for two-day vegetable soup, a soup he'd been cooking since childhood.

His recipe for soup was printed in newspapers of the day and is available here: tinyurl.com/52w8myeh.

Noting how much Thomas Jefferson loved apples, Peter J. Hatch, director of the Monticello garden and grounds, points out that the apple is an apt symbol for the diversity and complexity of America's melting pot culture. With its many variations, "there are almost as many apples as there are people, each with its own unique history."

"Nomenclature of the Apple," a 1905 publication of the Government Printing Office, listed the names of approximately 17,000 apple varieties that appeared in 19th century American publications. Hatch concluded, "The apple is to America as the potato is to Ireland or the olive to Italy."

So, celebrate spring with the presidential favorites of chicken vegetable soup and apple pie at the Charlotte Senior Center.

Monday Munch, March 27
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food is gone.

Chicken vegetable soup, green salad, crusty bread and apple pie with ice cream.

Thursday, March 23
Grab-&-Go Menu. Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Roast pork in sauce, mashed potatoes, peas & onions and oatmeal-raisin cookie
Reminder: Advanced reservation for Grab-&-Go meals required by the Monday before by emailing meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org or calling 802-425-6345

Monday Munch, April 3,
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Menu to be announced. Go to the senior center "Good Eating" site for the menu at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

Thursday, April 6
Grab-&-Go Menu. Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Sweet-n-sour pork with sauce, brown rice with lentils and vegetables, green beans and Easter cake.

A recent feature in The Wall Street Journal revealed what volunteer cooks at the Charlotte Senior Center kitchen have in common with David Boulud, Michelin-starred chef and proprietor of 20 or so noted restaurants around the world. Boulud listed things in his kitchen he can't live without: "a wood spatula, a peeler and a cast iron pot."

We have it on good authority that some senior center cooks would add garlic press to the list.

Come join a volunteer cooking team at the Charlotte Senior Center, and you, too, can cook like David Boulud.

Note: The Charlotte Senior Center provides a full set of eating utensils, so you won't have to eat like Ron DeSantis.

According to The Daily Beast, during a private plane trip from Tallahassee to Washington, D.C., in March 2019, this notably messy eater enjoyed his chocolate pudding dessert by using his fingers to eat it (tinyurl.com/3f3p85w7).

Let's be generous — and assume that when he enjoyed a meal costing $8,000 at the famous French Laundry restaurant near San Francisco, he used utensils.

Finally, here's Frank Sinatra with "high apple pie in the sky hopes" at genius.com/Frank-sinatra-high-hopes-lyrics.
Top shelf
Margaret Woodruff and the transformation of the Charlotte Library

Steve Goldstein, Contributor

When she arrived in Charlotte 23 years ago, a librarian seeking diversion for her young children found a welcome resource at the Charlotte Library. Some time later, a position opened and she applied. She had no previous experience — yet it turned out to be the “perfect match,” as one library trustee said.

The Charlotte Library turns 25 this year. Margaret Woodruff has been there for 20 of them, rising from youth services librarian to director for the past nine years. She has seen the library evolve from, well, a library — that is a book-centric operation devoted mainly to the acquisition and lending of reading matter — to a multi-service operation that takes your trash, helps your garden — and still lends out 13,000 books.

There are reading groups and book clubs and children’s activities galore. A reading group for men and other groups for almost everyone. A garden, a seed library — check out some heirloom tomatoes. Recycling? You betcha. In fact, the library recycles some things that drop-off centers do not accept. There’s pre-school story time and free play. At a parent’s request, Woodruff organized viewings of the recent soccer World Cup.

You can even borrow such in-demand, non-book items as pickleball rackets and large burdock removers.

They haven’t yet branched out into wildlife control but the library can handle skunks. When the nearby Charlotte Children’s Center ran afoul of a visiting skunk and had to follow the advice of youth librarian Cheryl Sloan and other staff made space for the preschool refugees and turned odor into order.

Charlotte is one of 188 public libraries in Vermont — the most per person of any state. The library in many towns and villages has become a community center, or better stated, a center of community. There’s no admission charge, no one chides you for staying too long and everyone is welcome. It is in this welcoming atmosphere that many Charlotte residents cite about the library staff and particularly Woodruff.

Jonathan Silverman, chair of the Charlotte Library Board of Trustees, praised Woodruff as someone who “follows through with suggestions, is an excellent writer, communicates with clarity and empathy, is community-minded, seems to have read every conceivable book in the library and has a keen sense of humor. Lest you think, well, what’s so hard about running a library, listen to Nan Mason. She was on the first board of trustees — the one that hired Woodruff — and said the screening process sometimes seemed like science fiction.”

“In the course of reviewing librarians over the years,” Mason related, “one of our trustees said he wanted to ask a serious question. Does it make you mad when people take books out? Not one, but two candidates said, Yeah, because, you know, they are taking them off the shelves.”

“Margaret,” added Mason, “was just a dream come true, honestly.”

You could say the profession chose

minutes of the final period of Champlain Valley’s 42-38 victory.

During a century of Vermont boys hoops title matches, CVU had knocked on the championship door only once before, losing in 2017 to Rutland 43-37 in overtime.

For Rice, the state boys basketball title match is familiar territory. In fact, in 1922 Cathedral High, which became Rice Memorial in 1959, won Vermont’s first state title game 28-24 over Hardwick. Since then, Rice has appeared in 35 state title games, winning 17 of them — three of those championships coming in the last three years.

The title game on March 13 was the third time these two met this season with Rice dealing CVU its only defeat on Jan. 2 and with the Redhawks triumphant 53-50 Feb. 25. The game started with a 3-pointer from Rice’s Drew Bessette, who followed shortly after with another basket to put the Green Knights up 5-0.

Rice seemed seduced by its opening trey and for much of the game seemed to pin its hopes on winning trey outside shooting. After the game Kyle Eaton said the CVU’s game plan had been to encourage Rice to shoot 3-pointers, but the Redhawks were surprised by how much the Green Knights relied on their outside shooting with minimal encouragement.

The first half was a back-and-forth affair with neither team able to break out for much of a lead. The teams swapped the lead several times before Eaton hit two free throws to put CVU ahead at 15-14 with just over four minutes left in the second quarter, but Rice came back to take a 24-19 lead

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CANNABIS growth causes confusion

Scooter MacMillan

Editor

Confusion, frustration, possibly even anger, has been stirred up in Charlotte over the regulation of commercial cannabis operations in town.

On March 13, the Charlotte Selectboard, operating as the town’s cannabis control commission for the purpose of considering an application for cannabis cultivation, found itself wrestling with questions for which it found no clear answers.

And the members found their discussion stymied by state restraints restricting what it means for an application preliminary approval at the state level to be passed back for town approval for a mixed tier commercial cannabis growing license.

As of yet, Charlotte’s zoning laws don’t define different tiers of growing, Tenney said, so he believed the application is for an undefined use and should be going through the development review board.

A previous application that has been approved was deemed an undefined use, which means it was subjected to conditional-use approval, so it was handled by the development review board.

To further complicate the issue, according to the regulations, any application for development for a use other than agricultural, dwellings or forestry has to go through site-plan review by the development review board, Tenney said. “I’m questioning whether the process was done properly.”

Board member Lewis Mudge added, “It also makes you question the relevance of

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Woodruff rather than the other way around. Call her the Accidental Librarian. Woodruff lived in Philadelphia for a time and went on to attend Swarthmore College near Philadelphia. She started as pre-med but eventually switched to history. It was there she met her husband, Charles. Her classmate and friend Sarah Baily said so many student marriages took place that the school was nicknamed the “Quaker Matchbox.”

Baily described Woodruff as a “Remains of the Day” woman: adding that she is passionate about a lot of these different interests. The library is a good match because she is “very curious.” Woodruff lived in Philadelphia for a time and then went on to attend Swarthmore College near Philadelphia. She started as pre-med but eventually switched to history. It was there she met her husband, Charles. Her classmate and friend Sarah Baily said so many student marriages took place that the school was nicknamed the “Quaker Matchbox.”

“Some of us, if you’re from a very small town or a very small community, you naturally think of making sure your kids have the opportunity to read and be exposed to a lot of different things,” said Woodruff. “And I think that the library is a really important part of that.”

Woodruff has been involved with the library system in many different ways over the years. She is passionate about a lot of these different interests. The library is a good match because she is “very curious.” Woodruff lived in Philadelphia for a time and then went on to attend Swarthmore College near Philadelphia. She started as pre-med but eventually switched to history. It was there she met her husband, Charles. Her classmate and friend Sarah Baily said so many student marriages took place that the school was nicknamed the “Quaker Matchbox.”

“Some of us, if you’re from a very small town or a very small community, you naturally think of making sure your kids have the opportunity to read and be exposed to a lot of different things,” said Woodruff. “And I think that the library is a really important part of that.”

Photo by Steve Goldstein

Margaret Woodruff has been with the Charlotte Library for 20 of the library’s 25 years.

TCN: How has the director’s job changed over the years?

MW: There’s sort of a running joke among directors of small libraries: your resume could be many pages long because you’re running the mystery book group, and then you’re getting out the Legos for the playgroup. And then in between, you have to unstop the toilet or fix the light switch or make sure that the snow is coming off the roof in a safe way. So, I think it was just straightforward.

TCN: Describe the ways in which the library has changed.

MW: When I started working here, we were sort of just at the tail end of sort of what I grew up with as a library, which was sort of a lot lower technology. We had computers available, but our programming and everything was centered on books. I still think that is the most important part of the library. Being able to provide people with accurate and relevant and up-to-date information is one of the most important things that libraries everywhere do. But the breadth of what we do has expanded so much. I mean, I think technology, which has changed everybody’s lives so much, is certainly part of it now. We help people check out an ebook or download an audiobook. I think COVID also changed us in our worlds of kind of closed up and people were looking for other ways to access information. Certainly, we had many more people starting to use the digital content that we provide, and then also our interlibrary loan.

TCN: How did the recycling program come about?

MW: People were asking if we could help find ways for them to recycle batteries and plastic wrap and toothbrushes and a variety of other things. That is something I’d never imagined we would be doing at the library but here we are. We also have a quite robust seed library here and extensive gardens connected with that. Since you can register to vote at the town hall across the street, rather than trying to get a voter registration program here at the library, we instead have information about how to contact the people at town hall.

TCN: What was your thinking about your popular book chats?

MW: Yeah, it’s sort of a way to highlight books that might have been overlooked by a lot of people. It’s meant to be a little bit of a conversation that we use to pick a theme, because like today, based on what’s coming up. Today happens to be Supermarket Employee Appreciation Day. So I searched through the library catalog for anything that came up that had to do with supermarkets, and some of the books you would not imagine they have anything to do with supermarkets, but it gives me a filter for looking for new books to discuss.

TCN: Tell me about the sustainable library program.

MW: I was able to get some funding for us to start a sustainable libraries working group here. In Vermont there are 17 libraries that are working towards certification to become a sustainable library. The group requests for funding and you work towards fulfilling these various criteria that work towards maintaining a sustainable environmental footprint.

TCN: Have you had requests from any groups or individuals that books be available from circulating?

MW: No. We have a fairly rigorous examination of materials if they’re of any kind of rare items, there’s a form they fill out to present it to the library board. Then there’s a review committee that reviews their request for reconsideration. And then a determination is made. We’ve never had to do that in the time I’ve been here, I think. I hope that people realize that there’s all different kinds of books for all different kinds of people.
Thank you for passing the school budget

To the Editor:

On behalf of the entire school district, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support in passing the budget for our students and our schools. Your decision to invest in education will have a positive impact on the lives of our students and the future of our community.

Your vote demonstrates a commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience, and we are grateful for your trust and confidence in us. We will continue to work hard to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all of our students and to help them reach their full potential.

Bonnie Bedhall
South Burlington
(Bonnie Birdsell is director of digital learning & communication for the Champlain Valley School District and she submitted this letter for the school board.)

A Fish and Wildlife Board meeting on coyote hounding

To the Editor:

I attended the most recent Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board meeting online. The meeting is held in Berlin and goes on for four hours. Anyone can share a public comment at the beginning of the meeting and you are allotted two minutes. The board is made up of 14 individuals, all trappers, houndsmen and hunters chosen by the governor. They discuss everything from where and anything related to wildlife and are responsible for all policies that govern wildlife and affect animals. This includes how the animals are treated and managed, whether hounding should be regulated, “bag limits” (the number of animals allotted to kill), the length of trapping seasons, what type of instruments are to be used such as crossbows and the width or diameter of arrow heads … and on and on. The board makes all decisions governing wildlife and can even over legislate that directly affects them.

At the beginning of the meeting, I read comments I had on S. 281, Act 165 on hunting coyotes with dogs regarding the board’s recommendations. The meeting was eye-opening to say the least.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

halftime.

The second half began with an Eaton 3-pointer that brought the Redhawks within 12 at 42-30, then an Eaton 3-pointer that brought the Redhawks within five at 42-37. The game was tied 37-37 with 30 seconds left in the third quarter.

Eaton finished with 11 points and 3 rebounds.

Bilodeau led Rice’s scoring with 11 points and 3 rebounds, followed by Daniel Bogre’s 7 points and 3 rebounds.

The Redhawks didn’t relinquish, going up 41-37 with 3 minutes left in the third quarter.

The title may have been won from the foul line. As a team, CVU hit 16 of 22 free throw attempts. Rice missed the only foul shot it

I knew it was bad. “The foxes ran the hen house,” as the saying goes. But it was worse than that. The meeting was like going back to the late 1600s mindset when it comes to wildlife and domination over nature.

It can take longer than two minutes to cover what is at stake. The reason is complicated and wrong with a group of coyote and bear hounds, traps and hounding enthusiasts deciding on how to regulate coyotes. At the start of the meeting, they cried they were picked on and gave each other a round of applause.

If there is a board that has ultimate say over all of Vermont’s wildlife, members need to be voted in by the public and not chosen by the governor, who is rabidly pro-hounding and trapping. One man should not have entire control over all wildlife policy.

The board is allegedly to follow policy for protection and conservation of furbearing animals that is in the best interest of public welfare. Since people and animals have been attacked and there are consistent run-ins with landowners who do not want hounding on their property, hounding coyotes and bears needs to be banned.

The only way to reduce conflicts between hounds, hounds and the public, as well as injuries to farmed and domestic animals which target coyotes and bears needs to be banned.

Act 165 states that a person shall not take coyote with the aid of dogs unless the person is in possession of the dogs. Yet, “control of dogs” is not defined as in direct opposition to hounding since the hunting hounds are released, off leash, to run after fleeing and terrified animals and none of the dogs can read trespassing signs.

There needs to be an objective definition of control. “A requirement that the hounds be transported in dog boxes in the back of pickup trucks might be an acceptable definition of control for the Fish and Wildlife Board, but it is not what “control means to the general public and for public safety. Dogs transported in a dog box are confined, not controlled. Confined is not the same as control, nor should it be legislated as such.”

It is stated in Act 165 that in those households hunting group need to be able to see and communicate with the dogs.

A GPS collar shows the approximate location of dogs which changes moment to moment. It is not a control mechanism. Likewise, a shock collar or training collar is irrelevant if it is not used correctly, the dog is not trained to understand what the shock means and when, and it’s impossible to zap multiple dogs simultaneously. If hounds are not in visual sight of their dogs, they don’t know when or how to use the shock or training collars effectively, which regulates the collars as useless in terms of control.

As it stands now, those who hunt coyotes with dogs do not need hounding permits.

All they need is a hunting license and to be accompanied by one individual who has the permit. The number of hunters pursuing a coyote with dogs is unlimited. If hunters are using dogs — even someone else’s dogs — to chase coyotes, they need to be in control over the dogs and responsible for them, not just the individual permit holder.

The legal hours for pursuit of coyotes with dogs is 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. Before and after it’s dark makes controlling a pack of dogs off-leash and on the run even further challenging.

You can read S. 281, Act 165, hennyturny.com/mySatan2. There is also a bill, H. 323, to ban coyote and bear hounding which needs support. Only if people speak up will action be taken.

Alana Stevenson
Charlotte

All kids deserve access to nourishing foods in school

To the Editor:

Vermont businesses large and small are pillars of our local communities: providing goods and services, offering local employment opportunities, contributing to the local economy, and advocating for the well-being of our people. Ensuring our current workforce and their families have what they need is more than just good business, it’s about creating a thriving future for our communities and state.

By supporting kids’ physical, mental and emotional development today through proper nutrition, we are investing in tomorrow’s workers and leaders. It is our job to prepare our students for our state’s future, so students can focus on their job — showing up to class able to concentrate and ready to learn all they need to become the skilled and creative people who will power Vermont’s future.

Karen Colberg
New York Division (Karen Colberg is co-CEO at King Arthur Baking Company)

Letters to the Editor

The Charlotte News
NEXT PUBLICATION DATES
April 6
April 20

SEND YOUR CHARLOTTE NEWS TO:
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Welcomeing Susie Therrien and Dave Speidel to the team

John Quinnery Publisher and President

All of us here at the paper are excited to announce that Susie Therrien has joined us as our new advertising manager. For the past couple of weeks, Susie has been working with Christy Higgin, our outgoing ad manager, meeting our advertisers and getting acquainted with her new computer.

Susie has lived in Charlotte with her family since 2002. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont School of Allied Health Sciences. Susie worked in the medical field of oncology as a radiation therapist at Dana Farber and Shields Healthcare before making the decision to take a break from her career to focus on raising her two children Tate and Chance. In 2017 Susie began providing independent home health care support to community members in Charlotte and Shelburne. In her spare time, Susie enjoys Mt. Philo with her dog Aika, reading, the occasional pickleball match and the company of friends and family.

With her children now at college, Susie had started to look for part-time work when she heard about the ad manager position at the paper. Although she has not worked in marketing or sales, Susie feels that her communication and people skills provide her with a solid basis for sustaining relationships with our current advertisers and for reaching out to other businesses and organizations in Charlotte and neighboring towns. Susie views her new position as an opportunity to help the Charlotte News build on the accomplishments of Christy and the advertising managers who preceded her, to further strengthen the paper and to support local businesses.

She writes, "I am thankful for this opportunity and excited for this new venture that has come to fruition. I look forward to learning and growing in sales and marketing with the wonderful team here at The Charlotte News."

Advertising in The Charlotte News is not just a way to attract new customers for your business; it is also a way to show that you value and support the paper that has kept this community connected and informed for 65 years. If you’ve been thinking about advertising in the paper, Susie would be happy to talk with you. She can be reached via email at ads@thecharlottenews.org or by calling 802-233-4316.

In a recent unanimous vote, Dave Speidel was elected to the board of directors of The Charlotte News. We look forward to working with Dave in the months ahead and know that his skills and experience will extend the capacity of the board to meet the news and information needs of this community we call home.

Dave recently retired after 21 years as a writer at Place Creative Co. and almost 40 years in the brand development field. These days, he is looking forward to having more time to spend with his wife Karen, his married daughters and new grandson — and plans on being creative in other ways.

His design career began at agencies in Philadelphia and Boston with clients ranging from Hershey Foods to MIT. After moving to Vermont, he founded Brick House and produced distinctive collateral and packaging for clients like Anichini, IBM and Rossignol Ski Co. during a 15-year period. After selling Brick House in 1999, Dave joined Jager DiPanda Kemp Design where he helped lead major branding projects.

In 2001, Dave joined forces with Place Creative Co. working with many consumer product and packaging firms and state governments doing good things for the world.

He has supported several nonprofits with volunteer work and board memberships, such as the Vermont Clean Water Network, the Charlotte Energy Cooperative, as well as nonprofits doing good things for the world.

He is always thankful for the opportunity and excitement for this new venture that has come to fruition. He looks forward to learning and growing in sales and marketing with the wonderful team here at the The Charlotte News.

Consider handing your hand-me-downs to clothing drive

Alicia Cooper Contributor

Spring is around the corner, and the Charlotte Grange and Charlotte Food Shelf are gearing up for another season of partnership in the Charlotte Hand-Me-Downs clothing drive.

If your family members are sifting through their wardrobes planning for the warmer weather to come, consider donating outgrown children’s clothing, footwear and outerwear as part of this April’s event. It’s a great way to keep resources in our community and out of landfills for as long as possible.

After responding to a call for volunteers on Front Porch Forum last spring, I found myself with a crew of other volunteers amidst rows of long tables on the first floor of the Charlotte Grange Hall. The first table on the left had signs for “0-3 months,” “3-6 months” and so on. The signs snaked around the room ending with “14-16.” A separate area at the head of the hall had been designated for shoes and boots. Throughout the morning, neighbors dropped by with their donations — some with a handful of items, some with bags upon bags.

Our volunteer crew unpacked and sorted the clothes and footwear and watched the tables fill.

The Charlotte Food Shelf has been partnering with the Grange for years to provide children’s winter wear for the families served by the food shelf. In the spring of 2021 this expanded when Grange member Tai Dinnan started Charlotte Hand-Me-Downs to match outgrown, high-quality used clothing and footwear with many families who would benefit from lessening the high costs of outfitting their growing children. Through this program, the Grange has been able to collect and package gently used clothing (along with a coat, snow pants, hats, boots and mittens in the fall) for each child served by the Charlotte Food Shelf twice a year.

I first learned about the program last year when I was looking for an outlet for the clothes my son was rapidly outgrowing. Having been the grateful recipient of hand-me-down baby clothes from friends, neighbors and colleagues, I loved the idea of being able to pass things on, even without a specific recipient in mind. I certainly wasn’t the only one; in each of the spring and fall seasons during the last two years, more than 20 Charlotte families have donated their outgrown children’s clothing and winter gear to neighbors in need.

I enjoyed seeing the spring drive come together, so I came back to help again in the fall. The effort is volunteer-powered and has proven to be a fun way to make new connections in the community. A fellow volunteer and I covered a lot of conversational territory while organizing an astonishing volume of kids’ clothing. On a subsequent day, I got to know a different person while packaging clothing by size. By the time the sorting and packing were through, I was feeling more connected to my community and moved by the generosity on display.

Surplus donations find homes with neighboring community organizations. After last spring’s clothing collection, the remaining items contributed to the Hinesburg Friends of Families clothing swap where they are made available for community members to “shop” at no charge. Extra items — especially extra winter gear — from last fall’s clothing drive were given to Charlotte Central School so that back-up items could be available at school whenever students might need them. The Grange is exploring even more ways to support local families with this effort in 2023.

Since last fall’s collection concluded, I’ve been packing up items on a rolling basis as my son has outgrown them. I’ve got bags at the ready and I’m looking forward to bringing them to the Grange Hall in April to add to the mix. The Grange will soon announce specific days and times in early April when donations can be dropped off at the Grange Hall on Spurr Street. Details will be posted on the Charlotte Grange website: charlottegrange.org for more information.

Our donations would be most welcome and would absolutely make a difference for local families.

Don’t have any donations but want to get involved? Consider volunteering to receive or sort the clothing. Everything helps — even an hour or two of your time would be appreciated. It’s a fun way to connect with neighbors, new and old. A call for volunteers will be announced on Front Porch Forum in the coming weeks; you can also send an email to charlottegrange@gmail.com if you’d like to be added to a list of potential volunteers who will be contacted in April.

As this latest snow melts and we contemplate spring cleaning and clearing, let’s also consider how any abundance could be added elsewhere in our neighborhood. Sharing children’s clothing is another example of how we can be stronger together.
**Spring Repair Café coming**

Ruah Swennerfelt  
Sustainable Charlotte Steering Committee

Get your broken stuff ready; Sustainable Charlotte, the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Grange will be hosting the next Repair Café on Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church.

Registration is necessary. You can find the link at sustainablecharlottevt.org/events/repair-cafe.

Residents of nearby towns are welcome. A Repair Café is a four-hour community party of talented local folks volunteering their skills to fix or help you learn to repair your broken stuff. Just bring your broken things to the Repair Café and watch and learn as the handy folks do their magic.

In addition to fixing, organizers hope to:
- promote and teach the lost art of repair to all ages
- keep perfectly good stuff out of the landfill
- build our town’s sense of community by working together to meet each other’s needs.

In the past Charlotte’s Repair Café has helped with the following:
- repairing lamps — replace switches and cords, tighten wobbly bases
- repairing jewelry (no soldering), replacing watch batteries, fixing watch bands
- replacing eyeglass screws
- repairing fishing tackle and camping gear
- repairing furniture, cuckoo clocks, dolls, favorite toys (wooden, metal or plastic) troubleshooting or repairing small appliances, electronics, radios, fans, heaters, (de)humidifiers
- sharpening garden tools, replacing wooden handles, repairing electric trimmers
- sharpening knives, scissors, axes; mending clothing by hand or sewing machine; repairing holey knits; adjusting sewing machines
- replacing zippers.

Organizers are always looking for new volunteer repairers. Do you have a repair or creation you want to offer? Email Jamey Gerlaugh, the Repair Café coordinator at repaircafe@sustainablecharlottevt.org.

There is no charge for our repairers’ labor. If your repair requires new parts you are responsible for buying those parts beforehand and bringing them. Find the link to register at sustainablecharlottevt.org/events/repair-cafe. Please do register your items to be fixed so that we know what kinds of skills will be needed for all the repairs.

From left, Jim Richor, Sophie and Isabelle Sharp consider the choices.

**Limitless pie brings out great, bonny crowd in Shelburne**

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

On Saturday, a day after St. Patrick’s Day, people gathered in the Shelburne Town Hall for an Irish-themed, all-you-can eat pie event sponsored by the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary Club. A few days after Pi Day, more than 250 people came to measure by bite the pleasures of circular pastry. There were more than 120 pies, said Dan York, whose wife Lori York is director of the Charlotte Senior Center.

As pie patrons entered the town hall, they were greeted by Mary Stevenson, dressed in traditional Irish garb who offered them a piece of soda bread drizzled with organic honey. Stevenson said it is a custom in Ireland to give visitors a gift and soda bread is a traditional Irish food.

“Hospitality is very important to the Irish,” she said.

From quiche to dessert, sweet, savory, cheesy, fruity, gluten free, it would be hard to imagine a type of pie that wasn’t represented.

A couple of people dishing out pie said raspberry peach was the most popular and that eight was the most pieces of pie they heard of anyone eating.

While the pies were consumed, the consumers were entertained by traditional music from Shady Rill and dancing by the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance.

The first pie event was held in 2019 in Shelburne Vineyard and it was a big success, maybe too big. Organizers realized they needed a bigger venue. And more pies. The organizers were surprised by how successful that initial event was.

They ran out of pies.

So, after a pandemic-induced hiatus, the second Rotary Club pie event was held this year at a larger venue with more pies.

And they didn’t run out. As noon approached the volunteers were selling pies at half price. York said the goal was to break even, and it certainly appeared they would do that. People had so much fun that he thinks to Rotary may do it again.

Long tables were filled with old friends and new friends conversing in the warm and friendly way that only an unlimited supply of coffee and good pie can bring on. In spite of all the Irish trappings, the gathering was as American as ... some sort of pie.

From left, Jim Richor, Sophie and Isabelle Sharp consider the choices.

**Bunnies ready for Easter!**

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Saturday and Sunday 11:00 to 4:00  
Monday thru Friday 10:00 to 5:00

New Arrivals!  
Wonderful dresses, T-shirts, and bathing suits in abundance!
Support for gun control bill to prevent suicides

Chea Waters Evans
State Rep.

When I campaigned for this job last summer, I was really clear about my position on firearms, and it remains the same. First, I don’t want to see anyone’s guns away, I don’t want to prevent people who are allowed to have guns from getting them, and I certainly don’t want to complicate anyone’s second amendment rights. I’m not a gun person, so last fall a friend took me to Labeorge’s shooting range in Charlotte to show me what’s up.

I had fun, it’s true. I was scared of the gun, I was scared to shoot it, I was scared I might accidentally freak out and shoot someone else. But I had an excellent, patient teacher, and he was really focused on safety and proper protocol.

All this is to say, I’m all for the guns. This is also to say that I’m going to support H.230, a bill coming out of the house this week, that came out of the House Judiciary Committee as a suicide prevention bill. Suicide deaths by firearm make up almost 60 percent of Vermont suicides each year. Our suicide rate is 50 percent higher than the national average. Other studies have a completion rate of about 4 percent; when a firearm is involved, that number skyrockets to almost 100 percent.

Of course, there are miles to go before we become a firearm-free society, and even having a cannabis control commission at a municipal level. Clearly, we don’t have much safer. These permits are just being issued, and they’re just going forward."

The state classifies cannabis growing operations by whether they are indoor or outdoor, and those two classifications are further divided into six tiers of varying size with the smallest, Tier 1, being a maximum size of 1,000 square feet. The largest, Tier 6, is a maximum size of 25,500 square feet for indoor cultivation and 37,500 square feet for outdoor cultivation.

The state estimates that 1,000 square feet is about 125 cannabis plants.

Some of the confusion might be cleared out tonight (7 p.m., Thursday, March 23) at a special meeting and public hearing by the Charlotte Planning Commission. The hearing will be on proposed amendments to the town plan that would allow cannabis businesses, but she thought there might be a completion rate of about 4 percent; when a firearm is involved, that number skyrockets to almost 100 percent.

Of course, there are miles to go before this becomes a law, and I’m sure there will be changes and amendments offered as it goes through, but here are the major points it contains this week.

Safe storage is required for firearms. This means that ammunition is stored separately from the firearm. Firearms must be kept in a locked, tamper-resistant container.

Safe storage means that firearms must be securely stored in a place where a child, or person prohibited from using firearms, can’t access them. This doesn’t include situations where the firearm is accessed illegally, like through a break-in. It also doesn’t include situations where a person is legally allowed to carry or keep a firearm in close proximity, or when a person uses the weapon in self-defense.

Penalties for violating the laws can be imprisonment of not more than a year, and/or fines not more than $1,000 if a prohibited person gets access to an improperly stored firearm and uses it in a crime or displays it in a threatening way. If death or serious bodily injury results, the penalties could include imprisonment up to five years and/or fines up to $5,000.

The state’s attorney will have discretion to file charges if the parent or guardian of a child who allegedly violates the law gains access to a firearm that is used in an unintentional or self-inflicted shooting that causes death or bodily injury to the child.

Signs will be required at licensed dealers locations where firearms are sold and transferred; there’s specific language that must be included.

The bill also creates an opportunity to allow family or household members to initiate the process for obtaining an extreme risk protection order by directly petitioning the court. An extreme risk protection order is a civil order that temporarily prohibits someone who poses a danger of injury to self (including suicide) or others from purchasing, possessing or receiving any dangerous weapons, including firearms. Right now, only a state’s attorney or the office of the attorney general may file an extreme risk protection order petition.

While it’s important to give everyone due process, it’s also to protect people who might harm themselves and others. The bill would make the process for obtaining an extreme risk protection order easier and more accessible for people who know the individual at risk the best — their family and household members.

Jen Banbury, who lives near a cannabis growing operation, said. “You can’t legally, at this point in time, have a cannabis business won’t create odors that can be smelled from off the site; outdoor lighting: fencing; a security plan; and sufficient water and wastewater. Mudge also had serious issues about the selectboard being banned from revealing the addresses of proposed commercial cannabis operations: “I’m still baffled by the fact that we can’t actually say where it is.”

Bloch warned the selectboard about keeping growing operation owners’ names and addresses of proposed commercial cannabis operations secret. “We do not believe municipalities are banned from revealing names and addresses of applicants.” Although cannabis has been legalized the black market of cannabis growers, and the state’s attorney general doesn’t want to work with it and the state board does not want to subject cannabis growers to “public dangers,” she said. The applicants have the right, and sometimes do, to come before municipal boards, introduce themselves and volunteer information about their proposed operations.

“Cannabis is historically speaking a unique plant. Cannabis is not tomatoes. There’s a great fraught history around it that just isn’t present in other sorts of agricultural or industrial endeavors,” Marel said.

The bill also adds a 72-hour waiting period for firearms transfers. I know this isn’t a popular idea for many, and I understand the argument that it is a constitutional right that we can bear arms. In my opinion, that right doesn’t necessarily extend to the right to bear arms immediately in front of someone they want to harm. The waiting period requires that a person can’t transfer a firearm to another person until 72 hours after a licensed dealer is provided with a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) transfer identification number, or seven business days have passed since the dealer contacted NICS to initiate the background check, whichever occurs first.

It’s really important to me to maintain and protect Constitutional rights and the Second Amendment; it’s also critical to recognize that there are ways to do that while curbing gun violence and protecting those who would harm themselves or others, and those to which they might do harm.

As always: I welcome comment, questions and communication at my cell phone number, by text or call at 917-887-8231 or at cevans@leg.state.vt.us.

CANNABIS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

A state statute,” Lewack wrote in an email.

“Because the state has not issued any regulations requiring a sketch plan to be approved for any proposed changes to the site or building any structures, a sketch plan would have to go through the development review board for approval.

The proposed amendments also include requirements for buffers (500 feet from a school or an early education center, 250 feet from a town park, 200 feet from a property line and 100 feet from water or wetlands); demonstrating a cannabis business won’t create odors that can be smelled off the site; outdoor lighting: fencing; a security plan; and sufficient water and wastewater.

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Concordances

Jonathan Waters Fisher
Jonathan Waters Fisher died peacefully on October 24, 2022, at the University of Vermont Medical Center after a short, aggressive battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was a gentle, kind, generous and devoted son, brother, father, grandfather and friend.

Jonathan was born to Sally and Ralph Fisher on June 11, 1948, in Washington D.C. He lived in Korea, Ethiopia, Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Uganda while his family was stationed abroad with the foreign service.

Jonathan graduated from the Middlesex School in 1966 where he played soccer and rowing. He graduated from Pomona College in 1971 with a degree in anthropology, after studying prehistory with Alan Walker at Makerser University in Uganda. Jonathan earned his master’s in public health at Yale University in 1979, after working on a country-wide nutrition survey in Lesotho.

Between his studies, Jonathan spent time motorcycling across Europe, working in the sugar cane fields of Kauai, summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro and road tripping across Africa in a VW Beetle, homesteading with his brothers in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, traveling to Central America by VW Bus and working at Plantation Farm Camp in Northern California.

In 1981, Jonathan began working at the University of Vermont on a USAID grant that brought him to Honduras, Haiti and Uganda. He met his wife, Molly McClaskey, while working at UVM, and they married in 1984.

Jonathan became a father to his son William in 1987 and his daughter Emily in 1990. Jonathan was an incredibly involved and supportive father and cheerleader, coaching soccer teams, attending mountain bike races, horse shows and ski races. At this time, he transitioned to working as a realtor with Akin Associates in Charlotte, Vermont. From 1990-2021, Jonathan served Charlotte as a volunteer zoning administrator, chairman and vice chairman.

In 2014 Jonathan became a devoted “Baba” to his granddaughter Sage, and grandson August in 2017. His third grandchild is expected to arrive in the coming weeks. Jonathan found great joy in his active role as a grandfather and was deeply dedicated to his family. He traveled to Kauai, Hawaii, every winter to reconnect with extended family in Hanalei Bay.

Jonathan was survived by his son William Fisher and wife Lindsay Bloom Fisher, grandchildren Sage and August Fisher of Burlington, daughter Emily Fisher and husband Dwyer Haney of Starkboro, brothers Galen Fisher of Greensboro, Timothy Fisher of Cornwall and Anthony Fisher of Philadelphia, and ex-wife Molly McClaskey of Charlotte.

A celebration of life will be held Monday, May 23, 2023, at Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations please be made in Jonathan’s name to the Vermont Land Trust.
Hearing on cannabis business land-use regulations on March 23

Charlie Pughe
Planning Commission Chair

The Vermont Cannabis Control Board (CCB) land-use regulations updates:

Charlotte, cannabis businesses are now subject to the town’s land-use regulations. The selectboard has voted to create a cannabis control commission. The planning commission had five meetings on these proposed land-use regulations updates.

1. Cannabis growing, processing and manufacturing are regulated as businesses. The planning commission developed these proposed standards considering the following:
   a. Cannabis production be classified as a permitted or conditional use, in which cannabis businesses may be allowed as permitted or conditional uses, in which zoning districts.
   b. Specific review and performance standards
   c. Specific review and performance standards
   d. Specific review and performance standards
   e. Specific review and performance standards
   f. Specific review and performance standards
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   y. Specific review and performance standards
   z. Specific review and performance standards

2. The proposed land-use regulations amendments are consistent with how other municipalities have integrated cannabis businesses into their land-use regulations. These municipalities include other Vermont towns, as well as examples from other states where cannabis has been a legal business for longer than in Vermont (Colorado and California in particular).

3. The specificity of the proposed land-use regulations amendments are to provide a clear set of guidelines for cannabis businesses to follow with their land-use permit application.

4. The proposed land-use regulations are designed to allow cannabis businesses to operate their businesses without adversely affecting neighboring property owners, thereby avoiding future impacts, the same as the land-use regulations do for other businesses operating in town.

The planning commission had five open meetings during its twice-monthly meetings where it heard from and engaged with members of the public about the proposed land-use regulations under consideration. Development of the proposed land-use regulations also used research and examples of how other municipalities have drafted land-use regulations for cannabis businesses.

If you are unable to attend this hearing, you may submit comments in writing to Town Planner, Charlotte Town Hall, 159 Ferry Rd., Charlotte VT 05445 or via email to the address below. Written comments are welcome even from those who choose to attend and speak during the public hearing. For more information, contact Larry Lewack, Charlotte’s town planner at townplanner@townofcharlotte.com or at 802-425-3533 ext. 206.
Tony Blake: Making sure that skiing is for everyone
Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Tony Blake stresses that the people he skis with at Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports are not considered clients or customers. “They’re fellow athletes,” he said. In 2009, married to a non-skier and with kids who no longer wanted to ski with their father, Blake was finding it harder to motivate himself to drive to the mountain on bad-weather days. He decided to volunteer with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports to give himself a reason to get up and head to Sugarbush. Now, he’s there every weekend. “I don’t care if there’s wind, 40 degrees and muddy,” he said. “I love it that much.” Although he’s worked with athletes with a variety of challenges, Blake truly enjoys skiing with those with developmental disabilities. Most of the athletes in the program fall under that umbrella group, and disabilities. Most of the athletes in the skiing with those with developmental disabilities. Most of the athletes in the program fall under that umbrella group, and

Tony Blake (right) on the Sugarbush lift. If it wasn’t for the need to make a living, he would probably spend all his time volunteering.

people with disabilities, but what they don’t understand is that when you get on the mountain, those disabilities disappear. You’re all having fun. It’s the greatest sensation in the world to know they feel the same freedom you do.

winter team. Blake often heads to the mountain on Wednesday mornings to ski with the Spaulding Educational Alternatives group, high school students who come from difficult socio-economic backgrounds. Although not all the students have disabilities, many have behavioral challenges, and Blake relishes the opportunity to allow them to have fun and interact with an adult who doesn’t judge them. Blake is able to ski with that group in spite of his full-time job in commercial real estate. He is one of the founders of V’T Commercial, as well as one of the forces behind the creation of the Chittenden Commercial Real Estate Association. Blake doesn’t even have to call into the office on Wednesday mornings; if he’s not there, they know where he is and recognize that he’ll catch up on work after he’s done skiing.

Volunteering has been a part of Blake’s life since he was in his teens. When he was a sophomore at the University of Vermont, he started a program called Adopt a Grandparent. He later managed the work of 2,000 students as the student coordinator for the school’s Office of Volunteer Programs.

Blake has received a grant paving away from the non-profit board he used to serve as a Senior Budy to a young mentoring at the King Street Center in Burlington, but the youngster has aged out of the program.

As part of the celebration students watched a collection of films including “Soul,” “Encanto,” “Sing 2” and “WALL·E.” Each of these movies was carefully selected to reinforce a theme from our community development work. Middle students sat alongside primary students, bonding over characters and humor.

Generous PTO grants

The PTO has just distributed a round of grants that include funds for Family Night, recess swings, a library art supply cart, decodable books for Spanish, chicken hatch supplies for a life cycle unit, “Because of Winn-Dixie” books, a mic system for cross-country and track meets, art supplies, tenor saxophone repair and second-grade squad t-shirts. An additional committee has been working on targeted funds for the Charlotte Central School Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) program.

The fifth-grade team took a ride over to Beta Technologies on a school system electric bus on Thursday March 16, and were inspired by what they saw.

Girls on the Run Vermont information

Every season Girls on the Run creates a safe and fun place for girls of all abilities in third grades to ninth grades, to develop healthy habits and challenge themselves with personal goals. Spaces are limited, so girls should register now for the spring season at gotvr.org.

The season begins the week of March 27 and runs 10 weeks. The team will meet at Charlotte Central School on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 3:15 P.M. The season culminates with the team crossing the finish line at Girls on the Run’s 5k celebration in Essex Junction.

The registration fee is $115. Girls on the Run Vermont provides financial assistance on the registration form for qualifying families. Call Girls on the Run Vermont at 802-871-5644 about this.

For more information, contact Barbara Boutiskaris at familyworksvt@gmail.com.

2023 summer camps

This list of summer camps is provided as a convenience to Charlotte families.

Boutsikaris at familyworksvt@gmail.com.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting homesharevermont.org. The full prize list can also be viewed there. HomeShare Vermont is a non-profit organization with over 40 years of experience providing a comprehensive screening and matching service to people who have a home to share and those looking for a place to live.

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR!
We are a fully insured painting company that serves the Addison and Chittenden County areas.
On Saturday, Feb 12, Champlain Valley Union High School hosted the Vermont FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Championship, an international high school robotics competition.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) teams created robots to complete different challenges, connected with and mentored others in the STEM community and showcased their work at the competition.

Nineteen teams from all over Vermont participated in this year’s event, including two teams from CVU: the Varsity RoboHawks and the JV RoboRedhawks. The Varsity RoboHawks won the Inspire Award because of their engineering portfolio presentation and help in establishing six FIRST Lego League robotics teams in the Champlain Valley School District middle schools. The Inspire Award recognizes the team with the best designed robot, teamwork and community outreach; this award also comes with an invitation to the World Championship in Houston.

The two CVU teams cruised through the qualifying rounds, then sailed through the semi-finals. However, the best-of-three finals was tense. The two CVU teams worked together in an alliance against a strong alliance between Essex and U32. Each alliance won a match, forcing a tie-breaking match, which the Redhawks’ teams won by a slim 4-point margin.

This victory gave the CVU JV robotics team members a slot alongside their varsity counterparts to the World Championship in April competing with teams from all over the world. CVU Robotics is working on fundraising to get both teams and their robots to Houston for the competition. The two teams are looking for local sponsors to help them represent Vermont. Check out their website at robohawks5741.com to help the effort.

Both CVU varsity and JV robotics teams win state championship

Ola Verdonk
Contributor

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Winning celebration

Champlain Valley Union High junior Thomas Murphy of Charlotte celebrates after winning the 182-pound state wrestling title on Feb. 25 at Vergennes High School. Although the Redhawks came in eighth as a team, ninth grader Camden Ayer took third place in the 120-pound class, sophomore Sean Maynard took sixth at 106 pounds and senior Ethan Varrichione took sixth at 152 pounds. Coach Scott Bissonette is optimistic about his young team’s chances next year with only two wrestlers graduating.
Maple Open House Weekend
Saturday & Sunday, March 25 & 26

Sugarhouses all over the state plan to boil sap and serve up syrup samples and other goodies this weekend. Up at Sugarbush Farm in South Burlington, they’re seeing the sugar-up process in action between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. No tickets needed. On Saturday at Sugarbush Farms, between 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Adventure Dinner offers first-time, first-served maple-themed food for purchase at the Farm Barn. Pastoral, a Maple Street Biscuit Co. eatery in downtown Middlebury, will be welcoming visitors, as will Palmer’s Sugarhouse in Shelburne. Admission to Vermont in Huntington holds a sugar-on-snow party both days from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Say goodbye to winter with a maple-themed breakfast served with real maple syrup to go with those waffles. Enjoy sausages, eggs, fruit, beverages, whipped cream and real maple syrup with those waffles. Enjoy the silent auction as well. Breakfast is free for a spring training trip. Enjoy sausages, eggs, fruit, beverages, whipped cream and real maple syrup with those waffles. Enjoy the silent auction as well. For more info and registration, see tinyurl.com/mufwbc97.

Local Holy Week services

Charlotte Congregational Church • Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Palm Sunday service
• Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m., Easter Vigil Mass • Sunday, April 16, 11:30 a.m., Easter Vigil Mass • Sunday, April 16, 2 p.m., Good Friday service • Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m., Easter Mass • Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m., Easter service

Hinesburg Community Alliance Church • Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Palm Sunday service
• Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Easter service • Sunday, April 9, 10:45 a.m., Easter service • Saturday, April 8, noon, Easter service

United Church of Hinesburg • Sunday, April 9, 6:45 a.m., Easter service • Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Easter service • Sunday, April 9, 11:30 a.m., Easter service

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne • Sunday, April 2, 11:30 a.m., Easter Mass • Sunday, April 9, 9:30 a.m., Easter Mass • Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m., Easter Mass

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Earth’s materials

Friday, April 7, 5-7 p.m. The Jackson Gallery in Middlebury presents an open studio for its next group show, Perennial Perspectives in the Arts. Featured artists will have a variety of work on display. Join the evening’s reception at the Main Hall Theater in Middlebury. More info at mainhalltheater.org/jacksongallery.

Half marathon unplugged
Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. It’s not too late to register for RunVermont’s 13.1-mile race beginning at Airport Park in Colchester and ending on Flynn Avenue in Burlington. The race can be run as a relay or in an individual registration at tinyurl.com/yelltbbj.

Age Well meal
Tuesday, April 11, 11 a.m.-noon pickup Anyone aged 60 and older may sign up for an Age Well Grab and Go meal to be picked up 11 a.m.-noon at 72 Church Street in Shelburne. The $5 suggested donation may be dropped off when the meal is picked up. The nearest service is Age Well St. Catherine of Siena in Shelburne. Place your order no later than Wednesday, April 5. Email at agewellvt@hotmail.com or call 802-507-1107. More info at agewellvt.org.

Calendar of Events

Weather

A Vermont spring market is happening at A Vermont spring market is happening at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Featured are over 60 crafters and artisans presenting leather goods, woodwork, spices, pet foods, spirits, and more. Vendors are from across New England. Free parking. To learn more, see tinyurl.com/m3yrh1k.

March 24, 3-4 p.m. March 24, 3-4 p.m. March 24, 3-4 p.m. March 24, 3-4 p.m.
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Ode to American liberty elm

Elizabeth Bassett
Contributor

When I was 6, I stood with my mother and grandmother as workers sawed down elm tree after elm tree after elm tree, the entire length of Mill Street.

Dutch elm disease had come to town. Summer sun now bleached what had been shady lanes and streets across America, like ours, transformed into barren landscapes. This fungal disease spread by bark beetles killed virtually every elm in the country, an estimated 100 million trees.

Forward too many decades to mention. A similar drama unfolded in our yard a few weeks ago. Same heartache, same sinking feeling as with the elm.

Our tree was an American liberty elm, guaranteed to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. We planted it more than 30 years ago. Our sapling thrived, stretching over the roof of our house, until last August when half of its leaves abruptly yellowed and fell to earth. By February, piles of bark heaped around the half-naked trunk. Arborists confirmed that the tree was dying, likely of Dutch elm disease.

American liberty elms were developed by the New Hampshire-based Elm Research Institute. The non-profit, founded in 1967, is dedicated to restoration of the American elm.

It produces and distributes disease-resistant elms, which it also guarantees. I will be sending a sample of bark and pulplwood to be tested. If our tree succumbed to the fungus, it will be replaced without cost — other than the drive to Walpole to collect a new sapling.

The American liberty elm recalls important Colonial-era history. The first public shade tree, an elm, was planted in Boston in 1646. The Sons of Liberty gathered beneath its branches to organize opposition to the British crown. This Liberty Tree symbolized majesty and beauty of the American elm is its vasse shape and Chinese elms do not have this classic shape. The Liberty elm does.

The elm is not the only tree that has marched toward the edge of extinction. In the decades before World War II, a different fungus killed millions of American chestnuts. The American Chestnut Foundation has been cross-breeding resistant American chestnut trees for decades.

Ash trees are another species now disappearing from our landscape, killed by the emerald ash borers. We can hope that enough specimens survive so that resistant trees can be cultured and bred to replace those lost, estimated to make up 8 percent of Vermont’s forested landscape.

Enjoy your trees while you can.

Weed’s In The Garden

Joan Weed
Contributor

Here we are and it’s spring. Can you believe we made it this far?

Though it still looks wintry outside it’s time to plan, and yes, even start some seeds for the vegetable and flower beds. I usually use March as a starting time for those veggies that need a head start, like tomatoes, peppers, squash, corn, squashes, carrots and beets. But let me add, there are a few exceptions to this rule. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Plants that can take a bit of chill and survive the garden beds. Waiting for the soil to feel like earth. By February, piles of bark heaped around the half-naked trunk. Arborists confirmed that the tree was dying, likely of Dutch elm disease.

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The Elm Research Institute developed disease-resistant American elms. The trees were injected with the fungus to confirm resistance. Several other Dutch elm disease-resistant cultivars are on the market, many developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including trees cross-bred with Chinese elms. Part of the

The biggest mistake of novice growers is not succumbing to Dutch elm, the Elm Research Institute developed disease-resistant American elms. The trees were injected with the fungus to confirm resistance. Several other Dutch elm disease-resistant cultivars are on the market, many developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including trees cross-bred with Chinese elms.

The American Chestnut Foundation has been cross-breeding resistant American chestnut trees for decades.

Ash trees are another species now disappearing from our landscape, killed by the emerald ash borers. We can hope that enough specimens survive so that resistant trees can be cultured and bred to replace those lost, estimated to make up 8 percent of Vermont’s forested landscape.

Enjoy your trees while you can.
Sacred Hunter

Measure your desire with a healthy dose of caution

By Bradley Carleton


Trevor Coles reaping the ice-fishing rewards in spite of the strangest winter in memory.

We saw the ice form honeycomb patterns and water rushed down the holes we’d drilled just a few days before. Cracks began to widen, and our hopes tittered on the crevasse of open water between the tectonic plates.

Some were brave. Some were foolish. But either way, I have never felt that any fish was worth testing out my new flyfishing suit. Many sportsmen prayed that the full schedule of state ice fishing derbies still held the possibility of winning a sizable pot of cash.

Everything changed on the weekend of Feb 9-11. The first news to break was hearing that 62-year-old Wayne Alexander of Grand Isle fell through the ice off Grand Isle State Park. They recovered his body, then just two days later John Fleury, 71 years old from Williamstown and his brother, Wayne Fleury, 88 years old, from East Montpelier drove a two-seater utility task vehicle with a cab onto the ice at Keeler’s Bay in South Hero and broke through. Both bodies were recovered.

John was pulled from the water, rushed to the hospital and was pronounced dead. Wayne had to be pulled from the inside of the utility task vehicle 20 feet of water by a friend of mine who is the rescue and recovery diver for our region.

The same day that this all happened, we were in St. Albans scouting for ice. When we waltzed into the Bay Store to buy bait, we were completely unaware of the events that had just occurred across the bay, we noticed that there was a local man who was ranting about all the fishing derbies being cancelled immediately. We asked the woman behind the counter who had been instructed not to sell any more derby tickets, and she explained the decision to cancel all derbies state-wide. That piece of news caused us to get in our vehicles and head back home to put away the equipment.

We put our heads down and walked into the blizzard conditions pulling the shanty loaded with all our equipment. Within five minutes, it had blown through, and the sky turned a beautiful blue. Using our GPS systems, we navigated west of a weed bed then another 200 yards west into ice that we tested to be 16 inches thick over water depth of 18 feet. We drilled two five-inch holes in front of the cushioned seats of the shanty.

Just as we got the shanty up, another “whiteout” hit us. We secured all the insulated cloth panels and lit the propane heater. We sat down to “get to work” feeding spikes (maggots for the centrifugal masses) to large “slabber” yellow perch on the bottom. We watched them chase our bait off the silty “slabber” yellow perch on the bottom. We watched them chase our bait off the silty bottom on the Vexilar fish finder. We started laughing and every time the small ice rods bent dramatically down toward the hole we would shout to each other, “This one’s a pig!”

The day was non-stop fun with more than a dozen major snow squalls and winds blowing 20-30 mph. By the time we agreed that we had had enough and felt good about the ones we put back, it was 4 p.m. — eight hours after we had started. If there is a moral to this story it might be: “Never give up hope, but measure your desire with a healthy dose of caution.”

(Bradley Carleton is executive director of sacredhunter.org, a privately owned limited liability corporation that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature through hunting, fishing and foraging.)

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Celebrate nuance — not bumper-sticker forest management

Ethan Tapper
Contributor

On a recent episode of the On Being podcast, journalist Amanda Ripley was quoted as saying: “Real life is not a bumper sticker.” I was struck by how true this is for forests and forest management. As much as we would like to believe that taking care of forests is simple, in truth it is nuanced and complex and often unattainable. Celebrating nuance means having the courage to go beyond simple narratives and to ask tough questions about what it means to care for forests at this moment in time.

One example of where nuance is lacking is in the discussion of mycorrhizal networks — sometimes called “The Web Wide Web.” Through the research of Susan Simard and others, it has been shown that these underground fungal networks connect trees through a complex of sites, facilitating resource-sharing, communication and a number of other ecological and adaptive properties.

There has led some to anthropomorphize trees — thinking of them as people, and to mythologize forests — thinking of them as utopias. What we have done is often misunderstand the true nature of forests: that mycorrhizal networks are one piece of dynamic and complex ecosystems which are defined by resilience, which celebrate death and change, and which need our help. Taking care of forests means having the courage to recognize that they are nothing like us, that it is more powerful to treat them as they are than to weave comfortable and convenient narratives around them.

Another discussion that is often missing nuance is the discourse around old growth forests. Old growth forests are amazing; they support biodiversity, store lots of carbon and provide an array of other benefits to forest ecology and to ourselves.

Old growth forests are exceedingly rare in Vermont, and there is broad consensus in our conservation community that we need to both protect existing old growth forests and to leave some forests unmanaged to develop into old growth on their own. Where this discussion gets derailed is when the importance of old growth is taken to mean that forest management is bad, and that the answer to all of our problems is to leave forests alone.

Old growth forests are not valuable just because they are old. They are valuable because of the characteristics that they have; things like dead wood, canopy gaps, trees of different sizes and ages, each of which provides unique habitats and properties.

Nearly all of Vermont’s forests are young, many having regrown from pastures within the last 60-100 years. Most are missing these attributes and developing them may take centuries. In a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, we need forests with these characteristics now — we cannot afford to wait.

To this end, forest management can be a vital tool, helping create many of the attributes of old growth in just decades. We also need to acknowledge that our forests face an unprecedented array of threats and stressors and are moving into an uncertain future. As a result, many of our forests may never become old growth on their own.

As they navigate climate change, non-native invasive plants, pests and pathogens, forest fragmentation, deforestation, deer overabundance and more, inaction may actually be an expression of negligence. If we hope to protect forests’ function, their biodiversity, and their ecology, we will need to manage them.

Another topic which often lacks nuance is forest carbon. While, in theory, unmanaged forests store more carbon than managed forests, a forest’s ability to sequester and store carbon in the long term is a function of its holistic health, its resilience and its adaptability. What we need is resilient carbon, carbon which is stored in diverse, mixed, unfragmented, healthy (for) and dynamic forests, even when it causes some carbon to be released in the short term, can help forests respond to legacies, threats and stressors, build resilience and adapt to climate change, thus safeguarding their ability to store carbon in the future.

What does it mean to love a forest? Celebrating nuance means having the courage 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 at bit.ly/3QmFrwy.

Explaining your mind on plants

Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m.

Suzanne Tremblay earned her masters from Goddard College in health art and science, focusing on trauma among first responders and how psychedelics can offer new possibilities for these sufferers and others. Join her to learn more about these new tools that can complement mental health healing and care in our medical practices and, in fact, stem from indigenous traditions around the world.

Library contact information:
Margaret Woodrufl, director
Cheryl Slon, youth services librarian
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

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

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The next meeting takes place on this Thursday, April 6, online and in-person. Please contact the library or visit the library website at charlottepubliclibrary.org for more information.
Wide variety of programming includes food and food for thought

Lori York
Director

Many people don’t consider themselves old enough to attend programming at a senior center. It doesn’t matter if they are 50 or 90 years old. But what is different about the Charlotte Senior Center is that this is a very active community with a wide variety of programming. This month there is the opportunity to meet your local representative, attend a presentation about Antarctica’s natural resources, join a birding trip and participate in a workshop to prepare important documents in one file. There are exercise classes offered daily, art, music and language programs, along with a variety of board and card games gatherings.

This senior center offers programming for adults 50 and older from Charlotte and surrounding communities. Priority is given to seniors, but programming is open to adults of all ages.

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder of 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.

Programs

Chat with Chea
Monday, March 27, 1 p.m.
Bring your questions and concerns for a legislator to meet and greet with Chea Waters Evans. Evans is Charlotte’s newly elected Chittenden-5 representative and is interested in hearing from you so she can bring forward your issues in Montpelier.

My little red file workshop
Saturday, April 8, 10-11:30 a.m.
Presenter Peg Maflitt has been involved in hospice and end-of-life care education for 30 years. With her experience and awareness of the fragility of life, Peg has created “my little red file.” This file includes important documents that your family would need to know immediately, including a completed advance directive, last will and testament, birth certificate, social security card and passwords. During this workshop, Peg will help you create an index for your own little red file. There will be an optional second session. Cost: Donation to Vermont Ethics Network to cover book fees. Registration required.

Antarctica
Tuesday, April 11, 1 p.m.
Interested in learning more about the Earth’s southernmost and least-populated continent? Join Bill Fraser-Harris for this presentation about his recent trip to Antarctica, including his experience hiking and touring in Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park and Fitzroy in Chile and Argentina, respectively. There will be photographs to pique your interest in travel, and discussion around the preservation of this natural resource. Q&A to follow the presentation. Cost: Free. Registration recommended.

Birding expedition
Wednesday, April 12, 9 a.m.
There are a wide range of birding habitats in Chittenden County. Join avid bird watcher, Hank Kaestner and learn to identify the various bird species and habitats right here in Vermont. Registration required and group size is limited. To register for this class, create an account on the Charlotte Senior Center website under the Registration tab and follow the instructions to register for this birding trip. Cost: Free.

Shape note singing
Sunday, April 2, 1-3 p.m.
Traditional a cappella, four-part harmony sung for the joy of singing… not as a practice for performance. Search “sacred harp” on YouTube for examples, then come and sing with us. Introduction to shape notes and scales is recommended and offered 30 minutes before each first Sunday singing. Contact Kerry Cullinan at kelynvit@gmail.com to schedule. Cost: Free.

Beginner Guitar
Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10 & 17*
Interested in learning guitar? Join John Creech, a composer and guitarist for over 40 years, as he shares his love of this instrument. The six-week class will cover the basics to learning acoustic guitar in an easy-going and supportive environment. Cost: $75. Registration required. *There will be no class on April 26.

Creative arts group
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon.
Come create, experiment, share ideas, encourage others and have fun. Bring whatever creative endeavor you’re working on or thinking about and enjoy making new friends while being creative. As Einstein said, “Creativity is intelligence having fun.” Let’s have some fun together. Call Katie Franke at 802-425-6270 with questions. Cost: Free.

Knit & crochet for a cause
Thursdays, 2-3 p.m.
This group will meet weekly to work on projects that will be donated to local organizations in the community. Bring a skein of yarn and needles or hook and let’s stitch. Patterns will be available, but feel free to bring your own project to work on. All skill levels are welcome. Registrations appreciated, but not required.

Watercolor spring fling
Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-noon
April 4, 11, 18 & 25
Students will be painting spring-themed subjects in this fun four-week class. Beginners and intermediates are welcome. Cost: $160. Registration required.

Italian - Beginner II
Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5 & 19
Interested in learning Italian? This class is for those who have a beginner level of Italian and is a continuation of the Italian for Total Beginners class. Join us to explore the beauty of the Italian language and culture. If you have questions about whether this class would be appropriate for your specific skill level, please reach out to Nicole Librandi at nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com. Cost: $60 for the six-week session. Registration required.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

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

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals
Pick up on Thursdays 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. $5 suggested meal donation but not required. To register, call Carol Pepin at 802-425-6345 at meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Senior Center contact info
Lori York, director, hyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
Kerrie Pupehe, coordinator, kpupehe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte 802-425-6345 charlotteseniorcentervt.org

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram.

Photo by Lori York

Andy Hodgkin serving up Irish beef stew for an Irish-themed lunch.

Photo by Lori York

Nicole Librandi’s Italian odyssey presentation.

Photo by Lori York

Bill Fraser-Harris talking at the Men’s Breakfast about his recent trip to Antarctica. He will be presenting again on Tuesday, April 11, at 1 p.m.
Write Ingredients

Pudding isn’t finger food at senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Come to the Charlotte Senior Center and celebrate spring with good food and good conversation. Monday Munch on March 27 features some presidential favorites.

When Columbia University persuaded Gen. Dwight Eisenhower to become its president, the Eisenhowers were asked to contribute a recipe for a cookbook, “What’s Cooking at Columbia.” Cookbook compilers expected something from Mamie, but she wasn’t much of a cook, and Ike sent his recipe for two-day vegetable soup, a soup he’d been cooking since childhood.

His recipe for soup was printed in newspapers of the day and is available here: tinyurl.com/52w8myeh.

Noting how much Thomas Jefferson loved apples, Peter J. Hatch, director of the Monticello garden and grounds, points out that the apple is an apt symbol for the diversity and complexity of America’s melting pot culture. With its many variations, “there are almost as many apples as there are people, each with its own unique history.”

“Nomenclature of the Apple,” a 1905 publication of the Government Printing Office, listed the names of approximately 17,000 apple varieties that appeared in 19th century American publications. Hatch concluded, “The apple is to America as the potato is to Ireland or the olive to Italy.”

So, celebrate spring with the presidential favorites of chicken vegetable soup and apple pie at the Charlotte Senior Center.

Monday Munch, March 27
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food is gone.
Chicken vegetable soup, green salad, crusty bread and apple pie with ice cream.

Thursday, March 23
Grab-&-Go Menu. Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Roast pork in sauce, mashed potatoes, peas & onions and oatmeal-raisin cookie
Reminder: Advanced reservation for Grab-&-Go meals required by the Monday before by emailing meals@charlotteseniorgcentervt.org or calling 802-425-6345

Monday Munch, April 3,
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Menu to be announced. Go to the senior center “Good Eating” site for the menu at charlotteseniorgcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

Thursday, April 6
Grab-&-Go Menu. Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Sweet-n-sour pork with sauce, brown rice with lentils and vegetables, green beans and Easter cake.

A recent feature in The Wall Street Journal revealed what volunteer cooks at the Charlotte Senior Center kitchen have in common with David Boulud, Michelin-starred chef and proprietor of 20 or so noted restaurants around the world. Boulud listed things in his kitchen he can’t live without: “a wood spatula, a peeler and a cast iron pot.”

We have it on good authority that some senior center cooks would add garlic press to the list.

Come join a volunteer cooking team at the Charlotte Senior Center, and you, too, can cook like David Boulud.

Note: The Charlotte Senior Center provides a full set of eating utensils, so you won’t have to eat like Ron DeSantis.

According to The Daily Beast, during a private plane trip from Tallahassee to Washington, D.C., in March 2019, this notably messy eater enjoyed his chocolate pudding dessert by using his fingers to eat it (tinyurl.com/3f3p85w7).

Let’s be generous — and assume that when he enjoyed a meal costing $8,000 at the famous French Laundry restaurant near San Francisco, he used utensils.

Finally, here’s Frank Sinatra with “high apple pie in the sky hopes” at genius.com/Frank-sinatra-high-hopes-lyrics.