

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

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Kulski ski view

Photo by Julian Kulski

It was another day at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge practicing supine skiing.

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Vol. 65, No.19

Top shelf

Margaret Woodruff
and the transformation
of the Charlotte Library

Steve Goldstein
Contributor

When she arrived in Charlotte 23 years ago, a mother seeking diversion for her young children found a welcome resource at the Charlotte Library. Some time later, a position opened and she applied. 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-faceted service organization that takes your trash, helps your garden — and still lends out 13,000 books.

There are reading groups and book chats 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 patron’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 vacate, 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 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 interviewing 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, it really messes up the shelves.”

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

You could say the profession chose



HISTORIC WIN for CVU

CVU downs Rice for its
first state boys basketball title

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

History came knocking on Saturday night at the University of Vermont’s Patrick Gymnasium. For most of three quarters, it looked like Champlain Valley Union High might never open the door.

In fact, until late in the third quarter it looked possible that Rice Memorial might fasten a deadbolt lock on the Redhawks’ hopes of winning their first boys basketball state title.

But with a couple of minutes remaining in the third frame, CVU (22-1) went on a scoring run and began the fourth quarter tied with the Green Knights (18-4).

Late in the last period, CVU was able to take its first significant lead in this back-and-forth contest where the teams swapped the lead nine times. The 100th Division 1 basketball championship in Vermont history wasn’t decided until the waning

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 11 was the third time these two teams met this season with Rice dealing CVU its only defeat on Jan. 2 and with the Redhawks triumphant 53-50 on 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 for a win on 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 into

Photos by Amy Vaughan

Coach Michael Osborne cuts down the net and celebrates with his team, while a crowd of red clad fans reveled in the historic accomplishment.

SEE **BASKETBALL** PAGE 4

Cannabis cultivation 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 they could say about such applications.

The application in question was approved on the town level by former zoning administrator Keith Osborne, whose last day of work was Friday, March 17, and now it was before the selectboard for its approval..

Town planner Larry Lewack said Osborne left to take a position as planning and zoning administrator for the town of Richmond.

Some members of the board expressed frustration that it seemed like the only option they had was to rubber-stamp the application



and send it back to the state. After the application was approved by Osborne, the 15-day appeal period had passed without an appeal being filed.

Nonetheless, town administrator Dean Bloch said it was probably a good idea for the board to sign off on it.

However, when board member Kelly Devine made a motion to approve “the application for a mixed cultivator Tier 1 license by Vermont Cultivars,” it was defeated 1-4 with Devine casting the lone vote in support.

It doesn’t appear that losing the vote of the selectboard will have any effect, other than to demonstrate the dissenting members’ vexation with the process of approving

cannabis growing applications.

Board member Frank Tenney questioned what it means for an application preliminarily approved 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

SEE **LIBRARY** PAGE 3

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Sweet dreams

Courtesy photos

Above from left, John Blackmer and Bill Boysen are part of a team of Wake Robin volunteers who have been taking shifts collecting sap, stoking the fire and all the other work required for making syrup. Blackmer is no stranger to this work, having produced syrup for decades in southern Vermont before moving to Wake Robin.

Carrying sap through the snow to be boiled. The crew expects to boil through April.



Police find minors intoxicated at home of Charlotte representative

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Vermont State Police say they are investigating an incident late Friday night where officers were called to the home of Chea Waters Evans, Charlotte’s representative to the Vermont House and a former editor of The Charlotte News.

According to a press release from police, two officers arrived at Evans’ home around 12:45 a.m. Saturday, March 18, and found an underage drinking party.

“Multiple juveniles” were at Evans home and “several of the juveniles were intoxicated,” the release said. “Troopers issued diversion paperwork for consumption of alcohol by a minor.”

A diversion program is an alternative to going through the court process.

“I fully cooperated with all questions from the Vermont State Police and will do so should the need arise in the future,” Evans said. “The other matter is between those juveniles and their families.”

The diversion program is part of the Youth Substance Awareness Program. Individuals are referred by law enforcement and can voluntarily participate in the program to avoid having their driver’s license suspended, according to the Vermont Court Diversion website.

Evans was editor of The Charlotte News from 2019-20. After leaving she started the online newspaper The Bridge which covered Charlotte. She quit posting stories on The Bridge this summer when she ran for state representative.



Mission Statement
To engage and inform Charlotte and nearby communities by:

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

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

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

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- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
- Efforts will be made to publish submissions in their entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording, but minor editing may nonetheless be necessary. Contributors will be notified before publishing, if in the editor’s judgment, significant changes are required, or the submission is rejected.
- Submission requirements:
- Letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries should be emailed to news@thecharlottenews.org as attachments in .doc format and must contain the writer’s full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, contact phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
- All published letters and opinion pieces will include the writer’s name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Woodruff rather than the other way around. Call her the Accidental Librarian.

Woodruff grew up in southern California, where her father taught at Pomona College. In high school, she took advantage of an American Field Service program and spent her junior year abroad living with a family in Japan.

She graduated from 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 “Renaissance woman,” adding that “she is passionate about a lot of these different interests. The library is a good match because she’s very curious.”

Woodruff lived in Philadelphia for a time and then in Massachusetts, where she worked in museums, including the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass. When her husband was offered a job in Vermont, they moved here in 2000. She took a job at the Fleming Museum of Art in Burlington, but her interest and her heart were elsewhere.

“There were some possibilities, maybe helping coordinate a program,” she said. “I had three small children, and it was going to be more work and the chance of not very successful, so it seemed better to concentrate on other things. I learned how to have a vegetable garden, and we started raising chickens, and then the very first place we came when we moved to Charlotte was the library.”

The following are excerpts from a conversation with Margaret Woodruff, edited for length and clarity:

The Charlotte News: How did you first come to work at the library?

Margaret Woodruff: The library was the very first place I brought my children when we moved here. A job opening came up, and my youngest had started preschool, so it seemed like a good time to try that. And that led to this

TCN: Have you always had an affinity for libraries?

MW: Some of my earliest memories of childhood are of going to the library with my grandmother. When I was in sixth grade, I was sort of a quasi-volunteer at a library in my hometown and always found it a place of enjoyment and escape. It was exciting to think that maybe I could share some of that enjoyment and fulfillment that I had with people here or get a 10 year old started on a love of reading.



Photo by Steve Goldstein

Margaret Woodruff has been with the Charlotte Library for 20 of the libraries 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 are 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 the breadth of tasks.

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 much 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 as our worlds kind of closed up a little 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 program here and extensive gardens

connected with that. Since you can register to vote at the town hall across the street rather than trying to have 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 any of us on the staff or other readers. So I pick a theme, usually based on like, today’s theme. 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. There’s a process, 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 removed from circulation?

MW: No. We have a fairly rigorous reconsideration of materials, so if someone objects, there’s a form they fill out to present it to the library board. Then there’s a subcommittee 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.

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Letters to the Editor

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 Birdsall
South Burlington
(Bonnie Birdsall 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, hounders and hunters chosen by Gov. Scott. They discuss everything and anything related to wildlife and are responsible for all policies that govern wildlife and affect wild 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 it goes. The board makes all decisions governing wildlife and has the final say, even over legislation 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 draft recommendations. The meeting was eye-opening to say the least.

I knew it was bad. “The foxes run 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 far longer than two minutes to cover what is flawed, incoherent and wrong with a group of coyote and bear hounders, trappers and hounding enthusiasts deciding on how to regulate themselves. 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 allegedly is 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 hounders, hounds and the public, as well as injuries to farmed and domestic animals who fall victim to hounds, is for hounds to be on leash or on fenced-in private property.

There is no humane way of taking a coyote with dogs.

Act 165 states that a person shall not take coyote with the aid of dogs unless the person is in control of the dogs. Yet, “control of dogs” is 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. Confinement is not the same as control, nor should it be legitimized as such.

It is stated in Act 165 that those in the hound-hunting group need to be able to see and communicate with each other. Ironically, none of them are required to see or 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 hounders are not in visual sight of their dogs, they don’t know when or how to use the shock or training collars effectively, which relegates 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, here tinyurl.com/mry5atn2. 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 care for our state’s students, 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.

It’s simple: no student should learn what hunger feels like at school.

We can continue Universal School Meals and permanently ensure that all children, regardless of family income, are taken care of in the cafeteria. When families know that their students can eat at school, they can show up for work without the added worry of making sure school meals are taken care of.

In the last year, we have seen the positive impacts of Universal School Meals, with more than 50,000 students eating lunch and about 32,000 eating breakfast — at no cost to their families. A 2020 study by University of Vermont researchers found that universal school meals were associated with improved readiness to learn, improved school social climate as a result of financial difference being less visible, declines in financial and emotional stress for parents and students, declines in stress for school administrators related to the need to collect school meal program debts from families and increased ability of schools to purchase and serve local food.

Now our lawmakers are working to make Universal School Meals permanent in Vermont, through the bill H.165. Last year, California, Maine and Colorado made Universal School Meals permanent. Just last week, New Mexico passed permanent Universal School Meals and Minnesota and New York are poised to do the same.

A total of 22 other states, including Vermont, have permanent Universal School Meals under consideration by legislators right now. This is a national movement that Vermont started, as the first state to introduce a bill for permanent universal school meals in 2020. Let’s wrap up this bill and make it permanent in the education fund so all our Vermont families can have peace of mind, knowing their children have two nutritious meals during the school day.

Karen Colberg
Norwich
(Karen Colberg is co-CEO at King Arthur Baking Company.)

The Charlotte News

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Ads Deadline: Friday, March 31

April 20

Copy Deadline: Friday, April 14

Ads Deadline: Friday, April 14

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BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

halftime.

The second half began with an Eaton 3-pointer that brought the Redhawks within two at 24-22, before the Green Knights went on a 7-0 run that had the Redhawks behind at 31-22.

Finally, at nine points down, CVU began a run that started with an Alex Provost layup with 2:45 left in the third quarter. The Redhawks’ nine unanswered points pulled the team back to a 31-31 tie to begin the final frame.

The fourth quarter began with Tucker Tharpe hitting two foul shots to give CVU its first lead since the second quarter at 33-31.

Rice’s Adam Bilodeau hit a 3-pointer from the low post, and the Knights retook the lead at 34-33 briefly. Shortly after, Provost put CVU back on top at 35-34 for a lead the Redhawks didn’t relinquish, going up 41-34 with little more than a minute left in the game.

CVU outscored Rice in the fourth quarter 11-7, as Green Knights began to look winded and the Redhawks’ deeper bench kept them energized right on into a post-game celebration of their 42-38 victory.

Eaton led all scorers with 19 points and 4 rebounds, but maybe more importantly he hit 10 of 12 free throws.

The title may have been won from the foul line. As a team, CVU hit 16 of 19 free throw attempts. Rice missed the only foul shot it

got.

Provost had 9 points and 4 rebounds. Bilodeau led Rice’s scoring with 11 points and 7 rebounds, followed by Daniel Bogre’s 7 points and 3 rebounds.

For the most part, it was a defensive contest with few offensive highlights. CVU hit just over 30 percent of its shots to Rice’s 29 percent.

Even when his team was down by 9 points

late in the third quarter, Eaton said he was comfortable. “I know our team is capable of coming back,” the junior said. “And we did.”

Junior Griffin Veltkamp of Charlotte said he’d felt since the beginning of the season his team was going to win the state title, but seeing his belief in his team realized was “really awesome.”

“It feels good to hang a banner, but this one is special.”

News from The Charlotte News

Welcoming Susie Therrien and Dave Speidel to the team

John Quinney
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 Hagios, 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 many friends and her dog Aika, reading, the occasional pickleball match and the company



Susie Therrien

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 proceeded 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 partner 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 work for clients like Anichini, IBM and Rossignol Ski Co. during a 15-year period. After selling Brick House



Dave Speidel

in 1999, Dave joined Jager DiPaola Kemp Design where he helped lead major branding projects.

In 2001, Dave joined forces with Place Creative Co. working with many consumer product brands like Darn Tough and Pete and Gerry’s Organic Eggs, Vermont Smoke and Cure, Lake Champlain Chocolates, as well as nonprofits and state programs doing good things for the world.

He has supported several nonprofits with volunteer work and board membership, such as the Vermont Clean Water Network, the Charlotte Trails Committee, Lewis Creek Association, Charlotte Congregational Church, Shelburne Craft School, Inclusive Arts Vermont and the American Institute of Graphic Arts Vermont.

Dave has been reading The Charlotte News ever since moving to town in 1984 and has always appreciated the thorough and original writing informing us on town hall happenings, local sports and recreation. He even reads all the ads for our area businesses. You never know when you’ll need a plumber or are looking for a good breakfast sandwich.

As a board member, Dave expects to focus his efforts in the areas of business, website and digital development. Welcome aboard, Dave.



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Stronger Together

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 your wardrobes planning for the warmer weather to come, consider donating outgrown children’s clothes, 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 several 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, boots, hat 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 clothes 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 were 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 Spear Street. Details will be posted on the Charlotte Grange website: charlottegrange.org. Your 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 go out on Front Porch Forum in the coming weeks; you can also send an email to charlottegrangevt@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 put to use elsewhere in our neighborhood. Sharing children’s clothing is another example of how we can be stronger together.

(Alicia Cooper lives in Charlotte and is a member of the Charlotte Grange. Through programs of various kinds, the Grange strives to honor our agricultural roots and help build a resilient future for all. See charlottegrange.org for more information.)

Events

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 creative skill 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.



Photo by Ruah Swennerfelt

Catherine Bock repairing clothing at a previous Repair Café.

We do ask that attendees, if able, bring a food or monetary donation to the Charlotte Food Shelf. Coffee and home-baked goods will be available all day. Lunch of chili, soups, salad and drinks will be available for a \$5 donation to Sustainable Charlotte. See you and your broken stuff on April 15. Contact Louis Cox at jlouiscox@gmail.com with questions about your needed repairs.

And here are some future events hosted by Sustainable Charlotte and the Charlotte Library:

- April 17 – first night of a six-week book discussion of “The Treeline”
 - April 26 – Sas Carey film on Mongolia
 - April 30 – George Lakey to speak at the library
 - May 6 – electronic waste collection at GreenUp Day
 - May 17 – green drinks at Backyard Bistro (not really “green;” just talk about green ideas).
- You can learn all about these events at sustainablecharlottevt.org.

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 the 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 desert, 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.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

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



Mary Stevenson sharing some soda bread and Irish hospitality with Olive Hirschfeld.

Bunnies ready for Easter!

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Report from the Legislature

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 take 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 compromise anyone’s second amendment rights. I’m not a gun person, so last fall a friend took me to Laberge’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. And this is to also 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 firearms make up almost 60 percent of Vermont suicides each year. Our suicide rate is 50 percent higher than the national average. Other suicide methods 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 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 child or 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 dealer locations where firearms are sold or 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 individuals who pose 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. (Interesting aside: I learned last

week that the term “household member” includes a person who someone has dated or had a romantic relationship with.)

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’s a constitutional right that we can bear arms. In my opinion, that right doesn’t necessarily extend to the right to bear arms immediately as soon as you want them. The waiting period requires that a person can’t transfer a firearm to another person until 72 hours afwter 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.w

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

even having a cannabis control commission at a municipal level. Clearly, we don’t have much say here. 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.

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

Some of the confusion might be cleared up 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’s land-use regulations covering commercial cannabis operations.

The proposed amendments to Charlotte’s land-use regulations is at tinyurl.com/3y3j9efc and a guide to the

planning commission’s rationale for those amendments is at tinyurl.com/b9fmcsjh.

Among the proposed amendments are 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 from off the site; outdoor lighting; fencing; a security plan; and sufficient water and wastewater.

Jen Banbury, who lives near a cannabis growing operation on Prindle Road, thanked the selectboard for working on regulations because she and her neighbors’ experience is “the state cannabis control board really is there to kind of bend over backwards and help the growers make sure that they can continue with whatever operation they want to do at the expense of residents and neighbors.”

Banbury said she strongly supports

the legalization of cannabis, however she believes there should be regulations restricting how close cannabis cultivation is to homes. She also objected to the state keeping growing operation owners’ names and the locations secret.

“If it’s a security issue to protect that information, because they think it’s a security risk to that site, well, of course, the town and the neighbors need to know about that situation,” Banbury said.

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 opening the town to liability by not following the appropriate process or revealing the name and address of applicants. “I don’t think we have any say in it after the zoning permit is issued,” he said.

Charlotte’s representative, Chea Waters Evans said she was familiar with these issues because of her place on the House Committee on Government and Military Affairs, the committee responsible for commercial cannabis regulations.

The selectboard’s “only kind of assignment, as it stands right now, is to enforce the state’s cannabis control board regulations within your own town,” Evans said. “You can’t legally, at this point in time, create any regulations or guidelines for businesses or where they operate for cannabis businesses, unless it applies to all businesses that would be in the town of Charlotte.”

Nellie Marvel, outreach and education manager of the Vermont Cannabis Control

Board, couldn’t name another type of agriculture or industry that selectboards are banned from revealing names and addresses of applicants.

Although cannabis has been legalized there is still quite a strong black market for 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 certain fraught history around it that just isn’t present in other sorts of agricultural or industrial endeavors,” Marvel said. “Cannabis is not considered an agricultural crop under state law.”

She was not sure what the repercussions would be if the town revealed the identity or location of commercial cannabis growing businesses, but she thought there might be the potential for the town to be sued.

Town planner Larry Lewack doesn’t agree with this interpretation of the laws and he said the town’s attorney has confirmed his stance.

“We do not believe municipalities are bound to follow those standards, especially in connection with our allowed scope for permitting cannabis businesses via the state statute,” Lewack wrote in an email. “In any event, municipalities are bound by the Vermont Open Meeting Law and Public Records acts, which mandate public availability of materials submitted by applicants for permit reviews that come before our development review board.”

Miscreant interloper



Photo by Kelly Bouteiller

From left, preschoolers Marian Lively, Cillian Dolan, Judah Glasscoe and Max Laberge from the Charlotte Children’s Center had a lunch date at the Charlotte Library when their classroom was unexpectedly closed on account of a pesky skunk.

Around Town

Condolences

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 rowed. He graduated from Pomona College in 1971 with a degree in anthropology, after studying primatology with Alan Walker at Makerere 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, summitting 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 board member in various roles, including 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 grandparent and was deeply dedicated to his family. He traveled to Kauai, Hawaii, every winter to reconnect with extended family in Hanalei Bay.

Jonathan is survived by his son William Fisher and wife Lindsay Bloxham Fisher, grandchildren Sage and August Fisher of Burlington, daughter Emily Fisher and husband Dwyer Haney of Starksboro, 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 29, 2023, 2 p.m. 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.

David A. Waller

David Austin Waller died peacefully on Saturday, March 11, at The Arbors in Shelburne, Vermont, where he had lived for the past two years following the progression of his dementia. David was born on July 13, 1944, to Denison and Mary Waller in Charlotte, Vermont, where he resided for most of his life.



He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of more than 50 years; his two daughters and their husbands Amy and Jason Bodie and Jody and Peter Sunna; grandchildren Charlotte Bodie, Owen Bodie and Stella Sunna; siblings Constance “Connie” Waller, Peggy Jones and her husband Terry and Linda Waller; and his nephews and nieces. His death was preceded by his parents, Denison and Mary, and brother Arnold “Arnie” Waller.

A builder, David owned and operated David Waller & Company for several decades. The homes he built in and around Charlotte are a lasting reminder of his talent and skill as a craftsman.

David was also a life-long skier, boater and outdoorsman. He was a long-time member of the Mount Mansfield Ski Patrol in Stowe. He and Dorothy met, raised their family on the slopes and developed life-long friendships there. During the summer months, David could be found on Lake Champlain, spending weekends on the family’s 1914 Elco wooden boat, The Folley, in St. Albans Bay — where they spent countless years, together with close friends, raising their collective families — or at their summer camp on Garden Island, then Long Point.

David lived a long and full life, entertaining and bringing joy to many. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and loved ones.

A service will be held at the Charlotte Congregational Church, 403 Church Hill Road in Charlotte, on Wednesday, April 12, at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to The Arbors at Shelburne Holiday Associate Fund, 687 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482, which the family thanks for its generous care and support over the past few years.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Cremation Society of Chittenden County, a division of the Ready Family. To send online condolences to the family please visit cremationsocietycc.com.

Congratulations

Madeline Haydock from Charlotte has been named to St. Lawrence University’s dean’s list for the fall semester.

Cole Rehkugler of Charlotte was named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester. Rehkugler is in the mechanical engineering technology program.

Sam Sturim of Charlotte was named to the dean’s list at Tufts University for the fall semester.

Sean Gilliam of Charlotte was named to the dean’s list at Bates College for the fall semester.

Harrison Falk, Kiley Stearns and Heloise Guyette of Charlotte were named to the Champlain College dean’s list for the fall semester.

Commentary

Hearing on cannabis business land-use regulations on March 23

Charlie Pughe
Planning Commission Chair

The Charlotte Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Town Hall to hear public comments on proposed amendments to the Charlotte land-use regulations regarding standards for permitting and regulating cannabis businesses in Charlotte.

Retail cannabis sales are not currently allowed in Charlotte. The town must agree by a vote of the residents to allow retail sales in town and so far has not. No change to this policy is contemplated within these proposed land-use regulation updates.

The state has mandated that all aspects of cannabis production be classified as businesses, including the growing of cannabis. As a business, it must comply with land-use regulations much as how other businesses in town are required to do.

In order for the town to require cannabis businesses to comply with our local permitting, the town must have a cannabis control commission. The selectboard has voted to create a cannabis control commission, much like the town’s liquor control board. The selectboard appointed themselves the cannabis control commission for Charlotte, thus providing an opportunity for the town to weigh in on proposed cannabis businesses before the state permit is issued. With the creation of a cannabis control commission in Charlotte, cannabis businesses are now subject to the town’s land-use regulations. Charlotte’s current land-use regulations did not cover the requirements for cannabis businesses, hence the need to update them.

Background information on why the planning commission is proposing these land-use regulations updates:

• In recent years, the Vermont Legislature authorized the establishment of an adult-use cannabis industry. A state Cannabis Control Board (CCB) was set up to administer state licensing

and regulation of cannabis growers, processors and other cannabis businesses. The statute also carved out a scope for municipal regulation of these enterprises separate from state licensing.

• Prior to the industry launch last October, several cannabis growers obtained state licenses from the CCB and began cannabis cultivation in Charlotte without any local review or permits. In response to concerns expressed by residents about some of these businesses’ community impacts, the Charlotte Planning Commission decided to develop and propose specific regulatory standards for cannabis businesses that would be added to the Charlotte land-use regulations. The proposed standards are now ready for public hearing, after which the planning commission can make changes based on citizen input and send the final draft to the selectboard.

The planning commission developed these proposed standards considering the following:

1. Cannabis growing, processing and manufacturing are regulated as businesses.
2. The proposed land-use regulations additions are consistent with how other businesses in Charlotte are regulated.
3. The specificity of the proposed land-use regulations additions 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. These

Charlotte Planning Commission

Public Hearing on Proposed Land-Use Amendments
(regarding commercial cannabis businesses)

When: 7 p.m., Thursday, March 23 (tonight)

Where: Charlotte Town Hall

Zoom link: bit.ly/Charlotte_PC_March_23_mtg
(meeting id: 884 5276 3258; meeting, password: 395666)

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).

The proposed amendments to the Charlotte land-use regulations include:

• **Updates to dimensional standards, conditional uses and general standards**

Because Charlotte’s current land-use regulations were created before this new industry was authorized, they are silent on where, how and under what conditions the town could allow cannabis businesses. This first section of the proposed amendments describes what types of cannabis businesses may be allowed as permitted or conditional uses, in which zoning districts.

• **Specific review and performance standards**

A proposed new section in Chapter 4 of the Charlotte land-use regulations spells out the scope of the town’s regulatory authority for cannabis businesses, general requirements for cannabis enterprises and specific review and performance standards for permitting cannabis businesses. They stipulate how typical impacts of cannabis enterprises should be mitigated through the permitting process. The process described will require most applicants to apply for conditional-use and site-plan approval by the town’s development review board to obtain needed permits,

then apply to the Charlotte Selectboard (acting as the local cannabis control commission) to obtain a local license. Under statute, these are prerequisite steps to obtaining a state license (or license renewal) before the Vermont Cannabis Control Board.

• **New definitions of various types of cannabis businesses and uses**

This section proposes several new definitions of cannabis and types of cannabis businesses which are referenced in the above to be added to Chapter 10 of the Charlotte land-use regulations, which follow the definitions in state statute.

The proposed land-use regulations revisions, a user’s guide and a detailed report on how the proposed changes comply with state statute and the Town Plan, are available on the town web site at: bit.ly/Cannabis_rules_in_Charlotte. The public hearing warning, which includes a Zoom login link, has been posted to the town website’s “Meeting Calendar and Agendas” page, linked under the meeting date.

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.

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Hi Neighbor

Tony Blake: Making sure that skiing is for everyone

Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Tony Blake stresses that the people he skis with through 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 it’s 10 below and windy or 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 by focusing on those skiers, he can be a repeat instructor, watching their progress over the years.

One of those returning athletes is a 17-year-old with Smith-Magenis syndrome which is manifested by physical and mental disabilities as well as autism. Blake has enjoyed skiing with him for a decade.

In addition to his work with individual athletes, Blake assists Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports in setting up a Sunday morning racecourse for the Vermont Special Olympics

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 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 recently begun stepping away from the non-profit boards he used to serve on, as well as his position as a conductor for the Polar Express. He spent some time as a Senior Buddy to a young mentee at the King Street Center in Burlington, but the youngster has aged out of the program.

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports has programs at Bolton and Pico, as well as Sugarbush. Athletes or their families contact the non-profit and the mountain’s program coordinator puts their pertinent information (but not names) on a spreadsheet including the athlete’s disability and what they want to get out of the program.

Although Vermont Adaptive also has a summer program at Waterbury Reservoir and the Burlington waterfront for adaptive biking, sailing, kayaking and paddleboarding, Blake has not volunteered for those. His wife is a teacher, and he treasures spending time with her during the summer.

Blake continues to love the sport of skiing, even when he’s not working with the program at Sugarbush. He recently returned from a trip with several friends to Kicking Horse in British Columbia. Although he thoroughly enjoyed that trip, he swears he has just as much fun with his young charges at Sugarbush.

“People think I’m doing a wonderful thing, but it’s completely selfish,” he said. “I think I get more out of it than they do.”

“People ask me what it’s like to ski with



Photo by Tony Blake

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 up 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.”

Education

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

March happenings

March has been an exciting month at Charlotte Central School. Champ, the Vermont Lake Monsters’ mascot, visited to meet students and kick off a PTO fundraising campaign. The baseball Champ had a good time meeting and dancing with Charlotte Central School’s Champ mascot.

Recently, the whole school meeting was hosted by the third grade with a theme of “kindness is contagious.” Students demonstrated how their Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports pennies can be earned by taking care of self, others and this place. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is a program which supports students’ behavioral, academic, social, emotional and mental health.

The culmination was more than 350 students and staff dancing to the song “Happy.” The students’ bank of earned Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports pennies is two-thirds of the way full, leading to March’s whole school celebration.

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 Math Night, recess swings, a library art supply cart, decodable books for Spanish, chicken hatching 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 the 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-fifth grades to make friends, establish healthy habits and challenge themselves with personal goals. Spaces are limited, so girls should register now for the spring season at gotrvt.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 Vermont’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 802-871-5664 about this.

Questions? Contact Coach Barbara Boutsikaris at familyworksvt@gmail.com.

2023 summer camps

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



The Charlotte News file photo.

Charlotte Central School

Charlotte Central School does not endorse any particular camp but provides the list as informational only:

- CVSD Band Camp (Aug. 14-18) For information please contact Tim Buckingham at tbuckingham@cvsdvt.org.
- Jazz Jivin’ Summer Camp (June 26-30) At Isham Family Farm for rising fifth-ninth graders. More information and registration at willistoncommunitytheatre.com.
- Summer Symphony Camp (June 26-30) Learn more at vvo.org.
- Vermont Jazz Camp (July 26-30) For details visit vtjazzcamp.com.

Community Round Up

Warren joins Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman

Nancy Warren of Charlotte has joined Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. Warren has over 16 years of experience in the industry, working in northwest Vermont since 2005.

“Her vast knowledge on the real estate market, neighborhoods, and towns throughout the region has earned her recognition as a top-producing agent in the market,” Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman said in a release.

Junior League of Champlain Valley giving 100,000 diapers to food shelves

The Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank will distribute 100,000 diapers to over 30 food shelf partners at its monthly distribution event as it advocates the Legislature for \$380,000 to support a state-sponsored diaper bank as a solution to diaper need in Vermont. Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy. Approximately one in three U.S. families experience diaper need.

The Junior League of Champlain Valley founded the Diaper Bank in 2018 in response to a need that was not being met by existing government subsidies or other support programs. Four years later, the Diaper Bank operates statewide, partnering with

57 organizations and has distributed more than 2.3 million diapers. The growth of this program has demonstrated the ongoing need of Vermont families for access to diapers and diapering supplies, and that a volunteer-based system is no longer adequate or sustainable.

Junior League of Champlain Valley is proposing a staffed, state-sponsored Diaper Bank to make permanent the efforts of a 100 percent volunteer organization. This option is the most cost-effective way of distributing diapers to families in need and leverages existing resources to establish a simple and sustainable model with a high degree of continuity from the existing program.

HomeShare Vermont announces ‘staycation/vacation’ raffle prize list

HomeShare Vermont is offering a chance to win one of nine amazing opportunities to enjoy some of the finest inns, shopping, dining and entertainment that the state has to offer in its 2023 “staycation” raffle.

Winners will enjoy stays at Hotel Vermont, Lake Champlain Cottages, Lake Morey Resort, Middlebury Inn, The Pitcher Inn and Snow Farm Inn. There’s also a shopping spree that includes gift certificates to Gardener’s Supply, Homeport, Phoenix Books and the Warren Store, and a package that includes a night on the town in Burlington with dinner at A Single Pebble and tickets to see Samantha

Bee at the Flynn. Another winner will receive a \$500 gift certificate for Amtrak.

The drawing will be conducted on Thursday, April 20, and will be streamed live by the Media Factory.

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.

Education

Both CVU varsity and JV robotics teams win state championship

Olaf Verdonk
Contributor

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 in-



From left, (front) Joe Jacobs, Jack Gourlay, Gavin, Blackburn, Clay Nicholson, Will Ackerly (back) Sam Yager, Jared Kennedy, Crawford Phillips, Jaden Parker, James Haines, Violet Fennern, Braden Griffin and Jacob Graham are members of the Champlain Valley Union High robotics team headed to Houston in April to defend their state title.

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 robo-hawks5741.com to help the effort.

CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023

Jan. 6 William & Tina Elder and Bryan & Laura Ciaccia to Clarke W Hinsdale III 3888 Spear Street \$500, 0 acres Easement only

Jan. 9 Laura Handy to Joan Handy 1242 Lake Road w/dwelling .69 acres+/- \$475,000 undivided 1/2% interest

Jan. 11 Randolph & Mary Frantz to Gregg & Elizabeth Beldock Lots 4 & 5 Plouffe Lane 29.4 acres \$600,000 Land only

Feb. 1 Scott Waterman & Sandra Steingard to Brandt & Sara Nelson 90 Sunset Rd.w/dwelling 2.4 acres \$970,000

Feb. 2 Jonathan W. Fisher Revocable Trust to Can Doganci & Lucille M. Halvorson 3015 Spear Street w/ dwelling 3.76 acres \$700,000

Feb. 13 Michael & Carrie Spear to Baptist Corners LLC 2346 Hinesburg Road 2.89 acres Land only \$20,000

Feb. 13 Spears Corner Store, Inc. to Baptist Corners LLC .78 Acres 20 Jackson Hill Rd.& 2815 Spear Street Commercial \$630,000

Feb. 21 Purduan Revocable Trust to Claudia & Nigel Mucklow 181 Fox Run Road 0 acres View only \$10,000

Feb. 24 Raven Davis Living Trust to Abigail & Steven Killey 385 Toad Road 26.65 acres w dwelling \$675,000

This information was supplied by Jay Strausser of Four Seasons Sothebys International Real Estate.



Winning celebration

Courtesy photo

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.



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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.

Kids’ G-rated movie

Friday, March 24, 3-4:30 p.m.
The South Burlington Public Library on Market Street screens The Wizard of Oz, a classic appropriate for most ages. Info about this free film at tinyurl.com/mrupn837.

**Crabapple pruning
Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

The Friends of the University of Vermont Hort Farm on Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington welcomes visitors and hosts a variety of educational classes. This program is outside, so dress appropriately and bring any pruning tools you may have. Info and registration at fhfvt.org/events1.

**Maple Run 5K
Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.**

Come to Rock Point School in Burlington for a scenic 5K. Participants may register onsite at 9:30 a.m. Prizes, snacks and sugarhouse tours included; sap boiling is weather-dependent. For more info and registration, see tinyurl.com/4az8rehx.

**Be a health hero
Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
The Health Heroes showcase is geared toward ages 8-15; workshop topics include nutrition, healthy habits, self-advocacy and more. The event is presented by University of Vermont teen health advisors; parents and caregivers are also welcome to attend this free event at Waterman Building in Burlington. Registration is required. Info at tinyurl.com/z78pczw7.

**Meet the musicians
Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.-noon**
For the youngest musicians and concert-goers, a rug concert with the Vermont Youth Orchestra is an interactive hour of music, instrument introductions and musicians sharing about performing with the orchestra. Rug concerts are held at the Elley-Long Music Center on the St. e campus. The event is free but register at vyo.org/rugconcerts.

**Science Fair documentary
Saturday, March 25, 1-3 p.m.**
The Pierson Library in Shelburne screens the film Science Fair, a documentary about teens competing in an international science and engineering fair. The movie has a four-star rating and has been called fascinating and compelling. The trailer may be seen on Youtube. Call the library to confirm free showing at 802-985-5124.

**Hands-on pruning workshop
Saturday, March 25, 2-3:45 p.m.**
Become familiar with the tools and techniques needed to properly prune ornamental shrubs and small trees, while shaping. This free, outdoor event takes place at the University of Vermont’s Hort Farm on Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington. The Hort Farm welcomes visitors and hosts a variety of educational classes. Dress appropriately and bring hand tools if you have them. For more info, a full calendar and registration, see fhfvt.org/events1/.

**Waffles on the griddle
Sunday, March 26, 7-11 a.m.**
The Mt. Abraham High School softball team is putting on a waffle spread to raise funds for a spring training trip. Enjoy sausages, eggs, fruit, beverages, whipped cream and real maple syrup to go with those waffles. Enjoy the silent auction as well. Breakfast is at the American Legion Post #19 in Bristol. School number is 802-453-2333.

**Bark and buds
Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m.-noon**
Branches are the third tree part that helps with winter identification. Join Vermont Land Trust forestry staff for a tree ID walk at Centennial Woods in Burlington. To read more and register, see tinyurl.com/mptexxeu.

**Sunday afternoon folk music
Sunday, March 26, 4-6 p.m.**
The Toronto-based folk duo Basset performs at the Richmond Congregational Church as part of the Valley Stage concert series. Info or tickets at tinyurl.com/2t2ve5v4.

**Create a wildflower meadow
Tuesday, March 28, 1 p.m.**
Mike Lizotte from American Meadows, known locally as the Seed Man, speaks

Maple Open House Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, March 25 & 26

Sugarhouses all around the state plan to boil sap and serve up syrup samples and other goodies this weekend. Visitors to Shelburne Farms can see the sugaring process in action between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. No tickets needed. On Saturday at Shelburne Farms, between 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Adventure Dinner offers first-come, first-served maple-themed food for purchase at the Farm Barn. Patalin’s Sugarworks on Lime Kiln Road in Charlotte will be welcoming visitors, as will Palmer’s Sugarhouse in Shelburne. Audubon Vermont in Huntington holds a sugar-on-snow party both days from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For statewide info, see tinyurl.com/mrc6kupc.



at the Burlington Garden Club meeting at Faith Methodist Church on Dorset Street in South Burlington. He’ll discuss supplies and techniques for creating a mini-meadow, including preparation and ongoing care. Event is free.

**Painting the modern woman
Wednesday, March 29, 11 a.m.**
The Town Hall Theater in Middlebury presents a film about the life of American Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt. For tickets or more info about the next movie on Vermeer, see tinyurl.com/4mnx47z4.

**Black ash webinar
Wednesday, March 29, 12:30 p.m.**
The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program presents a free webinar on preservation efforts on behalf of black ash trees in the state. The ash species is in particular jeopardy because of the emerald ash borer. Info or registration at tinyurl.com/2p9eub8r.

**Crochet stitches and skills
Wednesdays, March 29-April 19, 6-8:30 p.m.**
This four-week class covers everything participants need to get a solid foundation on all things crochet. Held on consecutive Wednesdays at the Shelburne Craft School; all materials included. Info or registration tinyurl.com/5cd9bdftr.

**Managing beavers
Thursday, March 30, 10-11 a.m.**
Many Vermont towns struggle with managing beavers. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department staff present a free webinar, via Zoom, on ways that towns can better manage this keystone species to accommodate all species. Info or registration tinyurl.com/35xj8h77.

**State of our forests and birds
Thursday, March 30, 7-8 p.m.**
Audubon Vermont presents a free, online webinar about the health of Vermont forests, which is inextricably tied to the health of our songbird species. Info or registration at tinyurl.com/f7mdbmrn.

**Mean Girls
Thursday, March 30-Saturday, April 1**
The musical version of Mean Girls will be center stage at Mount Abraham Union High School in Bristol. The show may be seen in person or live-streamed; tickets available in advance or at the door. Info at bit.ly/mtabemeangirls.

**Owls and timber doodles
Friday, March 31, 6:45-8 p.m.**
Gather at the Shelburne Bay parking area (the one adjacent to the boat landing parking) with binoculars, flashlights and appropriate clothing. Audubon Vermont staff lead a free walk on the trails to prowl for owls and watch for woodcocks. Info or registration at tinyurl.com/4423rtp9.

**Garden symposium
Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**
Fort Ticonderoga welcomes beginner and experienced gardeners and landscape artists to this event featuring speakers and garden experts in northern climates. Also via Zoom. Info and registration at tinyurl.com/4w33a9vb.

**Craft fair
Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**
U-32 High School on Gallison Hill Road in East Montpelier holds a craft fair with over 85 Vermont artists and handcrafters. Free

admission, silent auction and raffle. More at tinyurl.com/2p8y9bmy.

**Claire Black concert
Saturday, April 1, 7:30-9 p.m.**
Vermont-based pianist Claire Black plays at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Concert is free but donations gladly accepted. Her program features rarely performed solo piano works. Info at pianistclaireblack.com.

**Spring market
Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**
A Vermont spring market is happening at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Featured are over 60 crafters and artisans presenting leather goods, woodware, spices, pet goods, spirits and more. Vendors are from across New England. Free parking. To learn more, see tinyurl.com/mr3hyr7w.

**Auditions for Willy Wonka
Saturday-Tuesday, April 1-4**
The Valley Players in Waitsfield bring Roald Dahl’s musical, Willy Wonka, to the stage in June and July. Young people ages 8-16 are needed for the cast, as well as adults. Show will be at the Valley Players Theater in Waitsfield. For a complete schedule of audition times, see tinyurl.com/yckkjrzh.

**Costumed Nordic race
Sunday, April 2, 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**
Costumes are not required, but are encouraged, at the Nordic Ski Cross competitive (and fun) races at Cochran’s in Richmond. Young people race at 11 a.m.; adults race at 12:30 p.m. To learn more and sign up, see cochranskiarea.com/nordicx/.

**Orchestra open house
Sunday, April 2, 2:30-5 p.m.**
Come to the Elley-Long Music Center, on the campus of St. e, and see what the Vermont Youth Orchestra is all about. Learn about their lessons, small groups and the orchestra community. This free event takes place during rehearsals, with opportunities to sit in with the orchestra and meet students and instructors. Info at vyo.org/open-house.

**Suicide awareness training
Wednesday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
A training will take place in person in Waterbury, focusing on the agricultural community. Register at farmfirst.org/events.

**Kind Bud
Thursday, April 6, 6-8:30 p.m.**
The musical artist known as Kind Bud performs at the Shelburne Vineyard in a free show. He is known for recording, or dubbing, his guitar during live play, layering his own sound and composition as he plays. Info at tinyurl.com/4z9ndb8t.

**Merlin bird app
Thursday, April 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**
Learn how to use the Merlin birding app. This free online presentation is by the Bird Diva, Bridget Butler, and presented by Green Mountain Audubon. Learn more and pre-register at tinyurl.com/53s4mnbr. At the same time, you can register for the April 13 online webinar about using the eBird app at tinyurl.com/wyh5mwkm.

**Student jazz ensemble
Thursday, April 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**
Listen to a free recital by the University of Vermont jazz ensemble at the university’s Recital Hall off South Prospect Street in Burlington. Read more at tinyurl.com/mufwbc97.

**Earth’s materials
Friday, April 7, 5-7 p.m.**
The Jackson Gallery in Middlebury presents an opening for its newest group show, Perennial Perspectives in the Arts. Featured artists use a variety of media that rejoice in the earth, our roots and our relationships. A panel discussion is from 6-7 p.m. The gallery is downstairs from the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. More info at townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery.

**Half marathon unplugged
Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m.**
It’s not too late to register for RunVermont’s half marathon, beginning at Airport Park in Colchester and ending on Flynn Avenue in Burlington. The race may be run as a relay or a virtual option. Info or registration at tinyurl.com/ye8tbje8.

**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 meal is provided by Age Well and St. Catherine of Siena in Shelburne. Place your meal order no later than Wednesday, April 5. Email at agewellstcath@gmail.com or call 802-507-1107. More info at agewellvt.org.

Local Holy Week services

Charlotte Congregational Church

- Sunday, March 26, 5 p.m., Muddy Gras Variety Show
- Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m., Palm Sunday service
- Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday service
- Thursday- Friday, April 6-7, 8 p.m.-3p.m., Easter Vigil
- Friday, April 7, 4 p.m., Good Friday service
- Saturday, April 8, noon, community Easter egg hunt
- Sunday, April 9, 5:45, 9 (also live-streamed) and 11 a.m., Easter sunrise service

Lighthouse Baptist Church, Hinesburg

- • Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday service
- • Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Easter service

Hinesburg Community Alliance Church

- Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday service
- Friday, April 7, 6 p.m., Good Friday service
- Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Easter Sunday service

United Church of Hinesburg

- Sunday, April 9, 6:45 a.m., Easter sunrise service
- Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Easter service

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne

- Sunday April 2, 8:30 a.m., Mass
- Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m., Mass
- Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
- Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Easter Mass

Our Lady of Mountain Carmel, Charlotte

- • Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m. Easter Mass
- Sunday, April 9, 11 a.m., Easter Mass

St. Jude Catholic Church, Hinesburg

- Sunday, April 9, 9:30 a.m., Easter Mass

Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne

- Sunday, April 9, 9:30 a.m., Easter service (also live-streamed)

All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne

- Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m., Morning Meditation Service
- Sunday, April 9, 5 p.m., Music and Spirit service

Shelburne United Methodist Church

- Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m., Community Easter egg hunt
- Sunday, April 9, 6 a.m., sunrise service at Palmer’s Sugar House
- Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m., Easter service
- Sunday, April 9, 9:30 a.m., Easter service.

In The Outdoors

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 Wakeman Road.

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.

Fast forward too many decades to mention. A similar drama unfolded in our yard a few weeks ago. Same heartache, same sinking feeling. Another elm bites the dust. But this elm was supposed to be different.

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 pulpwood 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 resistance and inspired settlers to plant elm trees throughout New England and to the west as they migrated. Elms became a symbol of freedom. In 1775, the Liberty Tree was axed by British Loyalists but by then elms grew in nearly every town across the country.

Which is why Dutch Elm disease, when it arrived in the 1930s, altered the landscape of America, turning leafy Elm Streets across the land into bleak, treeless deserts.

Through genetic research and selective breeding of descendants of trees that had not succumbed 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. Part of the



Photo from Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont
American elms that were dying from Dutch elm disease line the street in front of Old Mill building and Billings Library at the University of Vermont.

majesty and beauty of the American elm is its vase 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 borer. We can hope that enough specimens survive so that resistant trees can be cultured and bred to replace those lost, estimated to make up 5 percent of Vermont’s forested landscape.

Enjoy your trees while you can.

Weed’s In The Garden

Spring’s here — time for garden planting planning

Joan Weed
Contributor

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

Though it still looks wintery 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, eggplant, cabbages, broccoli, basil and lettuce. Some seeds are better started in the garden when the soil warms up. Of course, everyone doesn’t have the time or energy to start their own plants so waiting till nurseries open for the season is the key.

Knowing which are best planted directly is helpful. I usually plant beans, cucumbers, corn, squashes, carrots and beets directly in the garden beds. Waiting for the soil to feel warm to the touch will make for success.

There are a few exceptions to this rule. Plants that can take a bit of chill and survive are peas, radishes, onions and seed potatoes. The crucifers, if established as young plants, are pretty hardy, also. The garden soil should not be soggy.

Those seeds needing a head start inside should be planted in a soilless mixture. This



Image by Pexels from Pixabay

can be purchased at a garden center or home store. Some grit or sand on the surface will benefit the seedlings from damping-off, the fungal disease associated with too wet soil.

Initially, the planted seeds will need a cover and some warmth. Lighting is key, though. Grow lights are useful but tend to be pricey so ordinary shop lights will work fine if you can arrange to be flexible for raising and lowering them. The seedlings will benefit from 12 hours or so of this artificial light.

Once your seedlings emerge, remove the cover. Brushing them lightly occasionally encourages growth. Some gardeners use an

oscillating fan. Raise the lights to 4 inches above as the plants lengthen. A timer is useful for we who forget or aren’t as agile as we used to be.

The biggest mistake of novice growers is overwatering. Watering should always be done from below into a tray under your pots or seeding cubes. Don’t let plants sit in water. Drain off any excess.

Thinking of the natural environment for a given plant is helpful to successfully growing it. Save any fertilizing till transplanting time using a diluted solution to start. I like a natural fish/seaweed feed. Organic compost adds not only some nutrients to your soil but also can adjust the texture of the growing medium. If too sandy or thick with clay,

organic matter is the answer for either problem.

I try to do succession planting. That is, when one vegetable crop has been harvested, to fill that spot with either seeds or different plants. Our short season means paying close attention if you choose to do this. No soil should lay waste. Fill the spot. If the first crop was a particularly voracious feeder, you might grow something that adds nitrogen to the soil such as legumes or amend with more compost.

Once you order seeds or plants from any garden catalogue, you will find your name has been passed around and soon you are inundated with offers. Catalogues offer loads of information and allow you to keep in touch with the newest varieties. You can learn a lot by perusing.

We are fortunate in our area to have some fine nurseries that offer started plants for ornamentals as well as edible plants. Horsford in Charlotte has been a go-to for decades, as well as Rocky Dale in Bristol for the unusual. Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg is a relative newbie on the block but has carefully grown plants to offer. Herbs are a specialty. Gardener’s Supply has grown a lot since I first started shopping there 30 plus years ago. A good source for other garden supplies like tools, soil amendments, pots, etcetera.

I’m starting to get excited about getting my hands in the dirt once again. How about you? First, I need to enjoy the spring flowering bulbs I planted last October. Hmmm ... now what did I plant this time?



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

Planning Commission:
Special Meeting, & Public Hearing
Thursday, March 23, 7-9 p.m.

March Conservation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 7-9 p.m.

Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 3, 5:30-7 p.m.

Trails Committee Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30-8 p.m.

Charlotte Energy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 7-9 p.m.

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The Charlotte News

Sacred Hunter

Measure your desire with a healthy dose of caution

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

My body aches but my spirit is elated. It has been one of the strangest winters I can remember – as far as ice fishing goes.

Last month was downright ugly. The fraternity of hardwater fishermen was painfully reminded that our choices should always be taken with a measure of caution and reason. When the warm spell in February hit, we knew it was possibly the end of a very short season.

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 teetered 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 flotation suit. Many sportsmen prayed that the full schedule of state-wide 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 in 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, 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’ve all heard the cliché “if you don’t like the weather in Vermont, wait a minute.” Our beloved state’s reputation for weather is that of extremes. Ask anyone from the lower 48 what they know about Vermont and they will paint a verbal image of gorgeous foliage and winter that lasts the rest of the year. I left my shanty, buckets, rods and sleds in the garage just in case. I lamented the passing of the season, and my heart was heavy — not just for the lack of ice, but also for the families of those lost the previous month.

And then, Vermont did what it is famous for, dramatic deep freezes. I began to hear chatter at the Charlotte General Store at Baptist Corners of an impending “polar vortex.” I started calling around and watching the online forums closely, and sure enough, there was talk of ice 12 feet thick and solid with no cracks up north. I called my new fishing buddy, Trevor Coles, and we made tentative plans to head up to Lake Carmi in Franklin



Courtesy photo

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

after speaking with a very knowledgeable semi-professional ice fisherman (yes, that really is a thing). He had spent the day on the ice with some great success. He sent me the Navionics GPS coordinates of where he had had a good bit of luck the day before and confirmed that the ice was indeed safe.

Trevor and I arrived around 7:30 a.m., and there was only one other party on the lake. Another showed up as we were testing the ice. We walked about 100 yards off the access when I suddenly heard a roaring sound. I looked up. To the west a wall of white was headed toward us.

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 gentrified masses) to large “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 sacred hunter.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.)

Into the Woods

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 for 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 unintuitive. Celebrating nuance means having the courage to go beyond simple narratives and polarities, to ask tough questions about what it means to care for forests at this moment in time.

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

This has led some to anthropomorphize trees — thinking of them as people, and to mythologize forests — thinking of them as utopias. When we do this, we misunderstand the true nature of forests: that mycorrhizal networks are one piece of dynamic and imperfect communities 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 see 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 and old trees, 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 naturally 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, multi-generational, healthy forests. Managing 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



Photo by Ethan Tapper
A red oak seedling sprouting next to a red maple stump.

courage to wade in uncertain waters, to recognize that what forests require from us in this moment is often complex and unintuitive, challenging and strange. Forests, and what it means to take care of them, will never be as simple as a bumper sticker, but that’s what makes them beautiful.

(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.)

Library News

If you are curious, the library has something for you

Margaret Woodruff
Contributor

As we head into spring, be on the lookout for:

- Outdoor programs
- Bulbs popping up in the library gardens
- Cooking programs on the Charlie Cart, the library’s mobile kitchen.

Interested in any or all of these? Let us know. Have ideas for other activities at the library? Let us know at info@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

We are your library and we appreciate the opportunity to work and learn together. Per library policy, all library programs are free and open to the public.

Children’s programs

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

No registration required.

Kindergarten/first grade after-school story time
Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Please contact youth services librarian Cheryl Sloan for information about this session at youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

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.

Programs for adults

Book Chat
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet each week to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. No registration necessary.

Stillwater Meditation
Saturdays, 9 a.m.

Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many or all meetings. No registration necessary. Stillwater



Courtesy photo

Walk and talk about book the ‘Changes in the Land’ in the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge this Saturday with librarians from three towns.

Meditation is an offering of Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

Discussion: “The Hummingbirds’ Gift”
Thursday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Hummingbirds fascinate people around the world. Miraculous creatures, they are also incredibly vulnerable when they first emerge from their eggs. That’s where Brenda Sherburn comes in. With tenderness and patience, she rescues abandoned hummingbirds and nurses them back to health until they can fly away and live in the wild. In “The Hummingbird’s Gift,” Sherburn shows us just how truly amazing hummingbirds are. Copies available at the circulation desk. Register in advance for the Zoom link at bit.ly/3kAGAoc.

Walk & Talk: “Changes in the Land”
Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.

Join librarians from Hinesburg, Shelburne and Charlotte for the next tri-town book walk and talk about William Cronon’s book,



“Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England,” while walking through the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge. Jane Dorney from the Vermont Master Naturalist program leads us through the park, looking at the landscape through Cronon’s lens. Meet at the Greenbush Road parking lot.

Craft night
Wednesday, March 29, 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of crafting. Several project options will be available including vinyl stickers using the Cricut, book page art and decoupage. Try one or all. For teens and up. Registration is requested by emailing susanna@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Art opening: Theresa Petrow
Sunday, April 2, 2-4 p.m.

Join Petrow for an informal gallery review of her paintings, currently on display at the Charlotte Library.

Short story selections
Wednesdays, April 5 & 19, 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 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 psychedelic therapy 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 Woodruff, director
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org
For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, 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.

The 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 about what is happening? Sign up for the email newsletters at charlotteseniorcenter-vt.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 legislature 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 Maffitt 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 capella, 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 kclynxvt@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 Franko 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,
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.



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.

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@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.

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