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# The Charlotte News

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## **Multitasking pumpkins**

Photo by Alexandra Z. Lazar

If you leave your Halloween pumpkins on the front porch into November, they do double holiday duty as Thanksgiving decorations. Add a nice snow and your gourds will do triple duty as Christmas decorations.



## Not easy being green

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Paul Wagenhofer’s message may be difficult to take in. It’s a message the geophysicist admits he’s still working to refine. To say, “It’s complicated” is a profound understatement.

It may be that Kermit the Frog has the most concise summation of Wagenhofer’s ideas: “It’s not easy being green.”

After four decades searching around the world for oil and gas, Wagenhofer has ideas about the worsening energy situation. Primarily, he believes there is not enough being said about how difficult solving the climate crisis is. Although switching to electric cars is a critical step, it’s not the final solution because there are still so many problems with how those cars are powered and produced.

Wagenhofer of South Burlington spoke at the Charlotte Senior Center in September for a men’s breakfast and returned to speak on the evening of Oct. 18.

As someone who has done a

lot of research into the situation, and who has the experience and expertise to understand it as well as any, his talk was filled with data and figures that became mind-boggling. Some mentioned finding it difficult to comprehend. At least one person attended the September breakfast and returned to hear the October talk, trying to wrap his mind around it.

Wagenhofer is trying to wrap his mind around the energy crisis, too. In a conversation after his talk, he said he feels as if everybody says, “We’re winning. We’re winning. But when you look at the size of the problem, maybe we’re not.”

He is trying to be more optimistic but the statistics make it hard for him to feel that way. The two times at the senior center are the first times he’s made his presentation.

As we talked by phone, he was rechecking data to confirm or dismiss his pessimism.

“I know I left people with a very negative attitude. Right now,

SEE **ENERGY TALK** PAGE 3

## Nonprofit news is different — and worth supporting

Claudia Marshall  
Fundraising Committee Chair

I recently came across an African proverb: If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

It’s true. At the Charlotte News, we are in this — with you — for the long haul. We’ve been at it for 65 years, and that is only possible because of your support. It’s local journalism that focuses on people and community, not on private profit.

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I’m asking for your financial contribution today to sustain nonprofit news in Charlotte.

SEE **NONPROFIT** PAGE 2

## A wild Thanksgiving



Courtesy photo

A Thanksgiving feast harvested in the wild might feature venison backstrap with plum pepper sauce, whipped garlic cheddar potatoes and roasted Brussel sprouts with a balsamic Dijon glaze. Read more of Bradley Carleton’s musings upon Thanksgiving hunting on page 9.

## Employee compensation working group asks for professional help

Brett Yates  
Contributor

After studying municipal employee compensation, a local volunteer committee has concluded that the town of Charlotte doesn’t need to modify its workers’ health benefits in 2024 to avoid a budget overrun for the fiscal year, which ends next June.

But changes could still take place — particularly if officials decide to bring in an outside consultant to supplement townspeople’s efforts to save money.

Following Charlotte voters’ rejection of the town’s proposed budget in March, the selectboard convened a six-person working group to determine how best to cut \$20,000 in anticipated labor costs, as demanded by a reduced spending plan that won approval in May. Selectboard member Kelly Devine led its first meeting last month and submitted a memorandum with its recommendations to the town

on Nov. 1, two months before the group’s scheduled dissolution.

Per Devine, the group found that, by good luck, Charlotte had already saved \$20,000 without taking action. The employees had done it themselves by changing their health plans voluntarily.

The memo indicates that Charlotte currently offers four insurance options to 11 municipal employees: a “single plan,” a “two-person plan,” a “parent and child plan,” and a “family plan.” The “single plan” is the cheapest, and due to recent shifts in enrollment, it has also become, for now, the most popular.

Joel Cook, a member of the working group, attributed the enrollment changes to natural fluctuations in the lives of the town’s workers.

“We get married, some people die, some people get divorced, some people have children,” Cook said. “That’s why we make these changes.”

Health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) also had

posed a concern under the terms of the revised budget, which allocated \$65,000 toward the benefit. Through an HRA, the employer pays back the employee for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

The working group, again, recommended no immediate change to the policy. Its memo dismissed an unusually large HRA outlay in fiscal year 2022 as “an anomaly,” noting that, over the last decade, annual costs have averaged just \$50,000.

Selectboard member Frank Tenney expressed disappointment in the working group’s efforts on Nov. 13.

“I just thought we had some really knowledgeable people on this committee,” Tenney said, “and I was hoping that there would be, in my mind, a little more progress on a long-term solution, rather than a short-term solution, which we happen to have just fallen into through people changing programs.”

Before its next meeting, the

selectboard expects to receive an additional memo from the group on potential ways for the town to revise how it calculates cost-of-living adjustments for its workforce. But according to Devine, its members may not meet again. She suggested that a professional consultant take up the work.

That could include proposing ideas for how the town could save money on healthcare costs in the long run by incentivizing employee wellness through perks like free gym memberships. The consultant would also examine possible ways of restructuring the town’s generous HRA model.

“These issues are complicated, and they impact people’s lives,” Devine said. “It’s a very difficult thing to try to make decisions on, and I think if we had an expert who has no connection to the town or town government, we might be better served.”

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 2



# Restrictions on immigration communication confused

Charlotte Oliver  
Community News Service

State officials overseeing fair and impartial policing voted Tuesday to largely restrict Vermont police from reporting undocumented people to federal immigration agents. Or did they?

It seemed like the fair and impartial policing committee of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council — which regulates police training — had passed proposals to prohibit police from sharing info about someone with immigration agents without that person’s consent, unless probable cause links the person to a felony investigation.

But committee members during the meeting that morning came away confused on what they had just endorsed — and now need to revoke, the council’s administration director Lindsay Thivierge told Community News Service.

The committee’s confusion came from a circuitous pair of votes, each on two proposals that would be sent to the broader council for approval.

Officials first decided between two sets of rules for police. One was more moderate and favored by the Vermont attorney general’s office. The other, endorsed by Migrant Justice activists, placed more restrictions on law enforcement — and included an exception typed inside of brackets that was not explained in the document officials were reading. Committee members voted 4–2 for the stricter proposal, said chair Amanda Garcés of the Vermont Human Rights Commission during the meeting.

Then committee members voted on another pair of policies: The first, endorsed by Migrant Justice, simply stated the policy doesn’t intend to violate federal law. The second, endorsed by attorneys for the state, named two federal laws that say a state cannot prevent its employees from talking about a person’s citizenship or immigration status with federal authorities. The committee adopted the Migrant Justice one 4–3, Garcés announced after the vote.

According to Will Lambek, a Migrant Justice organizer, the second result meant the bracketed exception in the first vote would be disregarded. Otherwise, he told committee members, the two adopted proposals would be incompatible.

But some committee members thought

the bracketed text would stand regardless of their second vote. Others had no idea which interpretation was correct. Debate broke out. “I’m a little bit frustrated with the nature of this conversation,” said committee member Karen Tronsgard-Scott, executive director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. “I’m not an attorney.”

Because of the confusion, Thivierge said Wednesday, the council will revoke on both policies in the “very near future” but no date had been set.

Still, activists for undocumented migrants celebrated the move.

“We are so happy that we’ve taken this big step forward today by having the subcommittee recommend stronger language to protect our rights,” said Enrique Balcazar, an organizer for Migrant Justice, speaking after the meeting through a translator.

Migrant Justice has been advocating for officials to adopt a policy mirroring one used in Winooski and eight other jurisdictions. “We don’t want interactions with the Vermont police to end up with our community being detained and deported,” Balcazar said.

The proposed changes are similar to the council’s impartial policing policy as passed in 2017, before it was loosened later that year. Activists felt that, “during the height of the Trump repression,” the state was pressured to scale back, said Lambek during the meeting.

“It really sent shockwaves through our community,” said Balcazar in the interview. “Having our hard-fought protections taken away was a real blow.”

Law enforcement, Lambek told committee members, has used loopholes in the 2017 policy to justify coordinating with federal agents.

Balcazar described an incident on the Champlain Islands to illustrate that point. “The Grand Isle County Sheriff’s Department — they were performing a welfare check on two farmworkers, and they called the Border Patrol for help entering into the house of the workers. And those workers ended up being arrested and detained by Border Patrol. And that’s something that never should have happened. There’s no reason for them to involve federal immigration agents in something like that,” he said.

Legislators first created a timeline to develop a fair and impartial policing plan in 2014 before the model policy went into effect three years later.

On the first Migrant Justice–backed policy, those who voted in favor were: Tronsgard-Scott, Vermont Executive Director of Racial Equity Xusana Davis, Garcés and Tabitha Moore, founding president of the Rutland NAACP. Those opposed were: Vermont State Police Capt. Barb Kessler and game warden Lt. Jason Gravelle.

South Burlington Police Department Lt. Gregg Jager, Glenn Boyde of the Department of Corrections and Tim Lueders-Dumont of the Vermont Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs abstained, and warden service Col. Justin Stedman left prior to the votes.

On the second Migrant Justice–backed policy only Jager changed his stance — voting no rather than abstaining.

The committee appeared uncertain about rules of procedure and how to count the votes.

After the first set of votes were cast, Garcés, the chair, asked, “So how does this work?”

“I think it carries, right?” someone said in response. The committee then moved on.

Stedman, who is director of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s warden service, was the only committee member to express opposition to the eventually passed policies during discussion Tuesday ahead of the votes.

“My son plays with the child of migrant farmworkers, and I have seen how they look at me when I pull into their driveway. It does pain me immensely because there is no doubt that there is fear in their eyes,” said Stedman, before adding he couldn’t endorse the policy because it lacked support from the attorney general’s office.

Assistant Attorney General Erin Jacobsen referred to federal restrictions that say local police can’t be prohibited from sharing citizenship information with federal agents. And Vermont law, Jacobsen said, says any laws in conflict with those federal ones are nullified.

A December date was floated during the meeting for the committee to propose its recommendations to the full council — it’s unclear if the need for a revote will push that timeline back.

*(The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.)*



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• Reporting on how other towns have addressed challenges similar to our own.

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**Editorial Staff**  
**Editor:** Scooter MacMillan ([scooter@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:scooter@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Production Manager:** Anna Cyr ([anna@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:anna@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Proofreaders:** Mike & Janet Yantachka, Katherine Arthaud  
**Business Staff**  
**Ad manager:** Susie Therrien ([ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Bookkeeper:** Susan Jones ([billing@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:billing@thecharlottenews.org))  
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## NONPROFIT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Yes, the paper you’re reading is a “free,” bi-weekly publication but it costs \$150,000 a year to publish 25 editions of the paper and to run our recently rebuilt website. Won’t you do your part to help the paper grow and thrive with a tax-deductible gift today?

So yes, it does, indeed take a village. An “east” village and a “west” village and everything in between. Which brings me to an important point about The Charlotte News. We aim to bring people together, not to divide them. You’ve certainly heard the axiom, “if it bleeds, it leads,” correct? A great way to increase circulation historically has been to amp up the drama, to play up the conflict. As a nonprofit news source, we can skip all that and focus on

## SELECTBOARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Selectboard member Lewis Mudge expressed mixed feelings about the advice. “In a former life, I was a consultant,” Mudge said. “A consultant’s going to come in and give us really, really good savings, and that’s going to have a really adverse effect on employees.”

Greg Cluff, who served on the employee compensation working group alongside Devine, dissented from her recommendation to some degree.

“From my point of view, it’s a reason to celebrate that we were able to do this without hammering on the town employees,” Cluff said. “I don’t think that there necessarily has to be a fancy, highly

building understanding and community. Research shows that communities with local newsrooms are less polarized than communities without. When you give to The Charlotte News, your donation funds understanding and community building.

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paid consultant.”  
The Vermont League of Cities and Towns offers a health insurance advisory services program to its members that may charge less than a for-profit consulting firm. Town administrator Nathaniel Bareham plans to reach out this week for more information.

**Holmes Creek Bridge closed temporarily**  
Drivers in Charlotte should avoid the Holmes Creek Covered Bridge on Lake Road, just south of the Charlotte Town Beach, on Friday, Nov. 17.  
The Vermont Agency of Transportation asked town officials to close the bridge to traffic to facilitate a detailed inspection in advance of a potential repair. The Charlotte Selectboard approved a full-day shutdown.



ENERGY TALK  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as we’re speaking, I’m at my computer, doing more research to make sure that I’m consistent with what I said. Maybe I’ll come around,” Wagenhofer said.

He thinks the effort to move to electric vehicles is the right direction to take. It will do much to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, but he believes it’s important for people to realize this is not the final solution.

Focusing much of his talk about the climate crisis on vehicles, he applauded the effort to switch to electric vehicles as a good and necessary first step. Switching from an internal combustion engine to an electric means you’re not putting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That’s a big thing.

However: “You have to consider everything else that goes into that. How does your vehicle generate its power?” he said. The electric cars’ batteries, steel, paint, rubber, plastic knobs and dashboards, the vinyl seat covers, even the electric cables are covered in plastic that’s derived from fossil fuels and produced with energy from fossil fuels.

Not only that, producing either asphalt or concrete for the roads is extremely bad for the environment.

He did allow some glimmer of optimism: “I wouldn’t say we’re winning, but we’re moving in the right direction.”

Still, Wagenhofer insisted, we have to be brutally honest with ourselves.

Vermont can be proud that we may be the first state to go 100 percent net zero, but that does not mean it is time to rest on our laurels.

It’s a very tiny drop in the bucket for Vermont with around 630,000 people to achieve that goal. “There’s Boston suburbs

bigger than that,” he said.

Although eliminating gasoline is not a foregone conclusion, he does see encouraging signs that we will do it. And that is a huge step in the right direction.

Wagenhofer said from his searches of the data he’s found there are around 291 million cars registered in the United States putting out about 13 billion tons of carbon per year. Including the rest of the world, there are probably 26 billion tons of carbon going into the atmosphere each year.

He believes that switching to electric cars is the way to go — for now. But this is a stop-gap measure because the mining and production of lithium batteries is a horrible process.

The mining of lithium has a major impact on the environment. Probably the most serious problem with lithium mining is it requires an unsustainable amount of water consumption. Around 1.9 million liters of water are needed to produce a pint of lithium.

Another terrifying subject Wagenhofer brought up is population growth.

“The rate population grows is sort of the driver of everything. Those people are going to be using energy, and what are they going to be using to make energy?” he said. “I think we’re underestimating the demand. I think that’s what’s going to hurt us in the long term.”

According to Wagenhofer, it took thousands and thousands of years, from the beginning of human history until the onset of the Industrial Revolution, for the population of the world to reach 1 billion people. Then in the next 130 years, the world population reached another 1 billion people to double the population. The third billion people came in about 30 years. Another billion was added in 15 years, and another billion in 13 years.

“The population growth is just phenomenal. It’s overwhelming everything,” Wagenhofer said. “However, there’s a good



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Geophysicist Paul Wagenhofer speaks to a gathering at the Charlotte Senior Center about the energy crisis.

side to the story.”

Population growth is starting to flatten out. It’s not continuing to climb.

“The numbers show we’re going to add about 70 million people per year, which is a growth rate of less than 1 percent, so the world population is going to continue to grow into the 21st century but at a slower rate,” he said. “These are some perspectives I don’t see anywhere else. This is a really important aspect and people I think are just

not thinking about how big are the numbers? How much fuel are we willing to replace?”

These figures may make you want to throw up your hands in despair, he said. But that is an emotional luxury we can not afford.

“We need to try working as best as we can to mitigate as much as we can,” Wagenhofer said. “Anything we can do to conserve, we should continue doing.”

And encourage more people to do so as well.

Letter to the Editor

Old memories of hard winters and soft drinks at Old Brick Store

To the Editor:

Our house was in Shelburne but the sheep barn was in Charlotte. My best friends and fellow hockey players all lived in Charlotte (when the Charlotte skating rink was on the east side of Greenbush Rd. on the north side of the village).

We youths came out on the coldest, bleakest Sundays to push the snow off the ice. Tommy Williams was always at the warming shack first to fire up the oil drum stove. At some point during the day we had a quorum of skaters: Tommy Williams, Bill and Ray Roberts, Ricky Dolliver, very occasionally Bob Booth, and belatedly yours truly, among others, names now forgotten. Between spells thawing out our feet in the hut we would scrimmage until dark. After a couple of years we all ended up comprising the core of Champlain Valley Union High’s first hockey team when hockey garter belts were still hard to find.

But my intention here is to convey a story about the Old Brick Store whose life blessedly goes on with Jolene Kao and family.

So, on many of those bleak, winter, hockey Sundays, we youthful diehards,

seeking refreshment, having forgotten to bring lunch, would make our way south, on foot, into the village, the utterly silent and deserted village, grim with the unpeopled greyness of the day before, back to school Sunday, to the Old Brick Store, “Bill’s Store,” to visit the Coke machine that stood on the store’s front porch like a plump, silent ice fisherman.

It took a dime then, as I remember, and a forceful, downward push of a lever to cause one of those blue green bottles of Coke to rumble down to accessibility.

Now here comes the amazing part: Plucked from the machine and held to the light the Coca Cola was liquid, but as soon as we popped the cap in that starkly cold and deserted air, it instantly froze solid in the bottle and could only be drunk after being carefully carried back to the warming hut and admired as an 8-ounce, 7.4-inch tall sculpture for 15 minutes by the heat of the stove.

This for me is an indelible memory of my youth, of my beloved youthful friends, of the existential cold of mid-winter in a little town in Vermont and of the identity of a Sunday-shuttered, red-brick mercantile as a locus of relief.

Under the care of Jolene Kao, may it continue to be so.

Steve Maeck  
Burr Oak, Iowa

Charlotters overwhelmingly support proposed amendments

Each of the two articles the selectboard put before the voters to decide on Tuesday, Nov. 7, passed in a landslide.

Article 1, which authorizes the town to spend just over \$282,000 to put solar panels on the town garage, passed with 440 yes votes to 114 no votes to take almost 80 percent of the 554 votes cast on the issue.

Article 2 gave residents the opportunity to vote for or against land-

use amendments related to commercial cannabis businesses. The amendments are intended to give guidelines to the zoning administrator and the development review board in regulating and granting permits for cannabis businesses in Charlotte.

Article 2 passed 400-141, so almost 74 percent of the voters approved of the cannabis land-use amendments.

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Commentary

Charlotte Development Review Board — two years in

Peter Joslin  
Contributor

In November 2021, the selectboard approved the formation of a development review board. This change delegated all development applications, conditional-use permits, site plans, variances and decisions to that board. The planning commission’s sole focus became updates to the town plan, land-use regulations and, most importantly, plotting a course for Charlotte’s future.

Now two years in, how are things going? Was this a good decision? Are we seeing the benefits expected? Any downsides? To answer these questions, I spoke to members of the development review board, selectboard, planning commission and conservation commission.

Charles Russel and J.D. Herlihy are chair and vice chair, respectively, of the development review board. Russel and Herlihy see the formation of the development review board as a success.

As a new board, there have been some growing pains; most members were not familiar with the land-use regulations and applying them to applications. Russell and Herlihy see the board’s role as an organic process, continuing to learn and interact with the planning commission and conservation commission in an effort to ensure that applicants know what to expect and where to go for information, and issuing well-founded decisions. Russel and Herlihy recognize the importance of separating opinion from policy in issuing sound decisions.

Charlie Pughe, chair of the planning commission, also thinks the formation of the development review board was a

positive step. The planning commission became unencumbered from permitting and development applications. He said there have been some differences of opinion as to how the development review board has interpreted the land-use regulations compared to past history of the planning commission.

Pughe said the planning commission is “taking a more holistic approach” to updating the land-use regulations and town plan. He said focusing on the big picture, reviewing sections of the land-use regulations rather than discreet pieces, will produce more coherent regulations which are consistent with the town plan. Pughe said the current focus is updates to the land-use regulations specific to Thompson’s Point, in large part due to an applicant’s recent appeal of a development review board decision. He sees major planning beginning next year as review of village development, in conjunction with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, begins near the end of 2023.

The previously mentioned Thompson’s Point decision and appeal illustrates the complexity of some applications and how various boards’ and committees’ involvement may affect the outcome.

In this decision, the development review board denied an application to tear down and rebuild a camp on Thompson’s Point.



The applicant appealed to environmental court and the selectboard sided with the applicant, not the development review board. This shined a light on the appeal process and to what degree the selectboard, development review board and conservation commission may be involved in the mediation of an appeal. Prior to the formation of the development review board, the planning commission was a party to appeals and/or the mediation process. For this current appeal, there was no involvement by the development review board or conservation commission. Russel and Herlihy described the process as a “black box.” There was no insight about how the selectboard reached its decision. They said there is an opportunity and need for process improvement; that it be clear and include development review board involvement.

I spoke to Jim Faulkner, chair of the selectboard, about this and he was limited, legally, in what he could discuss, but he certainly felt there was a process problem: a need for participation by the development review board, and, as he said, “a need for a solid policy going forward.” He intends to have this on the selectboard agenda sometime in mid-to-late January.

I asked Faulkner his opinion of the development review board (he was one of four selectboard members who voted in favor) and he said, “It has been a success and has taken the burden of permitting off the planning commission so they can focus on future planning.” To stay abreast of important planning and development issues, as well as future planning, Faulkner plans to hold quarterly meetings with the selectboard, development review board and planning commission to foster improved communication. This is especially critical as the town begins the two-year process with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission on development in the village districts.

Russel and Herlihy see the development

review board’s relationship with the planning commission, conservation commission and selectboard as congenial and see communication improving since its formation. Faulkner, Pughe and Maggie Citarella, chair of the conservation commission, echoed this point. It was clear that this is vital to all involved and the town at large. More collaboration between boards and commissions, less functioning as independent silos.

But when it comes to issuing decisions, the simple fact is that interpreting and applying the land-use regulations and town plan to an application is not always clear cut. Each board and commission has specific responsibilities, but ultimately, the development review board authors the decision.

Citarella has been working with staff and the development review board to provide timely, detailed information on significant applications using the “Protocol for Assessment of Impacts of Proposed Development on Significant Wildlife Habitat in Charlotte, Vermont.” Citarella said the conservation commission has been meeting with the development review board and that Claudia Mucklow is the commission’s liaison to the board.

Lane Morrison, who was the first chair of the development review board, agrees that the formation of the board has been a success. He said that board members have a challenging job. “Neighbors’ emotions can run high,” and added, “This makes letting the process work very challenging.”

My take-away from talking with Faulkner, Russel, Herlihy, Pughe, Morrison and Citarella is the board and commissions have gone through a period of adjustment resulting in positive benefits moving forward. The creation of the development review board was a kind of divorce; the separation of the judicial and legislative roles previously under the auspices of the planning commission. What I heard from all parties is their continued commitment to improve and clarify the land-use regulations, town plan, permitting processes and focus on their respective roles for Charlotte and its residents.

*(Peter Joslin is a former chair of the planning commission and a member of The Charlotte News board of directors. The opinions expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the board.)*

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# Report from the Legislature

## Here’s a high-level column for you

Chea Waters Evans  
State Representative

I take prolific notes during committee meetings. It helps me remember things later on, it keeps me focused, and it prevents me from changing my hairstyle every 20 minutes because my hands are busy with a pen instead of messing with my hair. (There’s a real pull between wanting to look OK up close on YouTube all day, and also not wanting my hair in my eyes.)

Because my committee, House Government Operations and Military Affairs (HGOMA) has jurisdiction over a lot of topics, many of which are incredibly unrelated to each other, my notebooks can be a real roller coaster. One minute we’re talking about cannabis and the next we’re talking about EMS dispatch and the next we’re talking about state employee pensions and the next we’re talking about the Vermont Supreme Court’s internet limitations.

One thing I’ve noticed as we cover all these topics is the lingo. Every occupation has one, and the legislature and state government in general has a whole group of words that I’ve never heard used anywhere with such alarming frequency. I started jotting down every time I heard them. There are little notes in the margins of my notebook that say “HIGH LEVEL!!” and “SILO!!”


We aren’t talking about land or farms. We’re talking about information and the way it’s delivered and to whom, and a big favorite of us government types is high level. There’s always some kind of high-level overview going on, or we’re just going to take a few minutes to give a

high-level presentation about something, or someone will talk for a long time and then say, “Okay, that was just a high-level description of the topic,” which makes me worry about how many lower levels there are and how much more information there could possibly be on this particular subject. (A lot, it turns out.)

High level doesn’t mean what I thought it would mean — in this context, it’s always used synonymously with the idea that it’s broad, overarching or even general. So, not specific or on a higher level at all.

If you think about a silo, it’s full of stuff over there all by itself. In this case, silo does mean that, but it’s with people or departments or positions or committees, or really any groups that in theory should be working in tandem but instead are off by themselves doing their own thing. Silos are important on farms. I don’t think they’re that helpful when it comes to spending our money efficiently or solving problems creatively or finding a way to get from point A to point B without running all over the entire farm first. We do like to talk about how things shouldn’t be siloed, though. Yes, it’s an adjective, too!

And then there are the flags. So much flagging! It’s like the front of the United Nations over there in Montpelier with all the flags everywhere. Thanks for the flag! That’s not germane at the moment, but I’ll flag it for later. Let’s flag that and talk about it next week. Once I heard someone say they were going to put a flag in something, but I think they meant they were going to put a pin in it, which is also something that happens on occasion, but pinning isn’t as common as flagging. I wish I had known this term when my kids were toddlers,



because instead of saying, “Maybe later,” or, “Let’s talk about your Christmas presents in the fall because in April it’s not going to really stick in my mind,” I could have just cheerfully thanked them for the flag, flagged it, and then not really followed up on it but made them feel like I was listening.

Even though there’s only a cafeteria and not a formal dining room in The People’s House, that doesn’t stop us from setting the table. It’s always being set, and we’re always thanking people for setting the table for us, and acknowledging that the table has been set. I love this metaphor for setting up an information session or introducing a topic, and wish we could take it further and say we’re serving up some roasted data or plating some piping-hot testimony, but we only ever get so far as setting the table.

There was some drama earlier this year about whether or not math was done on the back of an envelope or the back of a



State Rep. Chea Waters Evans

napkin, but that relates to the Affordable Heat Act and we won’t have more information about that until later next year: September, to be exact. But I’ll flag that for another column, I promise.

I hope I don’t sound cynical, because I’m not; I just love language and the way people use it in different contexts. If you feel siloed or want to give me a high-level overview of anything that’s on your mind, please be in touch any time. My cell is 917-887-8231 and you can call or text me, or you can email me at [cevans@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cevans@leg.state.vt.us).

*(Chea Waters Evans, a Democrat, represents Charlotte and Hinesburg in the Chittenden-5 House district.)*

## Courts

## Community justice centers can get sexual, domestic violence cases

Grace Sherwood  
Community News Service

With the passage of Act 11 this past Statehouse session, legislators have cleared the way for survivors of sexual and domestic violence to take matters to a nearby community justice center.

Before the act, those cases would have only been allowed to go through the traditional criminal justice system. In Vermont, sexual and domestic violence cases were the only cases outlawed from being referred to a community justice center. Act 11 updates the law governing the centers to give survivors an alternative to lengthy, taxing trials — or the chance to find closure by talking with the person who has harmed

them.

Stakeholders say it’ll take about a year before there’s a process in place to make that happen, though.

A community justice center is a place where victims can meet with the person who committed a crime against them after being referred by prosecutors, the court or other authorities. The victim has the opportunity to explain how the crime affected them and can then request action from the offender with the aim of mending the harm and preventing further offenses. Rather than the state punishing the perpetrator, the process allows the victim to advocate for what they believe will help them most.

“Agencies were finding folks didn’t want to go through the court system — they

just wanted folks to stop the abuser or take accountability for it,” said Rep. Karen Dolan, D-Essex Junction, lead sponsor of the legislation.

Survivors can go through the court system and take part in this kind of peacemaking process — called restorative justice, broadly. But “that conversation doesn’t always happen in court,” Dolan said. “That can happen now that this law is in effect.”

There are 17 centers across the state, in every county but two, though those missing counties are served by centers in neighboring ones.

The biggest piece of this legislation is giving victims a choice; the restorative justice method is there if they want to use it. A case can be taken to a community justice center at any point in time: instead of a criminal court case, along with a criminal court case or even years after a crime has been committed, Dolan said.

Act 11 says both parties must agree to bring it to a community justice center and commit to the restorative method.

“Restorative justice isn’t restorative if it’s mandatory — if it’s being forced,” said Dolan. If one of the parties declines to participate, a community justice center can send a referred case back to the criminal system. Trying to take the restorative route with an uncooperative offender “causes more harm and trauma for the victim,” said Dolan.

But centers are not yet taking referrals for sexual and domestic violence cases. The new statute requires each of the state’s centers to draft and agree to a memorandum of understanding with a local member of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Each may differ county to county, and the entire process is being overseen by the Vermont Attorney General’s Office.

The agreements aim to make clear to everyone involved what exactly the given

community justice center is able to do. The agreements must include protocols to ensure survivors’ safety, train staff and establish confidentiality standards, among other requirements.

“The idea was it’ll probably take about a year for these MOUs to take place — for the Attorney General’s Office to get set up to be this central oversight agency, for relationship building and for training of staff and volunteers and for fundraising,” said Rachel Jolly, director of the Burlington Community Justice Center.

Jolly said step one will be finding the money. “Right now we don’t have any money that is backing this concept even though it’s allowable because of Act 11,” she said.

Erin Jacobsen, assistant attorney general and co-director of the state office’s community justice division, said the legislation came with no appropriations. Until legislators decide to fund the work, Jacobsen said, leaders will look to federal grants from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.

Jacobsen said her office supported Act 11 (then H.41) from the start.

“There’s a lot of research now about how victims express the difference between the traditional criminal justice approach and when they had a restorative option and how the restorative option just feels so much more like justice,” said Jacobsen. “We’re very interested in seeing how this shifts things in terms of helping people, who are harming others, to stop harming people. Helping people understand what the harm was, how to stop that kind of behavior and also to get the resources they need so they can do that.”

*(The Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.)*



# Hi! Neighbor

## Net zero means a lot to this sustainability advocate

Phyl Newbeck  
Contributor

After over 40 years in the Baltimore area, Wolfer Schneider was looking for a new home when he retired in 2010. He took a two-month trip across the U.S. and Canada. He was familiar with Vermont from previous hiking and skiing trips and thought the state was aligned with his values. Schneider decided to settle in Charlotte and picked Champlain Valley Co-Housing for this newest phase of his life. “I didn’t want to live in a 55-plus community,” he said. “I enjoy the voices of children and the company of people of all ages, so I thought this was the right amount of age variety.” Schneider almost immediately immersed himself in the causes he holds dear, joining a Montpelier-based organization called Better (not bigger) Vermont. Originally named Vermonters for Sustainable Population, the non-profit has been around since the early 2000s. In 2015, Schneider became the organization’s president. He is also a long-time member of Sustainable Charlotte and two years ago, he joined the Charlotte Energy Committee. Schneider is not new to sustainability issues. He has been involved in environmental organizations with sustainability emphases since reading Donella Meadows’ 1972 book “Limits to Growth” and was part of a group in Baltimore which was affiliated with the Sierra Club. One of the goals of Better (not bigger) Vermont is to switch from relying on the

gross national product as an indicator of a country’s health to a measurement that does not value growth above other factors. Better (not bigger) Vermont is also in the process of trying to create a Vermont Happiness Index. The main concern of Better (not bigger) Vermont is sustainability. In 2013, the organization issued a report indicating that the state was close to sustainability, but Schneider said we are slightly above that watermark at this junction with food production costs and energy consumption the major issues preventing the state from reaching its goals. “Our impact on the environment is a product of our standard of living and our population,” Schneider said. Schneider’s environmental concerns are addressed on a personal, as well as organizational level. He lives in a net-zero home that was built using insulated concrete forms which he described as huge, thick, Lego-like blocks with a center cavity filled with concrete and rebar. The resulting product is a good insulator and prevents rapid temperate changes although Schnieder admits that the upfront energy costs are high. For four decades, Schneider worked in the applied physics lab at Johns Hopkins University, in areas as diverse as the defense industry, spacecraft design and biomedical research. “It was rewarding,” he said. “It was a challenge to be creating solutions for different projects.” In addition to his committee work and his position as president of Better (not bigger) Vermont, Schneider has been involved in hands on projects like

Sustainable Charlotte’s Repair Cafes and Window Dressers, a volunteer organization that produces and installs low-cost insulating window inserts. He is the head of operations and management at his co-housing community and enjoys gardening and reaping the benefits of backyard chickens. Schneider isn’t overly optimistic about the state of the planet because he doesn’t see much progress toward sustainability. “There is a lot of denial about things like global warming and our impact on the environment,” he said. “Vermonters are an exception in being more on board with these issues than the rest of the country.” Schneider is fine with that because he believes the future is based on local actions including those involving agriculture. He thinks farming is becoming more and more significant because food is the most important energy source. He does worry about a group called the Vermont Futures Project which has a goal of increasing Vermont’s population by 1.8 percent per year to reach 802,000 people by 2035, something that Better (not bigger) Vermont opposes. “I think we should honor what we currently have in Vermont in terms of natural resources,” Schneider said. “We should do our best to protect them because in the end, we are all dependent on nature and its healthy state.”

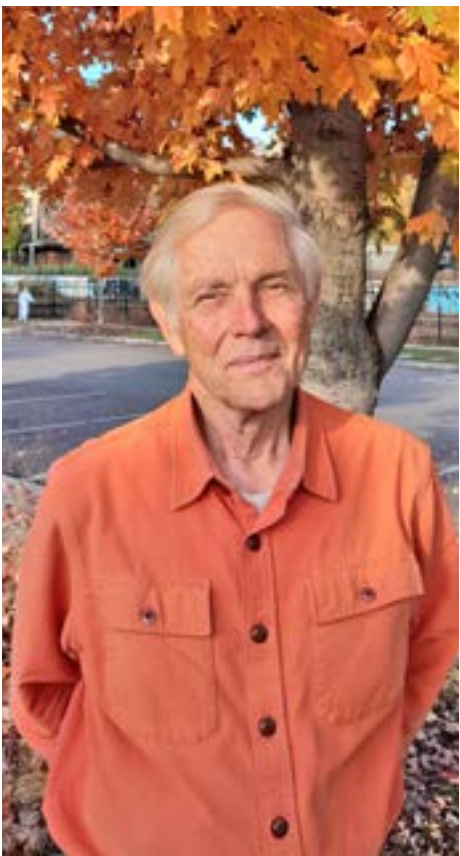


Photo by Catherine Bock  
Wolfer Schneider enjoying the autumn foliage.

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### Black Friday, Nov. 24

Make your way down Rt. 7 and head to breakfast at Vergennes Laundry or Maple Cafe. Take a brisk walk along the Otter Creek waterfront to enjoy the Falls. Then check out the local shops where you'll be greeted with a warm-hearted welcome!

### Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25

Think BIG and shop SMALL! From Sweet Charity to Linda's Apparel to MALABAR and all shops in between, the offerings are plentiful – and the service? Unparalleled. Get fueled up at 3 Squares Cafe or Rocker's Pizzeria; catch dinner at Black Sheep Bistro, Park Squeeze or Antidote!



# VERGENNES

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



### Ho, Ho, Ho Holiday Stroll Saturday, Dec. 2

Santa Claus makes his rounds up, down and all around Main Street, Vergennes! Breakfast, story time, pictures and caroling in City Park, he'll be there! Full schedule of events: [VergennesDowntown.org](http://VergennesDowntown.org)

### Magic on Main Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13

Can't fit in all into the day? Make it a night out in Vergennes as the shops keep their lights on until 8:00pm. Special activities, holiday cheer, make your list, check it twice and head straight to Vergennes!







### Broadway Direct Saturday, Dec. 8

In its 18th year, Vergennes Opera House is pleased to present this ever-popular show featuring singers and actors directly from the Broadway stage! Tickets: [VergennesOperaHouse.org](http://VergennesOperaHouse.org)



In The Outdoors

Anticlines evidence of layers once under great pressure

Elizabeth Bassett  
Contributor

Before you doze off, have you ever visited the Oven at Raven Ridge? If not, take a jaunt to The Nature Conservancy preserve that straddles Charlotte, Hinesburg and Monkton. Parking is on Rotax Road, just over the border into Monkton. More information is at <https://tinyurl.com/335u4bw4>. This geological formation resembles an old-fashioned oven, an arch of rock layers that folded under pressure millions of years ago. The Oven is down a steep set of stairs with no railing, so for anyone with compromised mobility or balance, a visit would be tricky or impossible. A loop trail follows a ridge overlooking the Champlain Valley. Caves and ledges tuck under this route where wild blueberries and wintergreen flourish. The loop continues through a mixed forest, returning to the access trail that leads to the parking area. In addition, an observation platform overlooks a beaver pond. More info at <https://tinyurl.com/mvr5es6w>.

I don’t generally spend my days thinking about anticlines, yet last week I hiked in Bristol, at The Lands of the Watershed Center, part of the local water system. There another, much bigger anticline soars over the walking trail. It’s a spectacular sight and because of the terrain, much easier to view than the Oven. The Voices of the Land Trail at the Watershed Center is an easy to moderate walk. Before I wax too poetic about the Watershed Center, I must tell you that trails are not marked. The Watershed Center produces a good but incomplete



Photo by Elizabeth Bassett  
The Oven at the Raven Ridge Natural Area.

map. With no trail signs plus paths that are not mapped, it takes some focus to sort out a route. Allow extra time and take a compass. That said, in addition to its spectacular geologic formation, the property hosts a rich ecosystem, cliffs and ledges, mosses and lichens, giant hemlocks and mixed hardwoods, several clumps of the rare walking fern, and a panoramic view of the Champlain Valley to the Adirondacks. The parking area on Plank Road is about



Photo by Sheri Larsen  
The anticline at The Watershed Center in Bristol is even bigger than the Oven, the anticline straddling the town lines of Raven Ridge in Charlotte, Hinesburg and Monkton.

30 minutes from Charlotte. Hunting is permitted in most of the preserve, so save this outing until Nov. 27. Poor signage at the Watershed Center brought to mind an article that was published by the Sierra Club many years ago, “How Not to Die in the Woods.” I read it only after I had spent an exasperating morning, low on food and water but abundant in mosquitoes and horse flies (walking in circles, I later realized) in an effort to find the summit of Buck Mountain near Vergennes. I had a host of lame excuses but I

found myself without many of the basics we should all carry, whether we expect to get lost or not. These include water, snacks, a candle, a disposable lighter or matches in a waterproof container, compass, emergency blanket, hat, gloves, kerchief (can also be used as a sling) and a basic first-aid kit. Bug dope is a good idea as well. If things really go awry, petroleum jelly in a container with a bit of dryer lint could be used to start a fire. The season and weather will determine an appropriate list. The Green Mountain Club hosts via Zoom an Introduction to Winter Hiking on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/562rsfub>. Participation is free but the non-profit club encourages a donation to support their education programs and the Long Trail. From the Green Mountain Club: “A thorough understanding of safe winter travel in the backcountry is essential to enjoying Vermont’s outdoors during our long winters. This workshop provides hands-on winter-specific information where you will learn what to wear, what to bring and what gear you need for a safe and successful winter trip. We will discuss clothing, layering, socks, footwear, traction, sweat, handwarmers, navigation, trail-finding, hydration, Leave No Trace and more. Vermont’s outdoor recreation offerings are exceptional, and this workshop will teach you how to safely get out and enjoy all there is.” Get out there but be smart about it.



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# Sacred Hunter

## Celebrate the harvest and the wild spirits of our collective soul

Bradley Carleton  
Contributor

To a hunter, Thanksgiving has its own traditions. Historically, the day is about finding peace between natives and pilgrims and celebrating the harvest of autumn by sharing its bounty. With the acrimonious campaign for the presidency building in intensity, let us take a moment to set aside our differences and welcome each other into our homes and into our hearts. Let us give thanks that we live in a country where its citizens can choose how they relate to the world around us.

Rather than give energy to what’s in the news, let us instead practice gratitude for the way our neighbor says “hello” or waves when we pass by. Let’s all find what’s right with our lives and say it out loud, “What a beautiful sunset.” Look at your family, and instead of judging them for what we don’t like, let’s pick just one thing that we like about them and share it out loud.

This is the time of year that a hunter will journey into the woods in search of connection to our true nature. We hope that we can return with a gift for our family, or those who struggle with food insecurity. We contribute our rewards to the community. Perhaps a deer, or turkey, perhaps a few squirrels, or a big Canada goose for roasting. For those who do not hunt, it may be difficult to understand why we hunt at all. Let me share with you what motivates the spirit of the hunter.

The energy and mindfulness that is required to take an animal is a profound expression of devotion. When an animal “presents itself” to us it is a moment of divine connection. The hunter may reflect on the moral equation of whether to take this life that is being offered. We do not “play God,” but we do follow our nature. The circle of life requires that, for life to continue, just as with energy, it must change shape and form but does not end. When we eat broccoli from our garden, we take in the energy and nutritional value of the plant. When we eat fish, chicken, venison, turkey or beef, we become what we eat. From the perspective of the hunter, the purity and grace of the animal is shared when we ingest the energy and beauty of the life we’ve been privileged to harvest.

Big Thunder, a Wabanaki Algonquin who lived in the late 19th century said, “When we go hunting, it is not our arrow that kills the moose, however powerful be the bow; it is nature that kills him.” Accepting that we are a part of that nature and that we are connected to everything around us is the basis for respect and compassion. In his epiphanic book “Beyond Fair Chase,” Jim Posewitz writes. “If there is a sacred moment in the ethical pursuit of game, it is the moment you release the arrow or touch off the fatal shot.”

It is precisely in this moment that we are sharing the soul of the animal, and after the shot has been taken, the responsibility to care for and properly use the animal is paramount to maintaining the sacred nature of the event. Several years ago, I took a long shot on a buck that stood for several minutes in



“This is the time of year that a hunter will journey into the woods in search of connection to our true nature. We hope that we can return with a gift for our family, or those who struggle with food insecurity.”

front of me. As the “green fire” of his soul left his eyes, I sat with him, asking for forgiveness and thanking the Great Spirit for allowing me to harvest him. I was filled with pride and remorse. I cried and I prayed. Arriving back at camp, I was greeted with congratulations and a toast. That night, I prepared the backstraps for my closest friends over the gas stove. I seared the medallions in butter and deglazed the pan with the finest merlot we had in camp. I set the red meat on a plate accompanied by broccoli grown in my own garden and garlic mashed potatoes. As my camp members sat anxiously awaiting the delivery of this epicurean delight, I asked for a moment of silence. We all sat still for a minute, each of us honoring the deer in our own way. This was followed by another toast and throughout the meal, I felt as though I had discovered a level of grace and gratitude that I had never known before. The memory of that meal still lives in our camp, and in my mind. I have never had a finer meal. This Thanksgiving let us all take a moment and recognize that, although we may have different political affiliations, seemingly opposing religious beliefs, maybe even be non-hunting, let us all hold hands and be grateful for the wild spirits that nurture our collective soul.

*(Bradley Carleton is the director of Sacred Hunter, that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.)*

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Education

The lost art of thank-you notes

Margo Bartsch  
Contributor

“Will you write me a recommendation?” is the typical request of high school students asking teachers to submit a letter for college or for employees to ask a supervisor for a professional reference.

After the letter was submitted, did they write a thank-you note?

This January, LinkedIn published that only 38 percent of millennials (born 1981 through 1986) send a thank-you note compared to 81 percent of baby boomers (born 1946 through 1964).

LinkedIn details the worsening gap with business-specific thank-you notes. Only 26 percent of Millennials send notes, compared to 46 percent of baby boomers. Yet, CNBC reported in 2019 that 80 percent of hiring managers consider the thank-you note when comparing candidates.

Northwestern University Career Advancement encourages thank-you notes as a professional courtesy. There are three elements to consider: showing appreciation, reiterating qualifications and communicating continued interest.

Being timely with emailing a thank-you shows an immediate connection with the person. Later, writing a note card and sending it in the mail shows additional respect to the person in taking more time to reflect on the significance of the moment.

With more personal relationships with

teachers, coaches and bosses, adding a gift card is a thoughtful gesture. The gift amount should be appropriate to the relationship.

For example, if a coach enjoys Starbucks or Dunkin’ Donuts, giving a \$10 gift card is a great excuse for a treat. If a teacher likes books and stationery, a \$10 gift card from The Flying Pig can be an appreciated splurge.

Do not equate more with better. A thank-you represents a token toward the long-standing commitment to the relationship. Being over-generous could make the receiver feel uncomfortable, making the bond less natural.

The University of California at Berkley Greater Good Science Center sponsors academic research into social and emotional well-being. The center contends that keeping a gratitude journal and writing for 15 minutes, around three times a week, for at least two weeks, can improve happiness.

Research shows that writing down people’s acts of kindness can help to avoid taking others for granted. Documenting up to five experiences that make us thankful in a notebook or typing up reflections can improve happiness levels.

Berkley lists eight areas to think about:

- be specific in who you are thankful for;
- give details of why the person is special;
- include personal points on the impact the person has on you;
- consider what would be missed without that person;



- see good things as gifts not to be taken for granted;
- record unexpected events or surprises;
- list a variety of people and different reflections about them;
- write regularly to show commitment.

Taking time to send an unexpected thank-you note can help reconnect with a special person. Ideas include forwarding an article of shared interest or having a phone conversation. Especially when someone is experiencing a tough time, like a medical recovery or social isolation, showing gratitude to the person can boost their spirits.

Last year, the Mayo Clinic published that being grateful can improve sleep, mood and immunity. Research shows feeling appreciation can lower depression, anxiety, difficulties with chronic pain and risk of disease.

The topic of gratefulness is discussed this June in The New York Times article, “Gratitude really is good for you. Here’s what the science shows.” However, one person feeling thankful is only half of the equation. It is equally important to express gratitude to others. Reciprocity makes the

emotion of gratitude even more effective. The report explains that writing thank-you notes can have mental health benefits that improve self-esteem and daily satisfaction. Happiness levels can increase for both the giver and receiver, as well as for others who observe those acts of gratitude.

As Thanksgiving nears, along with the final episode of “The Crown” on Netflix, it is worth mentioning an anecdote from Andrew Morton’s book, “Diana: Her True Story.”

It describes how Princess Diana trained her sons Prince William and Prince Harry with self-discipline: “Every night at six o’clock, the boys would sit down and write thank-you notes or letters to family and friends.”

The book says, “If she returned from a dinner party at midnight she could not sleep easily until she had written her letter of thanks.”

Thank-you notes are a classic that endures. *(Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.)*

First snow



Photo by Lee Krohn

On Nov. 1, November was born, swirling in a white diaphanous ticker tape parade, the first snowish day this season. The penultimate month of the year is celebrated as both Academic Writing Month and National Novel Writing Month. If you have the urge to write something less strenuous, The Charlotte News is always looking for writers ... and photographers. Please send your submissions to [news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org).

Carnation Ceremony welcomes kindergartners into school

Naomi Strada  
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

This week, the student body came together to celebrate one of the school’s traditions during the school morning meeting — welcoming kindergartners into the Charlotte Central School kindergarten-eighth grade community through a Carnation Ceremony.

Pairs of eighth graders presented each kindergartner with a carnation as a symbol of their bond and a promise of support for the coming year.

As role models, learning partners and mentors, this group of eighth graders will partner with the younger students throughout the year, creating memories while learning the meaning of being a caring citizen.

Another school tradition involves the staff, students and parents working to fill 12 boxes full of food for Charlotte neighbors. This annual collaboration gives others the foods they need for Thanksgiving. The students in the kindergarten-fourth grades focus on the Thanksgiving boxes. In December, students in fifth-eighth grades gather food to help neighbors through the winter holiday season. Please consider contributing to this cause.

PTO holiday market

The PTO’s holiday market is now accepting applications for vendor booths on Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be two gyms filled with vendors, a children’s do-it-yourself craft area, several on-site food options, a silent auction and raffle.

All vendor registration fees from the holiday market will go to the PTO to support student enrichment programs. Contact [ccsholidaymarket@gmail.com](mailto:ccsholidaymarket@gmail.com) with any questions.

School library news

Celebrate a nation of diverse readers all year long. When adults make time to read with kids, children get the message that reading is important. Reading books that show all children they are reflected and respected helps them discover their own voices and learn from the voices of others. November is Native American Heritage Month. Visit the school library’s online guide to find featured titles or visit <https://tinyurl.com/47vs29kx>.

Music and art news

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, Dec. 13. The annual fifth-eighth grade Winter Concert will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature the fifth-eighth grade chorus, jazz band and the fifth-eighth grade concert bands.

Also, at 6 p.m. concertgoers will be able to enjoy the kindergarten-eighth grade Art Walk in the east end of the building. We hope to see you there.

Spelling Club volunteers needed

A Charlotte Central School parent reached out asking about supporting a spelling club for kids using materials from the Scripps Spelling Bee.

Some students in third-eighth grade are interested in participating in a spelling club during the lunch and recess block. Some details are being ironed out which include finding a few adults to volunteer to help. Volunteers need to be able to commit for two days a week from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The actual days are still being determined.

Please email [jroth@cvsdvt.org](mailto:jroth@cvsdvt.org) with your availability if you’re interested in helping. All volunteers will need to go through the fingerprint process as Champlain Valley School District volunteers.



# Sports

## Champlain Valley ends state title quest in semifinals

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Trickeration transformed the Champlain Valley Union-Burr and Burton Academy state playoff contest into an epic. Coach Rahn Fleming praised his counterpart for Burr and Burton Academy, coach Tom McCoy, for his strategic use of two halfback passes in the fourth quarter that stymied the Redhawks’ hope for a comeback. “Both of those halfback passes were literally epic. He used our greatest strength — our aggressive, fly-after-it, make-plays defense — and turned it into our fatal flaw,” Fleming said. “That needs to be acknowledged, in not just respect, but admiration, one coaching staff to another.” “The working wisdom is that you can’t spot a team, as good as Burr and Burton is, to three touchdowns and hope to be in the



football game,” said Fleming. But somehow, remarkably, the working wisdom wasn’t working, and for a time during the fourth quarter, the Redhawks’ faithful did have that hope. It looked like the unthinkable was driving irresistibly toward reality. But, then, McCoy pulled his trickeration out, and the Redhawks fell for it — twice.

Burr and Burton came away with a 34-27 win. CVU’s dream of repeating as state champs had ended in Manchester in the semifinals. The first half was all Bulldogs and the Redhawks were behind 20-0. Remarkably, Champlain Valley fought back to a 27-all tie in the fourth quarter. Late in the final quarter, Burr and Burton scored to take the lead. On CVU’s two ensuing possessions, the Redhawks turned the ball over on downs and by giving up an interception. From that point, the Bulldogs managed to run down the clock. “Our guys showed a tremendous amount of character, not hanging their heads, keeping their own and each other’s spirits up and clawing their way back,” Fleming said. Ollie Cheer threw one touchdown pass but had two interceptions.

CVU found their running game to be effective and put up good numbers sticking primarily to the ground. Nolan Walpole had tweaked his knee, but Asher Vaughn and Jacob Bose proved to be stalwart runners in the backfield. Bose had rushing touchdowns of 4 and 6 yards. Vaughn ran it in from 20 yards out. Frere scored a 60-yard passing touchdown. The Redhawks finished the season 8-2. The Bulldogs went on to the state championship where they won the title with a 35-28 victory over Hartford this past Saturday, Nov. 11. Fleming is feeling very good about next year. The coach said he wasn’t even off the field and players were running along with him, talking about their commitment to working out during the offseason and getting ready for the 2024 season.

## Community Roundup

### Program helps pay for fleets switching to electric vehicles

Vermont businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations seeking cleaner transportation options may now apply for the [Electrify Your Fleet](#) incentive program to support the transition to plug-in electric fleet vehicles. Applicants may receive up to \$2,500 for each internal combustion engine vehicle replaced or avoided (maximum of 20 incentives allowed per fleet). Awards may be applied toward the purchase or lease of new plug-in electric vehicles, electric bicycles, electric cargo bicycles, adaptive electric bicycles, electric motorcycles or electric snowmobiles. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of \$500,000 is available, with \$200,000 of that amount available to applicants from or serving historically underserved communities. All applicants must demonstrate how the purchase or lease of each new electric vehicle reduces greenhouse gas emissions from their fleet. Awardees are encouraged to utilize this funding in combination with any local utility rebates and the recently authorized federal tax credit for Commercial Clean Vehicles, which together could reduce the upfront cost of each eligible vehicle by as much as \$10,000 for businesses and tax-exempt organizations. Consultations are available to assist applicants with questions about electric fleet and charging options. Learn more and apply at <https://tinyurl.com/2fas2ctj>. **SCHIP fall awards announced** SCHIP (Shelburne, Charlotte, Hinesburg Interfaith Project) has announced its

autumn 2023 grant awards. A total of \$39,188 was awarded to 16 non-profits which included: Age Well, Carpenter-Carse Library, Champlain Housing Trust, Community Cares for CVU, CVU Mongolia Educational, Hinesburg Community Resource Center, Hinesburg Community School, Hyperbaric Vermont, Joint Urban Ministry Project, New Village, Prevent Child Abuse, ReSOURCE, Shelburne Community School PTO, Shelburne Rescue, Sustainable Charlotte and Vermont Association for the Blind. The award to Shelburne Rescue was the first in the newly established major grants category. Grants funded in this category can range up to \$15,000 and are designed to fund the necessary seed money to be used for future self-sustaining projects. These awards are made possible by SCHIP raising funds through the sale of donated, gently used clothing, household items, accessories, art and collectibles at its resale shop in the distinctive yellow building on Route 7, next to the town offices. Since the first grants given in April 2005, more than \$867,600 has been distributed. SCHIP accepts grant applications twice a year. The deadlines are March 15 and Sept. 15 of each year. The maximum grant size is \$3,000 for routine grants and \$15,000 for major grants. Application forms are available on the “Grants” link at [TheSCHIP.org](#).

**Apply now for fellowships for Vermont artists and writers impacted by flooding** Applications are open for fellowships at the Vermont Studio Center. The Flood Relief Fellowships will be awarded to two visual artists and one writer from Vermont who were impacted by 2023 flooding. Each fellowship will cover the cost of a four-week residency, which runs from Nov. 26-Dec. 21. To be eligible for a Marshall and Margherite McComb Flood Relief Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be a Vermont resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
  - Be a visual artist or writer.
  - Have been demonstrably impacted by the floods of 2023.
- Applications will close this Sunday, Nov. 5, at midnight. To apply, visit the Vermont Studio Center website at [vermontstudiocenter.org/mccomb-foundation-flood-relief-fellowships](http://vermontstudiocenter.org/mccomb-foundation-flood-relief-fellowships).

## Gifts of Appreciated Stock

The Charlotte News now accepts gifts of appreciated securities, such as stock. Giving appreciated securities has a double benefit:

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For more information, please contact John Quinney, President, Board of Directors. [john@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:john@thecharlottenews.org). 802-318-7189.

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# ORANGE AUTUMN MEMORIES

Photos by Lee Krohn





# Gardening

## CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS: OCTOBER 2023

- Oct. 3** B& L Williamson Family Trust to Sage Tucker-Ketcham & David Parsons 4964 Lake Rd. 3.4 acres \$810,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 4** Valerie Hurley to John W. Hinkle & Katherine E. Sparkes 1348 Orchard Road. \$929,000
- Oct. 4** Reginald Swenor, Ronald Swenor & Judson F. Swenor Jr. to Reginald A. & Sandra J. Swenor 2187 Ferry Rd. 3.14 acres \$375,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 13** Charles L. & Kimberly K. Feeney to Pamela & Patrick Corbett 249 Wexford Lane 2.10 acres \$925,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 13** Trudi Pinney Trust to Luke & Lauren Rondel 643 Church Hill Rd. 5.8 acres \$656,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 23** Michael T. Russell, Administrator of Lorraine Russell Estate to McElwain LA LLC 151 Lynrick Acres 1.0 acres \$289,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 24** Andrew Hale & Hannah Perry to Michael & Lucy Hourigan 127 Prindle Road. 6.97 acres \$1,615,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 26** Timothy Smith & Ashlee Sage to Edward & Tammy Caston 319 Haymaker Road. 4.0 acres \$1,300,000 with dwelling
- Oct. 27** Christie C. Garrett to Katherine P. Webster Family Trust 1277 Thompson's Pt. Road. 13.87 acres \$2,300,000 with dwelling

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



## Planning in fall for a spring garden

Deborah J. Benoit  
University of Vermont Extension

Every gardener has a fall to-do list to complete: pulling annuals, raking leaves and storing hoses and other garden tools. They aren't the most exciting tasks, but planning for your spring garden now saves time next year.

While you have your garden journal out to record this year's observations (see [go.uvm.edu/garden-journal](http://go.uvm.edu/garden-journal)), do a garden inventory. Are there plants that aren't doing well that you may want to replace or try in another location? Is there a spot that's just right for a new garden bed or a place for plants on your garden wish list? The garden is full of possibilities.

If you plan on adding new beds, fall is a good time to get started. Sheet mulching (also known as lasagna composting) will give you a head start on new garden beds in grassy or weedy areas.

By laying down cardboard or a thick layer of newspaper and covering it with mulch, the weeds or grass will be smothered over time. While this works well in the spring, starting in the fall will put you that much further ahead in the gardening game.

It seems that everywhere you look this time of year, there's a tempting display of



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Planning a spring garden in the fall by completing tasks such as weeding, testing soil, cleaning tools and taking a garden inventory will save time next year when it's time to start the garden.

spring-blooming bulbs for sale. Planting spring bloomers now will give you much welcomed color in early spring before the rest of the garden awakens. If planted in clumps, bulbs will provide a welcomed pop of color, while scattering them throughout existing beds will provide a subtler display.

Likewise, perennial flowers can be planted in fall to give them a head start to get established in advance of the next growing season. Check your local nurseries for sales on the perennials on your wish list.

This is the time to remove the remains of annual weeds (including disposing of seed heads outside the garden). Pull up perennial weeds now when they aren't actively growing. Any weed that has gone to seed should be disposed of in the trash rather than the compost pile, as should any diseased plant material.

If you don't already have a compost pile for yard waste, start one now. Even though the process will slow over the cold winter months, you'll have a head start when spring rolls around.

For more information on composting, visit the University of Vermont Extension master gardener garden resources webpage at [go.uvm.edu/garden-resources](http://go.uvm.edu/garden-resources) and click on the "Composting" tab.

Once you've cleared the weeds away, consider doing a soil test in the fall to beat the spring rush. The results can tell

you the soil pH, available potassium (K), magnesium (Mg), phosphorus (P), calcium (Ca) and sulfur (S), as well as recommendations for soil amendments and other information specific to your garden. For more information on soil testing, see [go.uvm.edu/soiltest](http://go.uvm.edu/soiltest).

If needed, by adding soil amendments and a layer of mulch in the fall, the garden will be ready with minimal additional work for planting in spring.

If you're interested in starting plants on your wish list from seed this year, check out available garden catalogs online, and add your name to the company's mailing list. Catalogs will arrive in time to chase the winter blues away.

Finally, instead of just storing garden tools and equipment at the end of the season, take some time to give everything a thorough cleaning. Oil and sharpen tools as needed and make note of any replacements to buy. If there's a tool you don't have, add that to your list and shop before you need it.

Spring is a busy time in the garden. By planning and doing some prep work in the fall, your garden will be as ready to go as you are come spring.

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



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# Gardening

## Growing greens in winter

Deborah J. Benoit  
University of Vermont Extension

There’s nothing like creating a salad of freshly harvested greens you’ve grown yourself from seed. The good news is, this is one crop you can grow year-round, indoors, safe from nibbling rabbits in fair weather and freezing temperatures in winter.

What type of greens do you fancy? Leafy lettuces? Deep green spinach? Spicy arugula?

There are so many possibilities. While you likely won’t find seeds for sale locally at this time of year, you can use seeds you already have or hop online to check out all the choices available from mail order catalogs.

Like any garden, location will play a major part in the success of your growing plans. You’ll need adequate light, suitable temperatures, an appropriate soil mix and water.

Since light is so important to promoting healthy growth, select a sunny spot directly in front of a south- or west-facing window. Just be sure the location is away from cold drafts from windows and doors, and hot drafts from radiators or woodstoves.

As an alternative, you can use grow lights, which are readily available in stores and online. You also can use a shop light using fluorescent tube bulbs. For more information on using grow lights, see <https://go.uvm.edu/grow-lights>.

Once you’ve selected a location, choose a container or containers for your garden of greens. If you’re growing in front of a window, a rectangular window-box shape is a good choice, but a selection of small

“Whatever the weather outside, gardening indoors can be very tasty indeed.”

pots can work as well.

Fill your containers with a light potting mix or seed starter that’s been moistened. Scatter seeds across the surface and cover lightly with soil according to directions on the seed packet. Use a spray bottle to water the seeds.

Add a clear cover to the container to help retain moisture. A plastic soda bottle with the bottom cut off will work well with round pots. Clear food-storage bags or food wrap also work well. If water begins to collect on the cover, vent it to allow the excess moisture to escape.

Once seedlings emerge, you can remove the cover. Be sure the soil doesn’t dry out, so water as needed. As the seedlings grow, thin to the spacing recommended on the seed package. The thinned seedlings make a good addition to salads or sandwiches while you’re waiting for the remaining plants to grow.

Provide 10-12 hours of light daily to encourage healthy growth. If you notice any of your seedlings growing leggy or becoming yellow, they are likely in need of more light. Adding a grow light can



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Planting leafy lettuces, mesclun and other quick-growing greens in containers indoors ensures a steady supply of fresh greens for salads and sandwiches all winter.

supplement natural light. Lowering a grow light closer to the foliage can help, as can extending the number of hours of light the plants receive.

When your plants reach several inches high, it’s time to harvest. Using sharp scissors, cut the outer leaves. By leaving the inner leaves, the plant will continue to grow for future harvesting.

You can extend your harvest further by succession planting. Instead of planting your entire crop of greens at once, initially plant only part. Every two or three weeks, plant more.

After your original planting has been completely harvested, replant that container. This way you will have greens in various stages of growth throughout the

winter and early spring.

If you’d like to try growing something besides greens for your salad, consider radishes (*Raphanus sativus*). Check for varieties ready to harvest in as little as three weeks. Other possibilities include green pea shoots (*Pisum sativum*) and green onions (*Allium fistulosum*).

Whatever the weather outside, gardening indoors can be very tasty indeed.

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



We are Thankful for You!

Happy Thanksgiving

From all of us at

The Charlotte News



Gardening

Deciphering plant names

Nadie VanZandt  
University of Vermont Extension

Have you ever wondered why plant names are in Latin?

Latin, a language originating from Italy, spread throughout Europe with the expansion of the Roman Empire. It was widely spoken during the Middle Ages and used by scholars in science and literature as early as the fifth century.

Although scientists traditionally named species of organisms in Latin, common plant names were subject to misinterpretation. Therefore, having a unique scientific name was necessary for accurate identification and to eliminate confusion in botany.

The current Latin system for naming plants was created by a Swedish botanist named Carl Linnaeus. Linnaeus devised a clever system to condense 18th-century plant names into a simple binomial (two-name) naming system.

Born May 23, 1707, in southern Sweden, Linnaeus was the son of a Lutheran pastor and avid gardener. From an early age, Linnaeus had a fascination for plants and their names.

While studying medicine at the university, Linnaeus spent time collecting and studying plants. At the time, botany was required medical training since every physician had to prepare drugs derived from medicinal plants. Upon completion of his medical degree, he pursued further studies and published a landmark code of nomenclature for living organisms titled Species Plantarum in 1753.

Today, Linnaeus’s nomenclature is used universally. It identifies an organism with

two Latin words. The first corresponds to the genus and the second to the species. Together, they tell how species are related to one another. All plants with this unique name are genetically similar. They look alike and can breed with one another.

To understand Linnaeus’s code, Stuart Farrimond from the United Kingdom suggests the naming of cars as an analogy. Car names are constructed using make, model and version.

The first name, the genus, is the group of related plants to which the species belongs. The genus is analogous to the make of a car. All plants with a common genus share common features and are genetically similar. The genus must be in italics with its initial capitalized and may be abbreviated to its first capital letter, as in Rosa or R. (referring to roses).

The second name, the species, refers to plants within a genus that reproduce naturally to form offspring similar to their parents. Species are analogous to the model of a car. The Latin name, written in lower case and italics, often describes a specific detail about the appearance or preferred habitat of a plant.

For example, the Latin name for the common purple coneflower is Echinacea purpurea, a plant of genus Echinacea, meaning hedgehog (referring to the spiky central cone) and of species purpurea, meaning purple, describing the plant’s color.

Sometimes one or more words are added to the binomial name to describe variation in species. In the car name analogy, this corresponds to the version.

Only naturally occurring variations are called varieties. These nearly always are



Photo by Nadie VanZandt

Binomial nomenclature is often used in demonstration and teaching gardens.

listed in Latin, in all lower-cased italics, sometimes preceded by the abbreviation “var.” for variety. For example, Rosa rugosa rubra (a type of single petal rose) is the same as Rosa rugosa var. rubra.

Variations developed in cultivation by plant breeders are called cultivated varieties or cultivars for short. Cultivar names are mostly in English or another modern language, not italicized, in proper noun syntax and in single quotation marks or preceded with the abbreviation “cv.” without quotation marks. For example, Echinacea purpurea ‘White Swan’ is equivalent to

Echinacea purpurea cv. White Swan. Linnaeus’s scientific naming of plants continues to evolve as botanists continue the careful classification of plants. Gardeners and budding botanists interested in learning more about this fascinating world of binomial nomenclature and plant taxonomy can learn more online at the International Plant Names Index at ipni.org.

(Nadie VanZandt is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from Panton.)

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# Calendar of Events

Please send event listings to [calendar@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:calendar@thecharlottenews.org) at least three weeks in advance.

**Ryan Cochran-Siegle talk**  
**Thursday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.**  
The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum is hosting a talk by World Cup and Olympic Alpine ski racer, Ryan Cochran-Siegle via Zoom. Cochran-Siegle is a member of the legendary Cochran family. He grew up training at his family's ski area in Richmond. He made his World Cup debut in 2011 and most recently won silver in Super-G at the 2022 Beijing winter Olympics, 50-years after his mother, Barbara Ann Cochran did the same. Virtual doors to the museum open and the discussion begins at 7 p.m. Register at [vtssm.org/new-events](http://vtssm.org/new-events).

**Invasive removal**  
**Sunday, Nov. 19, 1-3 p.m.**  
The new date for volunteers to help in the ongoing invasive removal in the Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee will be Nov. 19, 1-3 p.m. Come Sunday afternoon and learn how to recognize and remove invasive species. Meet in the Greenbush Road parking area. The work will be between the first and second bridges on the Robert's Way Trail. Bring gloves, clippers, saw or loppers. There will be a limited supply of tools available. Contact Jessie Bradley at [jrbradley@madriver.com](mailto:jrbradley@madriver.com) to register or just come that day.

**Holiday craft fair**  
**Friday & Saturday, Nov. 24 & 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Over 50 crafters will be selling their seasonal crafts at the holiday craft fair in Bridport at the Masonic Hall on Middle Road.

**Dragonfly art exhibition**  
**Through Nov. 30**  
Landa Townsend's art inspired by dragonfly habitats, "Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond: 2021-2023" is on display at Shelburne's Pierson Library through Nov. 30. On Thursday, Nov. 30, 6-7



Dragonfly art exhibitionThrough Nov. 30 at Shelburne's Pierson Library

p.m. there's a free artist talk. Townsend produce this series of woodblock prints to portray dragonfly behaviors and their unique environment.

**BTV Winter Market**  
**Fridays, 2-6 p.m. & Saturdays, 12-6 p.m., Nov 18- Dec 23**  
The BTV Winter Market is a European-style outdoor market featuring a rotating group of 20 local artists, makers, food vendors and cozy firepits in Burlington's City Hall Park.

**Thanksgiving booking**  
**Thanksgiving Thursday, Nov. 23, noon-4 p.m.**  
The Fletcher Free Library at 235 College Street in Burlington will be open with limited services from noon-4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, providing a warm spot to gather, read and be thankful for community. The library will also have pre-packaged, refrigerated Thanksgiving to-go meals for pickup, beginning the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 22. Meals include fully

cooked roast turkey with gravy and fixings, and come individually packaged in microwave-safe packaging. Meals are provided courtesy of the Farmhouse Group and will be available while supplies last. If you are interested in volunteering on Thanksgiving at the Burlington library, check out the volunteer web page [fflvolunteer@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:fflvolunteer@burlingtonvt.gov).

**Holiday Trains**  
**Nov. 24-Jan. 13, 1-3:30 p.m.**  
Middlebury's Henry Sheldon Museum presents Holiday Trains: 30 Years Rolling Down the Tracks, a model train layout that stands three levels high, with two tracks running Lionel O gauge trains and the upper track running H0 trains. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the train layout, there will be an exhibition featuring a display tracing the history of the model trains at the Sheldon during the holiday season. This year the trains will be operating 1-3:30 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday. For more information visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117. On Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,

the museum is having a free open house with the model trains running, the annual holiday trees and wreaths raffle on view and more.

**Family art**  
**Saturday, Nov. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Drop into the Burlington City Arts (BCA) Center's fourth-floor education studio for a free, all-ages art activity inspired by the work of Texture & Response artist Ann Wessmann. Explore how working with found materials can root us in appreciation for the places we call home as you create your own unique nature print using materials collected from around Burlington.

**Auditions**  
**Sunday & Tuesday, Dec. 3 & 5**  
The Valley Players will hold auditions for "Poet's Choice" by Mary Pratt on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street (Rt. 100), Waitsfield. The play is the 2023 winner of the Valley Players' Playwright Award and will be directed by Doug Bergstein. To read the script, download an audition form, and get more information, go to [valleyplayers.com](http://valleyplayers.com). Email [valleyplayers@madriver.com](mailto:valleyplayers@madriver.com) with questions.

**Visiting Artists and Writers Program**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**  
As part of its Visiting Artists and Writers Program, the Vermont Studio Center will host Stanya Kahn giving a virtual artist talk via Zoom. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/er94ked3> to receive a link. Kahn is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in film/video with a practice that includes drawing, painting, sculpture/installation, sound and writing. Recent solo exhibitions include shows in Los Angeles, New York, London, Rotterdam and Berlin.

**Menorah lighting**  
**Monday, Dec. 11, 5:15 p.m.**  
Chabad of Vermont is holding the lighting of the menorah at the Shelburne Town Green in the corner of Falls and Shelburne roads

SEE **CALENDAR** PAGE 18

# DON'T HIBERNATE. BUTTON UP.

There's no need to sleep away the winter. Button up your home with up to 75% off weatherization project costs.\* You'll stay warm and cozy – save money, too.

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Library News

Help library prepare for future by filling out survey

Margaret Woodruff  
Director

The Charlotte Library is planning for the future and needs your input to better understand how to serve the needs of the community.

The first step is a town-wide survey. The library hopes to hear from as many residents as possible, whether they are regular library users

or have never been to the library before. Access the survey using the QR code here or fill out a paper survey available around town. Questions? Please contact Margaret Woodruff at the library.



develop their imagination and creativity. Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks or Play-Doh — these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning at the Charlotte Library. Stay tuned for details about upcoming fall programs.

Programs for adults

**Thursday book group**  
**Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.**

Sarah M. Broom’s “The Yellow House” tells 100 years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of one of America’s most mythologized cities. This is the story of a mother’s struggle against a house’s entropy and of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. “The Yellow House” expands the map of New Orleans to include the stories of its lesser known natives. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join

on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/58jc4td5>.

**Mystery book group**  
**Monday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.**

Visit 1921 Bombay in “The Widows of Malabar Hill.” Perveen Mistry, the daughter of a respected Zoroastrian family, has just joined her father’s law firm, becoming one of the first female lawyers in India. Armed with a legal education from Oxford, Mistry also has a tragic personal history that makes her especially devoted to championing women’s rights. Mistry Law is handling the will of Omar Farid, a wealthy Muslim mill owner who has left three widows behind. But as Perveen goes through the papers, she notices something strange: all three have signed over their inheritance to a charity. What will they live on if they forfeit what their husbands left them? Perveen is suspicious. Copies available at the circulation desk.

**Short story selections**  
**Monday, Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m.**

Join library director Margaret Woodruff online to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Link via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/9c398wyy>.

**Winter decorations**  
**Saturday, Nov. 25, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Stop in to make some seasonal decor for winter. Enjoy warm cider from the Charlie Cart while you create garlands and pomanders. For all ages. Children under 10 must have an adult with them.

**Gift wrap workshop**  
**Saturday, Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
Create some one-of-a kind wrapping paper for special gifts using recycled and reused materials. For all ages. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Recurring programs

**Book chat**  
**Wednesdays, 3 p.m.**  
Meet each week to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Margaret Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. No registration necessary.

**Crochet & knit night**  
**Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.**  
Claudia Marshall is your host for a casual weekly session of crocheting and chatting, knitting and catching up. Bring your project or start a new one with yarn and needles available at the library, along with plenty of books to instruct and inspire. For teens and adults.

**Library contact information:**  
Margaret Woodruff, director  
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian  
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864  
Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)  
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 Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. online and in person. Please contact the library or visit the library website at [charlottepubliclibrary.org](http://charlottepubliclibrary.org) for more information.



**Town of Charlotte**  
**MEETINGS**  
**Visit [charlottetvt.org](http://charlottetvt.org)**  
**for more information.**

**Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge**  
**Oversight Committee**  
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thursday, Nov. 16, 7-9 p.m.

**Thanksgiving (town office closed)**  
Thursday, Nov. 23 & 24

**Selectboard**  
Monday, Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

on Monday, Dec. 11, 5:15 p.m. Organizers said there will be donuts, latkes and fun for everyone.

**Visiting Artists and Writers Program**  
**Thursday, Dec. 14, 8-9 p.m.**  
The Vermont Studio Center will host Anthony Goicolea in person in the Red Mill Building on Thursday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Goicolea is an N.Y.-based, multi-disciplinary artist who established himself in the late 1990s with a series of provocative self-portraits. His work ranges from photography, sculpture and video to multi-layered drawings on mylar, oil on canvas and large-scale installations. His art is held in many public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Guggenheim, the Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshorn Museum in D.C. and the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. Free. More info at [vermontstudiocenter.org/events-calendar](http://vermontstudiocenter.org/events-calendar).

**Church services**  
**Advent and Christmas at**  
**Charlotte Congregational Church**  
403 Church Hill Road  
Charlotte, [charlotteucc.org](http://charlotteucc.org), 802-425-3176

**Advent wreath lighting**  
**Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 10 a.m.**  
Candles of hope, peace, joy and love lit each Sunday.

**Messiah sing**  
**Sunday, Dec. 3, 4-5:15 p.m.**  
Four soloists and a small chamber ensemble of Vermont Symphony musicians will bring this participatory performance of Handel’s timeless masterpiece to life. Donations encouraged.

**Advent hours of sanctuary**  
**Mondays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation.

**Christmas pageant**  
**Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.**  
Come for a creative and imaginative enactment of the Christmas story.

**Christmas Eve**  
Offering taken at all services will be used to support our partners near and far.  
**10 a.m.** — Simple morning service with carols and a few surprises  
**4 p.m.** — Outdoor Family Carol Sing for all in the courtyard around the Christmas tree. 6 p.m. indoor service of lessons and carols with children’s choir  
**7 p.m.** — Indoor service of lessons and carols

**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**Sunday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m.**  
Visit website for details. All events will also be livestreamed except the Outdoor Family Carol Sing and the 7 p.m. indoor service of lessons and carols.

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## Senior Center News

# Senior center recognizes veterans in varied ways

Lori York  
Director

On Friday, Nov. 10, the senior center was active with events honoring veterans for their service.

A special thank you to The Residence at Shelburne Bay who provided the meal for the veterans lunch.

Robert Stock, Veterans Outreach Specialist in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, led the Pinning Ceremony for veterans and their survivors who served during the period of 1955-1975.

And the Quilts of Valor organization dedicated quilts to veterans.

Please note that the senior center will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, in observance of Thanksgiving.

### Programs

**November artist exhibit**

This month’s exhibit is a collection of watercolor, ink and mixed media drawings celebrating birds, avians and raptors by Peter E. Hetz whose fascination with birds, particularly raptors, started early. Stop by to view the artwork on the walls of the senior center. For those interested in seeing a portfolio of Hetz’s work, please visit [bearpawarts.com](http://bearpawarts.com).

**Detect and prevent Medicare fraud**  
**Thursday, Nov. 16, 1-2 p.m.**

A presenter from Vermont Senior Medicare Patrol ([vtsmp.org](http://vtsmp.org)) will show Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers how to prevent, detect and report fraud, errors and abuse. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration recommended. Free.

**AARP Smart Driver course**  
**Thursday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

The AARP Smart Driver course is designed especially for drivers age 50 and older, to help refresh driving skills, and may even help save on auto insurance. AARP members can take the course at a discounted rate. Please plan to bring lunch. Register early as class size is limited to 15. Checks should be made out to AARP. Cost:\$25 or \$20 for AARP members. Register by Monday, Dec. 4.

**Walking and gentle hiking group**  
**Thursday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m.**

Enjoy the beauty of Nature. Come walk at a gentle pace with other seniors. The group will meet monthly for a congenial non-strenuous walk. The location TBD. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Charlotte Senior Center. Please bring bug spray and water. Questions? Contact Penny Burman at 916-753-7279. Registration required. Cost: Free

**Tips and tricks for Android phones and tablets**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1-2 p.m.**

Would you like to get more out of your Android phone or tablet? Learn some tips and tricks, including security considerations, how to install and delete apps and settings to improve privacy and customize your device to meet your visual, physical, motion or hearing needs. If possible, bring your own device for hands-on learning. Registration suggested. Free.

**Lindy 6-count dance**  
**Wednesdays, Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 1-2 p.m.**

Interested in learning to dance? Join Carol Ann Spaid to learn the Lindy 6-count dance. Lindy 6-count lessons build on essential skills of leading, following and dance frame. No experience needed. Wear soft-soled shoes and bring your love of dance. For questions, email [carolspaid@gmail.com](mailto:carolspaid@gmail.com). Registration required. \$15 per class.

**Holiday origami**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 21, 12:30-2 p.m.**

The practice of making origami activates the whole brain. In this class, you will be folding paper and fabric into trees, stars, birds and ornaments for the holidays. Directions for some of the models will be included so that you may teach them to friends and family. This class is not for total beginners. Registration required. Cost: \$10.

**Watercolor in winter**  
**Tuesdays, Nov. 28-Dec. 19, 9:15 a.m.-noon**

With the winter doldrums upon us, a painting class is just the thing to keep you busy and improve your mood. Winter scenes, holiday themes, interesting still lifes and more. This four-week class will get your creative juices flowing again if you haven’t been painting for a while and will help spark some new ideas to paint for everyone. Some watercolor experience is helpful. Registration and payment of \$160 needed by Nov. 22.

**Meals**

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

**Monday lunches**

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 10-11a.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 802-425-6345 or email [meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

**Note:** For Thanksgiving week, the Age Well Grab & Go meal pick-up will be on Wednesday, Nov. 22, instead of Thursday. If you are interested in receiving a meal on Thanksgiving week, please register by Thursday, Nov. 16.

**Weather cancellation policy**

When the local schools are in session, the Charlotte Senior Center follows the Champlain Valley School District for weather-related cancellations. When school is not in session and there is inclement weather, a cancellation determination will be made by 8 a.m. Cancellation notices will be posted on the senior center website and on the outgoing voice message. An email will be sent to those who have signed up to receive the email newsletter.

**Senior center info**

The senior center offers programs for adults 50 and older from Charlotte and surrounding communities. Priority is given to seniors, but programs are open to adults of all ages. Programs include weekly lunches, daily exercise classes and many opportunities to connect through board and card games and art and language programming.

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening? Sign up for the email newsletters at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org). The “Week Ahead” email is sent out on Friday mornings with activities, lunch menus, and special programs for the upcoming week.

Lori York, director, [lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)  
Jenn Lawson, coordinator, [jlawson@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:jlawson@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)  
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte  
802-425-6345  
[charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org)  
Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).



Photo by Lori York  
Veterans wrapped in their Quilts of Valor for the dedication ceremony.



Photo by Lori York  
From left, veteran Jim Lovejoy and Robert Stock, Veterans Outreach Specialist at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Photo by Lori York  
Lane Morrison speaks to the men’s breakfast about being an executive officer on a ship on the Mekong River during the Vietnam War.



Photo by Lori York  
Veteran Lin Kalson receives a Quilt of Valor in a dedication ceremony performed by André Emmel.



# Write Ingredients

## Senior center letting the dogs — and beans — out

Susan Ohanian  
Contributor

In “Upstairs Delicatessen: On Eating, Reading, Reading About Eating, & Eating While Reading,” New York Times book critic Dwight Garner delivers a delicious account of his linked pleasures of food and books. It is both insightful and laugh-out-loud funny.

Since Monday Munch is offering frankfurters, we’ll skip H. L. Menken’s vitriolic opinion of hot dogs. Garner’s presentation of a menu item at a Virginia diner needs no embellishment: “the breakfast special was scrambled eggs with sliced hot dogs.”

Garner relates Vivian Gornick’s tale of a boy who bought a hot dog for a “bum” who was hungry. His father slapped him, saying, “If you’re gonna do a thing, do it right. You don’t buy someone a hot dog without you also buying him a soda!”

Monday Munch does not offer soda, but fear not: Frankfurters come with Boston baked beans, baked brown bread and caramel sundaes.

As the title indicates, in “Raw Dog: The Naked Truth About Hot Dogs,” Jamie Loftus offers an investigation into the cultural and culinary significance of the hot dog, as well as a travelogue documenting her cross-country road trip researching high-culture and low-culture consumption — plus socio-political commentary.

Loftus begins on a positive note, with a chapter titled “The Five Hot Dogs You Can Purchase Easily in Heaven,” and then it’s off to a critical, often funny, report on what else she found across the country.

Later, she is scathing about more than the hot dogs served in Troy, N.Y., a place where I taught for 15 years. Truth of the matter, I’ve written a few books with vituperative remarks about some goings-on there, too.

Monday Munch offers baked beans along with frankfurters. Note that Native Americans ate baked beans, and in the early 1620s, hungry Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony quickly adopted their cooking methods. Pinto beans rate a chapter in another of my favorite books about food, Rick Bragg’s “The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma’s Table.”

Bragg tells us that James B. Bundrum, his great-great grandfather, taught his son, Jimmy Jim, that “a bland bean was a poor bean, and unfit for men or hogs.”

I’d like to reprint Bragg’s whole chapter on beans. Let it suffice to say that in 1924, when the old man wanted to teach a young girl how to cook beans, first he had to steal a pig.



Adobe stock photo

“Dried beans, just a few a few cents a pound, were life itself for the people of the hills ... butter beans, Great Northerns, baby limas, black-eyed peas and others. ... They were not only filling, and nutritious; if they were properly seasoned, usually with just salt, pepper, onion, pork, some sugar, and sometimes a little stray red pepper or garlic, they were delicious. ... For the poor they were the very foundation of the diet.

“The rest of the world could demean the bean, say that something ‘ain’t worth beans,’ or say that someone ‘didn’t know beans.’ In the foothills of the Appalachians, a man who knew beans was worth something, by God.”

Bragg’s bit of Virginia possum banter also relates to Monday Munch: “A Didelphis virginiana, the possum walked with the dinosaurs. Known as a semi-arboreal marsupial, it lived mostly on the ground but could climb trees and carried its young in a pouch like a kangaroo. James Smith of the Plymouth Colony noted that they didn’t like possums but when hungry, they’d eat them.”

Likewise, in Bragg’s momma’s childhood, the possum was regarded as “subsistence cooking,” and she doesn’t believe many modern-day chefs will attempt a recipe for baked possum and sweet potatoes. Truth to tell, she says, “I’ll talk about it, but I don’t like it. If I can’t enjoy what I cook, I’d rather not cook it.”

Anyone who has seen the kitchen area of the Charlotte Senior Center on Monday mornings knows that the volunteer cooks there definitely enjoy what they are cooking. Lots of laughter fills the room. The cooks enjoy what they are doing in-the-moment, and they also enjoy seeing people at the dining tables taking pleasure in good conversation along with the good food.

Eating and talking are deliciously combined.

More kitchen volunteers are needed. Many different jobs go into putting meals on the tables. Come offer your help.

Here’s Johnny Cash singing “Beans for Breakfast”: <https://tinyurl.com/59wcddbn>.

Here’s Cash with “Look at Them Beans”:

<https://tinyurl.com/p9dix78s>.

And not to neglect the delicious offerings on Monday Munch, Nov. 27, here’s Weird Al Yankovich singing “Lasagna” (<https://tinyurl.com/bdumv65w>) a parody of Ritchie Valens’ “La Bamba.” Besides featuring lasagna, Weird Al mentions spaghetti, calzone, minestrone, marinara linguini, fettuccine, and ravioli.

### Monday Munch

**Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Grilled frankfurters, Boston baked beans, baked brown bread and caramel sundaes.

### Age Well Meal Pickup

**Thursday, Nov. 23, 10-11 a.m.**

Lasagna rolls with meat marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, broccoli, wheat roll, fruit salad and milk. Meal provided by Age Well. A \$5 donation is requested but not required. Pay what you can, when you can. Registration for Age Well meals is required by the prior Monday.

Email: [meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)

Phone: 802-425-6345

Meals provided by Age Well.

### Monday Munch

**Nov. 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Lasagna, tossed salad, dinner roll and apple cranberry cake.

### Age Well meal pickup

**Thursday, Nov. 30, 10-11 a.m.**

Beef steak with sauce, baked beans, Italian vegetables, wheat bread, oatmeal raisin cookie and milk.

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