



www.craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org

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## Letter from the President



Dear Friends of the Care Center,

Like a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, we are slowly reentering this new world. At first somewhat cautiously but we are gathering momentum and embracing the freedoms that are coming from dining together, hearing Don and Ned perform and all the other activities. There is lots of pent-up energy from the past 15 months and we are welcoming the new world with enthusiasm and a new appreciation for all we took for granted in the past. These past months have been a time of growth and learning as we emerge stronger and better from this difficult and painful experience.

The board has been busy during the past year preparing for reopening. We are excited with the completion of the walking trail. The gazebo was placed, and Laura Hill has completed the landscaping. Residents happily supervised and photographed the process, while walking the trail. It is hard to imagine when the trail was not there. In addition, we have two major projects that are “shovel ready”. The Development Committee has been proactive and applied for grants to fund these much needed but expensive projects. As we have mentioned in past newsletters, these are the air purification/ventilation system and the kitchen renovation project. The need for both has been magnified this past year.

Because of caution, we will again not be able to have our July summer event. Instead, we will be raffling another of artisan Phil Pike’s much desired custom canoes. His canoes are crafted at Little Creek Canoe and Kayak in Greensboro Bend and sought after by many. Last year there were many ticket purchasers that wanted to be the winner and hopefully they will try again this year. We are grateful for our community support and would not be the strong organization we are without you. Thank you.

—Jane Marlin, President Board of Directors

Craftsbury Community Care Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and Equal Housing Opportunity Facility.

Our mission is to provide a caring, homelike affordable residence for seniors, in a setting that encourages independence, activities and involvement with families, friends and the larger community.

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## Care Center's Second Canoe Raffle

Phil Pike of Little Creek Canoe and Kayak and Mark McAndrew are at it again. If you missed last year's raffle of the handcrafted canoe, you are in luck. They are building



another 17 foot 7 inch cedar strip canoe made of predominately Vermont woods, northern white cedar and ash, and black cherry that will make the canoe come to life. Phil states, "She's a prettier model than last year's." I asked if he named her and he said he only names the boat if it is his. SO if you buy a ticket and win, you get to give this "sweet lady" a name.

There will only be 250 tickets sold. Tickets are on sale now. You can purchase tickets for \$50 each by going to the Care Center website ([craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org](http://craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org)) or emailing [kroberge@craftsburycarecenter.org](mailto:kroberge@craftsburycarecenter.org) or contacting any board member. Tickets will also be available at Miller's Thumb across from The Willey's Store in Greensboro. As happened last year, we are hoping to have pop up displays so you can view the canoe before the drawing and purchase any tickets that may still be available. So be quick to enter this exciting drawing. The drawing for this beautiful, functional work of art will be at noon on Saturday August 14, 2021 at Old Home Day on the Common in Craftsbury. You do not have to be present to win.

— Joan Feffer

## Gazebo Arrives for Walking Path!

So many exciting happenings at the Care Center! Last issue we wrote about our new walking path, a much-needed longer and less-trafficked option for residents to spend time outdoors. And now our long-awaited Gazebo, built by Town & Country Sheds of Wolcott, has been delivered and is sitting very pretty in our walking area. Laura Hill of Hillcrest Nursery got right to work installing beautiful gardens at strategic points around the pathway (Laura also does our front gardens and we're lucky to have her).



*New resident, Jerri, wasted no time jumping into the new gazebo and claiming her spot!*

Former board member (and continuing Buildings & Ground Committee member) Norm Hanson, who put in many hours bringing this project to fruition, says it's wonderful to see this all come together: the trail, the gazebo, the adopted benches (of which there are now at least 5!), all of which were in the works pre-pandemic, are even more meaningful now as our residents get out and about. "It's just very rewarding to see the use of the trail and gazebo by so many residents," said Norm.

And we're not finished – we hear that another lovely place of respite will appear on the walking trail this summer, thanks to a generous neighbor and Care Center supporter! We could not be more proud of the amenities the Care Center offers, and the support that makes them possible.

—Penelope Doherty

## Activities Taking Flight Again!

After fifteen months of challenging curtailment, resident activities are back! State restrictions are easing and our renowned activities program is moving towards normal ... thank goodness. Between stretch, watercoloring, brain games, music, and more, at the time of this writing we're averaging 4-6 group activities per day! Wow. We may not have as many community participants as we'd like, but we're getting there. And we'll take it, because along with the rest of the world the period without our usual activities and connections has been very difficult.

We're happy to report that in addition to resident activities led by staff we're now able to again invite musicians from the community. We gather outside when weather permits, and when not, we set up inside if we can appropriately distance. This is a bright spot for everyone – music brings such joy to our group. We look forward to soon having community artists and volunteers come in for other favorites - art lessons, games, nature lectures and choirs, just to mention a few.

There have been other activities changes during the pandemic. We said an emotional goodbye last year to our long-time activities director Barb Flint, who has moved with her husband to be closer to family in the Rutland area. Barb built a solid and varied foundation of activities for residents – we were so very lucky to have her, and fortunate that the great relationships she built with community volunteers continue. We can't overstate our appreciation of what she accomplished for the Center.

As Barb left, her smiling and capable right-hand Jo Suderman stepped up to direct and valiantly steer our activities program through the pandemic. This was no easy feat as our program had always focused on enhancing interactions, and pandemic requirements greatly restricted interpersonal contact. It was a very difficult task and time and we salute Jo and Lori, who took the second position. This spring both Jo and Lori decided to move on from Activities, and we can't blame them after having given so much.

Our new activities director, Emily Varvir, started in April and her new right-hand, Sharon Medd, came at end of May. Emily and her husband moved to Walden from Dallas, Texas (her husband is a Vermonter) and with a Masters in Recreational Therapy and experience in long term care, mental health, and developmental disabilities she's a great fit for Care Center activities. Emily says elders are her first love in terms of care populations and she finds it very fulfilling to be back in that environment. Sharon lives in Craftsbury and according to Emily, is enthusiastic and can do just about anything! What a great team.

Emily is happy to receive activities ideas from the community – she's particularly looking for live music volunteers. Email her at [activities@craftsburycommunitycare.org](mailto:activities@craftsburycommunitycare.org).

And welcome back, social connections! We're so glad to see you again ...



— Penelope Doherty

## Staff Spotlight: Jane Rayner

Jane Rayner is a Kitchen Aide at the Care Center, where she has worked for 3 years. Jane lives in Albany and has been married to her husband, Jim, for 58 years. She still lives in the house she and Jim built 40 years ago. She has three children and a number of grandchildren who visit her often; daughter Kathy is in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, daughter Margaret Lynne is in Springfield, Vermont and son Jay is in Colchester, Connecticut. She came out of a short retirement to work at the Care Center, because she had friends who were residents and felt that the Center was “like a big extended family”.

Before coming to the Center, Jane had an interesting and varied working career. She was a substitute teacher in the Albany and Glover schools and ran the after-school arts and crafts programs. She worked at North Country Hospital in the lab unit in the field of medical secretarial sciences. One of Jane’s favorite jobs was working at the Vermont Department of Forest and Parks and Recreation. At one point in this job, she was a fire dispatcher and travelled all over the United States and Canada working in conjunction with the federal government to control and extinguish forest and similar fires. Jane is currently an Auditor for the Town of Albany.

For recreation, Jane is an excellent gardener, and she and her husband have two Harley- Davidson motorcycles in their garage. Although Jane has not been riding recently, she and her husband have travelled up and down the East Coast on their Harleys.

Jane has been a great addition to the Center’s staff and wanted to express her thanks to the residents who she says are always appreciative of the care they receive.

—Rob Dewees



## Bike Raffle a Great Success!

Morrisville resident Rodney Hartwig won the Craftsbury Community Care Center’s first 2021 fundraiser, a collaborative effort between the Center and Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville. Hartwig bought two tickets; CCCC resident Fielda Calderwood drew the winning ticket - #176 – on Saturday, May 1 at the Care Center.

Hank Glowiak presented the beautiful Marin gravel bike to Hartwig on Tuesday May 4. Hartwig and his wife moved to the area last year from Phoenix, Arizona and live near the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, which they frequently ride with their 11-year-old son. He learned about the raffle from a local newspaper article. He has friends in Craftsbury and says he knew from them the Center is a great place.

Hartwig said “You know, when you buy a raffle ticket you don’t expect to win – you’re just supporting a good cause.” And we agree!



*Hank Glowiak of Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville presents Rodney Hartwig with the grand prize of the Craftsbury Community Care Center raffle, a beautiful Marin gravel bike.*

—Penelope Doherty

## A Message from the Executive Director

Spring has come and gone and summer begins with sunshine, blooming trees, flowers, vegetable gardens and hope for healthy, active and fun filled months ahead. After a very long year of dealing with all that comes with a pandemic, everyone at the Care Center is very excited to move forward. Residents and staff were offered the opportunity to participate in debriefing offered by the State Covid 19 Team. Everyone that participated came away with knowing they are not alone in the post traumatic feelings associated with the pandemic as well as a sense of relief and knowledge of ways to help move forward in a healthy way.

The Care Center hallways and common areas are bustling once again with resident and staff smiling faces, laughter, joyful interactions and daily activities. With education on vaccination vs. non vaccination, when masks and social distancing are best practice, and hand sanitizing, residents are once again enjoying visitation and outings with family and friends. Screening for all interaction is still required at this time prior to a visit or outing. We are so grateful that everyone understands the need for continued vigilance in taking the steps necessary to continue on a healthy path.

Residents are thoroughly enjoying the musicians that are gradually returning, using outside as the preferred setting; however, when weather does not cooperate, music is occurring in the community room with social distancing in place. It is such a pleasure for all to once again hear the delightful sounds of music and see the joy and peace it brings. We all look forward to the gradual re-integration of the wonderful community volunteers that offer such a variety of activities that pique the interest of residents.

We are so grateful to everyone that has helped us get through this past year and look forward to re-establishing friendships, partnerships and collaborations that continue to promote a safe, healthy and thriving environment for all to live and work.

—Kimberly Roberge

## Resident Highlight: Patrick Coffey

Visitors to CCCC during the last few years will all recognize Patrick as the dedicated walker who, even before our new walking trail, made frequent walks around the Center. Members of the Center's community Bone Builders class also knew him well (until COVID stopped the class) for he assumed the job of setting up and then, after participating in the class, removing the chairs the group had used. That's Patrick – always ready to be active and help.

He grew up in Randolph, New Jersey, one of four boys: two older brothers and one younger. After graduating from high school in 1973 he had a number of different jobs in college and company cafeterias. He especially liked riding the train to work. From New Jersey he moved with his parents to Albuquerque, New Mexico. His father died shortly after they moved there but he and his mother continued to live there for over 15 years. While there, he worked in a restaurant. Next came some time in Virginia Beach, VA before moving to Essex, Vermont where he and his mother lived near his brother Mike and his wife Susan. Six years ago, after his mother died and Mike and Susan moved to Coles Pond, Patrick came to make his home at Craftsbury Community Care Center. He enjoys life at the Center and his lovely room filled with many family mementos.

—Jenny Stoner





**MALCOLM –OUR RESIDENT GARDENER**



**A JOYFULLY RECEIVED VISIT FROM A FRIENDLY LEPRECHAUN**



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Wow! SO MANY CHOICES**

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- Michelle Warren, Newsletter Assist.

## Executive Director:

Kimberly Roberge

