

The

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Charlotte News

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 | VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 05



Michael Krasnow, a dedicated Old Man basketball player, might be missing his weekly hoops game but is keeping a good attitude. He said, "Hey, the NBA may have been down, but we're still ballin' in Charlotte!"

Photo by Sumru Tekin

Can't get enough of the summer sunsets



Pease Mountain was a little pink from the viewpoint of Guinea Road.

Photo by Dale Hyerstay

Concert on the water in memory of Dana Bolton supports sailing center

Chea Waters Evans

For the friends and family who loved Dana Bolton, his passing from brain cancer this spring has left a void. For music lovers and musicians, a dearth of live music events because of the coronavirus has been one more layer of hardship on an already challenging landscape. This weekend, two of Bolton's great passions—sailing and music—line up at the Dana Bolton Flotilla Concert on the waterfront in Burlington.

According to Len Bolton, Dana's brother, Dana worked to live. An attorney by profession, Dana worked hard so he could retire early and enjoy time with his family in Vermont. Arriving in Charlotte by way of New Jersey, Dana was, his brother said, "an outdoorsman; he loved fishing and sailing." The brothers bonded over their love of hiking which Dana enjoyed in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Green Mountains, and the Adirondacks.

Dana was instrumental in fundraising for the Community Sailing Center in Burlington as they worked to build their new facility, which was completed in 2017. He also volunteered for many happy hours teaching sailing to children and people with physical disabilities, helping to get as many people out on the water as possible, no matter what their challenges might be.

"Aside from sailing, music was [Dana's] biggest passion and enjoyment," Len said. "We didn't get to see each other that much, but we would listen to something and send emails and text messages to each other: 'Have you listened to this?'"

The brothers enjoyed traveling to concerts together, including the Newport Folk Festival



Dana Bolton

and, for the last show they attended together, Higher Ground in South Burlington to see Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. "He was so proud to expose me to Higher Ground," Len said. Though their wives preferred to relax in seats at the back, he said, "We got there nice and early and stood up front."

This Saturday, Sept. 5, all the seats will be good ones, as the audience for the flotilla concert will be on boats only. Registration for the event and general admission is free, though donations are accepted and will benefit the CSC in Dana's honor. From 5 to 9:30 p.m., Ryan Montbleau, the Kat Wright Trio, The Grift, and Dave Grippo will rock the waterfront. Proceeds from the event will support construction of a universally accessible waterfront and scholarship funds to support sailing education for kids, ages six to fourteen, of limited socioeconomic means. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to Sept. 6.

As Len said of Dana, "He was quite a guy," and a concert on the water promises to be quite a night.

Don't despair, food trucks could still be there

Town and Charlotte Crossings work to resolve permit issues

Chea Waters Evans
NEWS EDITOR

Charlotte Crossings is at odds with the Town of Charlotte yet again, as the Route 7 property owners say they were "unexpectedly" asked to stop hosting food trucks in their parking lot this week. Town officials say the property owners were contacted on four separate occasions this spring and summer regarding permit violations; the owners of Charlotte Crossings say they never received those notices. Despite communication issues, both parties have expressed an interest in moving forward cooperatively.

Charlotte Crossings hosts office space, a retail store, and is permitted for a restaurant, though one does not currently operate at the property. Building owners Debra Kassabian and Mike Dunbar, through their company Gemini Properties, have been hosting food trucks at the property throughout the summer and on weekend nights host a Backyard Bistro operated outdoors by La Villa restaurant. Since the spring, they have allowed local food vendors to sell takeout meals from trucks and tents in the parking lot of the property.

Zoning Administrator Daniel Morgan said that the town originally allowed the food trucks to operate unpermitted starting in April because of the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic and its potential impact on municipal offices and local businesses. "At the beginning of the shutdown in March, we had spoken over the phone, with the understanding that they would have a short-term temporary food truck on a somewhat irregular basis," he said, "and if they wanted to make that a more permanent feature at Charlotte Crossings they could, but it would require further permitting and that could happen down the line."

Morgan said the town contacted Kassabian and Dunbar four times via mail regarding not only the improperly permitted food trucks but six other site plan and Land Use Regulation violations surrounding an unapproved parking lot area.

"There was a letter on May 28, there was a letter on June 10, and then there was my letter of August 14, and finally my letter of August 26," Morgan said; the

"At the beginning of the shutdown in March, we had spoken over the phone, with the understanding that they would have a short-term temporary food truck on a somewhat irregular basis."

Zoning Administrator
Daniel Morgan

Aug. 26 letter was the one Kassabian called "unexpected." That letter informed Charlotte Crossings that a fine of \$200 per day would be issued for every day that food trucks operated on the premises until proper permits are issued.

Kassabian said she never received the first two letters and that she believes they were sent to the wrong address. "There was nothing sent in May and June," she said. "We never received anything... There were not four." She said that dealing with the town on several issues over the past six months has been like "a black hole," and that they are frustrated with what they perceive as a lack of response to routine questions about things like sign permits and revising their site plan.

Charlotte Crossings has been involved in another, separate conflict with the town regarding LURs related to the parking area at the property. Rather than resubmit a site plan for review once they decided to add additional parking in the front of the building, which is prohibited by current LURs, they petitioned to amend the current regulations. Their proposed amendment, along with many others, is currently in the approval process with the

SEE **FOOD TRUCKS** PAGE 16



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News from *The News*

Local funding and local reporting going strong



Claudia Marshall
PUBLISHER

I think we can all agree that we live in a strange time, and we get a lot of questions about how things are going at *The Charlotte News*. How is the paper holding up? What is the state of nonprofit news and local

reporting? Good questions, and important for this community.

Like a lot of small, local businesses, we thought the wheels might come off the cart when the pandemic began. Not only are we a nonprofit, we are a *community newspaper*, and we rely on Charlotters for *content* as well as for funding—and what if it all dried up? Funding *and* content? Well, it didn't.

You came through.

Typically, more than 150 people send stories or photos to *The Charlotte News* each year. And today, that trend continues. Every issue features content from your neighbors. The photos on the cover are typically from folks in town... and we like it that way.

When we raised the alarm this spring about

our financial concerns, the donations rolled right in. In fact, voluntary contributions from readers and donors have more than doubled in the last two years, and that support is as evident as ever. Our advertisers have stood by us as well. Thanks to you all. Of course, we must continue to fundraise so we can grow our coverage, but Charlotters have spoken loud and clear: you want the *News* to carry on.

Today more than ever, we really want to hear from you—with financial contributions, sure (visit friendsofthecharlottenews.org), but just as importantly, we want to hear your stories and story ideas. What makes Charlotte unlike any other place? What neighbors do you know with interesting tales to tell? How has the pandemic been treating you? Drop us a note at news@thecharlottenews.org so we can share your story with the town.

The Charlotte News is a lifeline to your community. This community is the lifeblood of *The Charlotte News*. It's a partnership that works in bad times and good times. And even though times may get worse before they get better, we plan to be here to tell the tale.

Writers and reporters wanted

Chea Waters Evans
NEWS EDITOR

The Charlotte News is looking for freelance writers and reporters to help cover town news and events and to write columns about anything that might be of interest to Charlotters (farming, finance, culinary arts, hula hooping, blue green algae, dog training, wastewater, music, land conservation, property taxes, whatever else comes to mind). Here's what you need to be able to do:

- Write well, though previous journalism experience is not required

- Look deep into your heart and soul and truly know that you're a person who can meet deadlines
- Be curious about and have enthusiasm for Charlotte: the meetings, the people, the land

If you, or anyone you know (People working from home trying to avoid their families? College students who are online and home for the semester who want to replace partying with the Planning Commission? Secret writers who are talented but too scared to share?) is interested in doing some writing for your local paper, please send an email to me at chea@thecharlottenews.org.



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The
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September 17, 2020

Copy Deadline: Friday, Sept. 11
Ads Deadline: Friday, Sept. 11

October 1, 2020

Copy Deadline: Friday, Sept. 25
Ads Deadline: Friday, Sept. 25

Around Town

Clemmons Farm designed to teach diversity

In the August 10 *Burlington Free Press* Lydia Clemmons of Charlotte describes the difficulty her parents (Jackson and Lydia Clemmons also of Charlotte) went through to share works of art and writing by Black people in the local schools. Lydia said it was absent in K-12 education during the 1960s and 70s. Lydia's father, a retired physician from UVM Medical School, and her mother, also retired from the University, ran their farm off Greenbush Road as an agricultural endeavor, bringing in artists and scholars to supplement what their daughter was missing in school. The family plans to expand its educational efforts beyond Charlotte, and Lydia the daughter has "organized field trips and classroom sessions with schools around Chittenden County" with the intention of incorporating an element of learning that was absent in her school years.

Charlotte welcomes a prominent journalist as a new resident

You may have seen his name on the Opinion Page of the *New York Times* where he has been a member of that paper's Editorial Board for 13 years. **Jesse Wegman** recently left the Big Apple and moved to Charlotte. However, his work still appears in the major New York paper. In one of his recent columns he promotes wearing masks. In another he promotes abolishing the Electoral College so that all votes count. He has written a book on this topic, published by St. Martin's Press, titled "Let the People Pick the President, the Case for Abolishing the Electoral College". We welcome Jesse to Charlotte and look forward to reading more of his work.

Congratulations:

to **Ashley Meacham**, owner of Charlotte's 42-acre Equestrian Center, who was interviewed in a "Creature Feature" in Seven Days August 18 issue. Long a horse lover, Ashley studied equine and business management in college. While renting a facility in Charlotte where her business of training and managing horse development outgrew the facility's size, she called Mindy Hinsdale to ask her if she could give Ashley the "pros and cons" of building one. Mindy's response was, "I have grandkids coming. Do you want to just buy this place?" That Ashley did at the tender age of 21.

Her college allowed Ashley to use her work for a senior project. She said that her senior year was back and forth between classes (in Massachusetts) and her horse facility in Vermont, meeting with banks on weekends. Having earned her college degree in May, she looks forward at some point to having a graduation party. At this time, however, it is still in the making.

When asked why she wanted to own such a place, Ashley said it was a part of her personality to be the person in charge. Her love for horses coupled with this personal trait gave her the opportunity to fulfill both features.



The Charlotte News

Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is to inform our readers about current events, issues and topics, and to serve as a forum for the free exchange of views of town residents and community volunteer organizations on matters related to Charlotte and the lives of its residents.

Editorial independence

The Board of Directors retains full authority over all editorial and advertising content in *The Charlotte News*. While we are funded by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news judgments are made in accordance with our mission and independent of all sources of financial support, including support given through our affiliated 501(c)3 organization, The Friends of The Charlotte News.

Letters, Commentaries and Obituaries

Consistent with our mission *The Charlotte News* publishes letters to the editor, commentaries and obituaries from our readers. All letters, commentaries and obituaries are subject to review and approval by the news editor of the paper and to the following rules and standards:

- Letters to the editor, commentaries and obituaries should be emailed to news@thecharlottenews.org as attachments in .doc format. All letters, commentaries and obituaries must contain the writer's full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and commentaries 750 words.
- The opinions expressed in commentaries and letters to the editor belong solely to the author and are not to be understood as endorsed by either the Board of Directors or the editorial staff of the paper.
- All published letters and commentaries will include the writer's name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our house publishing style.
- Whenever editing is necessary we will make every effort to publish each submission in its entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording. We will confer with writers before publishing any submitted material that in our judgment requires significant editing before it can be published.
- The news editor makes the final determination whether a letter to the editor, a commentary or an obituary will be published as submitted, returned for rewriting or rejected.

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Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

There has been considerable recent discussion about why Vermont’s response rate to the 2020 census form is so low.

Several possible excuses have been floated, but one explanation is frequently overlooked when discussing why 43 percent of Vermonters have failed to complete the census form.

The Census Bureau in its ill-conceived marketing plan virtually ignored advertising in community newspapers in Vermont—and some other states. The message about the critical need for an accurate Vermont population count by filling out the form is clearly not getting to residents through social media and other limited marketing ways selected by the Census Bureau.

Now facing a dismal response rate, the Census Bureau has been asking newspapers to devote free space—something that is not in great supply these days with the attack on businesses due to the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

From the start, the Census Bureau and government should have been investing in and supporting this newspaper and other community newspapers in Vermont.

Newspapers remain the No. 1 news source in Vermont communities for all things—COVID-19, politics, sports and more. So, it would make sense that newspapers are the obvious answer if the bureau wants its message delivered about the importance of

completing the form. Print edition newspapers are available 24/7, and even if interrupted by a phone call or knock on the door you can always resume reading when free. (You can also find the print newspapers online.)

Non-daily newspapers sit on tables in homes and offices for 4 to 5 days for reading and for browsing. Most weekly papers are read by 3–5 people.

And with the Census Bureau cutting back on census workers going door to door due to the Coronavirus, it makes complete sense to use newspaper advertising even more. Newspapers have been around before the start of this country and will continue on for a long time to come.

The Vermont Press Association, which represents the interests of 10 daily and more than three dozen non-daily newspapers serving the state, has reached out to the Census Bureau to help it try to recover from its failure. We await action.

As Vermonters we just hope it is not too late to get an accurate state population count. Otherwise Vermont will be penalized for the next 10 years when federal funds are distributed based on the limited responses.

Lisa Loomis
President
Vermont Press Association

Loomis is co-owner and editor of The Valley Reporter in Waitsfield.

Obituary

Marie Silva Luhr

Sept. 9, 1935–Aug. 16, 2020

When our mother, grandmother and friend Marie Luhr passed away at age 84, she left behind a legacy of kindness and service to others.

Marie grew up as one of five children of Puerto Rican immigrants in the Bronx and spent her childhood in rural Oneco, Connecticut. She met George Luhr at age 15 while picking corn tassels in Illinois for a research project. They married in 1954, started a family, and moved to Vermont in 1966, where they spent the better part of their lives raising their sons, cherishing their granddaughter, and hosting gatherings for friends and family on the shore of Lake Champlain in Charlotte.



Marie Silva Luhr in 1969

Marie’s devotion to helping others showed up in many ways: musical director for several Christian youth musicals in 1970s, activism on behalf of the National Association for the Mentally Ill, and volunteering with many other organizations such as the Barack Obama campaign and the Experimental Aircraft Association. Most recently, she dedicated herself to organizing volunteers and working tirelessly with the Charlotte Congregational Church’s Refugee Welcome ministry.

In 1989, Marie earned her private pilot

license, and by 1995 had achieved commercial pilot with instrument rating and ground instructor. She and George became airplane owners, and, for several years while she and George were flying, Marie volunteered her time and aircraft to carry patients who needed medical treatment to Boston.

Her friends remember her as a person who loved classical music and singing, who could always be counted on to help and be kind, and who was endlessly optimistic because she believed positive change is always possible when people get involved. She set an example for humane conduct in everything she did.

She has left behind three sons, Stephen and Thomas, both living in Vermont, and Richard, living in Arizona, as well as a granddaughter, Emma Marie Luhr, of Arizona.

Marie also leaves behind the Abdi family, with whom she had a deep and loving relationship. Marie passed away as she had lived, with grace, dignity and a strong faith, at peace and surrounded by love.

She passed away peacefully with family by her side on her favorite day, Sunday, after her favorite service. Memorial services will be private. Donations may be sent in memory of Marie Luhr to Charlotte Congregational Church, PO Box 12 Charlotte, VT 05445.

Just Asking

A legend from the past, and legends from our town

This week’s question for Charlotters:
Who is a Vermont hero, living or dead, you admire?

Photos and interviews by Jim Squires



Doug Brines

“That’s easy. Ethan Allen. He’s a legend.”



Mike Cook

“Cowboy Lewis. We grew up as neighbors and he was like family.” (Note: Others standing nearby nodded and said “Yep” in agreement.)



Carrie Spear

“I’ve got so many. Margaret Therrien was filled with grace and thoughtfulness. She knew a little about everything and everyone. And Hazel Prindle--that woman had so much energy and really cared about this town.”



Peter Brady

“Dick Kelley, my father-in-law, because of his sincerity and kindness to all.”

Town

More Morningside, leash laws, and paving problems

Selectboard makes it through a meeting without major controversy

Chea Waters Evans

Progression of the Morningside Drive and Morningside Cemetery saga was postponed for the Morningside Cemetery Association and property owners Megan Browning and Will Bown when Selectboard members decided that the town’s general counsel needs to consult on the matter before any further decisions are made. Legal counsel will help the Selectboard determine whether or not the road is a town road, and what the next steps should be.

Before the discussion moved on, Selectboard member Carrie Spear made a statement: “We are talking about a piece of land that is two lengths of my van,” she said. “The amount of discussion and emotions and lawyer bills and everything is just absolutely just a shame. It really is,” she said. “This could have been done two months ago but we spent hours and hours and hours on this, when we all know, with the exception of a couple people, that Will and family would have done it right...but nope, everybody’s got to go through this huge hoopla.”

Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow said that the town is hoping to move forward cautiously and respectfully, while maintaining everyone’s

property rights. The issue will be addressed again “early on” in the next Selectboard meeting.

The leash law and dog control issues on Thompson’s Point are going to sit and stay for the moment; the Thompson’s Point Leaseholder’s Association is still discussing and has not yet voted about creating a leash law on the point, but they did agree that more signage is needed to remind walkers to keep their dogs on a leash.

Resident Ellen Fallon has had a camp on Thompson’s Point for 30 years; she presented to the board her self-described “blunt” and “straightforward” request: dogs on the point should be leashed. Though her reasons were plentiful and articulated for over ten minutes, the Selectboard declined to vote and make a decision on the leash law that evening. Krasnow said that since the agenda item was merely to approve signage reminding walkers to leash their dogs, they were not procedurally allowed to vote on the leash law itself at that point. The Selectboard will take it up at a future meeting.

Residents of Holmes Road Nancy and Jack

Barnes have been working for months to gather bids for paving their road, which heads west off of Lake Road. Residents want the road paved because they said the potholes are an expense and a hassle that they are hoping to avoid in the future, and because residents are hoping to pave their own driveways in concert with the road being paved. The Selectboard decided that legally, bids needed to be collected through the board by an official request for proposals.

Jack Barnes said he was disappointed that there seemed to be a roadblock from the board. “Unfortunately, we have to follow our own processes,” board member Louise McCarren said. She volunteered to work with Road Commissioner Jr. Lewis and Town Administrator Dean Bloch to figure out the finer points of collecting bids and speed the process along, and when Nancy Barnes expressed frustration, McCarren joked, “You can walk over to my house and throw a tomato at me. I’ve got a lot in my garden.”

Other news:
Recreation Director Nicole Conley added one more plate to her balancing act with the extra task of regularly testing the water at Whiskey

Beach on Thompson’s Point for cyanobacteria and e.coli. She will take water samples when she takes them from the Charlotte Beach until after Labor Day.

Juliann Phelps was approved as the newest member of the Recreation Commission.

The Selectboard discussed forming an Economic Development Committee as was set forth in the Town Plan; board member James Faulkner is interested in pursuing the matter, and resident Mike Russell offered to assist. The committee, supported by the town, would provide expertise and advice in various areas to the Selectboard and Planning and Zoning committees.

Town garage and salt shed issues will be monitored by a new subcommittee regarding moving the current salt stash elsewhere to protect it from the elements and make it easier for the road commissioner to access said salt. Board members James Faulkner and Frank Tenney are taking the lead on this project. Jr. Lewis said he’s more concerned about the salt shed than the garage at this point; Tenney and Faulkner will proceed further with the matter at the next Selectboard meeting.

Feedback wanted on Mt. Philo State Park design

Staff report

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is seeking public feedback on potential designs to enhance Mt. Philo State Park. The ultimate goal is to update the park to meet current visitor needs, while protecting the environment, enhancing historic and cultural resources, and making needed safety improvements.

Mt. Philo is Vermont’s first state park, as well as its most popular, with over 40,000 visitors every year. In recent years several issues have become apparent in the park, and a full

design plan was deemed necessary to ensure that the park is accessible and safe for all users while serving as a sustainable, natural and recreational resource for generations to come.

After nearly a decade of work and with substantial public input, the long-range management plan (LRMP) for Mt. Philo State Park identified the need of enhancement plans to address parking and trail improvements in response to increased park use, which includes:

- improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation/safety
- storm water management/treatment
- permanent restroom facilities
- improved accessibility
- sustainable path connections
- expanded seating space

“Through the LRMP development process, a number of issues came to light that clearly require yet more planning, design and input,” Parks Regional Manager Reuben Allen said. “Ongoing communication and collaboration with our community partners and park users is critical to our success at Mt. Philo and elsewhere, and just because the plan is complete doesn’t mean the process of designing needed improvements to the park is going to stop. As we move forward, we welcome feedback and ideas for us to continue to improve our ability to serve those who enjoy our unmatched park system.”

The Mt. Philo LRMP was developed by its district stewardship team, a group consisting



Photo by Lee Krohn

of subject matter experts from all disciplines within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). The plan can be viewed at Mt. Philo Long Range Management Plan. Feedback on the proposed design should be directed to Reuben Allen, Parks Regional Manager, 802-779-6054, reuben.allen@vermont.gov.

Know someone interesting in Charlotte?

We want to interview them and share their story.

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The **Charlotte News**

Town

Planning Commission discusses Land Use Regulation amendments

Chea Waters Evans

The Charlotte Planning Commission spent over two and a half hours last Thursday going over the finer points and specific language of proposed amendments to town Land Use Regulations. Marty Illick, a member of the PC, said that this nitty-gritty work was the culmination of over two years of work on regulations that affect not only current Charlotters, but future residents. Commission members decided to split the items for discussion and presentation into three “buckets” for ease of comprehension and voting: East Village, Act 143, and a bucket for cleaning up language that might be imprecise and add definitions for unclear language.

The beginning of the meeting focused on lot size parameters in the East Village—the LUR discussion is tied in with future development, and lot size is one factor. Past discussion touched on a proposed development off of Hinesburg Road in East Charlotte, with developer Clark Hinsdale at the helm. The PC’s newest member, Bill Stuono, expressed reservations about moving forward with the small size of East Village lot sizes as were laid out in the current plan and how a developer’s use of said regulations could impact that part of town.

“Nobody is for it,” Stuono said. “I can give you a list of 20 people...There is no evidence that reducing lot sizes is going to promote more affordable housing...there’s nothing here that talks about sewer, septic, soil, water availability.”

Peter Joslin, PC chair, said that the commission had already discussed them “numerous times,” and Stuono interrupted to say, “I don’t think that’s an accurate statement,” and said that before he joined the PC he had brought those issues to light at several meetings but that in his opinion they had not been adequately discussed.

“I remember one quote by one planning commission member saying, we couldn’t do this in West Charlotte, so we’re going to try to do it in East Charlotte,” he said, not mentioning which member said it. “As an East Charlotte resident, you don’t know how offensive that sounded... because there is this West Charlotte versus East Charlotte thing that’s going on and I don’t think we should emphasize it. You don’t know how offensive that is.”

PC member Charlie Pughe said, “I want to go on the record saying that I’m very concerned about Bill’s ability to be impartial, and I’m not sure a recusal is required for this.”

Joslin said, “I really don’t know but it’s a valid question; I will talk to [Town Administrator Dean Bloch] and have it resolved by next Thursday.”

“There’s no reason for me to recuse myself because I happen to live in East Charlotte Village,” Stuono said. “This is a zoning change; we’re not approving an application.”

“We have to get clarity. I honestly don’t know,” Joslin said, and assured Stuono that should he decide to vote against the East Village boundary changes, he wouldn’t have to vote down every amendment change because of the bucket system.

Act 143 is a Vermont state law that gives farms leeway to operate accessory on-farm businesses that are largely exempt from municipal oversight as long as they earn 50 percent of their profits through farm products. During the PC meeting, members tightened language regarding under which circumstances site plan reviews would be necessary for these businesses, and discussed possible enforcement of the 50-percent rule.

Much of the discussion throughout the meeting, and especially that regarding the third bucket, focused on word choices: One section of the proposed amendments used the phrase “may be”, which was eventually changed to “shall be”, to avoid allowing excessive legal wiggle room to developers. There was also brief discussion of what constitutes “junk” in a farm’s yard—many times that junk is used for parts for other farm equipment.

Town Planner Larry Lewack said that the next step in the process is to warn the public of and then hold a PC meeting where the draft will be presented. Any changes resulting from that meeting will be added to the draft amendments, which will be checked out by the town attorney, and then the document will be presented to the Selectboard. This process will take place over the winter; the final goal is for voters to approve the buckets at town meeting.

Report From The Legislature

Back in session



Rep. Mike Yantachka

The Vermont Legislature returned virtually to Montpelier last week to complete the work of developing a budget for the last three quarters of fiscal year 2021.

While this is our primary objective, we are not

ignoring other important issues that require our attention. The pandemic continues to require making adjustments, and there are a number of issues that can't be shunted aside while we wait for a return to "normal."

As we got started last week, we passed two bills, S.233 and H.967. S.233 eases the ability to transfer certain medical and trade licenses from states with similar licensing requirements. Equivalent skills learned in the military will also qualify for Vermont licensure. H.967 will allow a family childcare home to care for school-age children for a full day when the child's school has scheduled the child for remote instruction. Current law limits the care to four hours per day on school days.

As the state is putting the billion dollars of Coronavirus Relief Funds to work in the programs authorized by the Legislature in June, the governor presented his budget for the remaining \$200 million to the Legislature. With due diligence, the House Appropriations Committee with the help of

other relevant committees is reviewing the proposal. One of the governor's proposals for CRF money is to give every household a \$150 payment that could be used for purchases from local merchants using a phone app. While it might be a good idea, this is raising several questions. Since CRF money can't be used for direct payments to taxpayers, is this a legitimate use? What about households that don't have access to a smartphone? Local businesses would have to opt in to receive payment from the app. Would everyone have reasonable access to participating merchants? The Commerce Committee is currently taking testimony on this and will very likely propose changes.

The protests this summer in response to the many tragic killings of Black men and women by police and by individuals acting as vigilantes has awakened the American consciousness to the systemic racism and societal bias present in our nation. National politics has fueled the divisiveness as people choose sides between supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and respect for police. There is a danger in viewing this issue in either/or terms as well as ignoring its implications in Vermont. Choosing sides is akin to tribalism. Neither side should be painted with a broad brush. Instead, we should be looking at the conditions that create bias in policing and correct them. We also need to be respectful of protestors and their right to protest peacefully. There must



Vermont state house.

Photo by Mike Yantachka

be room for dialogue. Only then can the problem be solved. There are several bills that are currently under consideration in the House that will clarify the policy on use of force by police and training requirements in unbiased policing. A recent study by UVM has indicated that Black drivers in Vermont are significantly more likely to be stopped and searched than white drivers yet have a significantly lower incidence of possessing contraband than white drivers. Recognition

of a problem is the first step toward change.

Climate change hasn't stopped because of COVID-19. When we went into lockdown in March, there was a noticeable decrease in driving for a couple of months. This probably resulted in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions during that time. The new phenomenon of Zooming has also decreased the need to jump in the car for meetings and work, but people are becoming Zoomed-out and yearn to get back to face-to-face meetings. If you've been out recently, you probably noticed that traffic is almost back to pre-COVID levels. We need to keep our attention on our efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The Senate passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) with minor changes, and the House is expected to concur with the Senate's amendments and send the bill to Governor Scott for his signature. You can find my article explaining the GWSA on my website. As we head into winter, we also want to be sure that funds for weatherization are available for low- and moderate-income families. A Senate bill (S.337) that will allow Efficiency Vermont to increase assistance for weatherization passed in the House this week.

I welcome your emails (myantachka.dfa@gmail.com) or phone calls (802-233-5238). This article and others can be found at my website (MikeYantachka.com).

COVID-19

Community resilience survey plans move forward, and how to get coronavirus-related assistance



Trina Bianchi
CHARLOTTE
COVID-19
ASSISTANCE TEAM

Your Charlotte COVID-19 Assistance Team continues to meet twice a month and has now officially taken on the task of discovering how our residents feel about where our town is going. Working with the Vermont Community Resilience

Organization, the team has redesigned the resilience assessment with the goal of having every Charlotte resident complete it.

As happened with Hurricane Irene and now with the COVID pandemic, Vermont communities responded, helping folks in need. Between the food shelf, the school, and the two local churches, meals and food were provided along with financial assistance. Did we miss areas that should have been covered? We don't know and we need your help to make that determination.

Other towns in Vermont have used the CRO assessment and from those results have established teams to address areas that were identified as problematic. The assessment looks at five areas of concern: Basic Needs and Services, Environment and Natural Systems, Physical Infrastructure, Community Connections and Capacity, and one section has been added specifically addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic. Questions will ask you to rate our town on a scale of 1 to 5 as to how resilient or prepared you think

Charlotte is. Space for specific comments will follow each category.

The team discussed how to make sure all of our residents can easily find and complete the assessment; both online and on-paper options will be offered. The important thing is that everyone takes advantage of this opportunity; in order to get accurate results, it is important that as many people as possible take the 15 to 20 minutes necessary to complete the survey. All of this can be anonymous; you can also give your name if you want!

We will be distributing the assessment toward the end of September. The link will be published in *The Charlotte News* and paper copies will be available at various places in town.

The results from the assessment will be given to our town officials which can then lead to the creation of task forces of interested individuals to look at the areas of concern and suggest avenues for improvement. This assessment has been used successfully in other Vermont towns to implement changes, making the town more prepared and resilient in years to come.

Current available resources:

Food and meals

Available to Charlotte school age kids: The school lunch program will continue. Access the website www.cvsdvt.org, click on "District Resources", click on "Menus," or call Scott Wagner at 802-871-6198.



Photo by Anna Shvets from Pexels

Grab and go lunches from the Charlotte Food Shelf are available at Spears Store and the Charlotte Library daily, Monday–Friday. To register, call 425-3252.

The Food Shelf is open Wednesdays from 5–7 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Kids lunch packs are available and will include a week's supply of lunches. Call 425-3252 to register.

Emotional and mental health

Vermont 211 from your phone – available for referrals and questions.

Pathways Vermont 1-888-888-2557 is free and is available 24/7 to call or text. Talk with a peer who has dealt with issues in the past. This is an awesome resource available to all Vermonters.

NFI Vermont, access through www.nfivermont.org. Serves Vermont families whose children are struggling with emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges.

First Call, 802-488-7777 is for crisis situations. Available 24/7.

Financial assistance

Emergency financial assistance is available through the Food Shelf, Charlotte Congregational Church and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Requests can be made by calling 425-3252 or 425-3130.

Vermont Department of Health

Stay abreast of the ongoing news in Vermont with respect to COVID-19: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>.

On a personal note, if you are looking for a great read and want to understand the ongoing racial discord in this country, I recommend "Caste" by Isabelle Wilkerson. It is available at the Charlotte Library.

Stay well, be kind and respectful and watch for the assessment!

Hi, Neighbor!

Sarah Ramsdell Beal: Channeling her adrenaline



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Sarah Ramsdell Beal enjoys working beside her mother Sharon Beal as partners and co-owners of The Common Deer store in Burlington. “It’s not always sunshine and roses,” she said, “but it’s one of the best partnerships you could have.”

Beal’s journey to retail wasn’t a straight line. “I graduated from college in 2008, which wasn’t the best economy,” she recalls. “I got an internship with Magic Hat and a job with the Shelburne Fieldhouse.” Beal had plans to head out west, but she was enjoying her work, so the Charlotte Central School and Champlain Valley Union High School graduate stayed in Vermont.

“I became executive director of the Fieldhouse at a young age,” she said, “and I was making big decisions for a 21-year-old.” Beal left the Fieldhouse for a job as Director of Marketing, Tourism, and Communications for the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce. “There were a lot of things I loved about the job,” she said, but a mountain bike accident led her to reconsider her priorities.

Beal and her mother founded The Common Deer in 2013, but for several years, she worked remotely from Wyoming where she was also employed as a free-skiing coach and river guide, jobs that required her to become certified in wilderness first aid and swift water rescue. Beal also served as a mountain host in Jackson Hole and helped small businesses with their websites on the side. In 2016, she returned to Vermont to work full time at the store. “I wasn’t planning on moving back as quickly as I did,” she said, “but what Vermont has to offer, including our small-business community and focus on entrepreneurship, is pretty neat.”

Beal describes her partnership with her mother as a well-oiled machine. “The simplified way of looking at it,” she said “is that I get the bodies in the store and she gets the product in the store. We balance each

other out.” Beal lauds her mother for having a good eye for products, something she believes she lacks. However, she is able to use her expertise for other aspects of business development, including technology and marketing.

Not surprisingly, the store has been impacted by the pandemic. “We closed our doors before we were told to,” Beal said. “We’re a pretty big tourist destination so we didn’t feel we or our staff were safe.” They moved the inventory they thought would sell to Beal’s parents’ house to create a mini-storefront, minus the in-person customers. Beal’s father chipped in to help as the family shipped wholesale orders directly to the house and sent out retail orders from there. In mid-August, the family reopened their Burlington storefront by appointment only. “We’re very strict,” Beal said. “Customers have to pass a screening test and provide contact information. People on our staff are in the at-risk category so we made an executive decision to do it this way. It’s not a financially sound model but it’s working out.”

Beal lives with her partner, Dave Kenyon, on the grounds of the Nitty Gritty Grain Company. “I help out when needed,” she said “but the amount of work I do pales in comparison to Dave and Tom.” Beal has learned to drive the tractors and provides assistance with the website and packaging. In her spare time she dabbles in a variety of artistic media, including pottery and painting. “Crafts and art are a big part of my life now,” she said.

Beal said her career has always been focused on helping small businesses survive and grow. Her parents ran Vermont Business Brokers. “I’ve always known small business stories,” she said “and I’ve always known entrepreneurs.” Beal uses her knowledge to help others as a volunteer member of the Church Street Marketplace Commission. “They’re making big decisions for downtown, and that has become even more relevant,” she said.

Free skiing and river rafting are adrenaline sports, and Beal sees a parallel between them



Sarah Ramsdell Beal is a busy woman: at Back Barn Studio, she says, she takes a minute to “make pottery in the back barn at the farm between throwing hay bales and helping with other farm chores.” She also runs The Common Deer retail store with her mother and helps her partner, Dave Kenyon, at the Nitty Gritty Grain Company. *Photos contributed*

and working retail. “Whenever someone asks whether they should start a retail store I ask them if they like to gamble,” she said. “Every item you buy is a gamble and it’s gotten scarier.” Beal noted that the adrenaline runs particularly high during the holidays. “We have a month and half of 15- to 16-hour days

before the holidays,” she said. “Last year, my dad had to work the door to make sure the lines went smoothly and people were able to get into the store. We were really tired, but the adrenaline keeps you going and you get into a flow state.”

Tunes to Tune Into

Music messages from messages



John Moses

Greetings from Los Angeles.

I write to you sweaty, sequestered and a bit jetlagged after flying back from a wonderful two-week trip to

Charlotte, seeing family and friends. I rarely get to return home, and when I do, there's never enough time in the day for my visit to feel complete. I see visiting as a balancing act: seeing old pals, spending time with parents, and rolling around alone in the nostalgic stink of my wonder years. Normally, I can effectively only get around to satisfying two of the three categories, but this time I had enough slack in my rope to do it all. Long story short: I miss Vermont, I miss my friends, and I miss all of you.

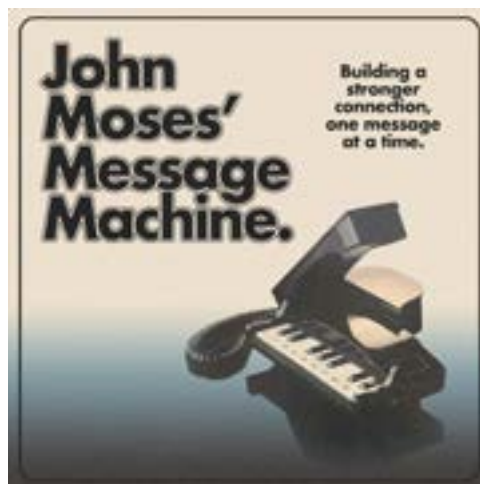
The act of missing people and places and friends and things is one of the many morose through lines of 2020, although the sentiment has spooled into my weird world of radio to create something good...or, at least, something I'm happy with. Since March, everything I usually do on-air has been done entirely from home. I've hosted and guest-hosted shows without pants on from the safety of my living room—sometimes this is ideal, but most of the time I wish I were actually in the on-air booth, connecting with listeners and musicians. Between longing for connection and the stale feeling of trying my best to sound like I'm in a professional radio station (all while my cat is screaming at me

for an unknown reason), I felt the need to cook up something new. And thus, an idea was born.

Enter John Moses' Message Machine: my latest co-creation with my wife, Alison, for the LA-based radio station KCRW, highlighting endearing characters and music curation. Every episode, I choose a group of guests to pick a song based on a creative prompt. Each participant then leaves me a message about their song of choice. The final product sounds like listening to a number of voicemails through an answering machine, giving context to the music played throughout. It's a strange mix of music discovery and personal connection. I'd love to walk you through what we've been working on.

Episode one is all about music for film and TV, and much of putting it together involved contacting a handful of the most interesting people we know. We called up music supervisors and curators, musicians, record store owners, writers and even a few fellow KCRW DJs to participate. Luckily, most everyone was on board with the idea and willing to leave a voicemail. Magazine

publisher Kristina Benson and filmmaker Shatara Ford both left incredible messages that I feel completely encapsulated how we wanted the show to sound. Kristina talks about one of the on-camera songs from the 1982 film *Ladies and Gentlemen, The Fabulous Stains*, while Shatara glows over The Rolling Stones' "Thru and Thru," which dramatically ends season two of "The Sopranos." In total, we collected a dozen messages that we had to sort, edit, and re-arrange.



John Moses' Message Machine
by Maddie Liner of Linerposter

Episode two, in which we asked guests to submit music in a non-English language, mirrors the appeal of the series debut while sounding more cohesive. We felt like there was a concrete formula to follow and our guests had episode one to reference. Off the bat, there are some fantastic selections:

Taiwanese music expert Angela Lin kicks the show off with an amazing epic from rocker Wu Bai, titled "Cool It, Kid!," followed by a few long-lost singles from Middle Eastern artists: «Dar Enteha» by Kouroush Yaghmaei of Iran, and Palestine's "Tareeq" by Al-Bara'em (selected by the artist's son, music journalist Sama'an Ashrawi, who

discovered his father's music 50 years after it was recorded).

The next episode themes were more ambitious: "Songs You Love by a Band You Don't" and "Music Featuring Homemade Instruments and Sound Effects" stumped many of our prospective guests. In their defense, those are tough prompts. However, through the struggles of our niche subject matter came some unique song picks. Publicist and label owner Nicole McKenzie completely painted a song by UK band UB40 in a different light by presenting their 1985 single "Don't Break My Heart," which gave me a new appreciation for their work and a willingness to give them a second chance. In episode four, composers Bradford Reed and Michael Andrews opened my ears to the inventive and challenging world of avant-garde musician Harry Partch, while producer and sound designer of the band clipping., Jonathan Snipes, connects the dots between American roots music and hip hop through his adoration of "Married to the Game" by South Carolina rapper Alpoko Don.

After focusing on hyper-specific subjects, we wanted to broaden the themes of the next episodes, "The Most Beautiful Song" and "A Song You Wish You Wrote." The episode on most beautiful songs features music from every stylistic corner, ranging from John Prine to Madonna, all the way to T-Pain. Each guest has their own definition

SEE **TUNES** PAGE 15

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Sacred Hunter

The essence of the sacred hunt, passed down to the next generation



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

Occasionally, in a hunter's life there presents an opportunity to share the outdoor knowledge accumulated over the years with a young mind willing to learn about the natural world and our place in it. It is the highest honor for another adult to entrust the young would-be hunter to the safety and experience. It was such a day last fall—closer to winter actually—that I was blessed with the chance to take a friend and his daughter into the squirrel woods for a hunt for the wily bushytail.

Some hunters turn their noses up at the gray squirrel, but it is one of the best targets for teaching a budding hunter about safety, woodsmanship and ethics. I had the privilege of hosting David Blanshine and his daughter, Jenny, on such a hunt. We entered the woods quietly, learning how to step over twigs that could snap, lifting our feet up with each step. Jenny had just passed her Hunter's Education course and I was curious to see how much the young lady retained from her lessons.

I noticed that the .22 rifle that she carried was the right size for her frame and she was very conscientious about her muzzle. She knew when to carry it pointed down toward the ground, when to carry it to the side and to keep her fingers off the trigger until it was time to shoot. We walked down the trail that

cut through the monster oaks and noted the difference between white and red acorns. She listened intently with her Dad by her side, beaming with pride.

We came up to a fallen tree. I wanted to see how she handled the gun in going under it. She stopped in front of the blowdown and opened the chamber to see if the gun was loaded, then asked her father to cross under the tree first while she held the gun with the action opened. Her father crossed under and Jenny asked her Dad, "Are you ready?" He answered yes, and Jenny said, "The gun is on safe and the action is open. Are you ready to take it?" Again, her father said yes. Jenny held the gun with the muzzle pointed downward and slightly to the side, muzzle away from any of us and said, "Dad, have you got it," checking that he had a firm grip on the rifle. He answered yes and took the gun and under the tree she walked.

As if it were an instant replay in reverse, the entire conversation was patterned, and all safety protocols were followed. I was impressed. We slipped into the oak stand and chose a spot to sit where we could each see a different direction. I would whisper questions to her as she sat between father and me. We talked about survival in the woods, what tools we should carry with us and how to practice patience. I told her that "patience is the way of embracing what you think is boredom and instead looking for all the amazing things going on around you."

As this young mind was digesting the profound piece of existential wisdom I had imparted, we heard a "chipping" sound on my side of the tree. We all peeled our eyes to see where it was coming from. Before long, a flicker of gray was spotted between the trunk of a maple and a strange Y-shaped branch. The tail was the only thing visible. We watched and determined that we would try to gauge the distance. We figured it out to be about 50 yards away. "Let's wait and see if he moves to another branch that might offer a clean shot."

A minute or so later, he scurried down the trunk and strutted out on to a lone branch. Jenny raised her rifle and peered through her iron sights. It was now about 40 yards out. A good shot for someone with a scope and some experience but a stretch for a first timer. This would be the ultimate test. Instead of telling her it was too far for her, I asked, "So you think you can hit it?"

Jenny said, "I don't know." I told her that if she thinks she can hit it she can try. The shot was a safe one with no danger of the bullet ricocheting. She raised her gun again and stared the gray squirrel in the eyes. After about 30 seconds she said, "I don't think I can hit



David Blanshine and his daughter Jenny hunted for gray squirrels last fall.
Courtesy photo

it." That was the answer I was waiting for. She exhibited all the maturity and wisdom of a seasoned hunter: do not take shots unless you believe without hesitation that you can make it a clean kill. She did not want to cripple the animal. She made the choice that many hunters make every season: "Is this a reasonable clean shot or am I just taking a chance?" We walked out of the woods that day with empty game pockets but the success of knowing that this young lady had learned the most important lesson of all; respect life and only take clean shots. This is the essence of the Sacred Hunt.

Bradley Carleton is executive director of Sacred Hunter.org, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.

Sports

Sports Report



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

Chips and putts
CVU’s men’s golf team traveled to Pinehurst, North Carolina, in early August to compete in the National High School Golf Invitational where they finished 23rd among 27 teams from all over the

country. As the reigning champions from Vermont’s top division, the Redhawks sent four players on to three different courses. Alex Leonard led the team with rounds of 80, 75 and 73. Evan Forrest (79, 83, 82); Cam Saia (88, 94, 82); Kyle Rexford (96, 85, 85) followed him. Utah’s team defeated Florida’s by a single stroke to win the tournament.

Storm strikes Barre

Although this piece centers around sports and an S.D. Ireland American Legion baseball pitcher, Storm Rushford, it is as much about Storm’s mental outlook and physical capacity to compete at the highest level in this summer’s baseball league. That he did against Barre earlier in August.

Storm has pitched for his high school team at Champlain Valley Union and this summer for S.D. Ireland. Of consequence is the fact that he battles cancer as well as control on his curve balls.

He is under treatment by an oncologist. His chemotherapy goes through September into October when he will be away at college.

But, let’s get back to sports. Storm’s father writes that the day of the Barre game dawned “overall, as an ordinary morning, and no foreboding of the remarkable event that was about to transpire.”

Storm looked at throwing about 45 pitches in the game. He knew that was a reasonable number for him, because in his previous game, he fired a two-hit complete game with

89 pitches.

Ireland managed to score four runs by the third inning of this contest against Post 10. Storm had thrown only 32 pitches, and no Barre player had reached base.

Storm said to his father as the game progressed that if the coaches try to pull him, he will “pull some cards” back because he believes the game could be unique. Therefore, he would work hard to maintain his place on the mound.

His father describes the effect of his chemotherapy, saying that it has numbed the nerves in his lower extremities to the point where he is barely able to feel his feet. Yet, he was able to field and trot with a ball to first base.

By the fifth inning, Storm was still pitching a perfect game, a no-hitter. It continued through the sixth despite a bobbled grounder by Storm’s second baseman—who recovered in time to throw out the runner at first base.

By the time the seventh and final inning rolled around, Storm looked “relaxed and focused on the mound.” The last batter brought everyone on the Ireland side of the field to their feet. Storm launched two strikes—the second a foul ball. His final pitch was a fastball for strike three—a perfect game.

According to Storm’s father, his son was “his usual understated self . . . tickled.”

Ireland went on to win the Summer Baseball League championship on August 2. With the help of strong pitching from Storm and others, the Shamrocks lost only a single game all season.

Information for this column came from Storm’s father, Matt Rushford.



Storm Rushford and teammates celebrate Ireland’s Summer Baseball League victory.
Photo by Al Frey

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Town Library News



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

September is here!

September is “Library Card Sign-up Month,” and this year Wonder Woman embarks on a new mission to champion the power of a library card as Library Card Sign-up

Month Honorary Chair. She makes a perfect ambassador to support the value of learning and the role libraries play in transforming lives and strengthening communities through education. If you’re new to town, please stop in to say hello and get a library tour. A reminder for all those starting kindergarten, you are now eligible for your own card! You can sign up for a virtual library card online: <https://forms.gle/zf2C1HK11oK1bhww5> or stop in to get your regular card during library open hours

It’s Vermont Archaeology Month! Due to COVID-19, the events have been scaled back but you can still have your own adventure into the past! we hope you’ll get out and explore some of the historic sites that tell the story of the Green Mountain State, using the “Vermont Historic Site” pass that is available for check out. If you’re looking to do a little backyard archaeology, check out our new Archaeology Activity Kit!

Back to school: We’re gearing up with new resources and activity kits for all ages so stay tuned for details. If you’re looking for a great book, to escape or embrace the world today, consider one of these titles from our September book order:

All the Devils Are Here by Louise Penny

Anxious People by Frederik Backman

Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult

Darkest Evening by Anne Cleeves

The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X by Lee Payne and Tamara Payne

Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante

Return by Nicholas Sparks

Reindeer Chronicles by Judith Schwartz

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi

Troubled Blood by Robert Galbraith

Plus many more! For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits,

consider subscribing to our e-newsletter: Charlotte Library Newsletter

Programs @ the Charlotte Library:

Online & In-person

Wednesday, September 9 @ 5 pm
Music on the Porch: Richard Ruane and Beth Duquette are an acoustic duo performing original music with a clear traditional-roots influence that is steeped in tradition, but of its own time. Ruane sings and provides inventive instrumental backing on guitar, tenor guitar, mandolin and ukulele, while Duquette contributes lead and harmony vocals. Co-hosted by the Charlotte Grange.

Thursday, September 10 @ 7:30 pm
Book Discussion Group: *The Spectator Bird* by Wallace Stegner

This tour-de-force of American literature and a winner of the National Book Award is a profound, intimate, affecting novel from one of the most esteemed literary minds of the last century and a beloved chronicler of the West. Register in advance

Wednesday, September 16 @ 7:30 pm
Men’s Book Group: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

Author and Surgeon Atul Gawande addresses health care and “good” life in this thought provoking book. Copies of the book are available at the Library. The audiobook is available on Hoopla and Libby. Please email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for a Zoom invite.

Monday, September 21 @ 10 am
Mystery Book Group: *Closed Casket* by Sophie Hannah

As guests arrive for a party at her Irish mansion, Lady Playford, one of the world’s most beloved children’s authors, has decided to cut off her two children without a penny . . . and leave her vast fortune to someone else: an invalid who has only weeks to live. Among Lady Playford’s visitors are two strangers: the famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and Inspector Edward Catchpool of Scotland Yard. Neither knows why he has been invited -- until Poirot begins to wonder if Lady Playford expects a murder. Copies of the book are available on Hoopla. Please email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for a Zoom invite.



Wednesday, September 23 – Tuesday, September 29:
Climate Change Preparation Week: Social Resilience is Climate Resilience.

A week of information and inspiration, dedicated to learning, service, and actions that better prepare our communities for extreme weather events. In light of the recent critical conversations around racial justice in society, we will be focusing several of our central events around the intersections of climate resilience, racial justice and social resilience and encourage Climate Prep Week hosts to consider doing the same. Email info@charlottepubliclibrary.org for information about the online events.

Library Guidelines

The Library is Open!

- Library Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 3 pm
- 10 to 11 am: reserved for at-risk individuals
- 12 to 1 pm: library closed for cleaning & sanitizing
- Patrons allowed in building for maximum of 30 minutes to select and checkout books
- 5 patrons allowed in building at one time
- Patrons enter through main entrance and exit on north end of porch (except those requiring ADA access, who may enter and exit through main entrance)
- Patrons are encouraged to limit number of family/pod members visiting library



New Books:
September 2020
Charlotte LIBRARY

- All patrons must wear masks and sanitize hands when entering building
- Patrons must follow marks on floor for social distancing while visiting the stacks and standing in line at the service desk.

Library staff will be on hand to assist with book checkout and location via computer. Staff will be masked at all times and wear gloves when handling materials for sanitizing prior to and during checkout. The latest updates and information are available on the library website: www.charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Porch Pickup Continues!

Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday, 10 am to Noon

Use your library account to place holds or call or email us with your requests.

Library Contact Information
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Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian
Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian
Phone: 802.425.3864
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Food

Behold, the New England tomato!



Matt Jennings
CONTRIBUTOR

This time of year, when the mist settles into the pasture in the morning, the ravens begin to call from their hemlock boughs and the warm, still afternoon sun cuts through the cool petrichor of late summer rain, I turn to tomatoes.

Growing fat by the full sun of day and swelling with natural sugars as they protect themselves from the cool nights of September and—if we are lucky—October, in New England, the best tomatoes come at the end of the season.

These tender, supple fruits are commonly mistaken for mid-summer's bounty. But truly, any real New Englander will tell you the best tomatoes come later in the season as they are forced to push through those first cool nights. Similar to how profound a warm cherry tomato ripening in the sun will taste when sliced in half and sprinkled with flake salt, so, too, is the experience of a September or October "late season" tomato, baked into a tarte tatin, nestled into a crumbly tomato pie, turned into a savory jam, cut into thick slabs and flopped onto a sandwich or even as the nest for some freshly scrambled eggs for breakfast.

Farmers from other regions across the country, particularly warm weather environs, will tell you that growing "proper" tomatoes in New England is a fool's errand. I could not disagree more. I have been fortunate to have had some incredible tomatoes all over the world, and perhaps it's nostalgia, but the best tomatoes I've ever had, have always been here, in this harshest of environments for this native

ingredient of South America.

Selective breeding and special attention to heirloom breeds in particular has certainly helped New Englanders obtain those varieties that are best suited for our typically rocky soil and chilly nights. These special breeds may have desirable qualities like the fact they don't crack and split as frequently or are known to have greater amounts of natural glucose and fructose, making the meats sweeter and more juicy. And, due to the long growing period required to get tomatoes to peak ripeness (60 to 80 days), we New Englanders have to begin these nightshades in greenhouses or from 'starts' instead of from seed. But the results are worth the extra work. In fact, I venture to say that because of the extra work, tomatoes in this region are more special, valued and celebrated.

Tomato development goes through several stages. First, the fruit grows in size until it reaches the full size, which is called the mature green stage. It takes about 40 to 50 days for the fruit to go from fruit set to the mature green stage. Once the fruit reaches the mature green stage, a change in fruit color will take place so it can take on its characteristic red, pink, yellow or orange color.

Tomato ripening is controlled by temperatures, genetic makeup and natural presence of ethylene gas. While the optimum temperature range for ripening is from 68 to 77 degrees, optimum flavor occurs once picked, before they are soft, and when left at ambient temperatures—roughly 60-65 degrees. You guessed it: precisely end of summer and early shoulder season in New England.

Chefs like me will plead with you never to

Creamy Tomato Soup

Makes 6 servings

3 tablespoons good olive oil
1 1/2 cups chopped red onions
(2 onions)
2 carrots, unpeeled and chopped
1 tablespoon minced garlic (3 cloves)
4 pounds fresh garden tomatoes, coarsely
chopped (5 large)
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1/4 cup packed chopped fresh basil
leaves, plus julienned basil leaves,
for garnish
3 cups chicken or vegetable stock,
preferably homemade
1 tablespoon kosher salt
2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
3/4 cup heavy cream
Croutons, for garnish

Heat the olive oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-low heat. Add the onions and carrots and sauté for about 10 minutes, until very tender. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add the tomatoes, sugar, tomato paste, basil, chicken stock, salt and pepper and stir well. Bring the soup to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer, uncovered, for 30 to 40 minutes, until the tomatoes are very tender.

Add the cream to the soup and process it through a food mill into a bowl, discarding only the dry pulp that's left. Reheat the soup over low heat just until hot and serve with julienned basil leaves and/or croutons.



refrigerate your tomatoes. There is no need if they are picked at the perfect time and left to finish ripening on your counter. Refrigerating these beauties will only make your tomatoes mealy—and nobody needs that!

Shoulder season, my most favorite time of the year, is when we have the greatest bounty of New England produce. The aforementioned thin-skinned and tender tomatoes are still coming onto the vine, while pumpkins, butternut squash, Brussels sprouts and other late-season lovelies surround them in the garden. This surely is the greatest time to be a gardener in the Northeast. Our late summer/early fall bounty is sure to impress even the most discerning warm-climate farmer.

So, friends, I encourage you to celebrate the tomato this week. With local corn and peppers in high availability, think about whipping up a big batch of New England succotash, sweat some onions and drizzle some local cream into a pot and make that first batch of creamy tomato soup and save all the cracked or bruised candidates for a big batch of sticky tomato jam, to nestle deep in your pantry for a burst of summer when the snow swirls and the

thick slabs of Backdoor Bread call for a noble companion.

Behold, the New England tomato! With our growing season fleeting and fierce, we surely have a greater appreciation than most for this gorgeous summer specimen. And tell your friends in California that, while they might have tomatoes year-round, we know how to pay this fruit the greatest respect, as our reverence comes from this narrow window on our calendar, and so we never take the great tomato for granted.

For some other great tomato recipes, check out Matt Jennings' book: Homegrown: Cooking From My New England Roots. He is a chef and restaurant consultant who lives in Charlotte.

Tomato Tart with Cornmeal Crust

Makes 6 Servings

For the crust:

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for work surface
1/2 cup cornmeal (white or yellow)
1/2 teaspoon table salt
1 cup (2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes, plus more for pan
1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
3-4 tablespoons ice water

Grease the bottom of a 9-inch round tart pan with removable rim; set aside.

Make the crust: In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the flour, cornmeal and salt. Sprinkle the butter over the dry ingredients and work it in with a pastry cutter or your fingertips until the mixture looks like wet sand, with pea-sized bits of butter remaining. In a small bowl, whisk the eggs with 3 tablespoons of the ice water; then add to the flour mixture and stir with a fork until the dough begins to hold together. If needed, add an extra tablespoon of water.

Turn the dough out onto a floured counter and knead four times. Press into a disk, wrap in plastic, and refrigerate at least 30 minutes, or up to 1 day.

Preheat your oven to 425°. On a floured surface, roll the dough out to a 12-inch circle; then transfer to the tart pan, pushing the dough into the corners and

letting it drape over the sides. Run your rolling pin over the edge of the pan to trim off the excess crust. Then prick the bottom of the crust all over with a fork, line it with foil, and top with dried beans or pie weights to keep the dough from puffing up as it bakes.

Par-bake the crust until just set, 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from the oven, remove the foil and weights.

For the filling:

3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 pounds tomatoes, sliced thin (preferably assorted heirloom varieties)
1 small red onion, thinly sliced crosswise
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon kosher or sea salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 pound Asiago or local cheddar cheese, shredded (see headnote)
1/2 bunch (about 4) scallions, thinly sliced

Spread the bottom of the hot crust with the mustard. In a large bowl, toss the tomato and onion slices with the olive oil, salt, pepper, and mustard. Sprinkle a little cheese on the bottom of the tart; then arrange the tomato and onion slices in overlapping concentric circles. Top with the rest of the shredded cheese, and sprinkle with the sliced scallions. Bake until the cheese is lightly browned and bubbling, about 55 minutes.

Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER
DIRECTOR

“If there was a predominant season in heaven, Jenny Flanigan believed it would be summer. The long days and warm nights felt endless no matter how rushed the rest of the year was. With summer came the sense that all of life slowed to smell the deep green grass, to watch fireflies dance on an evening breeze, or to hear the gentle lap of lake water against the sandy shore.

Summer was barbecues and quiet conversation in the fading light of a nine o'clock sunset. It was cutoffs and flip-flops and afternoons on Lake Monroe.”

~ Karen Kingsbury, *Summer*

Memories of Boating

Along with the fond memories of summer trips on the Nancy Ann, with the captain and his first mate (Al and Nancy Martin), not to be forgotten is the loyal crew who also volunteered their time and services for many years—and without them, the trips would not have been possible. Greg Smith and John Hammer assisted as deckhands, helping with lines, bumpers, deck chairs, aiding passengers on and off—and helping the captain with whatever needed doing. The able purser was Fraya Smith who compiled the manifests (passenger lists); this was not an easy task when spots had to be filled after people changed their plans or trips were rescheduled due to weather. Many, many thanks to all of you for your support of the excursions that so many have enjoyed. And now, back to the boat.

The Story of Shirley's Cove: Anyone lucky enough to have gone on any of the Lake Champlain excursions with Al and Nancy Martin probably has multiple stories to tell of their experience. One true tale is about the time the Nancy Ann entered a quiet cove with her 25 happy souls on board. And there in the distance on the rock wall was a figure. Getting closer and closer,

it slowly became clear that the figure climbing on the rock was a male—not a youngster, the story goes.

Although hugging the wall, he did not seem in any danger—and he had on a sturdy pair of hiking boots. Imagine his surprise when he looked down below in the direction of the shrieks and saw a boatload of people invading that secluded spot. Probably wanting to get an edgeless, head-to-toe tan, the passengers were now looking at him very, very intently—he had very apparently not worn a stitch of clothing. It is reported he practically flew up the rocks and disappeared without glancing back even once. Although he was out of sight, he was definitely not out of mind—and, thereafter, Shirley Bean told of the encounter very happily at every opportunity—for a long time.

Outdoor activities

The next **Kayaking Trip for Women is 9/11**. Please register your interest with Susan at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Locations vary and are weather dependent, of course. Other Sept. dates are 9/18 and 9/25.

To sign up for **Birding Expeditions** (9/16, 10/14 & 11/18) or **Fall Road Hikes in the Champlain Valley** (9/29 through October), please call and leave a message at 425-6345. Be sure to include your name, phone number and email address for the contact tracing log.

Courses starting soon

All courses are online, and all require registration. Register by sending your name, phone number and mailing address to CSCZoom@gmavt.net. You will receive confirmation that you are registered. Please see the Fall Schedule or the website for payment information.

Mindfulness for Life with Jill Abilock.

Mondays, 1–2 p.m. Dates: 9/14–10/26 (no class 9/28). This course offers mindfulness techniques to help you meet life's challenges with strength and ease and to deepen fulfillment from all of life's joys. Suggested donation is \$30 for the series.



Better Balance - I: Introductory Balance Exercise

Tuesday mornings, 11–11:45. Dates: 9/15, 9/22 & 9/29.

Doctors of Physical Therapy from Dee Physical Therapy will lead a 3-week series of classes designed to improve your balance and reduce fall risk. This program will emphasize development of a safe home exercise program that participants can do between sessions and continue beyond the 3-week course. Generously offered by Dee Physical Therapy as a community service. No fee.

Play Reading with Sue Foley and Wally Gates.

Third Thursdays, 1–3:30 p.m. Dates: 9/17, 10/15 & 11/19.

Great fun for people who enjoy reading plays aloud or listening to others perform. Give it a try! Hoping to welcome a few more males into the group. Scripts are provided and parts assigned. To register, contact Sue directly at ssnfoley@icloud.com. Fee: \$5 suggested donation per reading.

Civil Discourse:

Making It Happen with Stephen Joyce
Thursdays, 1–2 p.m. Dates: 9/24–10/29.

Are you frustrated with discussions about politics that persuade no one, clarify nothing and go nowhere? Learn theories about civil communication and how to put them into practice when you are disagreeing with family, friends and strangers. Sponsored by Friends of Charlotte Senior Center. No fee.

And don't forget these returning courses all starting on Friday, 9/18: at 9 a.m., **French Coffee Club** with Alysse Anton, for 10 weeks (\$50); and at 1:30 p.m., **Italian Intro**, or at p.m., **Italian Refresher** with Nicole Librandi, both for 6 weeks. (\$30).

Ongoing exercise classes

There is a very robust choice of ongoing exercise classes for varying levels of ability: **Tai Chi for Beginners, Chair Yoga, Eccentrics, Pilates, Pilates Plus, Gentle Yoga, Better Balance**; most take place twice a week. Register by sending your name and mailing address to CSCZoom@gmavt.net. Fees are \$5 per class, paid at the end of each month. Please see the Fall Schedule or the website for payment information.

Events

All of the free Wednesday events at 1 p.m. are now online Zoom gatherings. The invitation/link for each week will be posted at CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org by the Tues. before the presentation. As well, this link will be supplied in Front Porch Forum in Charlotte and in surrounding

towns. Registration is not required.

9/9: The Basics to Better Balance: A Virtual Lecture

Understanding balance and where it comes from is the first step in improving it. Doctors of Physical Therapy from Dee Physical Therapy will be discussing the anatomy of the balance system, how it works, typical problems, and how these are commonly treated.

9/16: Escape and Survival During WWII with Ayana Touval

As a two-year-old toddler, Ayana had to flee with her parents from Nazi-infested Zagreb in July 1941. She will tell her story and some of the lessons learned along the way, which could prove useful today.

9/23: Landscape and Your Sense of Place with Jonathan Silverman

Join us for a look at landscape across history, culture, genres and artistic intent.

9/30: Utah's Gems with Lynn Cummings

Take a guided trip through Southern Utah's famous, and some not-so-famous, national parks and monuments.

Art exhibit

The Senior Center's monthly art exhibits continue and visitors are welcome. To see an art exhibit, please schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. Viewing days are Tuesday and Thursday between 1 and 3 p.m. Leave a message anytime at 425-6345 and include your name and phone number for a confirmation of your appointment.

The September Art Exhibit is Bill Stirewalt—Large Format Photography.

Most pieces depict the natural world, although the subject matter is very varied. Two stunning pictures are of the moss-covered vines in the Hoh Rain Forest on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. But most spectacular is the 6-foot-long Lake Champlain Panorama with peak autumn color and purple mountains.

Be careful. Stay well. We are all in this together.

The Senior Center's mission is to serve those 50 and up; if a course is not full, pre-seniors may also enroll. Residents from other communities are always welcome. There are no membership fees. Feel free to leave a message anytime at 425-6345; voicemail is checked daily.

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

Outdoors

Outdoor news, mostly good



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

I'm still prowling for good news in the outdoors. Rain, for starters. A break from the heat before we put on our down jackets. Both qualify!

Amphibians on the move

Kate Kelly at Lewis Creek Association reminds us that with rain comes the opportunity for amphibians, who need to keep their skin moist, to move about. Frogs and salamanders are metamorphosing and emerging from wetlands onto land. Amphibians overwinter uphill of the waters where they breed in spring. On rainy evenings they will cross roads where we might see (and help them). Do drive carefully!

Storm Smart

Storm Smart is a free program intended to help landowners make homes, driveways, and yards better able to absorb rain. With climate change come more intense weather events, including heavy rains. To improve water quality downstream, in our rivers and lakes, homeowners can take steps to slow or stop runoff. These may include rain gardens, rain barrels, water bars, and ditching. A property assessment will trace the paths that water takes across your property. The program then provides recommendations for water management specific to your home. Storm Smart provides education

and technical assistance. It is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program: winooskiriver.org/storm-smart. Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District offers a video tutorial for building your own rain barrel at winooskinrcd.org

Emerald ash borers

In the not-great-news department, the emerald ash borer is killing ash trees of all varieties across the country. The insect is now spreading in Vermont where about 5 percent of all trees are some type of ash. Cities and towns are trying to mitigate this loss by slowing the spread of the insect and managing their response to the inevitable loss of trees. Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, vtcommunityforestry.org, offers grants of up to \$15,000 to municipalities "prepared to remove public ash trees, plant trees of different species to offset the loss, and to utilize ash wood in effective and innovative ways." The week of September 12 to 19 is EAB Awareness Week. Events and information about EAB are at vtinvasives.org.

Education on the hoof

With school vacation extended and many classes going online, this may be an opportunity, while the warm weather lasts, to explore our region. Carry a bird book, wildflower book, or tracking chart--children generally bring their own curiosity. Knowledge and love of the outdoors lead children as well as adults to support a healthy

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environment and our conserved lands.

Lake Champlain is still warm, so swimming and paddling are still options and fall colors aren't too far away. Take a walk, take a hike, paddle or swim. While there are many things we cannot do during this pandemic, exercising with friends and family in the outdoors can be a safe option. Some resources include Local Motion and Trail Finder, Lake Champlain Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Vermont State Historic Sites, and Vermont State Parks.

Mt. Philo State Park wants you!

Our beloved and much used state park requests feedback on its long-range

management plan. Many of us use and love our park; probably most have opinions about its future. Feedback should be sent to Reuben Allen at reuben.allen@vermont.gov.

In appreciation of Mt Philo and the other 54 parks in the Vermont system, consider supporting the nonprofit Vermont Parks Forever, which encourages and supports park use by all Vermonters. Vermont Parks Forever also funds revitalization of nature centers and work to incorporate new parks into the family of Vermont State Parks. Vermontparksforever.org.

Get outdoors and be safe!

TUNES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

of beauty: some more literal, with piano teacher Julie Simon referencing the exact tempo of Gato Barbieri's "Europa," while others were more like vocalist Gavin Turek, who loved Roberta Flack's classic "Feel Like Makin' Love." The spirit and variety of this episode carries over to the next in "A Song You Wish You Wrote": Charlotte's Francesca Blanchard and vocal duo Lucius lean on the lyrics and crisp production of "White Flag" by Dido and "I Will Always Love You" by Dolly Parton. Indie artist Mirror Gazer and music-making man Joe McKee (whom I've glowed about previously) provide a colorful streak across the episode, the former fawning over the tightness of King Crimson's chaotic "21st Century Schizoid Man" and the latter wishing he could conjure from his creative subconscious the comical sexual innuendo of Mighty Panther's "The Big Bamboo."

I'm thrilled about the possibilities of having a new medium through which to communicate with artists and listeners. The pandemic has required people to reassess their routines and re-configure methods that previously felt tried, true and comfortable. In the beginning, it seemed unnatural, forced and rushed, although now that we've had some time to settle, I'm finding comfort in the idea of modifying my habits. It seems like others are as well—and that's awfully exciting.

You can check out some of the song choices I reference in the Tunes to Tune Into Spotify playlist, available on the *Charlotte News* website for those of you reading in print. You can find all episodes of Message Machine on KCRW.com. Do you have any ideas for a theme? A favorite song? Let me know—you might just end up on my message machine.

Signing off,
John Moses

John Moses is a former Charlotter and a musical host of The Lab, a radio show on KCRW in Los Angeles (an NPR affiliate). You can email John at: john@mushpost.com

To listen to the music go to: charlottenewsvt.org/category/voices/music or listen to his radio show go to: kcrw.com/people/john-moses

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Creative kids get contest kudos

Two Charlotte kids placed in the University of Vermont Extension 4-H Edible Art Contest this summer.

Lucia Hackerman (right) created a garden-inspired entry, earning first place in the cake decorating category for her creativity.

Archie Evans (below) was named runner-up in the silly/fun food category with an entry he dubbed Gummy Bear Falls, a little-known Vermont swimming hole.

Photos courtesy of the Hackerman and Evans families



FOOD TRUCKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Commission and will eventually be presented to voters at town meeting in March.

Kassabian wonders if this has something to do with the way the town approached the food truck permit problem. “It’s strange,” she said. “This is really strange behavior, it’s like passive-aggressive... If they want to work with us, they don’t need to come with guns blazing. They can just come around the corner and say, ‘Hey, you need a permit for this.’ Is it because we did the petition...is it because someone doesn’t like us?”

Morgan said that the zoning office, the Zoning Board of Administration, the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission are all eager and willing to come to an agreement with Charlotte Crossings. “I think where the disconnect came was when that original three months agreement ran out and the Crossings, unfortunately, had not come in for an application,” he said. “That’s all we’re really asking for, is for them to

come before the Zoning Board and the Planning Commission and have everything permitted properly.”

With the same goal in mind—allowing food trucks to operate on the property for as long as weather permits—both Kassabian and Morgan expressed optimism that the problem can be solved. “I think it’ll all work out,” Kassabian said. “I’m definitely positive about this. We want a collaborative approach to this, and it sounds like they’re saying the same. We’re working hard to move forward.”

Legal counsel for Charlotte Crossings has been in touch with the zoning office, and Morgan said they are moving forward with the updated permitting process. “They have assured me that they’re preparing all necessary applications and materials to come before the Design Review Board in a joint hearing, and hopefully we can get that permit officially and effectively and within our regulations.”

He also said that the town is willing to

go ahead and issue food truck-related permits before the other permitting violations are resolved. “We’re looking forward to working with them,” he said. “We’re hoping to go forth with a good faith approach.”

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