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# The Charlotte News

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Lilyanna Mittelstadt made good use of her time at the end of a long summer by painting this mural of her neighbor's farm—Holly and Mark Rochefort's Haytumble Farm in Charlotte. Photo by Mark Rochefort



## Thumbs up for a smooth school opening

Nancy Richardson  
CONTRIBUTOR

The work of the Champlain Valley School District administration, teachers, and staff over the past six months resulted in a smooth opening of school on September 8. On opening day, 3,807 students were enrolled in classes, including 345 students in the remote model. Ninety-two students selected state home schooling, slightly up from 78 students last year. The numbers continue to be fluid. All schools have outside classrooms and learning opportunities available for students in the hybrid model. Superintendent Elaine Pinckney reported that she perceived overwhelming positive energy accompanying the first day of class.

Pinckney said this success reflects the decision to open with a hybrid model, to spend a substantial amount of time on professional development, and to create a completely new remote learning curriculum model. Scheduling the remote curriculum, especially for students in 5-8 grades, was a logistical challenge. Over 100 students, two teams per school, four to five subject areas, and 12 teachers were in the mix that eventually landed on a formula.

Getting Chromebooks, iPads, and internet

capability to all enrolled students was also a challenge. Jeff Evans, director of learning and innovation, said, "The challenges of developing the remote learning academy have been enormous. This many students learning remotely has required the creation of new protocols and work across schools." Director of Operations Jeanne Jensen stated that this level of success "required that principals to work very hard together." Hybrid instruction includes both in-person and remote-learning classes.

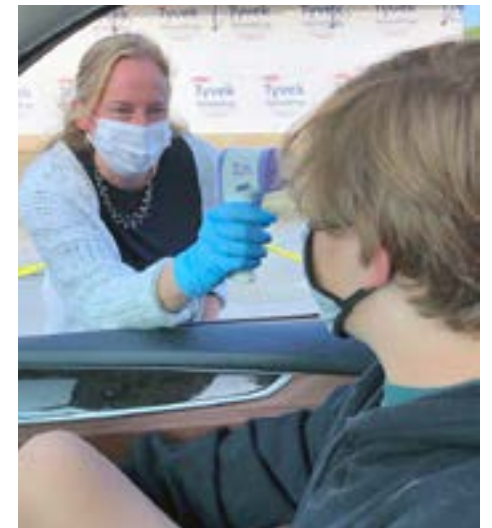
In addition to developing these new models, the district is concerned about what students may have lost in the shut down in the spring. All students will be assessed on their learning levels and indicators. Potential losses will be addressed in the learning activities this year. Over 400 IEP meetings were held for special education students and their assessments will include consideration of compensatory services that may have arisen from the spring disruption.

There are some potentially problematic issues that may affect the smooth operation of schools during this pandemic. While staffing is currently at an appropriate level, a concern is that when predictable absences occur, there may be a difficulty in staffing

paraprofessionals and substitutes. These positions may be a good match for recent graduates who may be suffering in the current job market. These potential staffing issues are not confined to CVSD but are present throughout the state. Openings at CVSD are advertised on their website.

A good deal of time has been spent on dealing with the social/emotional issues for adults and children that have resulted from the anxiety about the pandemic and becoming ill. The district has worked very hard to purchase the levels of Personal Protective Equipment that are sufficient to instill confidence in teachers and students. The district is also addressing the social and emotional issues that will persist and that can be addressed in a thoughtful and concerted manner. Bonnie Birdsall, director of digital learning, described the communication system for families, students, and the public. These include newsletters, videos, press availability, public meetings, the website and announcements on Front Porch Forum.

Of particular note: CVSD learned this week that the federal government will assist in funding meals for all students below the age of 18, regardless of their economic status. CVSD meals will be available to all students attending school and through drop-offs and



Charlotte Central School Co-principal Jen Roth takes a student's temperature in the drop-off line in the school parking lot last week. All students get temperature checks before they enter the building. Roth gives them the go-ahead with a cheerful, "You're healthy!"

Photo by Chea Waters Evans

pick-ups for students engaged in remote learning.

## Selectboard: dog leash debate still running, board encourages community participation at meetings and on boards

Chea Waters Evans  
NEWS EDITOR

Heightened tensions over a proposed leash law amendment by the Thompson's Point Leaseholders Association have not yet abated and no decision has been reached, though community input is being considered. The Selectboard also discussed recent community response to Land Use Regulations and talked about allowing video equipment to be installed in Town Hall. The board also resolved the issue with Morningside Cemetery (see article page 2.)

Community input was the main feature during discussion about whether or not the town, in conjunction with the Thompson's Point Leaseholder's Association, should require dogs to be leashed on the point. There is no leash law anywhere in Charlotte; the current law says that dogs should be under control either by leash or voice command.

Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow said that based on previous discussions from prior meetings, "It seems to be that there is an existing ordinance, town-wide, that dogs need to be in control, and that is enforceable." He noted that creating a law for one section of town, especially one that is only open seasonally, doesn't make sense when more time and money could be spent on enforcing the current law.

Three other Selectboard members agreed;

Carrie Spear did not. She said she is in favor of creating a leash law that applies to the entire town of Charlotte to prevent dogs from running off-leash in any part of town. Creating this new law is not currently on the Selectboard's agenda.

Krasnow compared creating a new leash law for Thompson's Point to lowering the speed limit on a road when drivers are already going too fast. "It's about control," he said, and said he thought that once dog walkers realized that there was an officer patrolling the area and that violators were being fined, people would comply more because of the threat of a consequence.

Charlotte Canine Control Officer Cali Griswold, who has been on the job for seven years, said she is in support of a leash law. "There is a gray area with verbal command," she said, that makes enforcement more vague. If there is a leash law and a person has no leash in his hand, she said, then she could definitely fine him for not following the rules. "A leash law is black and white," she said, and leaves less room for ambiguity. She noted that complaints on Thompson's Point have been increasing over the past two years.

Members of the TPLA joined the discussion; John Streng, the association's vice president, said that at their latest meeting after a "long discussion, the majority decided the thing to do is improve signage that would encourage

people to pick up after their pets and keep dogs under control. That's the motion that was passed."

After several speakers voiced their support for both sides of the leash debate, the discussion turned to the beach at Whiskey Bay, which is the one beach in town that allows dogs. Both TPLA and community members Ruth Tonino, Charles Russell, and Jessie Price all spoke in support of prohibiting dogs from Whiskey Beach, citing problems with dog poop, dogs going onto nearby properties, and other issues like parking. Price said that, though she isn't in favor of a leash law on the point, she supports other changes, and mentioned that parking is "out of control" in the beach area. "There's a problem at Whiskey Bay. Banning dogs is just the start... People are parking in the country club parking spots."

Presenting the counterpoint to some comments asserting that dogs are out of control in the area, Beth Humstone said, "I see people picking up after their dogs, and people being responsible with their dogs. Not everyone agrees that this is a crisis."

The discussion was eventually tabled due to time constraints, and Krasnow said, "I want to make sure town is being judicious... there is a range of emotions that resort to a primal nature." Talks will resume at the next meeting.

Vermont Community Access Media is a

nonprofit cable access organization that streams and then makes available online public meetings and other events around the state, including Selectboard meetings. Ken French is a Charlotter who works there. He proposed that VCAM install small cameras permanently in the corners of the Town Hall meeting room and use microphones on the table where Selectboard members sit.

Noting that selectboards in Shelburne and Hinesburg have already gone this route with their broadcasting, French said the change would eliminate need for big camera at the back of the room blocking the doorway and would result in more professional-looking sounding meetings of better sound and video quality.

French said the cameras would still have to be turned on and off by a VCAM employee and would not be accessible or usable for others for any purpose at other times. Selectboard member Louise McCarren said she would like to learn more about it because the privacy aspect was important to her. Spear said she does not want to have these installed because she likes not having microphones on the table and she feels comfortable with the way things are.

Krasnow noted to laughter around the table that there is "historic reticence" to having

Town

Route 7 accidents largely the result of driver error

Chea Waters Evans

The fatal accident last week at the intersection of Route 7/Ethan Allen Highway and Church Hill Road is one of many in recent years. The stretch of roadway is the last rural part of a long highway that is the major thoroughfare for many tractor trailers and motorists. In Charlotte, the length of road that goes from the intersection at Church Hill, Ferry Road, and Route 7 and goes north to Shelburne is tricky: there is a double-lane passing area, a curve in the road, and then the other end of Church Hill Road, from which drivers pull into two lanes of traffic that are often traveling quickly. Though accidents seem to occur more than usual in this area, the problem appears to be more driver-related than road-related.

Adam Silverman, the public information officer with the Vermont State Police, said that VSP is unable to comment regarding the particular incident from last week that involved a 16-year-old driver who hit another car head-on, which resulted in the death of both the driver and passenger in the other car. He acknowledged that troopers who patrol the area, which is a state road and therefore does not count as hours for the VSP’s regular Charlotte patrols, are aware that this particular part of Route 7 is problematic.

“Troopers from the Williston Barracks have been directed to focus as much as possible on

that highly traveled U.S. 7 corridor and to pay particular attention to aggressive, impaired and distracted driving,” he said, “the behaviors we know all too well are major contributing factors in many otherwise preventable crashes that result in serious injury and death.”

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is responsible for maintaining Route 7; Transportation Systems Management and Operations Manager Joshua Schultz said that, though there are some steps the agency can take to make the roadway as safe as possible, driver behavior ultimately needs to be altered. Accidents are on the rise. “This year is especially bad,” he said. “Last year, 47 people died on the roads—which for the whole year was extremely low compared to previous years…but then this year, we’re three quarters of the way through and we’re at 50.”

In this area, Schultz said, there have been seven crashes in this corridor over the last several years. Those accidents were the result of driver error, including a DUI, a driver falling asleep at the wheel, and rear-end collisions, which he said are common at intersections—all driver behaviors that are ultimately avoidable. Though police patrolling the area more would help, Schultz acknowledged that this isn’t always possible. “Our police forces are spread thin, but they do the best they can.”

In coming years, Schultz said, VTRANS plans a paving project on Route 7 that Schultz said could mitigate the issues there. He said that when they repave sections of the road, they also look at things like signage, and that the safety group he’s a part of at the agency “gets the opportunity to weigh in…are there safety improvements we can put on this road?” He said that “unfortunately,” the nature of the intersection—cars stopped to make left turns across lanes of traffic where oncoming traffic is going quickly—tends to make these incidents “more dramatic” than they would be if traffic was moving more slowly.

Last year, VTRANS installed new lights at the intersection of Ferry and Route 7, which include a flashing yellow arrow rather than a plain green bulb for left turns. Possible additions to the roadway during the paving project are rumble strips in the middle of the road to alert drivers when they have crossed the center line, and clearer and brighter signage and repainting of center lines.

Town government has no control over this intersection, but VSP representative Silverman noted that “Lt. Bob Lucas, the commander of the Williston Barracks, is scheduled to appear before the Selectboard in a couple weeks to provide an update on these very issues.” The next Selectboard meeting is Sept. 28.

Morningside Cemetery controversy laid to rest

Chea Waters Evans

The Selectboard Monday night buried an issue that has been on the agenda several times over the summer. After months of conversation and contention, the Morningside Cemetery Association and their neighbors resolved their differences.

The MCA and their future neighbors, Will Bown and Megan Browning, reached an agreement with each other and the town regarding the trees that were cut prematurely on the roadway and resolved the issue of

whether that small stretch is a town road or a private road and either way, who was going to maintain it.

The Selectboard essentially decided, Chair Matt Krasnow said, to keep things as they are regarding the highway access permit that Bown and Browning applied for and that was approved earlier this summer. “The Planning Commission granted that right,” he said, “and we support it through nonaction. What’s been approved has been allowed to move forward; apparently there is no objection.”

The MCA agreed to not pursue further action against Bown and Browning, and the Selectboard approved a motion to touch on four points. Board member Jim Faulkner brokered the peace deal by working closely with the association, Bown and Browning, and Road Commissioner Jr Lewis. “All parties are satisfied to the point that they want to move forward,” he said.

The first point is that the Town of Charlotte will work with civil engineer Jessica Louisos, an engineer from Milone & MacBroom who has already consulted on the project, to construct the westerly end of Morningside Drive with proper drainage and swale maintenance.

The second is that Bown and Browning will pay for the cost of any work that is done except for the cost of the culvert at entrance to cemetery. The town will cover those expenses.

The third point is that Tree Warden Mark Dillenbeck fined Bown and Browning \$250 per tree for the five trees that were cut down on Morningside Drive, which is town property. Some of the money will be allocated to the cemetery association to replace the trees that were removed.

The fourth point of the agreement is that ongoing maintenance will be completed and paid for by the joint property owners.

Krasnow commended the time and effort all parties put in to finding a resolution and said, “It’s really encouraging to see this all come together.”

The matter was almost finished when meeting attendee Dave Nichols asked why the association wasn’t being fined also for clearing trees before an agreement was reached. “Why are some being fined and others not being fined?” he asked. Town Administrator Dean Bloch said he thought it was because they were technically considered brush, not trees. Krasnow offered to have Hollenbeck contact Nichols to discuss it further.



The Charlotte News

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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.

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# Report from the Legislature

## House Acts on budget and climate



Rep. Mike Yantachka

The Legislature moved closer to final adjournment last week with the passage by the House of the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget. Since all money bills, both taxation and spending, must originate in the House, the next

step is for the Senate to weigh in. With a tri-partisan vote of 140 to 4, the House-passed budget (H.969) preserves services to vulnerable Vermonters while also seeking to ease the burden of pandemic impacts by appropriating federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). It is a full-year budget that incorporates the first quarter elements that were passed in June.

H.969 allocates dollars to make child care more affordable, integrates physical and mental health care funding so that health care services for Vermonters are coordinated, provides resources for existing businesses and for vulnerable Vermonters looking to start a business, and invests in public transportation and incentives to reduce the cost of electric vehicles. The bill also ensures Vermont colleges are strong by making a record investment in post-secondary education, including \$23.8 million in bridge funding for the Vermont State Colleges System. This is a balanced budget that ensures there are no cuts to the services Vermonters count on. At the same time, it fully funds future obligations and keeps our reserves full to ensure we are in a strong financial position heading into the uncertain months that lie ahead.

In a separate bill, H.968, the Vermont House voted 129 to 15 to create a Coronavirus Economic Stimulus Equity Program that will provide \$5 million in relief payments to Vermonters ineligible for federal assistance because of immigration status. Approximately 4,000 adults and 1,000 children without Social Security numbers who reside in Vermont, including green card holders whose spouses cannot work, will be granted one-time

payments mirroring the federal economic stimulus payments that most Americans received last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic (\$1,200 for adults; \$500 for children under age 17).

These workers, many of whom have kept the state's dairy and vegetable farms operating seamlessly through the crisis, were declared "essential" by executive order. Governor Scott included this concept of aid to immigrant and undocumented Vermonters in his recently proposed FY21 budget. The House Appropriations Committee recommended a stand-alone bill apart from the budget to fund this program and identified additional monies to cover all potential recipients statewide. The program would be paid for with General Funds (\$2 million) and monies from the 2018 Tobacco Litigation Fund (\$3 million). All payments would be awarded by June 30, 2021, and any unspent funds would revert back to the Tobacco Fund.

The House also took a major step toward addressing climate change, a priority voiced by Vermonters for several years, by accepting the changes proposed by the Senate. On a vote of 102 to 45, the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), H.688, was passed and sent to Governor Scott. Scott has five days to sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. The veto-proof votes in both the House and Senate demonstrate that Vermont takes its responsibility to fight climate change seriously. The GWSA converts Vermont's emissions goals into achievable and realistic requirements that meet the targets in the Paris Climate Accord. The Climate Action Plan will be created by a Climate Council composed of representatives from state agencies and departments and from the business community and environmental organizations. Details of the GWSA can be found on my website at [mikeyantachka.com/2020/02/legislative-report-2202020-building.html](http://mikeyantachka.com/2020/02/legislative-report-2202020-building.html).

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

## Around Town

### Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Holly "Ti'an" Callery** who passed away Sept. 3 at Wake Robin in Shelburne at the age of 80. After working for Time Life in New York City and raising Arabian horses in Connecticut,

she and her husband, Jake, came to Charlotte where she opened the Charlotte Berry Farm, an operation she ran for 20 years. Holly became the first priest ordained by the Vermont Zen Center, which is when she adopted the name Ti'an. She is survived by her husband, Jake, two daughters and five grandchildren.

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Health

# The flu and you



Elizabeth Hunt,  
M.D., FAAPF  
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Forget this  
Long pandemic and  
respiratory illness  
Unsavory situation once  
and for all!

Influenza is a busy, smart, seasonal virus that affects us in Vermont every year. It is characterized by fever, chills, aches, headache, shortness of breath, fatigue, cough...all symptoms that can also be seen in COVID-19. The Vermont Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge people to prepare themselves for flu season more than ever as the two viruses go together like boogers in a tissue.

Flu can occur as a co-infection with COVID-19, not to mention with symptoms being so similar, you could be evaluated for both illnesses if you are ill this fall and winter. The average length of our flu season is about 13 weeks, and we just don't know how long the COVID -19 pandemic will last.

Here are three points to consider:

- An early flu vaccine is better than no flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is available for humans over the age of six months and especially important for high-risk groups: older people, pregnant women

and people with underlying medical conditions. The 2020-2021 flu vaccines include a trivalent version covering two A strains and one B strain and a quadrivalent version with two A and two B strains. There is a "high-dose" quadrivalent influenza vaccine for adults age 65 and older with coverage against four strains of flu with four times the amount of antigen (virus material) aimed to initiate a robust immune response.

- All of these vaccines are given by intramuscular administration—a shot in the arm or in the thigh for infants and toddlers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that "September and October are good times to get vaccinated this year and vaccination should continue to be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating locally and unexpired vaccine is available."
- Staying home, staying safe as well as wearing masks and keeping physical distance will help prevent influenza as well as other respiratory viruses. Last year the majority of influenza cases were from H1N1, followed by Influenza H3 and then Influenza B. We seemed to peak during the second week of February with influenza-like illness in Vermont, and then spiked during the third week of March. After that, cases decreased sharply due to restrictions put



Photo by Andrea Piacquadio from Pexels  
in place for COVID-19 prevention.

- Both viruses can spread from person to person and can spread before an infected person knows they are ill. Influenza tends to show symptoms 1-4 days after infection, while COVID-19 is more likely to show symptoms around 5 days after exposure. COVID symptoms can show up 2-14 days after infection.
- Flu vaccine prevents influenza illness, which will decrease the likelihood of getting sick enough to warrant COVID evaluation. In the fall of 2019 about 400,000 Americans were hospitalized for influenza. That year less than half of all Americans received flu vaccines ([cdc.gov/flu/prevent/prevention.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/prevention.htm)).

Studies have shown that receiving a flu vaccine leads to less severe illness if and when you do get sick with influenza. In Vermont we can have very long flu seasons; in 2017-2018, influenza was miserable and lasted until June. Public health officials recommend vaccination on a usual timetable and not waiting.

- In this era of COVID, people should leave their homes to be vaccinated safely in a timely fashion rather than wait too long. There were studies based on analysis of influenza cases in the U.S. between 2011-2015 that showed less protection many weeks post-vaccine in patients over age 9. This led to the recommendation to not receive a summer vaccine for an illness that is at its worst between mid-November and March. That said, we have had early flu seasons and COVID is an ongoing confounding situation. We can't utilize COVID testing resources for preventable influenza cases; this may place undue strain on the public health system in Vermont.

So, get your flu shot and you'll be less likely to get sick, which means not missing work or school due to COVID precautions for influenza-like illness.

COVID-19

Look out for community survey from COVID Team



Trina Bianchi  
CHARLOTTE  
COVID-19  
ASSISTANCE TEAM

As I sit to write this week’s update from your Charlotte COVID-19 Assistance Team, I am struck by the fact that we’ve been dealing with this health crisis now for over six months, and our new normal now includes grabbing a mask before we head out of the house to our car to go someplace. And I’m now beginning to actually be able to more easily recognize people behind the mask, which at first was, at least for me, challenging!

Kids are back in school, and there really is no new normal yet for them, or their families, as we wait to see if the hours educators and administrators spent planning for school openings lead to kids to staying in school. I know I am, as I’m sure all of you are, very grateful to be living in Vermont; we are leading the U.S. in showing others how to care for each other and deal with adversity. When a 15-year-old comes to me and says, “Trina, I want to do what I can to keep you safe,” I know that the message about caring for each other is out there. Let us all continue to be vigilant and do what we can to keep each other safe!

We continue to work on the Community Resistance Assessment as the plan is to try to discover just how all of our Charlotte neighbors feel about how our town is doing in several key areas. How do you feel Charlotte does in terms of providing basic needs and services? How do you feel Charlotte is doing in terms of protecting our environment and natural resources? Do you feel that Charlotte does a good job caring and protecting our roads, bridges, culverts, etc.? Do you feel that Charlotte does a good job in creating community connections, giving us opportunities to thrive together?

For this assessment to have value to our

town, we need to hear from all Charlotte residents. The team continues to have ongoing discussion on just how to make it as easy and painless as possible for everyone to complete it. The plan currently includes having it available online, accessible from the Charlotte Library and anywhere you have computer access; for those preferring to complete a paper copy, paper copies available at several points in town.

Monday, Sept. 28, the assessment will be presented at the Selectboard meeting. A zoom link is available at charlottevt.org so you can hear more about the assessment and ask questions.

The goal is that after the Selectboard reviews the assessment, the team will roll it out to all our residents to complete. It is our hope that through this assessment we can get a clearer picture of public perception of our resilience across the many sectors that make up a community. This is the starting point to future discussions on how to make Charlotte the best community we can be for everyone who chooses to call our town their home.

As for resources available now:

Food and Meals

**Available to Charlotte school-aged kids:** The school lunch program will continue whether your students are in school or learning from home. Suggestion is to access the website [cvsdvt.org](http://cvsdvt.org), click on “District Resources,” click on “Menus,” or call Scott Wagner at 802-871-6198.

The Food Shelf itself continues to be open Wednesdays from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Call 425-3252 to register.

Emotional and Mental Health

**Vermont 211** from your phone—available for referrals and questions.

**Pathways Vermont 1-883-888-2557** 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 [nfvrmont.org](http://nfvrmont.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

Remember that 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.

For the latest information from the Vermont Department of Health

Stay abreast of ongoing coronavirus news by going to the website that is updated on a regular basis. Check on what is opening, new regulations for traveling into our state, where to get a test if you need one, how to remain safe and well. [healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19](http://healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19).

In closing, I heard a great line on “CBS This Morning” today: let’s strive to look at and do what’s right each day—what’s right for our family, what’s right for our community, what’s right for each other, what’s right for our environment and world. If we look through the lens of what is the right thing to do, we can all be living in a better place. Stay well, be kind and respectful with each other, and watch for the assessment!



Hi, Neighbor! .....

Sayuri Koerner: A new face at Town Hall



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

has previously held.

Koerner taught yoga and worked at her family’s restaurant, Folino’s Wood Fired Pizza, but when the pandemic hit, she began to give her restaurant duties to others so she could stay home with her daughters. Even before COVID-19, Koerner had thought about finding another job.

“Restaurant hours aren’t always the best when you have little kids,” she said. “I loved working with my family and building the restaurant, but I was always on the lookout for something on my own that I could do during the school day.” When she saw the Assistant Town Clerk job opening posted on Front Porch Forum, Koerner decided it would be perfect for her. “I live five minutes down the road and like and respect Mary [Mead],” she said.



Sayuri Koerner lives and works in Charlotte as the new assistant town clerk. She has two daughters and was previously an assistant basketball coach at CVU. Courtesy photos

Koerner lived in Japan until she was seven but spent most of her childhood in the Phoenix area. She played on the women’s basketball team at the University of Vermont, and after college she briefly stayed in the area with an AmeriCorps position, maintaining trails for the Fletcher summer camp used by the DREAM program for children from low-income families. She returned to her mother’s house in Arizona, but her then-boyfriend, now husband, Buddy, enticed her to return to Vermont when he talked about the restaurant he was going to start with his father. “I decided to go cross country and join in on the fun,” she said.

Koerner arrived in Vermont in 2011 and was there when Folino’s opened in March of 2012. She said the family knows they can call on her if they ever need additional help. “I definitely miss it,” she said. “Especially this time of year because it’s busy and fast paced.”

Upon her return to Vermont, Koerner took



up yoga. “I was dealing with all sorts of injuries,” she said, “and trying to figure out what I could do to keep my head and body sane.” Classes at Yoga Vermont with Kathy McNames seemed to help, and soon Koerner was visiting the studio four or five times a week. “I started cleaning the bathroom in exchange for classes,” she said “but eventually I completed the teacher training program and now I’m a certified instructor.” Koerner’s friendship with McNames had additional benefits when McNames officiated Koerner’s wedding.

Although she hasn’t been Assistant Town Clerk for long, Koerner is enjoying the work. “I love the typewriter,” she said. “I’m doing a lot of recording of mortgages and other documents and a lot of that happens on the typewriter.” Koerner enjoys the fact that each day at Town Hall is different. “I’m learning something new every day,” she said. “It’s entertaining and it keeps my attention.”


One downside to the new job is Koerner

doesn’t have as much time for yoga. “I’ve been trying to get up earlier to get my practice in,” she said. Koerner substitute taught a Zoom yoga class and found it challenging but hopes that she can get back in the studio when the pandemic is over. Working at Town Hall gives Koerner some sense of normalcy thanks to the human interaction. “We’re wearing masks,” she said “but it seems close to normal.”

For two years, Koerner served as the assistant coach for the Champlain Valley Union girls’ varsity basketball team, but she fears Covid-19 will keep the team from playing this year. Likewise, she expects the women’s basketball league that played at the Miller Center last year to be taking a hiatus. Last year, she played on a team sponsored by Folino’s.

Koerner admits there are things she misses about Arizona. “I miss the desert a lot,” she said. “I don’t miss the summers but I do miss the dryness and the spring.” Nevertheless, she enjoys outdoor activities in Vermont and has found a degree of community that she says she never found in Phoenix.

Koerner and Buddy have a three-year-old daughter named Virginia and a five-year-old daughter named Sumiko. “We love living in Charlotte,” she said, noting that her mother recently relocated from Phoenix. “I’m so happy to work in the town where I live,” she said. “I feel like I’m finally giving back in a way and the people have been really great so far.”




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**George & Pam Darling**  
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**Send us  
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Charlotte events, people or places.  
We want to publish your photos.  
Email them to:  
[news@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:news@TheCharlotteNews.org)

**The Charlotte News**

# Town Food Shelf News

Susan Ohanian  
CONTRIBUTOR

## Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Bean

Bean who?

Bean a while since I last saw ya!

**What vegetable can you throw away the outside, cook the inside, eat the outside, and throw away the inside?**

Corn.

**Why shouldn't you tell secrets at Food Shelf distribution night?**

The corn have ears and the beans-talk.

Home gardens are flourishing, and Food Shelf volunteer prima Karen Doris reports that the abundance of fresh vegetables made a recent Wednesday evening Food Shelf distribution look like a farmers market. Thank you for the vegetables offered anonymously, and here are some grateful shout-outs for other generosity. For the great continuous supply of tender lettuces and Swiss chard, we thank the Miskell family. Thank you to Rick Tenney for the ongoing supply of fresh vegetables. Thank you to Jeanie MacDonough, to Bethany Brightland, and to Pete and Waverly Purdum for more tasty veggies. Everyone is grateful that Louise McCarren's tomatoes don't seem to stop. We also welcome a new gardener Eunice Froeliger.

Barbara and Bud Lawrence continue to drop off many appreciated items, including granola, beans and eggs. Thank you to the Nick Frigo family in North Ferrisburgh for a large quantity of crackers and individually packed cheese and cracker snacks. Please know that the Food Shelf is stocking healthy kid snacks for the start of this difficult school year; donations of single-serve snacks such as granola bars, trail mix, applesauce or mixed fruit cups, prepared peanut butter and cheese crackers, juice and milk boxes will be greatly appreciated by young families.

New England clam chowder is available to all families, courtesy of Hannafords.

Suzanne Ferland brought a bountiful supply of macaroni and cheese and rice, as did Art and Kathy Ridge.

Philo Sky Farm donated a box of raw honey, and kids in the neighborhood bottled a supply. They have an additional supply bottled for sale, with a portion of the sales going to the Food Shelf.

The Foodbank cereal supply has run dry. We are looking for Cheerios, Rice Krispies and kids snacks of all kinds to help fill the gap.

Thank you to Donna Fraser-Leary and to the Miskell family for thinking of the cats.

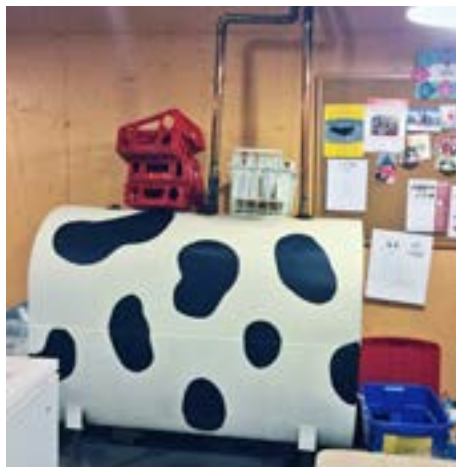
We thank the anonymous donor who left a big box of school supplies—and remind everyone else that markers, crayons, pencils and binders are helpful for school. Backpacks have gone out to children to brighten the start of the school year in these difficult times. A special thank you to Jeanie MacDonough for her great help in stocking the backpacks. Thanks to an anonymous donor who, believing every child should have a new book, made sure each backpack contained a high-interest read. Parents should know that this supply is ongoing, and picture books are also available for children not yet in school. Start read-alouds in infancy and reading will become habit-forming. We have the books. Children might try reading inside one of the indoor play tents donated by Diane and Emile Cote. What fun!

Thank you for monetary donations: Kathleen Nolan, Barry Finette & Sharon Mount, Nancy & John Barnes, Stephanie & James Wells, Robert & Marjorie Archer, Jeff & Irene Horbar, Aileen Kraus, and Bruce & Linda Williamson; Kristina Harff made a gift in honor of a lovely neighbor, Alexandra Lehmann.

Special thanks to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Charlotte Congregational Church for the financial support to supply all the food shelf families with children's summer lunches.

**Important Notice:** If a family can't get to the food shelf they should call 425-3252 to arrange for food delivery. Just leave a name and number for a return call. We don't want anyone cut off from necessary basics: food, shelter, utilities or gas for their car. Our community calls out to people: Don't be reluctant to ask for a little help.

**Note:** For anyone suffering economic hardship from COVID-19, look into the possibility of assistance through the Vermont Covid-19 Arrearage Assistance program. This program provides eligible Vermont utility ratepayers served by a fixed-line telephone service, Vermont electric, or natural gas, with a grant to assist with past-due balances. For more information, you can call your local Vermont Community Action Agency or contact the Department's Consumer Affairs and Public



At the Food Shelf, what's black and white and highly valued? *Photo by Susan Ohanian*

Information (CAPI) Division at 1-800-622-4496 or email [psd.consumer@vermont.gov](mailto:psd.consumer@vermont.gov).

The Charlotte Food Shelf is an all volunteer organization supported by the Charlotte Congregational Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and the Charlotte community. It is located in the Congregational Church vestry at 403 Church Hill Road.

It is open Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. for curbside pickup. Delivery is also available to those sheltering in place for health reasons and to those who find themselves unable to get to the delivery night. The Food Shelf contact number is 425-3252.

Visit the website for more information on other assistance programs, such as 3 Squares VT: [charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf](http://charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf).

## Keeping safe

The Food Shelf continues to take precautions

to help everyone keep safe. Anyone who has a fever or cough—or symptoms that might seem like a cold—should not come to the distributions. Also, don't come if you have been in contact with anyone who has these symptoms. Instead, call 425-3252 and leave your name and number. You will receive a call back to come up with a plan. We need to help families and volunteers stay safe.

## Financial assistance

Reminder: The Food Shelf has some funds available for emergency assistance with fuel and electric bills. Call 425-3252 if you need assistance. For emergency food call John at 425-3130.

## Volunteers welcome

The Food Shelf welcomes volunteers to assist with:

- Food distribution
  - Food shopping
  - Special projects throughout the year
- For information please call 425-3252,

## Donations

The Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. Our organization is run by volunteers, and so all donations made to the Food Shelf go directly for nutritious food or assistance to our neighbors in Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh. Should you wish to honor someone with a donation, a special acknowledgement will be sent to that person. Checks may be mailed to Charlotte Food Shelf, P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Call the Food Shelf number (425-3252) for a recording of the distribution times.

## Do ants have brains?

Of course! How else would they figure out when you're having a picnic?



# Town

## Cynthia Bradley is a good Scout

Staff report

When it comes to children, Cynthia Bradley is all in. She has been a Girl Scout troop leader three times in 15 years, starting when her daughter was in first grade, and has run Creative Explorers childcare in her home for 35 years. For all she does, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains has named her Volunteer of the Month for September.

Bradley, 56, of Charlotte, currently leads Girl Scout Troop 30066, a multi-level troop of Daisies through Cadettes in grades K through 7. After taking a break, she wanted to again be involved as a Girl Scout leader once one of her granddaughters joined six years ago. Along with her troop activities, Bradley homeschooled her own grandchildren along with others at her daycare when schools shut down due to COVID-19.

Through the pandemic, she's endured technical issues, helped children with their schoolwork while parents had to work, and come up with lesson plans of her own. Once the girls had to shift to remote learning at school, Bradley kept in touch with them to make sure they were doing okay.

"Cynthia has been stellar," said DeeDee Rice, volunteer support specialist at the Girl Scout council that supports girls in Vermont and New Hampshire. "She has been extremely active with programs for her troop as well as bringing her girls to council-sponsored programs and events. She follows up and follows through and is very attentive."

"With day care, I'm going to be



Left: Cynthia Bradley is Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains' volunteer of the month.

Right: Four of Cynthia Bradley's Girl Scout Daisies show the artwork they did to earn a petal, the equivalent of a badge. This photo was taken at a meeting prior to the pandemic and its restrictions.

*Courtesy photos*

homeschooling five of those kids each week," Bradley said at the end of August. "I'm still reading, trying to figure out what the plan is for school. This fall, expectations [for remote learning] will be set higher."

Before the pandemic, her Girl Scouts were active with hiking, trips, cookies and community service. They have participated in town parades and local Green Up Day litter pickups and collected food for the local food shelf. She coordinates activities so the girls at different levels can earn the appropriate badges. She also encourages her girls to be entrepreneurs with Girl Scouts' fall products and cookies. Each Girl Scout sets her own personal goal, and the troop keeps the records. Taking a trip to the Great Escape in New York was one of the troop's goals, along with a trip to the Rocking Horse Ranch. At Great Escape, the girls participated in a cardboard boat race.

"We made two boats and costumes to go with them," she said. "Carried them all the way across the Great Escape to the wading pool. They ended up earning an award for the judge's choice for costumes and design. They decided to be unicorns. We made headbands with horns and skirts over their bathing suits. They didn't get that far into the water before they sank, but had fun with it."

At Rocking Horse Ranch, they did horseback riding, rock wall climbing, tubing, archery, shooting and more. These trips were made possible through the Girl Scouts' earnings from their entrepreneurial efforts. They managed to meet their goals just before the pandemic hit this year.

"The Sunday of our last cookie booth, we sold out," said Bradley, "and the next day the council shut down. We were very fortunate."

It's the kids who keep her involved in Girl Scouting, she said, and she credits the parents and community members for being involved, too, such as one woman who taught the girls pottery.

"It's given me a lot of hours of enjoyment," she said. "Being a teacher, preschool teacher, I have that same feeling when I see a preschooler 'click.' It warms my heart. My husband says, 'Why do you put so much time and effort into this?' But in the end it's just fun."

Bradley encourages others to think about joining Girl Scouts. "It's a wonderful way to have that one on one (with your daughter). If you get involved with your daughter, you watch her grow and flourish with all Girl Scouts has to offer. I'm hoping and planning on many more years of it."







## On Books

# On reading, rereading, remembering, misremembering, and recommending “Sula”



Katherine Arthaud  
CONTRIBUTOR

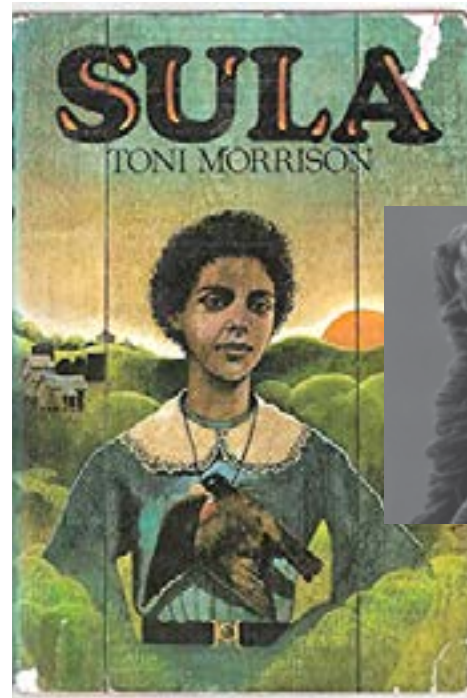
Hello, Readers and Others. I hope this finds you well and enjoying these late summer days. I am noticing, here and there, trees tinged with red, and there has definitely been a nip in the air these last few mornings. But what a summer it has been! With all the difficulty and tumult, nature has really given us a break, a gift, with the weather. I hope it continues for a few more weeks. What beautiful days we have had!

I have read (and reread) a few really good books lately, coincidentally all by female authors. A recent and extremely worthwhile reread was *Sula* by Toni Morrison, which many of us read back in the 70s and 80s, close to when it was first published in 1973. It made a big impression on me back in the day, and I find that I have always had tucked somewhere in my memory an image of Sula striding into town in a red dress...heroine or anti-heroine, I couldn't remember. Upon rereading, I'm not sure there is any scene involving Sula striding into town in any colored dress. And there is so much more to the tale than I remembered.

This short novel is vivid and brimming with striking imagery and beautifully rendered

characters. It dawned on me, upon rereading, that it is primarily about a friendship (which I had forgotten) between Nel Wright and Sula Peace, who are both 12 in 1922. “Nel was the color of wet sandpaper,” Morrison writes, “just dark enough to escape the blows of the pitch-black truebloods and the contempt of old women who worried about such things as bad blood mixtures and knew that the origins of a mule and a mulatto were one and the same...Sula was a heavy brown with large quiet eyes, one of which featured a birthmark that spread through the middle of the lid toward the eyebrow, shaped something like a stemmed rose. It gave her otherwise plain face a broken excitement and blue-blade threat like the keloid scar of the razored man who sometimes played checkers with her grandmother. The birthmark was to grow darker as the years passed, but now it was the same shade as her gold-flecked eyes, which, to the end, were as steady and clean as rain.” As you can see, the writing here is so rich and textured, so arresting, rather ominous; I had forgotten.

Sula and Nel are very different from one another but quickly become fast friends. “Their friendship was as intense as it was sudden. They found relief in each other's personality. Although both were unshaped, formless things, Nel seemed stronger and more consistent than Sula, who could hardly



be counted on to sustain any emotion for more than three minutes.” Sula and Nel grow up together in a small town: Medallion, Ohio. They stand up to bullies together, play games together, create fantasies together, and one day become entangled in a terrible secret, which might or might not have been witnessed by Shadrack, a “handsome but ravaged” World War I vet and madman who lives in a cottage out by the river, founder (and for many years the only celebrant) of National Suicide Day.

Oh! It seems I was somewhat accurate in my remembering of Sula from back when I was in my early twenties—for, thumbing through the novel just now, I discovered that she did make an entrance, rather the way I had recalled, though not in a red dress, but rather, a black one. Yes, indeed, Sula returned to Medallion after many years away, “accompanied by a plague of robins...She was dressed in a manner that was as close to a movie star as anyone would ever see. A black crepe dress splashed with zinnias, foxtails, a black felt hat with the veil of net lowered over one eye. In her right hand was a black purse with a beaded clasp and in her

left a red leather traveling case, so small, so charming—no one had seen anything like it before.”

Okay, so I didn't remember the dead robins, and the dress had changed color, but something about this homecoming had never ceased to shimmer in my mind's eye. That, and the sense that Sula was different. I remembered that, too. She was bigger than life. Beyond the rules. She marched, sashayed, and strode to the beat of her own drum. That had all stayed with me. Was she good? Was she evil? A hero? A pariah? Kind? Cruel? It's not clear, and not everyone agreed, but many who knew her or had heard the stories about her saw her as devouring and evil. Morrison writes that the townspeople's evidence against Sula “was contrived, but their conclusions about her were not. Sula was distinctly different.”

When she wrote *Sula*, Morrison was living in Queens, strapped for money, commuting to Manhattan for an office job, leaving her children to child-minders and the public school in the fall and winter, and to her parents in the summer months. “Every rent payment was an event,” she writes, in the foreword. But she was in good company. She wasn't alone. She had a community. Hers was the condition of every other single/separated female parent she knew. “The things we traded? Time, food, money, clothes, laughter, memory—and daring. Daring especially, because in the late 60s, with so many dead detained, or silenced, there could be no turning back simply because there was no ‘back’ back there. Cut adrift, so to speak, we found it possible to think up things, try things, explore. Use what was known and tried and investigate what was not. ... Nobody was



Toni Morrison



# A well gourded nest



Edd Merritt took this photo of some robins, who were in a nest on the outside wall at the Charlotte Senior Center. He wrote, "Now there's a situation—hungry youngsters hanging out on an old people's building, asking to be fed—life in a gourd."

## Just Asking ..... What memorable experience do you recall about your first car?

Your first car is often your first taste of freedom—Jim Squires asked Charlotte residents and visitors what they remember the most about their old set of wheels. His own memory? "A blue 1960 Nash Rambler wagon and Joann Haynes."

Photos and interviews by Jim Squires



**Tom Gorcki**  
(So. Burlington  
grabbing lunch at  
the Old Brick Store)

"My first car was a '74 Datsun B210 with a kick-butt, over-sized stereo system. As a 16-year-old I would blast it at top volume and probably damaged my hearing forever. Huh?"



**Mandy Clayton**  
(Charlotte)

"I had just gotten my license and was driving on I-89 for the first time in my mint green Honda Element with my mother in the passenger seat. When I pulled off at the Stowe exit my mother started screaming, "Slow down. SLOW DOWN!!" and was frantically pumping her floorboard as if there were brakes on her side. But I had already come to a stop at the stop sign."



**Manatat Waiwong Hennessy**  
(formerly Charlotte,  
now Hinesburg)

"I don't have such good memories of my first car, a black 1992 Jeep Cherokee with lots of electrical problems. But I remember my next one--a red 1997 Cherokee--when I was driving to Boston on busy I-95 in a snowstorm and lost control. My car spun around and around with everyone trying to get out of my way and trucks honking their horns but I ended up heading in the right direction, so I just kept on driving."



**Rick Tenney**  
(Charlotte)

"I got my first car when I was 12, a 1965 Ford Galaxie 500 with 3-on-the-tree. I'd run all over town and run out of gas so my father made me get rid of it. I traded it to someone for a push mower which got me a visit from the state police who said it was stolen and he had to confiscate it. Never saw my car or that lawnmower again, all before I was 13!"

## ON BOOKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

minding us, so we minded ourselves." Morrison explains that she and her cohorts came to think of themselves as their own salvation, their own best friends. She got to wondering what that could have meant to women in the 1920s. "The image of the woman who was both envied and cautioned against came to mind." And *voila*, Sula was born.

Morrison says that she finds outlaw women fascinating, "not always for their behavior, but because historically women are seen as naturally disruptive and their status is an illegal one from birth if it is not under the rule of men. In much literature a woman's escape from male rule led to regret, misery, if not complete disaster." Morrison

writes that she wanted to "explore the consequences of what that escape might be, on not only a conventional black society, but on female friendship."

This book is a masterpiece. Humor, love, bitterness, sadness, madness, betrayal...a host of fascinating characters—I will be rereading it again. Whether you have read it, or not read it yet, remember it, or think you remember it, or have forgotten most of it, or have forgotten whether you have read it or not, I highly recommend.

Other books I have recently read and would recommend are *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo, and *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez. Perhaps I will have a chance to talk about these more in an upcoming issue. Meanwhile, happy reading and rereading! Stay well and enjoy the late summer days!

## SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recording equipment installed in the room, referencing an incident from December 2010 when, during the course of renovations to the ceiling, listening devices were found under ceiling tiles in the conference room and in the Town Clerk's office. It was never discovered who installed them or when.

The board decided to learn more about the process and the technology and discuss it at the next meeting.

The final major discussion centered around Land Use Regulations, which caused contention within the community when the owners of Charlotte Crossings on Route 7 announced that they had received a cease and desist letter unexpectedly shutting down food trucks that were operating in their parking lot throughout the summer.

Board member Frank Tenney, who is the liaison with the Planning Commission, said that to his knowledge, the property owners had not yet applied for the required permits that would allow them to resume hosting the food trucks. "The ball is in their court," he said.

Community message board Front Porch Forum was the source of much discussion over the issue, with several commenters blaming the Selectboard for not allowing the food trucks to operate; the decision was not one for that board to make and was rather under the purview of the zoning administrator, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Krasnow said he wanted to let the public know that the zoning administrator,

Planning Commission and ZBA "have authorities granted to them by the state statute system...I was reading opinions that took into account information that was not accurate about the capacities of different town bodies."

Krasnow encouraged the public to attend meetings, which are currently held via Zoom. He also pointed out that there are historically and currently vacant seats on the Planning Commission and on other town boards, commissions and committees, and that "there are a ton of opportunities to get involved and make positive changes."

### Other news:

Valerie Buybieck from Thompson's Point, read a statement during public comment and spoke again during the LUR discussion about an issue with the town's subdivision of her lot and the adjacent lot, and asked the Selectboard to resolve the issue in a way that is satisfactory and that she and her husband want to "move forward to resolve this in good faith."

Recreation Commissioner Bill Fraser-Harris wrapped up the season for the Charlotte Beach. He said it was a "tremendous success...revenue tripled. I want to acknowledge a success story; with all the issues in our lives right now regarding COVID, we were able to open and allow the facility to be used in a safe and appropriate manner."

A committee was formed to plan and oversee the possible construction of a town garage and salt shed, possibly at the former flea market property on Route 7. The members are Bill Stunono, Frank Tenney, Moe Harvey, Jr Lewis and Jim Faulkner. They hope to figure out their next steps within the next three months.



# Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

We can't say enough how much we appreciate the patience and understanding of the Charlotte community as we work to provide library services while adhering to community health advisories. Our apologies for any inconvenience the change in hours may have caused. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the library at 425-3864.

### Library Hours:

Monday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)  
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. for cleaning)  
Friday: CLOSED to the public, open for porch pickup  
Saturday: CLOSED to the public, open for porch pickup

### Porch Pickup Hours:

Monday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. to noon

Beginning Monday, Sept. 21, we are adding an extra hour to our schedule exclusively for families and other groups. From Monday to Thursday, the library will be open to groups by appointment from 3 to 4 p.m. Each appointment slot is 30 minutes and allows for up to 8 people in a pod/family group to enter together. Please contact the library at [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org) for details. Please feel free to let us know if there are other ways the library can assist you and the learners in your family, whatever your ages.

Grant news! The Charlotte Library was awarded the Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Literacy Grant. The funds will go toward building a collection for reluctant readers. Youth Services Librarian Cheryl Sloan plans to include a

variety of engaging books and CDs along with learning aids to simplify the reading process. The book sets and reading aids will be made available to the youth in the community on the designated book display along with clear instructions and tip sheets for the parents/caregivers.

### Programs @ the Charlotte Library: Online & In-person

#### Live on the Library Porch Beginning Monday, Sept. 14

The **StoryWalk** has moved to the Charlotte Library lawn. The new picture book is called *Thank You, World*, a snapshot of eight very different kids, from eight different continents, all going about their day and experiencing the same moments of happiness. The author is Alice B. McGinty and the illustrator is Wendy Anderson Halperin. Pick up a World Art Kit from the library porch to enjoy after your walk. *StoryWalk®* was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and has developed with the help of Rachel Senechal at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Made possible by the support of the Vermont Department of Libraries.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.

#### Re-skilling Workshop: Preparing & Canning Dilly Beans

These crunchy, peppery beans are the perfect way to preserve your bean harvests for the winter. The recipe is also a great introduction to the basics of canning. Whether you're new to food preservation or not, we hope you'll join this hands-on, socially-distanced workshop on the library porch. Using our new portable kitchen, the "Charlie Cart," Ruah Swennerfelt walks you through the simple steps to make this pickled treat. Co-sponsored with Transition Town Charlotte. Please contact [transitioncharlottevt.org](http://transitioncharlottevt.org) to register.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. to noon  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 3 to 5 p.m.

### Porch Preview: Activity Kits

Looking for an activity to keep hands and minds busy (yours or someone you love!)? Join Cheryl and Susanna on the Library Porch for a preview of our new assortment of Activity Kits to borrow: Archaeology, embroidery, LEGO Education, rock art, Squishy Circuits, Zentangle and more! No registration necessary. Masks required.

### Online via Zoom (see each listing for details)

Monday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.

#### 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](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org) for a Zoom invite.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7–9 p.m.

#### Climate Reads: *The Parable of the Sower* with Lisa Lucas

The kickoff book for September is Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. When global climate change and economic crises lead to social chaos in the early 2020s, California becomes full of dangers, from pervasive water shortage to masses of vagabonds who will do anything to live to see another day. Read the book and then come and join the discussion on Zoom. Register at: [www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/climate-reads-parable-virtual-20200922](http://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/climate-reads-parable-virtual-20200922). Climate Reads is a year-long reading and discussion series shedding light on the climate crisis and

environmental justice. Alternating between fiction and nonfiction, books for the series are chosen to guide and inspire us to take necessary positive action.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m.

#### Landscape and Your Visual Sense of Place

From cave paintings to impressionism, Japanese wood block prints to contemporary environmental art, artists have used shapes, color, line and texture to illustrate human relationship to "place." Join us to explore landscape across history, culture, genres and artistic intent. Jonathan Silverman, St. Michael's College emeritus professor will facilitate a lively discussion by showing and offering context of various artistic interpretations of landscape and inviting discussion on our own visual perception. In partnership with the Charlotte Senior Center. Zoom information is available the day before the event [here](#).

Wednesday, Sept. 23 – Tuesday, Sept. 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. Email [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org) for information about the online events.

Saturday, Sept. 26

#### International Observe the Moon Night

A worldwide, public celebration of lunar science and exploration held annually since 2010. Tens of thousands of people participate each year, from 107 countries and all 50 U.S. states. International Observe the Moon Night for 2020 is Sept. 26, held in the fall, when the moon is around first quarter. Fall in the northern hemisphere is generally a good time, because of the weather, and a first quarter moon is visible in the afternoon and evening, a convenient time for most participants. Pick up a moon watching kit with activities and crafts from the Charlotte Library porch. Further fantastic fact and videos are available on [moon.nasa.gov/observe](http://moon.nasa.gov/observe).

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, consider subscribing to our e-newsletter: Charlotte Library Newsletter.



# Out Takes

## A New York City hero sandwich



Edd Merritt

*If I can make it there, I'm gonna 'make it anywhere,  
It's up to you, New York,  
New York.*

“New York, New York”  
—John Kander, Fred Ebb composers

There were a couple of obituaries recently that took me back to my days in New York. Writer Pete Hamill and baseball pitcher Tom Seaver both died in August.

The city was where I ended up in 1968 after being discharged on the West Coast from active military duty and coming across the country as much on a whim as anything. I discovered both of these men's contributions to city culture and followed their activities. Although I don't want to overstate it, each contributed to my development at that time of my life as well.

Looking back now, the process helped me understand what it meant to establish your own outlook on life and its relationship with the community in which it happened. That's what New York did for me then. As I reflect on it, New York contributed to that outlook that was, if not unique, at least different from what had been formed through my family. Call it growing up.

It didn't happen through schooling alone, but it was learning nonetheless. The city was going through a period of political unrest—much of it connected to our role in Vietnam. Antiwar sentiment was prevalent in many neighborhoods and boroughs, Manhattan dwellers being the most active. But there were also elements of community building that were less obvious—a local opera strike, getting the



railroad to Long Island running on time, the danger of walking through “Alphabet City,” the irony of hanging out in a favorite bar after work, listening to a clientele of generally conservative Manhattan police officers and firemen before they headed home to Staten Island, a place we discovered by living there that was quite different from other parts of the city. Its residents debated becoming part of New Jersey or staying a part of New York but maintaining a suburban flavor. And, of course, through media of many types, members of both major political parties debated whether Mayor John Lindsay, a Republican, should change parties and what he should do to change the city's direction.

This was a time in our country when one of my recently passed heroes brought his thoughts into play. As a columnist, Pete Hamill was a careful architect of ideas and words. His feelings about life based on what he learned from city living, he focused many of his thoughts on New York, often his own borough of Brooklyn. It was through his writing that I learned much about the history of the city, its great cultural transitions as the diversity of its population grew through immigration and migration like mine.

Living as a member of a cooperating group of people who chose to work together in order to meet their needs was new to me. The

home life I had left in Minnesota was highly individualized. My dad chose his profession to avoid what had happened to him as a son of a financier during the Depression. When the market paid off, his family lived high on the hog. When it dropped, their lifestyle dropped with it. My father chose medicine as a profession because he felt that, in large measure, it would spare him the psychological woes brought on by varying financial rhythms. He wanted badly to maintain a level playing field. And it worked for him. The problem for me, however, was that he expected me to follow suit, and I chose otherwise.

Deciding to live somewhere where “everyone's father isn't a surgeon,” as my elder son once commented, meant “Look out, New York, here I come.” And I did.

That's where my second hero entered the picture. In 1969 Tom Seaver and his fellow New York Mets turned a kids' game into a picture of what true sport could do for a city—and maybe even a country in this case.

I discovered that there needed to be more to city life than was being met on the streets and in the offices and subways of Manhattan. The boroughs each seemed to have a slightly distinct character. Queens was neither Brooklyn nor Manhattan. Ride the #7 train to Flushing Meadows, pay what

seemed a reasonable price at Shea Stadium, and choose from what seemed to always be a wide range of available seats hooked me to the team several times. I was certain that once I arrived at the Meadows, I was on the edge of countryside, with pastures and corn just beyond—totally apart from urban Manhattan.

This is where the boys of summer resided—pitchers Tom Seaver, Nolan Ryan, Jerry Koosman and Tug McGraw; infielders Donn Clendenon, Ed Kranepool, Ken Boswell and Bud Harrelson; and outfielders Tommie Agee, Cleon Jones, Art Shamsky and Ron Swoboda.

And those who guided them to victory were chosen for what they had themselves learned on the playing field. Manager Gil Hodges had an 18-year major league history, playing first base with Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers before heading to the Mets. For his first base coach and former New York Yankee, Yogi Berra, it was “déjà vu all over again.”

During the summer of 1969, the boys gave the city what it needed most. In Pete Hamill's words, “We were a town knocked down, not very long ago. Last year, we got to one knee. Today we're up, and there ain't anybody gonna put us down again. Get out of the way, and sing us no more sad songs. I'm going drinking. It's September and the Mets are leading the league.”

This was news that helped shape my character as well as that of the city, and for that I thank you, Tom and Pete. I'm happy to have begun my cultural life with you guys providing direction and, oddly enough, I look forward to that direction to continue—whether from above or below.

But do throw in some of Zabar's bagels just for good measure.

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# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik  
SENIOR CENTER  
DIRECTOR

*"How did it get so late so soon?  
It's night before it's afternoon.  
December is here before it's June.  
My goodness how the time has flown.  
How did it get so late so soon?"*

~ Dr. Seuss

People are continuing to stay active—either with outdoor activities or with online classes—and there are a lot to choose from. If you are hesitant about going online, please call and leave a message at 425-6345, and we will have someone call you back to provide assistance with Zoom.

### Outdoor Activities

**9/18 – The next Kayaking Trip for Women is Friday, 9/18.** Last date is 9/25. Please register your interest with Susan at [susanfosterhyde@gmail.com](mailto:susanfosterhyde@gmail.com). Locations vary and are weather dependent, of course.

**9/29 – To sign up for Fall Road Hikes in the Champlain Valley** (Tuesdays, 9/29 through Oct.), 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.

**10/3, Saturday – Lemon Fair Sculpture Park with Frank & Elaine Ittleman**  
Please meet at the Center by 9:30 to carpool—or not. [Rain date: 10/10]  
With Frank as our guide, a 1.5-mile loop passes about 18 large-scale, outdoor artworks at their private residence in Shoreham. Enjoy the color, geometry and movement of these pieces. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Head home around noon, or stop in Middlebury for lunch. If you have visited before, there is more to see as the park has expanded recently. Please call 425-6345 to register with your name, phone number and email address. No fee. Maximum 15. Hope for perfect weather.

### Courses

Other than outdoor activities, all courses are



The Senior Center Kayaking for Women group paddled their way to Lake Champlain from the Lamoille River on Friday, August 28.

*Photo contributed*

online—and all require registration. Some have fees/suggested donations, and many do not. Register by sending your name and mailing address to [CSCZoom@gmavt.net](mailto:CSCZoom@gmavt.net). You will receive confirmation that you are registered. Please pay by check (made out to CSC), and send it to P.O. Box 207, Charlotte, VT 05445. Be sure to note the name of the course/s in the memo line. For courses with limited series of dates, kindly pay prior to the start of the course.

### 9/23 – Mindfulness Meditation with Jill Abilock

Wednesday afternoons, 2:30-3:45 p.m. Ongoing.—  
You can't always change what you experience in life, but you can change how you experience it. Mindfulness Meditation provides tools that help change *how* you experience things, increasing fulfillment and happiness, and reducing stress. Registration necessary. No fee.

### 9/24 – Civil Discourse: Making It Happen with Stephen Joyce

Thursdays, 1-2 p.m. Dates: 9/24–10/29. On the eve of the 2020 general elections, Americans are more divided about politics than they have ever been. Some have forgotten or simply never learned how to speak civilly with their ideological "opponents." 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.

### 10/1 – Script Writing for Fun with Mark Williams Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Dates: 10/1–11/5.

Have you been itching to write a movie, TV episode or play? This is not about selling your creation, it's about stretching your skills—and having fun. In this 6-week class you will learn the basics of how to write a script. Members of the class will: decide on a genre, create 6 fascinating characters, start with a crisis, create an outline for three acts, create an ending, and write the first 15 pages. Registration required by 9/29 to [CSCZoom@gmavt.net](mailto:CSCZoom@gmavt.net). Fee: \$30 for the 6-week series.

### Wednesday Events

All free, Wednesday events at 1 p.m. are now online Zoom gatherings. The invitation/link for each week will be posted at [CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org) by the day before the presentation. As well, this link will be supplied in Front Porch Forum in Charlotte and in surrounding towns. Registration is not required.

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

As we find resilience during the coronavirus pandemic, we become aware of our own sense of place and the surrounding landscape in Vermont. Join us for a look at landscape across history, culture, genres and artistic intent. Jonathan Silverman, emeritus professor at St. Michael's College, will raise questions to invite discussion on our own visual perception. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Library.

**9/30 – Utah's Gems with Lynn Cummings**  
has been cancelled and will be presented next year.

### Events in October

**10/7 – Preparing to Prepare Your Advanced Directive with Tina D'Amato, DO** An interactive introduction on how to prepare this important document that helps communicate your medical wishes at end of life. Dr. D'Amato is a family medicine

physician working at Charlotte Family Health.

### 10/14 – Covid-19: Ten Months In, Where Do We Stand? with Jim Hyde

This session will provide a quick update about what is currently known about routes of exposure, prevalence of infection, testing and prevention and control—and also vaccine development and new therapeutics.

### 10/21 – Medical Imaging: 1895 To the Present with Rick Goldman

Take a look at the changes in medical imaging, particularly Neuroradiology, which parallel the advances we have seen in the technology we use in our daily lives.

### 10/28 – A Mile of Ice Above Us with Craig Heindel

Learn about the most recent geologic history of Vermont and the Champlain Valley.

### 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.

These next two weeks will be your last chance to see the **September Art Exhibit: Bill Stirewalt**—Large Format Photography. Most pieces depict the natural world, although the subject matter is very varied. All of the 27 pieces are available for purchase.

Continue to 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 frequently.

Charlotte Senior Center  
802-425-6345  
[CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org)

Town .....  
Sports report



Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's September  
and time for  
practices to start

Cross-country runners, soccer and field hockey players, the new-style football teams all broke the practice ice recently.

To look at CVU's array of fields and the athletes preparing their skills on each one, a person may have thought nothing was affected by the pandemic. According to Redhawk Athletic Director, Dan Shepardson, between 400 and 500 CVU students were participating. According to an interview with the *Burlington Free Press*, Dan said he felt it was great having them "out here getting some exercise, seeing their friends and being socially involved."

There are some noticeable differences, however. Facemasks are prevalent on players and coaches. A major change came

as the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) adopted a 7-on-7 touch format for football. This reduces the squad size by 4 players and does not allow tackling or running plays—only passing—with all linemen eligible as receivers but not blockers. The regular season will begin later this month without a scheduled post-season tournament.

Eleven- and 12-year-old Little  
League baseball is all Colchester

Fourteen years seems like a long time to wait, but that is what happened to Colchester's 11/12-year-old Little League Baseball team. They finally came back to the top of the heap by beating St. Johnsbury 9-2 for the state title. St. Jay, on the other hand, was a finalist for the first time in 35 years.

The New England Regional Tournament and the Little League World Series have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Fall football this year features lots of footballs but no pads. Coronavirus precautions took tackling off the table. Photo by Al Frey

Classifieds

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NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS  
August, 2020

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Planning Commission (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & April 30, 2023)
- Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2021)
- Conservation Commission (1seat; term ending April 30, 2022)
- Energy Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2022)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities please send a short statement explaining your interest and any relevant background information to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com). If you have questions, please e-mail or call 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall).

Notice of Vacancies on  
Cemetery Commission

In accordance with 24 VSA §961, the Cemetery hereby provides a notice of vacancy for two of three Cemetery Commission positions.

The positions have three-year terms, however, in accordance with 24 VSA § 963, the appointments can only be made until the next election, at which time the positions will be posted for election.

The positions are volunteer positions. There is no pay or benefits offered with these positions.

The Cemetery Commission invites applicants wishing to be appointed to the vacant positions until the next election to submit a letter of interest. Inquiries regarding what the positions entails can be made by calling the Town Administrator at 425-3071 ext. 5. The deadline for submitting an application is September 30, 2020.

Letters of interest should be submitted to:

Cemetery Commission  
C/O Town Administrator  
P.O. Box 119  
Charlotte, VT 05445

Or by e-mail to:  
[dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com)



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