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The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 | VOLUME LXIII NUMBER 19

Charlotter, Meg Berlin had a bobcat visit her outside the window of her home located near Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge.

Moving ahead

John Quinney

INTERIM BOARD PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

The past two weeks have been difficult for all of us who care deeply about *The Charlotte News* and this town we call home. We've read the posts on Front Porch Forum (FPF) and the articles in Seven Days and VT Digger. We've spoken with readers, donors and community leaders.

We will respond to the recent Seven Days and VT Digger articles in a few days. Some of the reporting was accurate; some was not. And there's more to this story than has been reported.

As you read FPF and talk with others, remember that you know us. Over the many years we've lived in Charlotte, we've talked with you at Spears Corner Store and the Old Brick, joined you for classes at the Senior Center, chatted at CCS, the Library and Selectboard meetings, taught your children, voted alongside you at Town meetings, and chatted in passing on the Town Link Trail or on the way up Mt. Philo.

We care deeply about the health of this paper. We are honored by the opportunity to serve on the Board and to carry forward the dedication of those who came before us. In making decisions about controversial issues, we will move as quickly as possible. But we will not be rushed. We will be thoughtful and deliberate.

We're well aware of *The News's* history. We know that there have been ups and downs, and that through it all, the paper and the community have thrived. We share Liz Fotouhi's long-term perspective also expressed on FPF:

"*The Charlotte News* has been around for more than 60 years and during that time Editors have come and gone along with Board Members, writers, advertisers and hundreds of volunteers with whom I am so proud to be listed. Each and every one of those people have put their personal mark on the paper and lovingly ushered and guided it step by step into the future to make it what it is today, a small town paper that continues to inform and celebrate our beloved Charlotte."

We will continue to bring the *The Charlotte News* to your mailboxes, on time, every two weeks, 25 times a year. Producing the paper takes more than an individual in any role; it truly does take a village. For their work on this issue, we owe special thanks to Anna Cyr, our managing editor, and to Christy Hagios our advertising manager. Not to mention John Hammer, who came out of retirement to cover Monday's Selectboard meeting, and to writers Bob Bloch, Elizabeth Bassett, Margo Bartsch, Mike Yantachka, Bradley Carleton, Margaret Woodruff, Carolyn Kulick, Susan Ohanian, Edd Merritt, Tom Giroux, Phyl Newbeck, John Moses, Nicole Conley, Katherine Arthaud, Kellyn Doerr, and Ethan Putnam.

Enjoy the paper. Enjoy spring. We'll be back on April 8th.

Local teachers get vaccinated

Ethan Putnam

COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Teachers from across the state were lined up outside Champlain Valley Union High School to receive their first dose of their COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday morning.

Vermont Governor Phil Scott had announced March 2 his intention to begin vaccinating educators across the state starting the following week.

"We know getting our kids back in school for in-person instruction five days a week is essential, and this is a step forward on that goal," Scott said.

The plan was endorsed by the Vermont NEA, the state's teachers union, which has been critical of the state's school reopening plans in the past.

"Nobody wants to see students return to the state's classrooms more than teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, school nurses and administrators. But, as we've said all along, this can only happen when it is demonstrably safe to do so. Vaccinating school employees is a big step in the right direction," said Vermont NEA president Don Tinney.

The clinic was announced by CVSD Superintendent Elaine Pinckney in a March 12 update.

"We have been notified by the Agency of Education that 1,000 Pfizer vaccines will be available to our faculty and staff at CVU on Wednesday, March 17. These vaccines will be administered by the Vermont National Guard and will be available to educators in



The sun was shining in Hinesburg on Wednesday morning as educators and staff lined up to get their COVID-19 vaccines at Champlain Valley Union High School. Photo by Maddy Holden.

neighboring districts as well," Pickney said. More clinics will be available, Pickney added.

CVU Principal Adam Bunting estimates that nearly all of the available doses were administered on Wednesday. Pickney reminded the community that "the vaccine's full effectiveness kicks in two weeks after

the final dosage," meaning the 1,000 people who got the shot in the arm Wednesday won't be fully vaccinated until late April.

According to the Vermont Department of Health, 322,000 people in Vermont have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 91,000 people have completed the

SEE **VACCINATED** PAGE 3

Selectboard holds a marathon meeting covering a range of topics

John Hammer

CONTRIBUTOR

Anyone who says that the Selectboard members of Charlotte don't earn their stipends would have had another thing coming after their 5½-hour meeting on March 22. The discussions ranged from complex to simple administrative decisions.

It seemed that vehicular issues were in fashion, beginning with the naming of Swamp Street, a short road extending south from the Hinesburg Road across from the entrance to Stoney Loam Farm. It is very appropriately named, as it heads south toward the largest swamp in Charlotte that extends all the way to Prindle Road. This was quickly followed by approval of applications for the annual Kelly Brush Bike Ride on Sept. 11 and the Cycle4CMT Bike Ride on Aug. 29. RaceVT won approval for two bike races—the first on May 8 (with a COVID delay date of July 3) and the annual Covered Bridge Half-Marathon on Sept. 11. It's noteworthy to mention that the Covered Bridge Marathon and the Kelly Brush Rides have never run into a conflict over many years. RaceVT has pledged to donate \$1 for each rider in both events to the Charlotte Recreation Commission.

The next agenda item found the wheels getting much smaller—skateboard wheels. Israel Phelps and Kiki Rose presented a concept idea for a 7,000-square-foot skatepark in Charlotte. They presented a number of plans but said that a park could be designed to fit the plot on which it is located. A concrete park might cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$315,000, and they are looking to raise the money through fundraising, grant writing and from state organizational support. Among the possible sites considered were the Town Beach, the Flea Market or other parcels owned by the town. The board asked for further study and requested that a draft resolution be prepared for further consideration. Louise McCarren said, "Great idea! ... I love the energy and the availability of space for kids to skateboard, ride bikes or whatever." Skatepark use would be extended to BMX, rollerblades and roller skate users.

From small wheels to no wheels at all, the agenda moved on to a presentation of the final plan for the Town Link Trail Western Alignment Scoping Study by the Trail Committee, for the extension of the Town Link Trail from the West Town Center to the Town Beach. The comprehensive study narrowed down five potential direct routes and numerous other route options with mixes

and matches of route sections to one basic trail alignment with the intent of trying to avoid traffic on major roads as much as feasible. This route basically follows an off-road alignment through the town-owned Burns property to Ferry Road, along Ferry Road as bike and ped lanes to the railroad, then across open fields to Lake Road and on to the beach. There is a bypass route that goes around the village and avoids the steep hill on Ferry Road. The report is now in the hands of the Selectboard to review and accept or edit as they wish. Since the Link Trail has not yet been completed from East Charlotte to the West Town Center, there is plenty of time for further consideration on this piece of the puzzle. Many thanks are due to the team led by a specially appointed steering committee, spearheaded by Jim Donovan, who contributed about \$50,000 worth of professional planning work to the project. Further, the new revised Trail Landowner Permission Form now includes stronger protection for landowners.

Finally, in keeping with the subject of streets and byways, the board went on to approve a Highway Access Permit to Hergenrother Construction, LLC for its proposed road cut at 6851 Spear Street.

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 5

News at *The News*

Changes on the Board of Directors

At a video conference meeting on March 15, the Board of Directors of *The Charlotte News* accepted the resignations of Christina Asquith, Jack Fairweather, Adam Davidson and Jen Banbury. Together, these four individuals shared two seats on the board. Each is a professional journalist who brought an informed perspective to board discussions. We look forward to the time when our paths cross again with Christina, Jack, Adam and Jen.

The board of directors of *The Charlotte News* congratulates John Quinney on his appointment as interim president and publisher. John has been on the board for two years and has lived in Charlotte for 27 years with his wife, Colleen Armstrong. He has volunteered as Green Up Day coordinator and was on the town's Conservation Commission and Energy Committee. Prior to his retirement in 2018, John was the General Manager at the Energy Co-op of Vermont. Over the years, he also worked at Green Mountain Energy, NativeEnergy, and the New Alchemy Institute. The board also wishes to thank Claudia



John Quinney

Marshall, who has resigned her positions as president and publisher of *The Charlotte News*. During her tenure, Claudia led us to:

- complete the most successful fundraising campaign in the paper's history and to put the paper in a strong financial position,
- win a grant from a prominent national organization that recognized the paper's impact on our community, and,
- solidify the paper's role in providing an important public service to the Charlotte community.

We will miss her smart counsel and wish Claudia all the best in her new post as president of Charlotte Congregational Church.

Meet our News Editor

John Quinney, PUBLISHER

We are pleased to announce that Kim MacQueen is joining the paper as our News Editor, effective immediately.

Kim is an experienced writer and editor with a career that spans community newspapers, college magazines and academia. When we contacted Kim, she was finishing up a book on her Italian-American family history, forthcoming from Process Media in early 2022, and working as a freelance editor.

For the previous eight years, Kim was employed at Champlain College. She revived and produced the all-student newspaper, *The Crossover*, taught classes in writing

and publishing in the college's Professional Writing Program and served as founder and managing editor of the Champlain College Center for Publishing, hiring and supervising up to 12 student writers and editors each semester.

Kim got her start in journalism in 1988 at the Florida Flambeau newspaper in Tallahassee, Florida, where she served as a staff writer and editorial board member. Later on, she learned the community newspaper biz at the Transylvania Times in Brevard, NC. She has also been a writer and editor for magazines at Florida State University, Fordham University, Barnard College and the University of Vermont.

"Reporting and editing the news—telling the stories of the members of a vibrant community—is a calling that I've felt since I was in grade school," she said. "I am so pleased to have the opportunity to join the staff of *The Charlotte News*. I'm grateful to be chosen to lead the paper's coverage and am thankful for the warm welcome by the board charged with its stewardship."

The author of two novels, Kim earned an MFA in Creative Nonfiction Writing from Bay Path University in 2018. She lives in Burlington with her husband, Steve, and daughters Claire and Rose.



Kim MacQueen



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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Town

Selectboard tackles CVRS contract and employee compensation

Robert Bloch
CONTRIBUTOR

The Selectboard met twice last week, both being "special meetings," meaning that they weren't on the Selectboard's regular meeting schedule of the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Monday's meeting covered the agreement between the Town and Charlotte Volunteer Rescue Service, Inc. (CVRS). The agreement was created in 2014 and has been amended three times since, but it's been several years since the entire agreement has been reviewed. The Selectboard went through the document paragraph by paragraph and identified items within the agreement that they intend to review in more detail at future meetings and then discuss with the CVRS Executive Board.

The major portion of the Tuesday meeting was used to address town employee compensation. This issue has risen to the top of the Selectboard's agenda as the result of several factors. One was concerns raised by town employees in several departments, including the library and town clerk's office, that their current pay level did not fully

or accurately reflect their actual work and responsibilities. This is fairly commonplace in the workplace as technology, the search for increased productivity and other causes bring constant evolution in the way work is organized and performed. Add in the impact of changing minimum wage legislation and COLA (cost of living adjustment) calculations and an organization's employee compensation program can become less competitive or equitable than it should be. The current employee compensation policy was created in 2015 and has not been thoroughly reviewed since then.

The other factor bringing Selectboard focus to employee compensation was the increasing difficulty the town has experienced in attracting well qualified people to apply for open positions. This is judged to be largely due to the simple fact that in several situations, the compensation the Town was offering was not competitive with other towns in the region.

At the meeting, Louise McCarren reiterated the goals of Town employee compensation policy, which are to provide our employees compensation that is competitive with the local

marketplace and equitable across departments and among employees. Nan Mason reported on the Library's recent work to assess their employees' salaries. Selectboard members agreed that an assessment of all employee compensation was warranted. Much discussion ensued on determining the best way to go forward to achieve the desired result, including how best to use human resources consultant Gallagher Flynn, which had heretofore provided local market compensation analysis.

It was agreed as a "Phase 1" to use the Library's positive experience as a guide. This means developing accurate, up-to-date job descriptions for all Town employees. This work would be completed by each employee in concert with their supervisor by March 31. Phase 2 of the project remains to be determined, but Louise McCarron was designated the Selectboard's point of contact in working with Gallagher Flynn to devise a way forward.

In other Tuesday evening business, a transposition error in the ballot voted on at Town Meeting was corrected via the appropriate statutory process.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Anyone in public office, especially elective office, should never hesitate to recuse himself/herself from an issue about which there may be a conflict of interest or, just as important, the appearance of a conflict.

If this is a principle elected officials honor, and especially in this fine little town of Charlotte, then our democracy and the good of our people thrive.

Dennis Delaney
Former state senator
Charlotte

To the Editor:

In my public management experience, I learned that a board's purpose is to support and

ensure that the mission of the organization is accomplished. The board gives to the manager authority over staff to fulfill that mission. When that mission is not being accomplished or the organization is compromised, the board and the Publisher/Manager must act.

In the 60 years of *The News*' existence, many writers and editors have come and gone. Hundreds of volunteers have written articles and informed the community about births and deaths, schedules, school affairs, and the happenings of local government. I am pleased to have been one such volunteer. Some articles have been brilliant, some mediocre. But *The News* has continued to pursue its goals.

We must remember that *The Charlotte News* is not the New York Times. We are not expecting

brilliant writing with each edition, nor investigative journalism on the order of major U.S. newspapers. We were not getting that; just good writing on local issues by many writers in the community. Chea Evans is a good writer but we were not nominating her for a Pulitzer for her articles on Pumpkin Man. I know little about the conflict within the staff and departing board members that has created the vitriol of the past few weeks. But I do know the board has acted to support *The News*. I need not know of the personnel issues involved in this action. Conspiratorial stories by journalists or others who should know better are destructive and should not be supported by the community or other news outlets.

Nancy Richardson
Nancy covers education for The Charlotte News.

Report from the Legislature Town

Crossing over



Rep. Mike Yantachka

Over the weekend, I was able to watch a Zoom broadcast of a “Bridging” ceremony for my grandson Guthrie and his Cub Scout den. The ceremony marks the passage of a Webelos Cub Scout to a Boy Scout troop (Scouts BSA). The scout salutes their den leader, removes their Cub Scout neckerchief, walks across a small bridge to where the troop leaders are standing, salutes them and receives their new Boy Scout neckerchief. It is a rite of passage marking a transition.

Bills in the Legislature can be said to follow a similar path, though not exactly. A bill originates in either the House or the Senate. To become law, it must pass in the other chamber as well with the exact same language. The other chamber will often propose amendments, which creates a back-and-forth journey for the bill. This requires time for each chamber to study and discuss the bills they receive, which means that waiting too long to send a bill over means the bill will not get passed. Therefore, the Legislature sets a deadline called “crossover” when bills must be voted out of committee to have any chance of passing during the current session. This crossover deadline occurred last Friday.

During the two weeks following the Town Meeting break, the House passed several bills touching on agriculture, health care, the justice system, and education. Raw milk producers are currently prohibited from selling their product away from their farm. H.218 will allow them to sell their product at farm stands and through CSAs other than their own. Services for mental health patients will be expanded by H.104, which allows certain licensed out-of-state mental health professionals to treat Vermont patients using telemedicine.

The House passed a trio of bills from the Judiciary Committee. H.128 prohibits a person from justifying an act of violence by claiming that they felt threatened by the crime victim’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. H.195 allows the use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement in cases related to sexual exploitation of children. Finally, while judges already have an inherent authority to order firearm relinquishment as part of an emergency relief from abuse order, H.133 creates a statutory basis to clarify this

authority so that victims will have a clearer understanding that an order removing firearms is available to improve their safety.

The Education Committee brought three bills to the floor successfully. According to a 2019 national assessment, only 37 percent of Vermont’s 4th-graders were proficient in reading, a percentage that declined from 2017. H.101 will strengthen early literacy instruction for Vermont students in grades pre-K to 3. The bill taps into \$3 million in federal stimulus funds to provide grants to supervisory unions to improve literacy teaching and outcomes and ensure that students who struggle receive instruction from highly skilled teachers.

Since the state suspended aid for school construction in 2007, H.426 addresses the needs and conditions of public school facilities throughout the state. This bill, funded by \$2.5 million in federal stimulus money, takes a step forward by updating school facilities construction standards, conducting a statewide assessment of our school buildings and commissioning a report on state funding options. The long-term goal is to make sure that our school buildings are well-maintained, energy-efficient, safe, and healthy places that meet the needs of 21st century education and technology.

The third bill, H.106, invests \$3.34 million in federal funds in a “community schools” pilot program. The bill targets public schools with a high percentage of low-income students and provides three years of funding to hire or designate a community schools coordinator who will work with students, families, teachers and staff, and community partners to transform schools into resource hubs that help both students and families overcome out-of-school barriers to learning like poverty, food and housing insecurity, substance misuse, or lack of access to physical and mental healthcare. Research shows these schools improve attendance, academic achievement, high-school graduation rates and more. As we emerge from the pandemic, H.106 uses federal money to see how Vermont can not only recover but reinvent our schools, while helping our neediest students and families to thrive.

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).

VACCINATED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

course of a vaccine as of Monday, March 22.

Margaret Ford, a paraeducator at Shelburne Community School, said she was feeling relieved and excited to get vaccinated.

“It’s hope, hope for getting together with family, hugging people you haven’t been able to in a while,” Ford said.

Kris Hoyt, a teacher from Richford Junior/Senior High School near the Canadian border, said he “loved” getting the vaccine and was looking forward to being in the classroom more often.

“The sooner we can get back to full in-person, the better. It’s a better quality of education for the kids and it’s more enjoyable for the teachers also,” Hoyt said.

Rahn Fleming, who serves as both the coordinator of The Learning Center and head football coach at CVU, was keenly aware of that gravity.

“The level of relief I feel getting the vaccine tells me that I’ve been carrying more anxiety than I let on. I’ve been here 20 years, and you see how I am,” Fleming gestured toward a colleague he had an enthusiastic exchange with right before the interview started. “It’s euphoric. I’m just so happy for people.”

Also in the CVSD update was the news that some of the middle schools in the district like Hinesburg Community School and Williston Central School will begin four days per week in-person instruction soon. There is still no change in the hybrid

instruction method (with the fully remote option) at CVU.

“We want our students back full time as soon as we can safely do so,” wrote Bunting in an email. “The major impediment is recommendation around 6-foot spacing. We don’t have the physical space to accommodate in-person learning for all 1,300 of our students at that distance. Three foot distancing gets us closer to full-time in-person, but we would have to be cautious with some of our smaller spaces.

“At the end of the day, we follow science and the advice of our health care professionals,” Bunting wrote.

Community News Service reporter Maddy Holden contributed reporting.

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Town

Plans to continue Town Link Trail under Selectboard review

Kellyn Doerr
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

A trail project connecting Mt. Philo, the West Village and the Town Beach was approved during Town Meeting Day 2021, and the Selectboard is now reviewing plans to continue building the trail toward the beach.

The Charlotte Town Link Trail project is the partially completed, seven-mile gravel path. The completed sections of the trail include a Co-Housing section, Melissa & Trevor Mack Trail, and State Park Road. The rest of the path is in tentative design stages or seeking funding to be finished.

The Selectboard discussed the updates for the project during its March 22 meeting. Bill Regan and Laurie Thompson of the town trails committee reported that a second scoping study was done for the trail, a continuation of the one done in 2015 to 2016. This study was done from the West Village down to the beach.

The board also heard concerns from Lydia Clemmons of the Clemmons Family Farm, one of the few Black-owned farms in the state according to a



Trail on Route 7 under pass.

File photo

2019 Seven Days article. Clemmons said she was misquoted in the scoping study and is worried that the trail, which abuts the farm, will make it easier for people wanting to commit hate crimes to access the property.

The objective of this study was to look at preferred alignment options for the trail, which will give guidelines for where the trail will be built.

Thompson presented primary and secondary options for the trail and gave her own recommendation. She noted that the summary they put together included feedback from those involved and input from residents; the only part they could not fulfill was the trail being as “naturalistic” as the people wanted.

“Every time we come up with options for the trail, we come to the Selectboard first,” said Thompson.

The steering committee along with Thompson and Regan submitted this study as a final document to the Selectboard. There’s now an approval process for these recommendations to be the alignment

options going forward. The Selectboard now will decide whether or not to accept it or make changes.

Lydia Clemmons spoke up during the meeting to share concerns about being misquoted in the scoping study report, as well as concerns about rising numbers of hate crimes in Vermont. Police have reported upticks in hate crimes in recent years, according to a 2019 VTDigger article.

Clemmons said she is concerned that with the trail being so close to the unprotected back entrance to the farm, there is a possibility for those wanting to commit hate crimes to have a direct route to the farm.

The original report stated that bushes and trees would be included along the path near the Clemmons farm to try to regulate the amount of people “straying” away from the path. Clemmons believes this is not enough.

“Your white perspective about trails and walking is a privileged perspective,” said Clemmons. “If you are white and living in Vermont you might not be so aware of it, but we are Black and living in Charlotte.”

Clemmons notes before the report is to be approved, she needs to be accurately quoted and for these changes to be made. Selectboard chair Matt Krasnow acknowledged her concerns and assured these are the early stages and they will satisfy her concerns.

For more information on the Charlotte Trails visit: www.charlottetrailsvt.org/townlink.

Bunnies ready for Easter!

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Signs of spring

Early March is a wonderful time to look for birds in Charlotte, as the resident species are already getting ready to breed. In the past week, I have seen pileated woodpeckers removing bare sticks from dead trees and flying away with them to build a nest somewhere. The cardinals are singing in the mornings now, and the tufted titmice and chickadees are making more and more noise. YES, SPRING IS IN THE AIR!!

In Charlotte there are lots of bluebirds at this time of the year. The other day, I saw 7 flocks of them along Greenbush Road...quite a treat. The males, of course, are the most gorgeous to see. Most often they will be perched on the overhead wires, but occasionally at eye level as in this photo. They do prefer rather open country rather than woods. If you have a field near your home, you may want to consider placing a bluebird nest box on a fence post in order to have these pretty birds in your yard all year long!

Photo by Hank Kaestner

Town

SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moving onto the grass, the annual exercise commenced with the approval of the ash tree removal and mowing contracts. The board chose Adam Dantzscher to do the town brush-hogging (\$5,572) and cemetery mowing (\$5,390). The contract covering town mowing and land maintenance went to Guilmette Landworks, LLC for \$23,207, and Teachers Tree Service will take on the ash tree removal project for \$18,500.

Lewis Mudge, Charlotte’s newest Selectman, has hit the ground running. Following up on one of his prime election goals, he has already undertaken a personal study of the town’s Conflict of Interest Policy. His comment was simply that, “It’s not strong, it’s aspirational.” He went on to say that the current document falls short by implying that, “We’re going to try to do our best to do good.” He feels that it does not inspire confidence among the townspeople. Mudge has found that its weakness discourages potential office holders and committee members/commissioners from stepping forward as it does not provide the protections necessary for confident actions. He has been working with the Vermont State Ethics Commission and has identified the Shelburne model as being strong and effective. His aim is to further study and adapt that model as a template and present his findings to the Selectboard soon. His thought is then to encourage movement on to the

establishment of an Ethics Committee. That, with a comprehensive training regimen, would provide a shield against bad actions and build confidence among the townspeople in their town’s government.

As one last administrative action before the board adjourned to take on its role as Liquor Control Board, it went on to renew the 20-year lease for Thompson’s Point lots 22 & 23 to Jane Allmon Heath.

In the closing half hour of its marathon meeting, the Liquor Control Board passed the issuance of first- and third-class liquor licenses to the Charlotte Restaurant Group’s Backyard Bistro. The bistro, located behind the new Charlotte Crossings building, also scored an outside consumption license for a 40’x50’ tent covering the times between noon and 11 p.m. Not so simple was the granting of an outdoor consumption license to Roland’s Place. An on-going issue between Roland’s and nearby neighbors has raised the question of noise. Because the impact of an earlier environmental court ruling was not fully understood, the license was deferred until the next meeting on April 12 pending the receipt of more information. Lastly, a second-class liquor license was issued to Spear’s Corner Store.

Because of the extended length of the meeting, a number of issues were left on the table and will be covered in the next meeting on April 12.

Around Town

Congratulations:

to **Annika Gruber** of Charlotte whose poem “Walking on a sunny day” was selected for inclusion in the *Vermont Digger* Young Writers Project for March 19. She describes walking through a “sleepy town . . . as in everything there seemed to move at a slower pace.” It was a place far away from chaos, and the author liked the slowness, “I liked the easy breeze.”

to **John Moses** of Charlotte who led a session of Vermont Public Radio’s “Safe and Sound,” a program featuring Vermont musicians playing their original pieces. Another area musician, Francesca Blanchard, aided John in the process.

to **Leath Tonino**, an author who grew up in Charlotte and who recently had an article appear in *Vermont Sports* for January/February. Titled “Love at First Shovel,” Leath describes what Vermont winters did for his snow-clearing skills. He went to college in Colorado where he could put his Vermont-learned skills to good use—so good that, in fact, he followed a philosophy degree with a job in the U.S. Antarctic Program near the South Pole. Doing what, you ask? Why putting experience to work by clearing snow from supplies on the East Antarctic Plateau.

Returning to Vermont, he exchanged slopes for rooftops. A tragedy occurred here when someone in the process of clearing a roof died after being buried under an avalanche from his housetop. Leath thinks about the incident, calling shoveling “Sysiphean, an absurd confrontation with an absurd universe,” a “full-spine shiver, indeed a strange kind of love.”

Leath is the author of two books of essays: *The Animal One Thousand Miles Long: Seven Lengths of Vermont and Other Adventures* and *The West Will Swallow You*. He also contributes regularly to *Seven Days*.

Sympathy:

is extended to family and friends of **Caroline W. Koehler** of Shelburne who passed away March 5 at The Arbors at the age of 86. A native of New Jersey, she and her husband moved to Shelburne in 1968. Caroline served as an editor at General Electric and later in communications at Vermont Public Television. Her surviving family includes her daughter, Kimberley Mann, of Charlotte. The family asks that those wishing to make donations in her memory consider giving to the Alzheimers Association, Vermont Chapter, P.O. Box 275, Winooski, VT 05404.

is extended to family and friends of **Joseph Lane, Sr.** of Charlotte, who passed away March 18 at the age of 89. Born in town, Joseph spent his childhood on the family farm on Church Hill Road. He graduated from Cathedral High School and married his wife, Shirley, two years later. They lived in the Burlington area for a number of years where he repaired appliances, owned the Lane Motel and worked for IBM. He is survived by his son, Jeffrey, and Jeffery’s wife, Ellen, who live in Charlotte. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 160 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, VT 05403.

is expressed to family and friends of **Eileen Schilling** of Charlotte who passed away recently. She was in her early sixties. Although she majored in Early Childhood Education in college, she and her husband, Charlie Proutt, ran Horsford Nursery in Charlotte. Near Memorial Day each year they planted public gardens, and Eileen used her college training by volunteering at Barnes School and CCS. She and Charlie raised three children of their own: Henri, Catherine and Elizabeth. The family asks that everyone in town plant flowers of their own in their front yards in memory of Eileen.

Education

You're on the wait list, now what?



Margo Bartsch
CONTRIBUTOR

With one year of the pandemic behind us, many high school seniors are receiving college acceptances during this untraditional application season. This March, the *Wall Street Journal* reports an 11 percent increase in applications nationwide, although the number of applicants has increased by only 1.4 percent overall. Because nearly all colleges have gone test-optional, students are expanding their college lists. This is resulting in more students being placed on wait lists. If a student is waitlisted at colleges, what does this mean and how can families respond?

Colleges are generally focused on their yield as an important part of their admissions criteria. The yield is forecasting which student is most likely to accept an invitation to attend. Think of this like the movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, where there are a limited number of golden tickets available. Most colleges begin their evaluation process with early decision and early action applicants, who apply around November 1. Colleges put a premium value on these early applicants in allotting available slots.

With early decision, students are bound to attend if admitted. Typically, most highly selective colleges have this option and admit between 40 to 60 percent of the overall



available slots. Early decision offers a competitive advantage for students who are prepared to apply to college near the start of their senior year and are confident that a college is their top choice.

Also, many colleges and state universities have an early action option with applications also due around November 1. Once again, these students have done earlier research about the college when submitting their application. Although they are not bound to attend if admitted, the colleges predict which students are more likely to attend.

For the remaining regular decision applicants,

there are fewer available slots, despite a larger applicant pool. Applications are due around January 1, and students are not bound to attend. Colleges evaluate their yield as to which regular applicant is most likely to attend. This year, New York University reports receiving 100,000 applications for only 6,000 spots. The wait list helps the college have a back-up plan to fill their class with a qualified student if an admitted student declines their acceptance.

If a college notifies the student that they are wait listed, this means that they need to wait and see if an accepted student chooses not to attend that college, which could open up a spot. The wait-listed student can select the option to remain on the wait list for further consideration, or they can decline staying on the wait list. In addition, this year the University of Chicago is asking if a wait-listed student would want to take a gap year and be considered for admission for the following year (entering fall 2022).

Colleges are reporting that the wait lists could be even larger than previous years, which have typically been long lists. The colleges need to evaluate each applicant to keep a balanced class with a range of demographic, academic and athletic factors. This year, colleges are expecting to notify wait-listed students of an acceptance throughout the summer if a spot opens.

How can a family plan what school to attend, put a deposit down, and get excited about

the college experience ahead? This is a tricky question since colleges require a student to commit to one college typically by May 1. The student will then be receiving housing information, attending online information sessions, registering for classes, and getting a roommate. Also, each college has different deadlines for the first semester tuition and room and board deposits.

If a student is later notified of being admitted from the wait list, they would forfeit their financial deposits from their original choice. For their new college, they would need to commit to the financial fees, register for classes, and choose housing. This becomes an ongoing cycle for the college, where a spot would then become open from the student's initial college for another student on that college's wait list. Colleges are scrambling to fill the upcoming class with deeply committed students.

Considering your wait list options is an important and ongoing discussion. As wait lists become more common with the college notification process, it is essential to weigh various alternatives and timing considerations. Patience is a virtue in choosing which college will soon become your home away from home.

Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.

Education Town

Course introduces kids to herpetology

Staff report

Kids of all ages are invited to sign up for Croak, Slither and Slide, a six-week exploration of frogs, snakes, salamanders, turtles and other reptiles and amphibians.

The free herpetology course, offered by University of Vermont Extension 4-H, will delve into the life cycles, habitats and food sources of a number of species found in New England and beyond. Participants also will learn about the cultural connections and body dynamics, among other topics.

Sessions will be held via Zoom from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on six consecutive Thursday afternoons. The dates are April 15, 22 and 29 and May 6, 13 and 20.

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/4h-herpetology>.

Closed captioning will be provided for this program. To request an additional disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact Liz Kenton at liz.kenton@uvm.edu or (802) 257-7967, ext. 308.

Weekly sessions will include do-at-home crafts. These include making homemade slime, fingerprint casts, a paper chameleon and an origami frog that hops. Participants also will create an amphibian or reptile life cycle on paper or with clay and become a citizen scientist by searching for vernal pools, making a sound map and signing up to be a salamander crossing guard.

To learn about this course and other learning activities for kids, check out uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

Vermont Commons School honor roll

- Eli Quickel, 8th Grade
- Gabe Taylor, 8th Grade
- Tyco Lawson-Ryan, 8th Grade
- Silas Cohen, 8th Grade
- Kai Mahaffey, 8th Grade
- Iain Mahaffey, 10th Grade
- Tess Foley-Cox, 11th Grade
- Iris Lawson-Ryan, 11th Grade
- Riley Tyler, 12th Grade
- Rachel Bergstein, 12th Grade

Food Shelf news

All acts of kindness are lights in the war for justice

— Joy Harjo, “Reconciliation”

Most large lectures at Yale don’t exceed 600, but Psy 257: Psychology and the Good Life, informally known as the Happiness Class, proved to be the most popular classes offered in the university’s 320-year history. It was offered only once and then went online. Now, over 3.3 million people have signed up for the free, 10-week version of this course available to the public: <https://tinyurl.com/yk7dapru>.

The course offers lots of information, tips and strategies, but here are the two essential takeaways: Get plenty of sleep and be kind to others.

Be kind to others. For that, you don’t need to go to Yale. We have plenty of evidence of it right here in Charlotte.

It won’t be warm till the snow gets off the mountain, and the snow won’t get off the mountain till it gets warm.

--Talk Less and Say More, Vermont Proverbs, Wolfgang Mieder

May the generosity of our community send out rays of warmth to everybody.

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 an assistance plan. We need to help families and volunteers stay safe.

For emergency food call John at 425-3130.

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.

Check the Food Shelf website for more information about different types of financial assistance and eligibility. Applications are available at the Food Shelf and online: charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf.

The website also contains information about other Vermont resources offering further assistance.

The Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc. is a nonprofit organization supported by the Charlotte Congregational Church, Our Lady of Mount

Carmel Catholic Church, and the Charlotte community. Our organization is run by volunteers, and all donations made to the Food Shelf go directly for nutritious food and assistance to our neighbors in Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh.

Checks may be mailed to Charlotte Food Shelf and Assistance, P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445.

We offer thanks to people who find many ways to offer assistance. We welcome volunteers.



Gift bags provided by HandsVT. Take a look at the website to see all the great projects this organization organizes: <https://handsvt.org>. Photo contributed

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Hi, Neighbor!

Meg Berlin: Making her land bird friendly



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

When Meg Berlin and her then-husband visited a friend who lived in Charlotte almost 25 years ago, they fell in love with the area and decided to buy some land and build a house. Berlin's initial plot was 50 acres, but she eventually acquired another 15 from a neighbor who lived just north of her.

Sixty-five acres is a lot to manage by herself, but Berlin is working hard to ensure that it's suitable for local wildlife. Her land abuts the Town Park on one side and town-owned land on two other sides. "It's like a little island," she said. Berlin's first goal was to eradicate invasive species like honeysuckle and buckthorn. "I'm nowhere near where I'd like to be on that," she confessed. Roughly 10 years ago, she found another target for her efforts when she began working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"They were looking at the Town Park," Berlin said, "and they looked at my land since it was contiguous. They were trying to create habitat suitable for the golden-winged warbler." Berlin isn't a birder but she appreciates nature, so she decided to take part in the program. "They started on a small parcel eight or nine years ago," she said. "They paid me so I could hire people to remove trees and honeysuckle bushes." The initial work was done with massive machines, and Berlin was charged with following up by supporting the new growth of species more suitable for golden-winged warbler habitat like low-growing willows and northern dogwood. "The warblers and others weave their nests and lay their eggs on thin, low-lying branch-

es," she said.

In addition to golden-winged warblers, there is a blue-winged warbler that enjoys the new habitat, as well as a hybrid between the two birds. Every year, people from Audubon Vermont visit the land to check on the bird population. "They come over at 6 a.m.," Berlin said. "They play a recording to attract the birds, catch them in a net, take down information such as the bird's age, band them, and let them go again." Audubon gives Berlin a list of all the birds they've seen on her land. "They consider this to be a success," she said.

Berlin has continued to maintain other parts of her property, noting that it took a great deal of work to get her additional 15-acre piece to the point where she could even walk through it. "It was six or seven years ago that I caught the bug of taking care of the land more seriously," she said. "There was a lot of undergrowth and I brush-hogged the paths." Last year, NRCS asked if Berlin would be willing to increase the size of the test parcel. "That's a godsend," she said "because I've been paying someone to come in and remove the invasives and the dead trees." Since then, another 15 acres has been cleared for warbler habitat.

Berlin spent three years on the Charlotte Conservation Commission. "I love all



Left: Golden winged warbler. Right: Meg Berlin.



Photos contributed

wildlife," she said. "Being here for 24 years has been an incredible education for me." While she was on the Conservation Commission, Berlin was asked to work with the iNaturalist program. "It's a global network of scientists and citizen-scientists," she said. "If you go out and see an animal or plant, you take a photograph and indicate where it was, and then a scientist will affirm or identify it for you and make a record of it. It's a way for a town to assess its natural assets. I did that for a while and took it very seriously." The program was perfect for Berlin since she is a photographer who has sold her work and taken part in several exhibitions. "I'm really interested in photographing the natural world and landscapes," she said.

When Berlin first moved to her property in Charlotte, she was enchanted by several old maple trees that framed her view of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. "One by one they died," she said, "and that helped me think more about the landscape." In the process of clearing her land of honeysuckle and buckthorn, Berlin discovered an ancient pear orchard. She is trying to get the trees pruned with dreams of having someone harvest the fruit for hard cider or brandy. "I went from just seeing everything grown up and taking over," she said, "to really trying to hew to the natural habitat of what is supposed to grow here."

Town

Charlotte Recreation spring and summer program

Nicole Conley
CHARLOTTE RECREATION

Recreation Lacrosse

Children in 3rd grade and up will participate in the US Lacrosse league. Third through 8th grade participants must have a US Lacrosse membership.

Please Note: YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR CHILD IN THE TOWN YOU RESIDE IN.

The four Recreation Departments work together once the registration period has ended to merge teams if roster numbers are small.

Deadline: March 26

****We are seeking volunteer coaches for this program.**

Mini Lacrosse

Mini Lacrosse practices will be offered to kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders on Saturday mornings at Charlotte Central. Each participant will get a chance to learn more about the game while having fun.

Saturdays, April 24–June 5

Time: 9 a.m.

Cost: \$35 by April 18

Lacrosse Clinic

Volunteer coaches will be hosting lacrosse clinics to 3rd and 4th graders on Saturday mornings at Charlotte Central. Each participant will get a chance to hone their skills while having fun.

Saturdays, April 24–June 5

Time: 10 a.m.

Cost: \$35 by April 18

After-school Tennis Lessons

The program is open to 1st through 8th graders; age groups will be split into the two time slots listed below. You may sign your child up for both sessions.

Mondays & Wednesdays

Session 1: 4/26–5/12

Session 2: 5/17–6/7

Grades 1-3 ~ 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Grades 3-5 ~ 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Cost per session: \$75

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Session 1: 4/27–5/13

Session 2: 5/18–6/3

Grades 1-3 ~ 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Grades 3-5 ~ 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Cost per session: \$75

After-school Soccer

It is time to lace up those cleats and enjoy a fun afternoon of outdoor soccer. This program will take place at Charlotte Central. Teams will be split by grades 1-2 and 3-4. Space is limited; the program is run based on volunteer coaches.

Dates: May–June (Exact dates TBD)

Time: TBD

Cost: \$35

~We are seeking volunteer coaches for this program~

Summer Camps and Programs

Summer Driver's Ed

The Charlotte Recreation Department will be offering Driver's Ed by the 802 Driving school this summer. The Driver's Ed program will be taught by Joe Barch, who has over 15 years of experience teaching in the public schools.

Dates: June 6–July 15

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$700



Tim Serrell Tennis Clinic

Tim Serrell was a summer resident of Charlotte who loved to play tennis. Tim left money in a trust fund to provide free tennis lessons to the children of Charlotte. The program began in 1989 and has become a Charlotte summer tradition. Space is limited.

Grades: 1–6

Date: June 21–25

Time: 9–10 a.m. & 10–11 a.m.

Location: Charlotte Beach

Cost: Free (please consider making a donation)

Track & Field Program

Charlotte is proud to be a part of this three-town Track and Field Program, which includes Charlotte, Hinesburg and Williston. Participants will learn the basics of running, jumping, throwing and relays.

Week of July 12–16

Times: 5:30–6:30 p.m. & 6:45–8 p.m.

Ages: 6–9 & 10–14

Location: Williston Central School

Price: \$50

International Soccer Camp

The British Soccer camp will be held the week of July 12–16 at Charlotte Central School.

Tiny Tykes, ages 4–6, 8–9 a.m. Resident \$88, Nonresident \$93

Half-Day Program, ages 9–12, 9 a.m.–12 noon. Resident \$159, Nonresident \$169

Full-Day Program, ages 7–15, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Resident \$201, Nonresident \$211

*Host a coach and receive an \$80 rebate on your registration!

**Please use the link on our website to register directly with Challenger Sports!

Challenger Soccer Skills Session

This camp will be held at Charlotte Central School the week of July 19–23:

3-hour camp 9 a.m.–12 noon. Ages 7–16 Resident \$169, Nonresident \$179

6-hour camp 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Ages 8–16 Resident \$211, Nonresident \$221

*Host a coach and receive an \$80 rebate on your registration!

**Please use the link on our website to register directly with Challenger Sports!

Charlotte Recreation follows all COVID-19 policies set forth by the State of Vermont. All programs are subject to being altered or canceled based on guidance from the state. The health and safety of our community comes first. To Register for any of the programs please visit charlottterec.com or contact Nicole Conley by email Recreation@townofcharlotte.com.

On Books

Angie Thomas: Writing to make a difference



Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

As daffodil and crocus shoots push up through the mud in the places we walk and live, we may tend to forget that some blooms push up through pavement. Angie Thomas is an American young adult author, probably best known for her novel *The Hate U Give*. Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Thomas grew up near the home of civil rights activist Medgar Evers and claims that in 1963 her mother heard the gunshot that killed him.

At the tender age of six, Thomas herself witnessed a shootout. The next day, her mother walked her down to the local library to show her that “there was more to the world than what she saw that day.” This, says Thomas, is what inspired her to take up writing. Initially, she wanted to write fantasy novels, but she worried that they wouldn’t make enough of a difference in a world that badly needs changing. She began working on *The Hate U Give*. When she was in college, a teacher read the manuscript in progress and encouraged her, telling Thomas that her novel could give a voice to those who had been silenced and tell stories that hadn’t been told. Meanwhile, the deaths of Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice

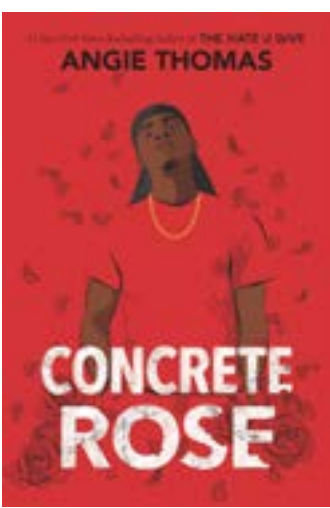


and Michael Brown prompted Thomas to keep working on her book. She cites rapper Tupac Shakur as a major influence, with the way his music manages to trigger a range of emotions. In *The Hate U Give* she aspires to do the same, stating that “what society feeds into youth has a way of coming back and affecting us all.” The title, *The Hate U Give*, was inspired by Tupac’s THUG LIFE tattoo, supposedly an acronym for “The Hate U Give

In an interview with *The Daily Telegraph*, Thomas said she aspires to show truth and tear down stereotypes in her writing. She feels



that it’s important for the white community to listen to what the Black Lives Matter movement is saying to the world. Writing, she believes, is a form of activism. “If nothing else, books give us a glimpse into lives that we may not have known about before; they can promote empathy.” She is aware that *The Hate U Give* is an “issue” book, but she didn’t necessarily want it to be that way. “I wanted to make something that is so political seem personal.” *Concrete Rose* is Thomas’ fourth young adult novel, delving into the backstory of Maverick Carter, who we meet in *The Hate U Give* as Starr’s dad. It takes place 17 years before the events of *The Hate U Give*. In it, we find Maverick, son of a former gang legend, dealing drugs for his father’s gang. But don’t be too quick to judge. Given the context, there aren’t a whole lot of other viable choices for him. His family badly needs money. His father is in prison, his mother works two jobs to make ends meet, and there still isn’t near enough to get by. But things are humming along relatively smoothly at the beginning of the book (if dealing drugs for the King Lords can in any way be considered things humming smoothly) until the moment Maverick learns that he’s going to be a father. The news stops him in his tracks, and things get complicated quick. I am a big fan of this book. For me, it brilliantly accomplishes what Thomas was talking about when she said that she aspires to inspire empathy and give the world a glimpse into lives that we wouldn’t otherwise know much about. *Concrete Rose* functions



as a kind of portal, one into a world many of us are unlikely ever to see or experience ourselves. The characters are believable and relatable even though they live in a world that is so unlike the world of many of Thomas’ readers. There is a place in the novel where Maverick is talking about falling asleep in his U.S. history class. “It was boring anyway. I’m tired of hearing ‘bout all these f*&%%\$-up white people who did f*&%%\$-up stuff, yet people wanna call them heroes. [The teacher] talked ‘bout how Columbus discovered America, and all I could think was how the hell can you ‘discover’ a place where people already lived? ... Funny how that work.” On Shakespeare, Maverick comments, “His stories the bomb. Romeo and Juliet was basically on some gang shit. You could say she was a Queen Lord, and he was a GD (*Garden Disciple*). They went out on their own terms like some straight-up Gs.” The dialog in this book is excellent. I loved the characters. And I feel I have been positively affected by what this book has to say about love and honor and pushing through impossible adversity with integrity and discernment. And here is the priceless epigraph: “For all the roses growing in concrete. Keep blossoming.” I will leave you with that. Happy spring.

Outdoors

Help protect Vermont’s forests



Small, white, cottony balls lined up along the twigs of the hemlock tree indicate the presence of the hemlock woolly adelgid.
Photo contributed by Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station, Bugwood.org.

Ginger Nickerson
FOREST PEST EDUCATION COORDINATOR
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

As you hit the trails, take a close look at Vermont’s forests. Some trees are threatened by invasive forest insects, and in some places, you might be the only one to spot them!

The three pests to be on the lookout for when exploring our forests are the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid and Asian long-horned beetle. If you see signs of any of these pests, take photos, snag the GPS location and submit your findings at vtinvasives.org using the Report It! link.

The emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle native to southeast Asia, was first confirmed in the United States in 2002 and first detected in Vermont in 2018. It is now established in 35 states and five Canadian provinces. All of Vermont’s native ash trees (green, white and black) are threatened by this forest pest. Nearly 99 percent of them will likely die if infested.

You can help slow the spread of this pest by looking for signs and symptoms of the beetle. These include ash trees with patches of «blond» bark flecked off by grub-hungry woodpeckers, a dying canopy, new branches growing low on the main trunk or S-shaped galleries or tunnels just under the bark of the tree.

Hemlock trees, a keystone species in northern forests, provide food, shelter and shade to wildlife across the region and keep our trout streams cool. Hemlocks are

threatened by the hemlock woolly adelgid, a small, aphid-like insect that feeds on starch in hemlock twigs. Vermont has implemented a biological control program to keep the populations down. This tiny bug is currently in southern Vermont but has the potential to move north as it has been spotted in sections of central New York and New Hampshire.

Look at the underside of hemlock branches for small, white, cottony balls lined up along the twigs. Most new detections come from residents and visitors reporting suspect trees.

The Asian long-horned beetle feeds on many hardwood trees, but its preferred snack is maples. The only known way to control this pest is to cut down infested trees. States with infestations have cut down and destroyed thousands of trees in their efforts to eradicate the pest. Although not yet present in Vermont, if it gets a foothold here, this pest could devastate the rural and urban landscapes we know and the maple sugaring industry we love.

Look for perfectly round, dime-sized exit holes, at least a half inch deep. Egg mass sites appear as shallow, round scars or half-inch depressions in the outer bark.

With your help we can keep these invasive forest pests from destroying the forests that we love for outdoor recreation, sugaring and other forestry-related activities.

You can learn more about these insects and other invasive forest pests at vtinvasives.org.



The Charlotte News

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Ice on the water



Photo by Quinn Sunderland

Free vegetable gardening series offered this spring

Staff report

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Community Horticulture Program Master Gardener volunteers are hosting a free vegetable gardening education series on six consecutive Saturdays this spring.

Learn to Grow Vegetables will be offered weekly via Zoom, April 17-May 22, from 9-10 a.m. The series consists of 10 short videos produced by University of Maine Cooperative Extension on different vegetable gardening topics, and includes live, facilitated Q & A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. The final session will be a live presentation on using high and low tunnels to extend the growing season.

Although geared to novice and first-time gardeners, the series will be of interest to anyone who wants to learn more about growing vegetables in the shorter growing season found in northern climates. To register for one or more of the six sessions, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/growveg>.

Dates and topics are as follows:

- April 17: Vegetable Gardening--Where to Begin and Planning Your Garden
- April 24: Preparing Your Garden Soil and Planting
- May 1: Managing Weeds and Watering

Your Garden

- May 8: Plant Diseases and Preserving the Harvest
- May 15: Pain-Free Gardening and Preparing Your Garden for Winter
- May 22: Extending the Season with High and Low Tunnels

For more information, contact Cindy Heath at (603) 543-1307 or cindy.heath@uvm.edu. To request a disability-related accommodation, please contact her two weeks prior to the day of the session.



Photo by Duong Nhân from Pexels

Spring in the air



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

Even on a frigid day with raging winds, the sun penetrates and warms. Spring! The Vernal Equinox is in the rearview mirror, birdsong fills the air, and crocuses and snowdrops bloom.

What else is going on?

Early Signs of Spring

The first flowers to appear in the woods, usually in early April, are serviceberry, a shrubby tree with smooth gray bark. This early bloomer sports three evocative names: serviceberry, juneberry, and shadbush. In colonial times, flowering coincided with the ground being warm enough to dig graves and bury the dead and thus hold services; the small tree produces its fruit early in the season, hence Juneberries; and its spring blossoms coincide with shad running upstream. Even before the delicate flowers appear, the leaves may unfurl in response to warm, sunny days.

Ticks

It is not too soon to be mindful of ticks. Adults that overwintered are hungry for a blood meal in order to lay eggs. Some adult ticks have been gorging on deer or moose blood all winter. When they drop off, they lay their eggs promptly. In addition to posing a danger to humans, ticks threaten our moose population. A 1,000-pound moose may host up to 75,000 blood-sucking parasites, leading to weakness or death. Consider wearing clothing that protects against ticks. Many retailers sell insect-resistant pants, shirts, hats and more that protect for up to 70 washes. If you plan to spend much time outdoors in the coming months, these would be a good investment.

Courtship

Our noses may alert us to one spring awakening in the animal kingdom, the skunk. Mammals are emerging from dens and tunnels to seek mates. With love in the air, it is common for skunks and possums to be hit by cars as they pursue a partner.

Cold-blooded animals, including amphibians, are warming up, too.

Wood frogs are among several local frogs that contain high levels of glucose in their blood and can freeze in winter. Blood stops flowing and respiration, heart beat and muscle movement cease. As much as 65% of the water in a wood frog's body becomes ice until a spring thaw. Then courtship begins.

At our vernal pool, an audio recorder is poised to capture the love songs of wood frogs in the coming days and evenings. We'll soon return to count egg masses and then look for tadpoles to emerge. If the pool does not dry out too early, as it did last season, the tadpoles will metamorphose into the next generation of frogs.

Peepers will also soon be a-courtin', which means we will hear their songs at night. My nature journal notes the average date for the first peepers in our neighborhood is the end of March. That's usually

when killdeer return to nearby pastures, squawking and feigning a broken wing to distract from the location of its nest. Killdeer, a noisy, long-legged member of the plover family, build nests on the ground, a cup of twigs and pebbles to hold well-camouflaged eggs.

Veggie Gardens

If you are dreaming of fresh-picked strawberries, corn or tomatoes, now is the time to make garden plans. I'm taking Vermont's Master Gardener Course this winter—wow, there's a lot I don't know! The first step is to start with a notebook—easy so far. This is where you will record where you planted your garlic last fall so you don't have to wait for it to emerge to avoid planting your peas on top of it. Draw a map of crop placement. If you have maps from previous years, make a best effort to rotate crops. This decreases the chance that pests or diseases will be waiting in the soil for the return of a favorite victim.

In a garden notebook, remember problems from previous seasons so you don't repeat them—tomatoes so close together it's impossible to find ripe fruit, weeds strangling crops, or Colorado potato beetles. Read up on best practices and try again. In April, hope triumphs.

Spring Hikes

After a year of pandemic captivity, you might be ready to explore the hills and mountains. The Green Mountain Club offers tips to keep you safe on spring hikes. With big temperature fluctuations, layers are more important than ever: a wicking layer next to the skin, one or more insulating layers, and a wind-breaking jacket or shell. Wool is a good insulator, wet or dry. Avoid cotton that can remain damp for hours. Neck gaiter or buff can serve as a balaclava, neck warmer or hat in a pinch. Hat and gloves or mittens of different warmths. Traction devices—grippers, snowshoes. The surface may alternate between mud, snow and ice even on a short hike. Don't forget food and drink. It's better to bring home extra than to be hungry on the hoof. Headlamp? Always. Emergency blanket. First aid kit with matches, a candle and a whistle. Hand and toe warmers are compact and don't weigh much. Make sure to check the weather before you head out.

Need a change from Mt. Philo, Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge and Shelburne Farms? Consider Mount Independence in Orwell, Snake Mountain in Addison, the 18-mile, multi-segment Trail Around Middlebury, and the VYCC Trails, in Richmond, three miles of low-elevation, south-facing trails.

Bike Ferry

Mark your calendar: The Bike Ferry opens Friday, May 28, carrying pedestrians and bikers across the 200-foot 'cut' between South Hero and the Colchester Causeway. The ferry will run on long weekends until June 14 when daily service begins. For complete information on the Island Line Trail, ferry and related topics, check localmotion.org.

Happy spring!

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Tunes to Tune Into

Exploring sounds at sea with Joe McKee



John Moses
CONTRIBUTOR

Greetings from Los Angeles,

Lately, I've had a screaming desire to travel. I don't particularly care where; I just want to get out of the house. Maybe I'm antsy

approaching the pandemic's light at the end of the tunnel; perhaps I've grown weary of my cat's meowing me to consciousness each morning. I just know that I want to feel the sweet breeze of getting from point A to point B flow through my hair. I could use a change of pace.

With my cabin fever in mind, I spoke with Los Angeles-based Australian artist Joe McKee: musician, record label owner and creative wizard whom I admire for many reasons—one of which being that he traveled a great distance to produce his latest album, *Ultra Letizia*. His 2018 record, *An Australian Alien*, is wonderfully lyrical and personal—a theatrical, folky, psychedelic work that remains in constant rotation on my turntables to this day. McKee's own imprint, **Baby Race Records**, is consistent in releasing compelling music from a variety of artists, all of which are completely new to me.

Stylistically and conceptually, McKee's newest album daringly ventures from the rest of his discography. *Ultra Letizia* is the soundtrack to visual artist **Cole Sternberg's** film *Are the Green Fields Gone*, documenting Sternberg and McKee's month-long journey across the Pacific Ocean aboard a cargo ship (the namesake of the record), travelling from Hiroshima to Vancouver. Cole created works of art in response to the ship's environment while Joe composed music created entirely from sounds of their travels.

Joe's work is meditative, haunting and brilliantly polychromatic. Like any great record (especially one that is primarily instrumental), *Ultra Letizia* is transportive, ideal for an avid music listener who's been stuck in their apartment for the last year. Without having to experience the open seas for yourself, Joe's thoughtfully sculpted ambience actualizes the kinetic violence and boundless placidity of his nautical travel in a way that's palpable and mesmerizing.

In this interview, Joe McKee and I discussed the making of *Ultra Letizia*, the process of preparing for a big trip, and what it's like to play a cargo ship as an instrument.

Can you provide some context as to how you initially got involved in *Are the Green Fields Gone*? How did you prepare for the trip—both creatively and as someone who would be on a boat for a month?

My friend Cole had come up with the idea of making work aboard a cargo ship....Cole initially invited me to just compose the music for the eventual film that he would make during the voyage, but I thought it'd be fun to incorporate the sounds of the voyage into the score itself. The shipping company arranged all of the logistics and I just showed up with a bag of clothes, a field recorder and a laptop and got to work. I had created music from sounds from buildings, so I had some idea of what approach I was going to take. I really did not prepare or have any concept of what life would be like aboard....It was all very

abstract in my noggin.

Did you have any similar boating experience prior to your journey? What was your time like as a passenger? My wife is particularly curious about what you ate and did for fun when you weren't recording sounds.

I had zero boating experience—especially for this long and on such a massive vessel. There was no internet connection or signal, so we had zero contact with the outside world which meant that our minds had to operate at a slower pace...quite a relief really. Time behaves very differently, and you feel dwarfed by the magnitude of the ship itself, but then again by the magnitude of the sea and sky.... We didn't see a sign of human life outside of the ship for about three weeks. Though we saw whales and pods of dolphins and the occasional sea bird. The food was basically meat and potatoes every night. We'd occasionally sneak into the Filipino crew members mess room and eat their cuisine just to get some variation.

What was your work process like? What aspects of recording did you find most challenging and what pleasantly surprised you?

I basically went around the ship exploring, with a couple of mallets and sticks, to see what sounds I could extract from the various metallic surfaces. To my pleasant surprise I found so many differing tones and textures. I basically just collected all of these sounds for the first few days and spent time really listening to what the ship had to say for itself. On windy days I heard the breeze blowing through this metal scaffold pipes up on the captain's bridge... blowing in a distinct mixolydian mode. I tried to capture that sound for weeks until finally on the last day of the trip, the conditions were perfect, and my little shotgun mic managed to pick up the notes without all the harsh wind interference. I was allowed to access massive cargo holds of the ship, which were essentially these giant oceanic reverb chambers, so I brought some old pipes and hoses...and blew into them to capture the echo and make these wonky horn sections. There was a karaoke room that crew members would make use of each Friday night.... The "messman" had this incredible vulnerable voice so I invited him to sing a little lullaby for his 18-month-old son at home, whom he wouldn't see for about a year. That's the voice you can hear on the opening track ("Wind on the Flying Bridge").

The writing around the record and the documentary depict you using the ship as a gamelan—how did your perception of the boat as an instrument change throughout your trip? Was there any sense of improving as a "player of the boat" during your trip?

It really became more about listening rather than interacting with the ship....I'd really whacked every surface I could after a day or two, so I just engaged with the ship in a more passive way for the weeks that followed. That's when the beautiful surprises started to emerge. Things like the old WeFax machine which transmits the weather report each day... or the polyrhythms being pumped out by the engine room. So, I suppose my listening skills helped me to improve in "playing" the ship.

Your solo albums, *Burning Boy* and *An Australian Alien*, are stylistically very



Los Angeles based Australian musician Joe McKee, who's recent record was made entirely with, and on, a cargo ship traveling across the pacific. *Photos contributed*



different than *Ultra Letizia*—I liken your other records to leaning toward the romanticism of Scott Walker where *Ultra Letizia* feels ambient and abstract akin to Harry Partch or John Cage—where do you think this album falls in the greater scope of your work and how might this record inform your creative projects going forward?

I'm quite restless and I'm not sure I want to repeat myself.... Perhaps I'll never make music again? Maybe I'll just tend to my plants for a while. I don't have a sense of urgency to make something unless it feels necessary to make. There's an awful lot of "content" out there. I don't feel like I need to contribute to it most of the time.... unless it feels like I'm really contributing something of worth to the conversation, y'know?

What travel tips do you have for our readers?

Do it as frequently as you possibly can. Even if it's just an hour away from your home. Just get off the internet and into the world.

What music are you currently listening to? Bembeya Jazz National and Evelyn Ida Morris.

Can you recommend a product I don't need?

One of those mushroom suits that you can be wrapped in when you die, so that your body gets metabolized by the mushrooms and absorbed back into the earth.

If you have the opportunity, what other vessel or vehicle might you like to play as an instrument? Why?

A flying saucer.

Joe McKee's album *Ultra Letizia* is available on cassette and across digital platforms through Salmon Universe. You can listen to select pieces from the album, along with Joe's recommended music on Spotify. You can also find the link to his music on *The Charlotte News* website at: www.charlottenewsvt.org/category/arts-entertainment.

Sports

The women’s basketball season ends on a COVID note

Edd Merritt and Tom Giroux
CONTRIBUTORS

The Redhawk women’s basketball team ended its regular season undefeated, beating Spaulding 66–29 two weeks ago. That victory gave them a 9-0 win/loss record for the season and made them the #1 seed in the top division of the State Tournament. However, a positive COVID case on the team forced the Hawks to withdraw from the tournament, cutting short their historic win streak.

Men’s basketball attempts to fill in a state tournament championship

Finishing the regular season with a 6 win–3 loss record, the Hawk men will attempt to fill in for their female counterparts whose season ended on COVID. The men began with a 51–46 playdown win over Burr and Burton. Hosting the Bulldogs in Hinesburg, CVU out scored them 35–20 in the last 16 minutes of the game after trailing by two going into the fourth quarter. Devin Rogers’ 15 points led the team’s scoring followed by Ethan Murphy with 11. All in all, seven teammates scored in a balanced attack.

That win moved the Hawks on to a state quarterfinal game against Burlington. With CVU ranked fifth and BHS ranked 13, some may have thought CVU would have had an easier time than it did. Junior guard Oliver Pudvar came off the bench to hit 17 points, which included five three-pointers. Alex Provost, Logan Vaughn and Devin Rodgers hit for nine while Zach Doane and Ethan Czarnt added eight apiece. CVU’s record now stands at 8–3 heading into the semi-finals—on to Rice.

CVU fourth in state gymnastics

Burr and Burton placed first, followed in order by Harwood, Montpelier and CVU. Ruby Opton was the top Redhawk individual who earned third in floor exercises and seventh in the vault and the bars. Earlier in the month, CVU topped Burlington and Milton with Ruby again placing highest among Redhawk individuals, earning Second All Around. Her teammate Rory Anderson followed her in third.

CVU men’s and women’s both slalom champs

The Alpine Slalom championships began at Smugglers Notch and moved to Cochran’s. Both Redhawk men and women won team titles. Although Olivia Zubarski from CVU led the individuals after her first run, she did not finish her second, and St. Johnsbury’s Maggie Anderson came in first.

Hockey also faces COVID drop outs

On the men’s ledger, Rice Memorial’s hockey team forfeited its quarterfinal game against CVU. The Green Knights were ranked third, the Redhawks ended their regular season at 4–4 but moved on to the state semi finals.

The combined women’s team of CVU/MMU played South Burlington in the Division II tournament. The Cougar/Hawks lost in overtime 3–2.



No more flowers for Redhawks this season.

Photo by Al Frey




All the world looks upside down from a tumbler’s position.

Photo by Al Frey

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Sacred Hunter

The art of fly fishing and the eloquence of teaching it



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

As the last vestiges of ice crunch and collide in the bays, the shoreline magically opens to reveal the detritus of a changing waterscape. If you listen closely you can hear the ice crystals

brushing up against one another, creating a raspy tinkling sound. The water smells so clean, as if the frigid northern winds had scrubbed it over the winter. The frigid water awakens in my thoughts of Vermont's favorite past time, trout fishing. I dream of Opening Day on the shoreline of a swollen stream and of monster holdover rainbows and steelhead like those occasionally caught in Lewis Creek in Ferrisburgh. The ground is still a tamped down mosaic of last Autumn's brush and weed growth. The water is a turbid chocolate with a frosting of wavelets. My inner compass points to a friendship with one of Vermont's finest fly fisherman, bar none—Mark Wilde.

I first met Mark 15 years ago while teaching wild game culinary classes for Vermont Outdoor Women's "Doe Camp." I had heard of him from several well-respected fly fishermen who had sung his praises as a teacher and guide. Our friendship grew slowly over the years, and the more time I spent fishing with him the more I realized that this character, no matter how intensely concentrated he could be when presenting a fly, had a solid spiritual and artistic foundation.

For a few years I worked for L.L. Bean here in Burlington, running their Outdoor Discovery School, so when I was tasked with hiring fly casting instructors, I immediately thought of Mark. Mark had been a teacher in the Missisquoi Valley School District for over 30 years, while running Uncle Jammer's Guide Service for 23 of them. Mark was born in Rhode Island on a Naval base, and by the time he caught his first bluegill at 5 or 6 years old...well, there is no way to get around this pun, but he was hooked! At L.L. Bean I watched him teach newcomers and experts with such patience and empathy that I was dumbstruck. It is one thing to be a good fly fisherman, but many are those who are good at something but lack the humility and eloquence of teaching this sport.

It was during my tenure at L.L. Bean that I experienced the real-life equivalent of the scene in *A River Runs Through It* by Norman MacLean. The film depicted some of the most beautiful casting sequences ever filmed. There is a scene in which Paul MacLean, one of two brothers, is standing in a raging Blackfoot River in Montana and throwing these impossible long-distance casts to a fish on the opposite side of the rapids. The arc of the fly line is illuminated by the blue sky and fir trees on the far shore, when you realize that this is an individual who has not just perfected the art of casting but is, in this moment, at the apogee of Zen philosophy. He has risen beyond all he has learned and is now a perfect representation of the spiritual universe of the present.

A few summers ago, I witnessed this same level of perfection while watching Mark cast into a pool on the upper Connecticut River. I stood beside him and tried to emulate what I was witnessing. But it was not possible, for only one can stand on this pedestal at a time. He cast to fish that were below the surface of the riffles at the end of a long undulating current. His casts were pure, unadulterated poetry, raw with power and blessed with gentleness. I stood stunned, as each cast, one after another, hooked him into rainbows, browns and even brookies. I saw him hook, land and release at least ten fish in the golden light of a Vermont late afternoon.

And with each fish I saw him bring to hand, I saw him cast a gentle compassionate eye on each before releasing it. Tonight as I write this, his words still echo in my mind when I asked him, "Which fish is your favorite?" To which he answered, "The one on the end of my line." Mark tells me a story of a landlocked salmon he caught and lost on the Clyde River in Newport a few years ago. His description of the ten-minute battle, with vertical leaps and blistering runs, held me in rapt attention. We always seem to remember the "one that got away," but Mark is humble enough to have loved the fight and accepts the loss with all the grace of a Tibetan monk.



Mark Wilde with a salmon that didn't get away in the Clyde River in Newport.

Photo contributed.

So, when this Opening Day rolls around on the second Saturday in April, I hope to be standing somewhere near Mr. Wilde and hoping that some of that magical fishing dust forms a halo around me, and, once again, I can experience the realm of being perfectly in the present. If you would like to share or learn about this most Zen-like sport, I would

encourage you to visit Mark's website, unclejammers.com or fire off an email to him at unclejammervt@aol.com.

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.



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SCHIP spring grant deadline

The spring deadline for SCHIP grant applications is Thursday, April 15. Since SCHIP began making grants many non-profits have used their awarded funds to continue their mission to improve the lives of our neighbors and strengthen our communities. Grants range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Grants may not exceed \$3,000 per request; only one grant can be received within a one-year period by any one entity.

Applicant requirements:

- Be a 501(c)(3) or submit the application through such an organization.
- Projects must serve residents of Shelburne, Charlotte and/or Hinesburg.
- Funds may not be applied to annual operating budgets or permanent staffing.
- One application per organization per calendar year.



Grants deadlines are April 15 and October 15.
To obtain an application go to the "Contact" link on the SCHIP's Treasure website at SCHIPSTreasure.org.

Springing into action



Arborist VJ Comai led a group of volunteers on Saturday, March 13, to prune trees in the West Charlotte town center. The volunteers were Deputy Tree Warden Sue Smith, Alexa Lewis and Julian Kulski. Photo contributed by Mark Dillenbeck, Tree Warden



Local Church Easter Services

Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC
403 Church Hill Road, 425-3176

Ash Wednesday PRAYER services
Feb. 17 • 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Stations of The Cross**
Feb. 17 through April 3
Walk the Stations of the Cross on the front lawn. Muddy Gras!
March 5 • 6 p.m.

Our annual variety show is back! Palm/Passion Sunday Service of Palms & Passion
March 28 • 10 a.m.

A special service of worship to begin Holy Week
Maundy Thursday service OF TENEBRAE
April 1 • 6:30 p.m.
Tenebrae service of shadows
Easter Sunday services**
April 4
Sunrise Service* 6:15 a.m. • Worship Service 10 a.m.
Easter egg baskets for children of all ages 4–5 p.m.
Services will be viewable as a livestream via Zoom or as prerecorded video on YouTube live. Outdoor services are weather permitting and will also be available by both Zoom and YouTube live.
*No video viewing option.
**Reservations required. Please see our website for details.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church
Spear Street, 425-2637
Sister parish: St. Jude's, Hinesburg

Those attending Holy Thursday, Good Friday Afternoon or Evening Services, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday must register. The link for these services is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FACA62EAAF49-stjude3>. If you would like Marie to register you, please contact her at 482-2290 (St. Jude) or 425-2637 (OLMC). MASKS ARE MANDATORY AT ALL TIMES IN THE CHURCH.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule:
Holy Thursday 7p.m. at St. Jude
Good Friday 3 p.m. at OLMC
Good Friday 7 p.m. at St. Jude
Easter Vigil 8 p.m. at St. Jude
Easter Sunday 8 a.m. at OLMC
Easter Sunday 9:30 a.m. at St. Jude
Easter Sunday 11 a.m. at OLMC

Shelburne United Methodist Church
30 Church Street, Shelburne
802-985-3981 | shelburneumc.org/

Holy Thursday, Parking Lot Communion, Noon and 7:00 pm
Good Friday, 7 Stations, "Seven Last Words of Christ" around the circle. Park and walk the circle for private devotion, prayer and contemplation. 9:00 am until dark.
Easter Sunday, 6:00 am Sunrise Service around the obelisk. (Masks and social distancing required). 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Drive-in service with Communion.

Calendar Events

We welcome appropriate community event listings with a maximum of 100 words. Print fees may apply to community events outside of Charlotte.
Email your events to ads@thecharlottenews.org.

Red Wagon Plants virtual spring workshops!
www.redwagonplants.com
Zoom link sent out to participants prior to the class.

Julie Rubaud: Gardening for Abundance - Vegetables
Saturday, March 27th from 10:00AM -11:30AM Gain guidance and tips in creating a garden to support your definition of abundance this year. Cost \$15.

Julie Rubaud: Strawberries 101
Tuesday, March 30th from 5:30PM -6:15PM Plants? Bare root? What is the difference? Come find out! Cost \$10.

Sophie Cassel: The Medicinal Herb Garden - Growing for Beauty and Wellness
Saturday, April 3rd from 10:00AM -11:30AM An introduction to why and how to create and utilize your own medicinal herb garden. Cost \$15.

Classifieds

Reach your friends and neighbors for only \$12 per issue. (Payment must be sent before issue date.) Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@thecharlottenews.org.

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Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Take & make for April
DIY Terrarium: Get your green thumbs ready and make a mini terrarium for your desk or countertop.

Upcoming Programs Online:

Please contact the

library to sign up for programs.
Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org
Phone: 425-3864

Citizen Science Month

April is Citizen Science month, and the Charlotte Library is highlighting ways your family can share and contribute in scientific research. Throughout the month, a series of virtual presentations will showcase ways your family can get involved with activities in your own backyard or around Vermont.

Vermont Center for Ecostudies

(vtecostudies.org)

Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

Join Outreach Naturalist Julia Pupko as she introduces us to several exciting studies in Vermont, including the Vermont Lady Beetle Atlas and the Vermont Bee Atlas. Julia connects with Vermonters interested in contributing to various community science projects, with a specific focus on the use of iNaturalist, Vermont eBird, and eButterfly; she will provide a brief overview of each program.

Click here to join the Zoom meeting:

<http://bit.ly/2Qynz7f>

You can also join Julia every Wednesday for her Lunch Time Learning series at <https://vtecostudies.org/resources-center/multimedia>.

UVM Extension Service and the Lake Champlain Sea Grant

(uvm.edu/seagrant/home)

Wednesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The Lake Champlain Sea Grant develops and shares science-based knowledge to benefit the Lake Champlain basin. Join Ashley



Eaton, a scientist from the University of Vermont Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, to talk about the health of Lake Champlain, cyanobacteria blooms, invasive species and the Charlotte shoreline. Register for the Zoom session here: <http://bit.ly/3cakYsj>

Got Bats? Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

(vtfishandwildlife.com)

Wednesday, April 28, 6 p.m.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department needs your help monitoring summer bat activity around the state to help them make informed decisions about the welfare and long-term conservation of these important mammals. Alyssa Bennett, the Small Mammals Biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, will share with us her knowledge and lots of great photos of the bats of Vermont and how you can help monitor their populations as a citizen scientist! Click here to join the meeting: <http://bit.ly/3lCBxQS>

Book Chat

Fridays at 10 a.m.

Join Margaret for a virtual stroll through the library collections, highlighting a different theme or topic each week.

The New Heirloom Garden Book Discussion & Workshop

Fridays, April 16 and April 23, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join Ellen Ecker Ogden, author and kitchen garden designer, for a two-part Zoom discussion and design workshop centered on her most recent book. The first session will introduce to the concepts of her work, including the influence of older gardens. The second session will focus on garden design, using templates from *The New Heirloom Garden* as a jumping-off point. Copies of the book will be available from the library, with the option to purchase.

Mystery Book Group: Spider Woman's Daughter by Anne Hillerman

Monday, April 19, 10 a.m.

Legendary tribal sleuths Leaphorn and Chee are back! It happened in an instant: After a breakfast with colleagues, Navajo Nation Police Officer Bernadette Manualito saw a truck squeal into the parking lot and heard a crack of gunfire. When the dust cleared, someone very close to her was lying on the asphalt in a pool of blood. Copies available for porch pickup at the library and ebook via Libby for Charlotte patrons.

Men's Book Group: Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed

Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Brilliant, illuminating and immensely

absorbing, *Collapse* is destined to take its place as one of the essential books of our time, raising the urgent question: How can our world best avoid committing ecological suicide? Print copies available for porch pickup and ebook available via Libby for Charlotte patrons.

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for our monthly newsletter on our website. www.charlottepubliclibrary.org.

The library building is closed to the public, but books and other materials available for porch pickup.

Porch pickup hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call or email to let us know what we can set out for you! Not sure what to read? We're happy to help select books for readers of all ages!

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Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER
DIRECTOR

"I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and hills
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

~ William Wordsworth,
"I Wander'd Lonely as a Cloud"

Daylight Saving Time is back, and spring is here, officially. The last patches of snow are disappearing, and the daffodils, crocuses, tulips and flowering trees are on their way. We stretch and blink in the sunlight, like Rip Van Winkles we are, waking after a long sleep.

Courses starting soon

Directions for **How to Register** and **Payment** appear to the right in this article and also in the upper right corner of the new Spring Schedule.

4/1 – Exploring Your Spiritual Autobiography with Carole Wageman

Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. Dates: 4/1–5/6. (6 weeks)

Register by 3/30. No fee.

Our experiential consideration takes a broad view of the topic and does not promote any specific faith tradition. "Spirituality" does not mean "religion" — but refers to that mysterious, non-physical part of ourselves that responds to our life experiences with inspiration, curiosity and a sense that there is something greater than ourselves. ~ The Rev. Carole Wageman, an Episcopal priest, has served in local congregations.

4/5 – Book Discussion Group: *Walking Each Other Home*

Mondays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Dates: 4/5, 4/26 & 5/17.

Register by 4/2. No fee.

This facilitated group began with a discussion of *Walking Each Other Home*. It has just started *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death* by Joan Halifax. The group now welcomes newcomers.

4/8 - Screen Writing for Fun with Mark Williams

Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:45 p.m. Dates: 4/8–5/13. (6 weeks)

Register by 4/6. Fee: \$58 for the series of 75-min. classes.

Have you been itching to write a movie, TV episode or play? 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 for your story
- start with a crisis that draws the audience in
- create 6 fascinating characters to populate your movie
- create an outline for a three-act story

- create an ending that ties up your story
- write the first 15 pages of your script

~ For 12 years, Mark wrote and filmed his own original movies, entering them in competitions. One of them won first place at the Vermont Film School Festival in 2016.

4/14 – Conflict Resolution with Mark Williams

Wednesday mornings, 11–12. Dates: 4/14–5/19. (6 weeks)

Register by 4/12. Fee: \$48 for the series. This fascinating and useful topic can benefit anyone because we all encounter conflict. Using role-playing and mediation exercises, participants in this 6-week course will learn practical skills, such as: how to calm an angry person down, how to empathize with a person with whom you disagree, and more. ~ Mark Williams is a licensed couples counselor; however, please note that this course is not intended for couples.

And don't forget to consider signing up for CSC's wide range of ongoing exercise and health courses—these can be joined at any time during the season: **Chair Yoga, Essentrics™, Gentle Yoga, Pilates, Pilates PLUS, Tai Chi for Beginners—** and **Mindfulness Meditation Practice.**

Talks on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

These talks do *not* require advance registration and are always free. The Zoom invitation/link to the talks are posted on the website the day before at: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The link also appears in Front Porch Forum for that week.

3/31: The Power of a Power of Attorney with Leah Burdick, Esq.

A legal Power of Attorney document can be a powerful tool to safeguard your financial well-being, but it can also lead to serious consequences if not done correctly. This talk will explain the ins and outs of what a Power of Attorney document is, how it is created, and what it means to be a named agent in a Power of Attorney under Vermont law. ~ Leah Burdick, Esq. is an Elder Law attorney within the Elder Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. Her practice areas include advanced planning for aging, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, housing, and individual rights.

For recording purposes, there will be a special live repeat of this talk on a Tuesday:

4/6 (Tues.) at 1 p.m.: Beekeeping & Peace-Making: Are They Related? with Anne Outwater ~ Since being a first responder at the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Dr. Outwater has been dedicated to the prevention of violence. She will share her research findings including interventions and next steps—which include entrepreneurship and beekeeping. ~ Anne Outwater, Ph.D., RN, is a faculty member at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



4/7: Covid Update . . . The First Hundred Days. . . How's It Going? with Jim Hyde

With only three weeks to go before the end of the first hundred days of the Biden administration, we will look at what progress has been made in gaining control of the pandemic—nationally and in Vermont. The focus will be on vaccination rates, access to testing and control of community spread of coronavirus. There will be time for questions and discussion. ~ Jim Hyde is a Professor Emeritus of Public Health at the Tufts University School of Medicine and former Director of Preventive Medicine at the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health.

4/14: Designing Sacred Space: Discovery with Ann Vivian

It's likely each of us can recall times in our lives when we have felt embraced by sacred space. What are characteristics of spaces we experience—or remember—or imagine that feel sacred to us? What does the idea of sacred space contribute to nurturing and sustaining community? Ann will talk about her experience designing sacred spaces for religious communities, as well as some spaces that have particularly influenced her work. ~ Ann is a partner at G-V-V (Guillot-Vivian-Viehmenn) Architects in Burlington and is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and Andover Newton Theological School

4/21: Vermont in Deep Time with Craig Heindel

4/28: Conservation of Your Heirlooms with Rick Kerschner

Art Exhibits

The Senior Center's monthly art exhibits are suspended until further notice. Returning soon!

Keep up the good work. Closer and closer—the end is almost in sight.

For expanded descriptions, as well as additional courses and talks, please visit CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The mission of the Senior Center is to serve those 50 and up; some course enrollments

How to Register for a Course

All courses are online and all require registration in order to receive the invitation/link.

To register, email your name, mailing address and phone number to: CSCZoom@gmavt.net. Be sure to note the title of the course in the subject line of the email. You will receive confirmation that you are registered. The invitation/link for the course will be sent to you by the instructor the week that classes start.

Payment - If there is a fee, kindly pay by check (made out to CSC) and send to: P.O. Box 207, Charlotte, VT 05445. Be sure to note the title of the course in the memo line.

- For ongoing exercise courses, please pay at the *end* of each month for the classes attended. Unless otherwise stated, tally your attendance and figure \$5/class.

- For courses with set dates, please pay at the start and note fee listed in the course description.

If fees present a hardship, please inquire about a scholarship by sending an email to CSCZoom@gmavt.net. We want everyone to be able to keep themselves healthy and engaged, especially during this challenging time.

Questions? Need help with Zooming? Please email: CSCZoom@gmavt.net, or leave a message at (802) 425-6345.

are limited, and if a course is not full, younger participants are welcome to enroll. Feel free to leave a message anytime at 425-6345; voicemail is checked frequently.

Charlotte Senior Center
802-425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

The Charlotte News understands that the pandemic has hit the restaurant industry particularly hard, and we would like to do our part by highlighting locally owned area restaurants. Hold on to this handy guide and call them for a great meal!

The following businesses provided us with their most updated information.

Tell them you saw their ad in The Charlotte News!

Support our local RESTAURANTS



ARCHIE'S Grill

Open 7 days a week.
Sun-Thu 11:30-8 Fri-Sat 11:30-8:30
Dine in or order online/by phone and pick up at our drive thru window.
802-985-4912
4066 Shelburne Road, Shelburne
www.archiesgrill.com

The Bearded Frog
SHELBOURN, VERMONT

Curbside pick up (online or phone orders) and limited, single household reservations. Tuesday through Saturday 4:00-8:00

thebeardedfrog.com
985.9877
5247 Shelburne Road, Shelburne

CHEF LEU'S HOUSE
Chinese Cuisine

Order Online: ChefLeus.com
Monday Closed
Tues. - Thurs.: 11:00 am - 9:30 pm
Fri. - Sat.: 11:00 am - 10:30 pm
Sunday: 12:00 noon - 9:30 pm
(802) 985-5258 | 3761 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne

CURBSIDE TAKE OUT ONLY.
Please call when you arrive in the parking lot before coming inside.

Cucina Antica
Bistro

Currently Take-out only, Indoor Pickup OR Curbside Delivery Available
Open Tues-Sunday: 4-8pm
Call-In to Order: (802) 985-1117 & 985-1118

Menu online at BistroCucinaAntica.com
43 Shelburne Shopping Park, Shelburne

We are looking forward to late Spring/Early Summer for reopening of our indoor seating.

FOLINO'S LOVE YOUR PLACE

SHELBOURN: 6305 Shelburne Rd
802-881-8822
Sunday- Thursday: 12pm-8pm
Friday & Saturday: 12pm- 9pm

BURLINGTON: 71 South Union
802-448-3110
Monday-Thursday: 4pm-8:30pm
Friday & Saturday: 12pm-9pm
ORDER ONLINE: FOLINOPIZZA.COM

Dine in reservations, curbside pick up, takeout or delivery

Good Times Cafe

Pick up, Curbside and Contactless Delivery within 3 miles of Restaurant.

11:30am - 8pm
Tuesday - Sunday
Online ordering is available.

482-4444
10805 Vermont 116, Hinesburg
www.goodtimescafevt.com

HINESBURGH PUBLIC HOUSE

Our hours for dine in and take out are changing with the seasons.

Presently we are open
7am -7pm Monday- Friday
for in-house or to-go
Saturday and Sunday 9am- 7pm
for in-house or to-go

We have ample space to provide the required spacing due to covid

Online order at: hinesburghpublichouse.com
(802) 482-5500 | 10516 Rt. 116, Hinesburg

LA VILLA
BISTRO & PIZZERIA

Open 7 Days a week!
Monday thru Sunday 4pm -8pm
Dine In or Take Out
Order Online or Call (802) 238 -5599
Reservations Required
Full Menu, Family Meals and To-Go Cocktails

PAPA NICK'S
RESTAURANT & PIZZA EST. 1991

802.482.6050
papanicksvt.com

Open 7 days a week
take-out 11am-8pm

10997 VT rt 116
Hinesburg • VT

Starting Monday, April 12 we will be open for inside dining 11 am - 12 pm Monday - Wednesday only.

Peg & Ter's

Eat, Drink, Takeout!

Takeout only,
Thurs - Saturday,
5 - 8pm
pegandters.com

802-489-5390 | 5573 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne

Please wear a mask when you enter the building to pick up your food. If you would prefer we can bring your food out to your car when you arrive.

PHILO RIDGE FARM

Currently open for indoor socially-distant dinner service.
Thursday-Saturday: 5 pm-9 pm

Learn more and book online at philoridgefarm.com
(802) 539-2147

Reservations must be made in advance. We are following State guidelines around protocols for proper social distancing.

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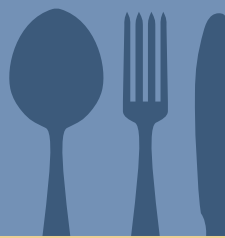
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saw their ad in
The Charlotte
News!



Support our local
RESTAURANTS



**TAKE OUT
ONLY.**

Open Monday,
Wednesday,
Thursday
& Friday
8am - 2pm

See our menu on Facebook at: Official Red Onion Café
425-3194
3488 Ethan Allen Highway, Charlotte

× **SHELburne TAP HOUSE** ×

Open for take out AND indoor dining!
Monday - Friday 12-8
Saturday 12-7

Download the Shelburne Tap House
app for easy ordering!
(802) 985-4040

Starry Night Cafe

Open Thursday - Sunday 4:30-8:00

Dine In Reservations taken from 4:30-8:00

Take Out Orders available from 4:30-7:00

Call in orders after 2:00 day of

802-877-6316 | 5371 Route 7, Ferrisburgh
www.starrynightcafe.com

Restaurant staff wear masks and gloves.
Safely spaced tables for indoor dining with three
dining rooms available to keep guests spread out.

Tenney's
Snack Bar & Redemption

Open 9am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday
(802) 425-2180

Greenhouse opens on Mother's Day weekend.

← **SEE MORE**

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email us at ads@thecharlottenews.org

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