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The Charlotte News

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Photo by Lee Krohn

CVU seniors graduate after four long years



Graduates throw up their caps.

Photo by Nick Bishop

Nick Bishop
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Three hundred and fifty-nine Champlain Valley Union high school seniors walked across the stage Friday to receive their diplomas at the Champlain Valley Exposition. Jerry Greenfield, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, offered words of wisdom to the graduates.

The St. Andrews Pipe Band marched in, kicking off the commencement. Principal Adam Bunting began his speech with a collective deep breath to "feel that pandemic stress fade away." The graduates were asked to stand and point at someone who helped get them to that moment, but Principal Bunting emphasized, "This graduation is about you" and it "is so well earned".

The commencement was filled with outstanding musical performances, including a rousing rendition of the national anthem performed by Alissa Miner. Next, Maya Phelen and Oscar Williams performed "True Colors".

Courtney McDermott shared a story of the first time she felt truly welcome at CVU. She said she intended it as "a love letter to the whole student body."

Leena Ashooh recalled an activity the class performed during Freshman year where the objective was to get 30 people to balance on a platform in water. Leena said the exercise taught her that "small actions that support your community have effects that are broad

SEE **CVU** PAGE 3

Spear and Tenney search for common ground



Mara Brooks
EDITOR

Neighbors Carrie Spear and Richard Tenney are attempting to reach an out-of-court agreement in their septic tank/well dispute.

On March 9, lawyers for Carrie Spear and co-Appellants Michael Spear and 2877 Spear Street Associates, LLC, filed a Notice of Appeal in Chittenden County Superior Court to block Tenney from installing a well on his property at 76 Jackson Hill Road. In the filing, Spear claims Tenney's permit was "improperly obtained for numerous reasons" and "directly impacts" Spear's adjacent property.

Tenney's permit, which was approved February 12, detailed a plan to disconnect the building on his property from a shared, off-site water supply to a new drilled well.

On April 1, Spear filed a list of appellate questions with the Court, asking the judge to decide if Tenney complied with Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (VWSR) "because [Tenney] did not provide Appellants with at least 7 calendar days' notice prior to the date Applicant's application was submitted."

Appellants also asked the Court if Tenney's permit should be denied "because Appellants had previously noticed proposed wastewater plans on their adjacent property with the Town of Charlotte."

Spear applied for a conditional use permit last October to add an apartment and a deli to her existing retail space, Spear's Corner Store, in East Charlotte. After



Tenney's Snack Bar and Redemption. File photo

months of deliberation, Spear's permit was conditionally approved on Feb. 22 — ten days after Tenney received approval for his well permit. *The News* first reported on the potential dispute between the landowners on February 25, 2021.

The parties had until June 11 to come to come to an agreement or to inform the Court of their plan to enter mediation. In a letter dated June 12 and filed on June 14, Tenney updated the Court about his ongoing negotiations with the Appellants.

"The parties are still discussing settlement of this matter and have made some progress," Tenney wrote. "I request that the court allow additional time for these discussions."

Tenney informed the Court he is being advised by an attorney who "has not yet agreed to enter his appearance in this matter."

At press time, neither Richard Tenney nor Appellants' attorney Liam Murphy, of MSK Attorneys, had responded to requests for comment.

CCS class of 2021 ends another unusual year and starts a new chapter



Photo contributed by CCS

Olivia Carolyn Hagios
CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday, June 10, Charlotte Central School graduates of the class of 2021 and their families drove through the grounds of The Old Lantern Inn and Barn and were announced and congratulated by staff members before heading inside for a tropical-themed party. The evening celebrated the accomplishments of Charlotte's eighth-graders as they move on to the next chapter of their lives this fall. Whether a graduate had only attended CCS for a short time or had been there since kindergarten, each student became part of a tight-knit group who all seemed to know each other's names and families.

Years of classes, step-up days, school dances, assemblies, sports games, play productions and field trips culminated in a graduation ceremony that—like many others this year and last—was different than those in previous years. After the graduates drove through with their families, had their names announced, received their diplomas, and took photos, they headed inside The Old Lantern for a final party. They enjoyed dancing to music, playing lawn games, and food from Catering by Dale. This graduation would not have been possible if it wasn't for The Old Lantern

which provided the setting on short notice, as well as Horsfords for donating flowers, CBD for catering, and Audrey Ziter who donated the tropical-themed decorations and headed the decorating committee. Together they worked to create a night that would honor the graduates' hard work and accomplishments throughout their years at CCS.

During the week leading up to graduation, the class took a day trip to Button Bay in Ferrisburgh where they swam in a lake, played on a slip n' slide, tossed frisbees, and experienced being together as a class one last time before graduation night. As the graduates move on to their next chapter in their lives, they they can reflect on treasured memories and build on shared experiences from their time at CCS.

Best of luck to this year's graduates in the years to come!

Olivia Carolyn Hagios is a life-long reader and writer who graduated from CVU last spring and is now majoring in English at UVM. During her time as an at-home freshman this year, she has been working hard on her writing—poetry, short and long stories—and is now beginning to dabble in local news articles for The Charlotte News.

Town

Charlotte Family Health Center proposal progresses in joint PC/ZBA meeting

Nick Bishop
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

At the joint ZBA and Planning Commission meeting on June 3, the boards discussed a proposal to build a new Charlotte Family Health Center. The hearing will remain open until applicant Emerald Green Properties submits a more robust stormwater management plan.

The proposal seeks to move the health clinic, currently located in Shelburne, to 251 Ferry Road, across from the Fire Department. The CFHC temporarily moved to Shelburne in fall 2020 when its previous location at 527 Ferry Road went up for sale. At the time, *The News* reported the doctors who owned the practice planned to build a new facility in Charlotte and hoped to return to the town in 2021.

According to the proposal, the new facility would include, “adequate exam rooms, office space, other interior space and adequate parking for an up-to-date and economically viable local family health clinic.”

The meeting began with discussions about whether the new building would be viewed as a mixed-use facility. Attorney Mike Russell requested the facility be categorized as a mixed-use health clinic and office, both of which fall under the 3500-square-foot maximum allowed per construction permit. This comes after the April 28 meeting when the boards asked the applicant to recast the project as an office facility.

The proposal is unique in that applicants have applied for two permits for a single business. A board member noted the move “seems a little backdoorish.”

After a long deliberation, the boards unanimously agreed with the applicant to allow the permit to be a mixed-use facility between health clinic and office.

To some board members the debate illuminated vague land use rules. “There is ambiguity in the land use regulation that needs to be addressed in the future,” one member said. ZBA member Kyra Miller-Wegman questioned whether the clinic would continue to operate privately or if it would be open to the public. Russell said part of the plan is to add an urgent-care component to accommodate walk-in patients. Paul Reiss of Emerald Green Properties said, “[The facility] will be open to walk-in emergency care.”

The commission also addressed the applicant’s plan for stormwater management. Russell said they did not yet have final approval of a plan from the landowner. The property sits directly in front of a wetland, and plans show parking lot runoff draining into ditches that collect in a retention center north of Ferry Road, behind the fire department.

ZBA member Ronda Moore raised concerns that oil, gas, and antifreeze from cars parked in the lot would pollute the wetland.

Jacques Larose, the developer’s engineer, said they intend to meet state standards but could not guarantee the pollutants would not enter the wetland.

Attendees representing Emerald Green Properties provided blueprints to help board members envision what the project might look like. The blueprints depicted front and side view drawings of a barn-like structure.



Scott + Partners Architecture building blueprints via charlottetv.org



Above: A look at the current site; a dilapidated home and parking structure

Below: The site looking east on Ferry Rd.

Photos by Nick Bishop



Emerald Green Properties hoped to start the project this construction season, but depending on the length of the permit process might have to wait until next spring.

The board will meet to review a revised plan containing a stormwater management plan on June 17 at 6:45 p.m., prior to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Nick Bishop, is a student at the University of Vermont and a reporter for the Community News Service, a student-powered partnership with local community newspapers.



The Charlotte News

Mission Statement

The mission of *The Charlotte News* is:

- to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town affairs, and,
- to source stories of interest from our neighbors and friends.

The News is a forum for the free exchange of the views of Charlotte residents and community volunteers on matters related to the town and the people who live here.

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- Submission requirements:
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Corrections

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the June 3 paper—we inadvertently left out these people: Ethan Tapper, Margo Bartsch, Carolyn Kulik and Margaret Woodruff. Our apologies!

In our June 3 story “Town applies for Village Center Designation” several quotes attributed to Michael Walker were instead made by Michael Russell. We apologize to both Michaels for this error.

Town

CVU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and wonderful.” She also alluded to a Palestinian saying of, “Do good and throw it in the sea, because I can’t wait for the ripples.”

Jerry Greenfield, whose son graduated from CVU in 2007, took to the stage to address the class of 2021. He began with an emphatic, “Congratulations!” and went on to tell the origin story of his of his world-famous ice cream business. He shared his business partner Ben Cohen’s personal philosophy, stating Cohen “would much rather fail at trying something new than do something that’s already been done before.” Greenfield ended his address by quoting an African proverb, “To stumble is not to fall, but to move forward more quickly.”

Elyse Martin-Smith gave a speech highlighting what CVSD accomplished during Elaine Pinckney’s time as superintendent. She gave thanks to Elaine and spoke of her efforts to create a truly caring world and a connected community. A gift was then presented to Elaine for her work.

Students began lining up next to the stage as Superintendent Pinckney read their names certifying their graduation from

CVU. Students, parents, faculty, and staff applauded and cheered as the students made their way across the stage.

Oscar Williams performed a solo to the song “Time of Your Life”. There were smiles across the sea of graduates.

The commencement ended with a powerful speech by Catherine Young. She spoke of the adversity graduates will face going forward and said she has “learned how precious time with the people you love is.” She advised the graduates to “accept help from those who offer it,” and “never stray from who you are, you need yourself the most.” Her final advice was to “defy your own expectations and make yourself proud.”

The St. Andrews Pipe Band led the graduates out on a beautiful June day. As parents and friends packed up to congratulate the graduates, “September” by Earth Wind and Fire played on the speakers, setting the mood for a time of celebration.

Nick Bishop, is a student at the University of Vermont and a reporter for the Community News Service, a student-powered partnership with local community newspapers.



Traffic lined Pearl St. as friends and family came to support the class of 2021. Faculty and staff cheered with signs as cars arrived. Teachers Heidi Dostal (left) and Karen Rodgers (right) said they were “super proud,” and described the students as “superheroes.” Dostal said, “they can make it through anything after they made it through this year.”



Students standing for the national anthem.



St. Andrews Pipe Band getting ready to walk in.

Photos by Nick Bishop

The Charlotte News



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Around Town

Congratulations:

to the following Charlotters who earned academic Dean's List honors for the spring semester 2021 at the University of Vermont: **Hannah Bernier, Annabelle Creech, Mary Feeney, Olivia Hagios, Meara Heininger, Samuel Knox, Trevor McGlaflin, Amelia Pflaster, Antonio Pugliese, Andrew Slaughterbeck, Sage WhiteCloud.** Dean's List requires a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 and rank in the top 20 percent of the class.

to **Sophia Parker** who earned placement on Castleton University's Dean's List for the 2021 Academic year. Students must be full-time and carry a 3.5 grade point average.

to **Anna Schibli** who earned placement on the St. Lawrence University Dean's List for the Spring semester. In order to qualify for the list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.6. Anna is a senior at St. Lawrence, Class of 2021. She graduated from Rice Memorial High School.

to the following Charlotters who earned degrees from the University of Vermont in 2021: **Carly Alpert, BS; Hannah Bernier, B.S.; Caroline Breen, B.S.; James Cazayoux, B.S.; Joseph Cianciola, B.S.; Oliver Creech, B.A.; Alexander D'Amico, B.S.; Katie Emberly, B.S.; Allison Feeney, B.A.; Meara Heininger, B.S.; Shannon Helfman, B.S.; William Holly, B.S.; Thomas McGrade, B.S.; Amelia Pflaster, B.S.; Tristan Roy, B.S.; Wyatt Shea, B.S.; Kyler White-Hansen, B.S.; Livia Yergeau, B.S.**

to **Moir Brown** who earned honors on the Dean's List of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, for the spring semester, 2021. Dean's List students are required to take at least 12 credit hours and achieve a 3.6 average.

to **Robert Jimerson, M.D.** of Charlotte who was honored by the Vermont Legislature for his service to the Addison County community as its Director of Counseling Services. Dr. Jimerson provided patient care and clinical leadership through Clinical Service of Addison County. He has been mentor and guide to numerous psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners over his tenure that has covered more than 20 years. He began practicing in Burlington and was appointed consulting psychiatrist to the Baird Center.

to **Steven Wisbaum**, the founder and owner of CV Compost, a supplier of products for home gardeners, farmers and landscape contractors that is based in Charlotte, who recently went into the electric mower business in order to reduce CO₂ emissions from gas-powered mowing equipment. His turn to electricity was featured in an article in *Seven*

Days on May 12. The article says that using the cheapest electric riding mower in two-hour periods, once a week for 23 weeks a year "would save \$106 in fuel costs and avoid emitting 880 pounds of CO₂." Although electric mowers do not yet have a major share of the mower market, Steve is optimistic about the future and an increase in sales.

to **Leath Tonino**, a former Charlotter and now regular author about hikes through nature that more often than not are off the beaten track.

In the summer issue of *Outside Magazine* he writes about being in a "subalpine basin in the backcountry of Colorado's Elk Mountains." This time he is without his normal instruments and accoutrements of his journeys into the wilderness. He has no camera, no phone no watch, no spy novels to read or blank journals to fill as he sees fit. He says that "if there's a plan, it's an anti-plan."

As a 16-year-old, Leath hiked the Long Trail of Vermont, north to south and back. One weekend with minimal equipment he set up shop on a frozen creek where for 50 hours he did little more than listen to the "gurgling, groaning, moaning, muttering, maddening, crazy-making water below the ice."

So, behind this article he is again "sitting by a tarn (a small mountain lake), surrounded by craggy peaks," vacillating between confusion and gratitude, without the "safety blanket of purpose." The nights are best, though, as they give one a lonely quiet and a vast and mysterious unknown," that for Leath comes as close to understanding the universe as nearly anything.

to **Kate Hartley**, former Charlotter, CVU graduate (class of 1981), artist and now consultant living in the Adirondacks, for an article about her work in the January/February issue of the *Adirondack Explorer*. Kate has taken it upon herself to create a 220-foot-long mosaic on what had previously been a blank concrete wall in her community of North Creek, New York. Members of the community brought not only ideas for what ought to go on the work, but helped Kate create it. It has been on display for 10 years. According to the *Explorer* article, the mosaic includes more than 200,000 individual pieces. Kate says she wishes it to be like Pompeii. "When it's unearthed thousands of years from now, people will say, 'This is the art they did then.'"

Sympathy:

is expressed to family and friends of **Jacqueline P. Haight** who passed away June 1 at the age of 94. She was married to Howard Haight of Ferrisburgh, and they lived on the family's dairy farm in Charlotte for many

years. Jacqueline also worked in the kitchen at the Mt. Philo Inn. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Lighthouse Christian Church, P.O. Box 658, Montpelier, VT 05601 or to Ignite Church, 1037 South Brownell Rd., Williston, VT 05495.

is expressed to family and friends of **Irene Cottrell** of Plattsburgh, New York, who passed away at the age of 84. Irene's father served as minister of Charlotte's Congregational Church, and the family lived in town during Irene's middle school years. Upon completion of college, Irene began her career as a journalist as Assistant State Editor for the *Burlington Free Press*. Later, as a reporter for the up-state New York *Press-Republican*, she covered the Attica Prison uprising and the Clinton Correctional Facility problems at Dannemora. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh, 34 Brinkerhoff St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Obituaries

Terrence John Dinnan

Terry Dinnan and his wife, Marty, died April 19, 2021 in a boating accident by their house on Lewis Creek in Charlotte.

Terry, son of Eleanor and John Dinnan, was born on February 22, 1950 in Meriden, Connecticut. Terry grew up roaming the rural Connecticut woods with his siblings and friends, laying the foundation for his love of Vermont and his home on the river.

Terry was an excellent student, good athlete and steadfast friend. He graduated from Cheshire High School in 1968. Terry began college at University of Vermont, transferred to Boston University for one year, and then decided Vermont was the right place. He graduated from UVM in 1973 with degrees in psychology and fine arts.

During his junior year at UVM he started a long artistic relationship with mentor and friend Paul Aschenbach. Terry was active artistically as a photographer and sculptor after college, especially in Winooski. He participated in several international art symposiums, including projects in Belgium and Japan.

Terry and Marty met working at Free Mountain Toys. They were married at their house on Valentine's Day in 1986, and their daughter, Tai, was born later that year.

Upon entering fatherhood, Terry's work shifted to stone masonry. He and his partner, Al Ulmer, purchased a quarry in Essex, New York, and used its limestone for their projects that included exterior walls, patios and fireplaces. In 2020 Terry sold the quarry to Champlain Area Trails, donating his portion. The property is within walking distance of the ferry and is open to the public.

Terry thrived during retirement. He had time to do what he loved: taking as much time as he wanted to creatively solve problems and build useful things in a beautiful way. He managed the house and property and pursued personal interests, including making cheese, wine, bread and wooden bowls. Terry's last three years were brightened by the regular presence of his grandson, whom he cared for three days a week.

Terry was predeceased by his brother, Jim. Terry is survived by his daughter, Tai Illick

Dinnan (Evan Webster), and adored grandson, Lior. He is also survived by siblings Mary (Jan), Chris (Carie), Deb, Jed (Karen), and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Martha Elisabeth Illick

Marty Illick and her husband, Terry, died April 19, 2021 in a boating accident by their house on Lewis Creek in Charlotte, Vermont.

Marty, daughter of Rowland and Edith Illick, was born on August 31, 1950 in Middlebury, Vermont. Rowland's work as a geography professor led to frequent travel for the family, including two years living in Beirut, Lebanon. Marty graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 1968 and from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, in 1972 with a degree in cultural anthropology. She spent her winter term of senior year in Togo, West Africa, studying the village market system for her thesis.

Marty's personality was punctuated by smiles, unique exclamations and a hearty infectious laugh. She was curious, compassionate and drawn to treading lightly upon this earth. She thrived working in the Vermont creative start-up atmospheres of Shelburne Spinners, Free Mountain Toys and Earth's Best Baby Food.

For the past two decades Marty worked as Executive Director of the Lewis Creek Association, preserving and protecting precious waters and land. Marty's work serves as a model for watershed associations across the state. She also served on the Charlotte Selectboard, the Charlotte Planning Commission, the Charlotte Land Trust, the Vermont Natural Resources Board, and many other boards and commissions.

Marty loved tending her homestead and the river that ran through it. She loved growing, preparing, and sharing the bounty of her gardens. Her last three years were brightened and invigorated by the regular presence of her grandson, whom she cared for three days a week. She leaves an active legacy of conservation and passion for living close to the land.

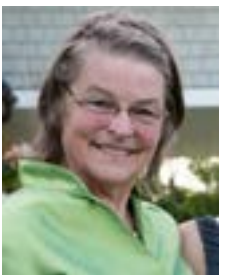
Marty is survived by her daughter, Tai Illick Dinnan (Evan Webster), and adored grandson, Lior. She is also survived by siblings Ginny Jaskot (Ken), Scilla Siano (Jim), John Illick Jr. (Beth), and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of the lives of Marty and Terry will be held on August 14 at Shelburne Farms. To learn more and RSVP please visit illickdinnan.wixsite.com/my-site/rsvp.

Sandra B. Lewis

A celebration of life for Sandra B. Lewis will be held June 27 at the Old Lantern in Charlotte at 3 p.m. If you would like to honor Sandra's loving nature, please join us wearing something red, her favorite color.

Sandra, a life-long resident of Shelburne, passed away after a hard-fought battle with kidney disease on May 10, 2021. She was born on "3-3-30," the oldest of four children, to Charles Keith and Mary Nancy Byington. Sandra grew up on Harbor Road in Shelburne, graduated from Burlington High School, and settled on Falls Road in a house that quickly became a second home for many neighborhood kids and grandchildren and great grandchildren thereafter. Her door was always open.



Martha Elisabeth Illick



Terrence John Dinnan



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Town

ZBA approves Bearman seawall

Mara Brooks
EDITOR

Following open deliberations at its June 9 regular meeting, the ZBA approved John and Erika Bearman’s April 23 conditional use application for a stabilizing seawall on their property at 1576 Lake Road. According to the application, the purpose of the wall is to “prevent further soil erosion caused by wave action from Lake Champlain.”

The proposed 150-foot-long, 15-foot-tall structure will be in two sections as depicted in the site plans submitted to the board.

In support of the Bearman’s application, Project Manager Erich Finley of Birdseye Building Company presented the board with photos of similar walls he had worked on in the past. Also included was a list provided by landscape architect Miranda Brooks of the plant species to be planted between the two walls.

Finley said the purpose of the plants is to obscure or “break up” the view of the structures from the lake but that none of the plants listed would “necessarily” climb or drape the walls.

“Between all of the varieties [of plants] that are on there, you’re going to have an array of different depths of planting between the two walls,” he said.

Member Ronda Moore asked if there was any possibility the plants could “spread” to other areas. Finley said no.



Erosion from Lake Champlain, location of proposed seawall.

Photo contributed

“Nothing is invasive,” he said. “This is all harvested, it’s not a seed plant.”

All plants used at the site “except for maybe one,” are native in the sense they occur naturally in the northeast, Finley said.

Finley also reported two partially uprooted cedar trees on the property have a “50% chance” of surviving and “the hope would

be that when we build the wall, we pack them in and stabilize them.”

ZBA members questioned how construction equipment would be brought down the steep hill to the site without further disturbing the grounds. A plan to create temporary steps leading to the shore had been discussed at an earlier site meeting.

“What I visualize is, they are going to disturb the bay, but the purpose is to restore it, so it has longevity,” ZBA member John David “JD” Herlihy said. “It’s going to be an improved shoreline that’s going to be more robust and strong.”

Finley presented photos from similar projects in the area, as examples of how the walls might look when completed. He said the Bearman’s wall would utilize “naturalized,” or uncut stones, because cut walls are “very expensive.”

After moving into open deliberations, the ZBA reviewed relevant land use regulations.

The board decided the restraining wall did not fall under the heading of “development.”

“I view this as a restoration project,” Herlihy said. “They’re trying to stop further erosion from occurring. They’re trying to stop all the things we don’t want to occur.”

Member Ronda Moore suggested the applicants be required to maintain and/or replace plants at the site for a minimum of two winters after “the planting of the last plant.”

Additional restrictions discussed by the board included that any landscapes disturbed during construction must be fully restored.

The application was approved by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

ZBA refines procedures, struggles with definitions

Mara Brooks
EDITOR

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is still working on its new rules and procedures.

At its regular meeting on June 9, the ZBA mulled over definitions from its August 2005 Rules of Procedures and Ethics Manual. The board is updating the document in response to last year’s community concerns about lack of transparency and potential conflicts of interest at the ZBA.

Town Planner Larry Lewack said he circulated board member Charles Russell’s latest draft



incorporating ZBA members’ most recent comments and edits. At a previous meeting, board member Karina Warshaw suggested members be required to address others by their preferred pronouns. The latest draft contained that language, Russell said.

There was robust discussion regarding the definition of “interested persons” for purposes of providing testimony during hearings. The board was unclear about whether the term referred only to adjoining property owners or if it had a broader meaning.

Member Ronda Moore asked for clarification about ex parte communications, stating that the rules were not “particularly clear” regarding whether two board members are allowed to communicate with each other. She also asked if members are “allowed to ask questions of applicants” at site visits.

Former ZBA Chair and current Selectboard

Vice Chair Frank Tenney, who attended the meeting via Zoom, said previously when the board went on a site visit, “I would state that anything that was brought up at a site meeting would be brought up at a [regular] meeting so it would be on the record.”

Following Tenney’s comments, debate commenced about whether discussions at site meetings should be discouraged in the first place rather than repeated later for the record.

Russell said he will continue incorporating members’ changes and comments into the document and circulate a “clean copy” to the board for further discussion.

Thank You Vermont!

We are so proud of our amazing state & each of you who pulled together to support one another! We look forward to the bright days ahead. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



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Letter to the Editor

To the editor

Very nice job on the Selectboard and Clemmons articles. Just now getting to the paper ... and was impressed with your thoughtful and comprehensive writing style. For years in the 90s I covered the Shelburne Zoning Board for *The Shelburne News*. I really appreciate how hard it is to capture, write and present a balanced view of a meeting covering so many subjects and viewpoints. Takes way more time than anyone knows! Thank you, Mara.

Rob Donahue, Charlotte

To the editor:

Ms. Brooks' first foray into our town's sticky politics was commendable—both in “Can you Trust us?” and “Why they left: Former ZBA members open up.” Solid reporting, good perspective on small-town issues, balanced voices and nuance we hadn't heard before.

I look forward to reading more! Welcome.

Alex Bunten, Charlotte

Food Shelf News

Susan Ohanian
CONTRIBUTOR

Note: The Food Shelf is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 4-6:30 p.m.

June is National Dairy Month, so we are encouraged to celebrate with everything from cottage cheese to creamers.

Of course, Vermont is famous for the famous ice cream brought to the world in Burlington in 1978 by New York friends Ben and Jerry, after they finished a correspondence course on ice cream making. By 1983, their ice cream was packed in cartons decorated with the iconic Vermont cow designed by Woody Jackson, who lives just down the road from us.

Both Carvel and Dairy Queen claim to have invented soft serve, one in Hartsdale, New York, the other near Moline, Illinois. No matter where you pin the credit, Vermonters know the soft serve cone as the creamer. In Britain, many people call it Mr. Whipplee.

Whatever we call this summer treat, we can all enjoy that old Gershwin classic performed in *Shall We Dance* by Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire (complete with a dance on roller skates), “Let's call the Whole Thing Off,” popularly known as “You Say Tomato.”

You like potato and I like potahto
You like tomato and I like tomahto
Potato, potahto, Tomato, tomahto.
Let's call the whole thing off.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOILZ_D3aRg

This classic has been performed by many famous pairs, including **Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney:**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7neNVN-k4tQ
Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2oEmPP5dTM

Billie Holiday:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7s-nTV2muU

For those who think this is all too old-fashioned, here's **Willie Nelson and Cindi Lauper:**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqXrPGubHI8

Sylvester Stallone with the Muppets:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=942pbE-Ni8M

The Simpsons:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhg6Vrhn0M4
Old-fashioned or not, only Fred and Ginger did it on roller skates.

The new season: Tomatoes aren't quite in season yet, but history tells us Charlotte gardeners will be sharing their crops, and right now visitors to the Food Shelf on alternate Thursdays will receive milk, potatoes and other healthful food.

Please note: The community food garden at Charlotte Central School has been planted up with vegetables and two new pollinator lanes. The school kitchen will not be in use this summer, so all the vegetable donations will go to the town food shelf. If you have time and interest in helping tend a community food garden, we'd love to expand our group of volunteers. Come and enjoy the garden, including the outdoor seating area, now with solar lighting!



If you can help in the garden, please contact Deirdre Holmes: deirdre2holmes@gmail.com.

Announcement:

The Charlotte Food Shelf is now accepting paper goods. Paper towels, Kleenex-type tissues, paper napkins and toilet paper are all welcome.

Items can be left on the covered entry hall at the back of the Congregational Church on Wednesdays (our distribution day) or at the drop box for the Food Shelf at the library.

We are planning for healthy snacks for the kids this summer: snacks and non-perishable lunch items. We would definitely appreciate donations to help with this important kids program.

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 and we will 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 of different types of financial assistance and eligibility. Applications are available at the Food Shelf and online. The website also contains information about other Vermont resources offering further assistance: charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf.

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, Vermont 05445.

Preserving their homestead's bounty



Workday coordinators Andrea Morgante and Myra Handy shovel compost onto a new pumpkin patch. This summer, friends and neighbors are gathering at Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan's house to plant, tend, harvest and preserve their homestead's bounty. Work days are scheduled for Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at 442 Lewis Creek Road. Sign up at illickdinnan.wixsite.com/my-site/garden to be notified with more information. Photo by Colleen Armstrong



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Town

Grange on the Greens



Above left: Carolina Sicotte and Rebecca Foster at the Charlotte Energy Committee information table as part of the the Grange on the Greens music event on June 10. Look for the CEC table at the next concert on July 8 with a focus on renewable energy. There may even be a solar s'mores oven!
Photo by Suzy Hodgson



Above right: The Charlotte Library and Charlotte Grange kicked off their summer Grange on the Greens with folk musicians Pete Sutherland and Oliver Scanlon on Thursday, June 10.
Photo by Meg Berlin

The next concert will be held on July 8. The event is free and is made possible through generous sponsorship by Pease Mountain Law. Please register in advance at Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com/e/grange-on-the-greens-tickets-154021483403 to ensure we can manage numbers and have proper distancing.

Thoughtfully-designed custom home

Perfectly situated between Burlington, Middlebury, Sugarbush and Lake Champlain. Feel instantly at home in this thoughtfully-designed custom home, featuring a mix of antique charm and contemporary finishing. An amazing retreat where entertaining is easy and working from home is a pleasure. The home has amazingly unique elements: Brazilian Granite tile and countertops, Italian Marble on the Antique Pharmacy Cabinets in the kitchen, Antique Barn Beams from Quebec separate the space in the great room along with radiant floors and hand carved mantel and entertainment center. Ideal design for working from home with 2 large offices with vaulted cedar ceiling and a separate entrance allow for privacy and flexibility.



With a wrap-around porch, a stone patio and a large playing field that flattened for sports you can truly enjoy the outdoors. Enjoy the chef's kitchen with a giant walk-in pantry and full functioning greenhouse, huge great room and 4 season sunroom with vaulted cedar ceiling and stunning granite floors.



The spacious master suite includes a claw foot tub, walk-in closet, and secluded balcony. Bonus space on the second floor features additional living space perfect outside the other bedrooms. In a rural setting, high speed internet keeps everyone connected through the spacious home. You don't want to miss this consciously-crafted custom home with thoughtful details for quintessential Vermont living. For a personal tour, call **Bill 453-6387** or **Margo 453-4190** today .



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Charlotte Trails Committee and CVU art and design students pair up to paint the underpass

Abbie Bowker
CVU GRAPHIC DESIGN TEACHER

Last fall, Laurie Thompson from the Charlotte Trails Committee contacted me about doing a mural in the underpass beneath Route 7 in the section of the Town Link Trail between Mt. Philo State Park and the Charlotte Berry Farm. At that time we were just starting to understand what the realities of a school year under COVID-19 restrictions would look like, including different cohort groups, physical distancing, and even if field trips would be possible *at all* during this time. Let's just say the task seemed daunting, at best! After consulting with my department colleagues, we decided it would be best to delay the work to the spring semester when, even if the restrictions were the same, we would be feeling more confident and comfortable working within the new guidelines. The spring semester saw a changeover of students, and I would not have any painting classes. That is where my colleague Emily McLean stepped up and said she and her AP Art & Design students would take over the project.

Emily had a series of virtual meetings with Laurie to determine the specifications of the project. And then, as the temperatures rose and the days for painting were arriving soon, it became apparent that the AP students were running out of time to make the design. Their AP portfolios were coming due at just about the same moment as a design would need to be created for the project timeline. Without a design, the project would stall and there would not have been enough time to paint it. That is where I stepped up and said my Graphic Design class would create mockups of designs to share out with her AP class to select a work (or works) for the Trails Committee approval.

My graphic design students were thrilled to have a real-world design challenge, and the opportunity for their design to be selected and actually painted on the mural! They set off to work, and while there were a number of great options, the AP students were looking for designs that resonated with the design

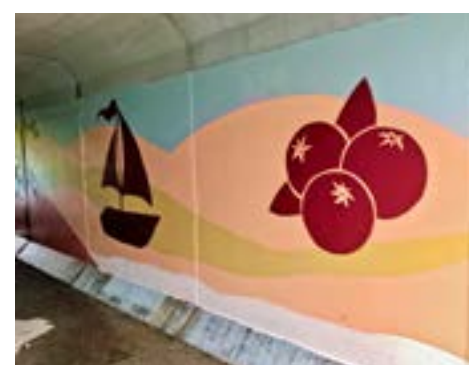
brief from the Trails Committee and would be achievable during a short time of painting. The chosen design was by student Emma Allaire who had a few more modifications to make as part of the design iterative process, but turned out to be an excellent choice fully endorsed by the Trails Committee.

Emily took charge again and, working together with department colleague Jason Fearon and myself, selected and ordered the paint and supplies, created the templates to ease and speed up the sketching process, and went on-site to prepare the walls for the first round of painting. There were a lot of logistics to consider above and beyond a “typical field trip” and Emily did an outstanding job organizing and orchestrating it all. When the first field trip of AP students arrived, they were greeted by a rainbow of paint colors, a sketched out design and all the materials they needed to work as a team to paint the first phase. Honestly, we weren’t sure it would be possible to get through the first phase on day one. We were deeply worried that even after two days of work, we still wouldn’t be done with phase one! Our students were AMAZING and worked together with expert skill to complete the first phase... we were so relieved and proud! The second day required a little more pre-painting prep that we had the students complete with us, sketching out the second phase prior to painting. We ALMOST finished phase two! We have a third “field trip” planned with just the art teachers to put in the finishing touches next week.

I think that those two days of painting were my favorite days of the year. It was magical! Everyone was working together on a common goal, laughing and chatting, and having a blast. Emily was their teacher this year, but Jason and I had the pleasure of being their teachers in previous courses, so it was a bit of a reunion. Being in the strange schedule, I hadn't really seen many of them very much, so it was a real treat. Most were seniors, so it was like a swan song send-off. A perfect end to their years as art students.



Above photos by Laurie Thompson



Photos by Emily McLean

Special thanks to the talented art students and their teachers in the AP Art and Graphic Design classes at CVU, who designed and painted the mural in the Town Link Trail Underpass. The mural is a wonderful addition and creates scenic interest for walkers and bikers on the Trail.

Business

Edsel Hammond keeps Charlotte cars moving

Robert Bloch
CONTRIBUTOR

Here’s a marketing problem for you: How do you build a successful independent automobile repair business if you are a blind man....named Edsel?

If you are Edsel Hammond, you do it by providing reliable, high-quality service at a reasonable price in a convenient location. Charlotte’s Edsel Hammond has been doing just that for over 20 years at his garage on Mt. Philo Road, a few doors south of the blinker at Hinesburg Road.

Giving your new child a unique name is quite the rage these days. For example, our mountaineering daughter Jamie and her husband, Jim, just named their new son Canyon.

But 53 years ago, when unique names were not so common, Don Hammond, a “car guy,” loved his gold Edsel Citation convertible so much that he named his new son Edsel, not caring that he was naming him after what was arguably the biggest failure ever in the car industry—or any industry for that matter. Whatever he thought of his name, young Edsel faced a bigger challenge when it was learned that he suffered from a fairly rare eye condition, LHON (Leber’s Hereditary Optical Neuropathy). The condition rendered Edsel legally blind, and today he scores a remarkable 10/650 on eye tests. But like his dad, Edsel became a “car guy” and, despite his limited eyesight, became an expert auto mechanic.

Edsel’s spotless work garage looks fairly typical, with a vehicle lift, workbench and large toolboxes on roll-around casters. I asked Edsel whether his blindness causes him to organize or work differently, or limit himself to certain types of jobs. Not really, said Edsel, although he said he tends to stay away from certain types of “torchwork.” Edsel moves cars in and out of the garage himself, acknowledging that



Edsel Hammond Photo by Robert Bloch

he can recognize blurred shapes (like the garage wall) well enough that he has never had an accident. He has invested in today’s electronic diagnostic equipment to help stay current with automotive technology.

Changes in the auto industry have tended to help independent mechanics. Auto manufacturers have steadily squeezed the profit margins dealers can make on new car sales, forcing them to rely to a large extent on their service operations for sustained profitability. The increased dealer labor rates that have accompanied this change have made it easier for independents like Edsel to offer good value to customers while making a decent profit for themselves. In addition, automobiles are lasting far longer than a generation ago, creating a larger fleet of used cars that need maintenance.

PROPERTY TANSFERS MAY 2021

May 4 Casey Arnote to Colleen & Joseph Kennedy, 4221 Greenbush Rd., 5.7 acres land only, \$225,000.

May 19 Patrick Litke to Jana Porter, 360 Pease Mtn. Rd., 5.60 acres land only, \$200,000.

May 24 Louise Selina Peyser to Nathaniel Moore, 3.0 acres, Lot C, 718 Mt. Philo Rd., \$189,000.

May 26 David & Denise Lavigne to David Titus, 2850 Hinesburg Rd., 1.0 acres with dwelling \$360,000.

May 28 Thomas Tintle & Katra Kindar to Pamela Dulma & Haris Karabegovic, Easement, 7427 Spear St., \$133,000.

May 28 Carina Cartelli & Joseph Lasek to Judith & Gail Fayre, .15 acres 16 Common Way with dwelling, \$545,000.

This information was supplied by Jay Strausser and Nancy Warren, Four Seasons Sothebys International Real Estate.



Hi, Neighbor!

Deborah Kehoe: Helping others find their palette



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

When Deborah Kehoe left Vermont to study graphic design and painting at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, teaching wasn't one of her career goals. Nevertheless, the summer after she graduated, she was contacted by the Arts Institute of Boston, and by September, she was in front of a classroom. "I wasn't much older than the students I was teaching," she said. "I had great instructors in college and I modeled my teaching after them." This summer, Kehoe will be bringing those teaching skills home to Charlotte for a series of workshops at her barn on Church Hill Road.

In addition to working as an adjunct design professor at the Arts Institute, Kehoe taught at Clark University and the Rhode Island School of Design. She also did work for several design studios, assisting a number of entities, including the local PBS affiliate, Raytheon, and Harvard Art Museums. Kehoe moved back to Vermont in 1989 and started a graphics design business a year later. Initially called Kehoe and Kehoe, it is now Deborah Kehoe Design. Kehoe does work for companies across the country, as well as some non-profits, with a focus on branding, packaging, and publication, web and environmental design. "It's really all about listening and creating a personality that is compelling and speaks of the companies I work for," she said.

In 2000, Kehoe helped rebrand Champlain College and joined their staff nine years later, teaching design, drawing and painting. "I really enjoy teaching," she said. "I like to help my students think about the design process and bring that into their painting. It's very process driven."



Deborah's barn on Church Hill Road.

Kehoe has been painting since she was 11 years old. She started with oils and then switched to watercolors before adding pastels five years ago. "Each has its beauty," she said. "I like them all." That's one of the reasons why Kehoe's upcoming workshops do not specify a particular medium. She noted that most of the students who have already signed up are watercolorists, but there are also some pastel artists and a few who use oils. She will be doing demos in each of the mediums.

The workshops started on June 5 and are on six consecutive Saturdays. The first two were devoted to peonies with others concentrating on barns or other parts of the garden. One, which is designed to help students paint Lake Champlain, will be held off the property. Kehoe wants to limit the classes to six to eight people, but they are filling up quickly. They are all-day events (8:30 to 4:30) and include coffee and scones in the morning and a country picnic lunch for \$135. Many of those who signed up are just taking one day of classes but others have signed up multiple days. "Some students are experienced

painters," she said. "Some have already taken a few classes and others are really beginners." Kehoe noted that no men have signed up yet and she hopes that will change.

Kehoe's decision to run the workshops was based in part on her property. "I've got this beautiful place out in the country," she said. "It's a natural space for people to paint." Kehoe's barn dates back to the 1800s, and in the event of rain, it has both natural and electric lighting. She will supply easels and folding chairs and there will be a large canopy out front. "If it's raining," she said "we'll work with cut flowers in the barn." Kehoe has put considerable effort into creating her heritage perennial gardens, in part because she thought they would make ideal painting subjects. "It's a labor of love," she said. "This has been a vision of mine for quite some time."

The workshops will concentrate on teaching composition and color. "I want my students to be deliberative about picking their color palette," Kehoe said. Recognizing that they will come from



Deborah's Kehoe



Photos contributed

different levels of experience, she hopes that there will be an exchange of ideas. "Everyone will get something from the day," she said. "With the choice of different mediums, I wanted to give people the breadth of choice."

With 40 years of teaching on her resume, Kehoe is looking forward to the opportunity to share her knowledge at her own home. "I've taught so many people in my lifetime," she said. "I know how to pull out the best in students. I think this will be a wonderful experience with great food and a beautiful country setting."

You can sign up for the workshops at kehoedesign.com/painting-workshops.



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The **Charlotte News**



Sports

Redhawks over Seahorses for men’s tennis state championship



Edd Merritt
CONTRIBUTOR

Going down to the final match at Burlington’s Leddy Park on Saturday, with the championship still not in hand, it took floodlights and a singles victory by CVU’s Ben Sampson to ensure the state title. His win required a ten-point match-breaker in the third set to give the sixth-ranked Redhawks an upset of top-ranked BHS. Two of Ben’s singles teammates joined him in match wins—number two player, Charlie Mjaanes, and number four, Henry Bijur.

Aiden Greer and Cooper Whalen won their doubles match that was needed to ensure the team title.

Despite a year off, CVU baseball takes state championship
One may call it a back-to-back championship. However, due to the pandemic, the 2020 season was cancelled, so the Redhawks had to wait a year to earn their next title. Apparently the wait paid off as the top-ranked Hawks exploded with seven hits and seven runs in the first inning against number-three

ranked Brattleboro at Centennial Field. On the mound, Oliver Pudvar struck out 18 Colonels, holding them without a run, while 18 Redhawks crossed the plate for a 18-0 victory. Despite the year’s pause, it was the second straight D-1 championship for CVU. The Hawks have five state baseball titles in the sport’s history there.

CVU men’s lacrosse wins its eighth straight state title
It did not come easily for the Redhawk men’s lacrosse squad in the state championship LAX game against Burr & Burton. Down by four goals in the third quarter, CVU rallied in the final period to win by a single goal, 8-7, and clinch their eighth straight state championship. Alex Leonard’s two fourth-quarter goals coupled with Shane Gorman’s game winner (his third of the contest) proved the difference. The Redhawks ended the season with only a single loss against 17 wins.

Men’s lacrosse joins baseball and men’s tennis as Division 1 Vermont state champions, quite a feat for a school that once coined itself “soccer central.”



Shane Gorman hits the B&B net.



It’s celebration time.

Photos by Al Frey



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Town

And the survey says...



Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTOR

Do you feel that Charlotte is a welcoming community?

Do you feel that we have the diversity you would like to see in our town?

Do you think we have a good town plan?

Do you feel that we have a lot of civic engagement from our residents?

Do you feel that we are prepared for emergencies and that folks are prepared to help others in times of need?

These are some of the questions asked in the Community Connections and Capacity portion of the Resilience Survey that was sent out late last year, and the results of these are shown in the accompanying table. This will be the focus of the last of the community discussions hosted by the Charlotte Community Partners (CCP) around this survey.

The discussion will be held on Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m. The link to this zoom discussion, hosted by Margaret Woodruff and Nicole Conley, can be found on the Charlotte Library website. The link is <https://bit.ly/convo05445>. I hope you will join this discussion, which I'm guessing will be a lively one!

Our third community discussion was on the Environment and Natural Systems, which covered river corridors and floodplains, land use, sensitive natural areas, common spaces and public access,

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & CAPACITY - Creating relationships, resources, and structures that enable residents to effectively function, solve problems, and thrive together						
Category & factors of very resilient systems	Score					
SCORE: How do you think your community resilience rates in each of the following categories? 1 = not very resilient 5 = very resilient	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Community planning Clear, updated plans (town plan, hazard mitigation plan, etc.) are being implemented, cross-reference each other, and integrate environmental, social, economic and cultural needs/issues; planning processes developed with broad community input; vulnerable and historically marginalized populations are integrated into every level of town process and decision-making	8 4%	36 20%	50 28%	44 24%	10 6%	33 18%
Communication & transparency Many communication modes are used (radio, newspaper, mailings, online forums, bulletin boards, etc.); vibrant discussion forums; town information and news posted quickly/broadly; emergency communication plans established at the neighborhood and town levels; diverse leaders collaborate, trust and respect each other; sectors are not siloed	13 7%	22 12%	59 33%	62 34%	13 7%	12 7%
Civic engagement Most able citizens engage in public issues/processes in diverse ways; meetings/events are well-attended and representative; plentiful volunteers; culture of collaborative and proactive problem-solving; leaders actively seek diverse participation in multiple venues and underrepresented groups (such as BIPOC*, LGBTQIA*, youth, seniors and disabled)	22 12%	47 26%	58 32%	25 14%	9 5%	20 11%
Community spirit & sense of place Regular community-wide celebrations/events help diverse groups meet; residents share their skills; community embodies a welcoming culture for all; inviting gathering places bring people together	15 8%	37 20%	47 26%	51 28%	21 12%	10 6%
Self-sufficiency & preparation Nearly all residents, organizations and neighborhoods are prepared for emergencies and are prepared to help others; vulnerable populations are identified and centered in planning; community could be self-sufficient for lengthy disruptions of outside goods and services	21 12%	37 20%	46 25%	26 14%	4 2%	47 26%
Awareness & education Resilience education and skills integrated into schools; residents share skills and knowledge at neighborhood and town levels; there are many teaching/learning opportunities in the community	15 8%	36 20%	46 25%	24 13%	10 6%	50 28%

Acronym key:
*BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People/Person of Color
*LGBTQIA: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Allies

and invasive species. Kevin Burget, co-chair of the Conservation Commission, spoke and explained that they have begun the process of updating our maps and have started communicating with the Planning Commission around the locations of various habitat and wildlife corridors with the goal of preventing penetration of these natural areas with building envelopes. Using current GIS mapping and game cameras, the commission is working to

try to keep those areas in our town open for wildlife and at the same time helping steer development into areas that wouldn't impact wildlife and/or natural areas.

Kevin mentioned that if residents have game cameras at their homes, it would be helpful to the commission if they were willing to share what they see for wildlife; the more information they have, the better. Using these resources, our town can be more helpful to builders and/or developers as to where and how to develop in our town. Kevin also spoke about the importance of having a current inventory of all our natural resources as a valuable tool. Another tool available to our town would be to do a survey resulting in a community values map, showing what we, as a community, value for natural resources in our town.

One of the concerns that the survey brought to light was around invasives and how to better control the proliferation of the honeysuckle, wild parsnip, garlic mustard and buckthorn, both along the roadways, in our yards and in wooded areas where these will crowd out native species and impact wildlife. A question raised was whether or not neighbors could get together and work together to try to eliminate some of these invasives. The challenge is how to effectively eliminate the buckthorn and then to introduce native seedlings into the area. One suggestion was to get a chipper with a group of folks to tackle a specific area! Other ideas



were forthcoming of groups to contact for assistance, both with the elimination of the invasive and the importance of introducing something to take over the area, along with groups who can help with the acquisition of native seedlings. The Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District is one resource for us in terms of acquiring native seedlings to plant to replace the invasives. The importance of replacing the invasives with native species was noted as being critical to eliminating the invasives.

This was a well-attended meeting with great discussion around this section of the survey.

See you at the next one, June 22, at 7 p.m., to discuss Community Connections and Capacity.



Have a hot news tip?

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The **Charlotte News**

Creative American dining in Charlotte

Olivia Carolyn Hagios
CONTRIBUTOR

For 26 years, the people of Shelburne have enjoyed Italian-style comfort food at the mom-and-pop restaurant La Villa Bistro on Shelburne Road. Last summer, owners Jill and Adam Spell spread their family-owned business to their town of residence, and opened a second restaurant, Backyard Bistro, at Charlotte Crossings. Following a successful summer in Charlotte, the Spells made the tough decision to close La Villa and make Backyard Bistro their official restaurant.

In Backyard Bistro, the Charlotte community found convenient, quality American fusion dining and a fun, family atmosphere. The bistro features outdoor seating on the patio, under a tent, and at the outdoor bar. The indoor restaurant features a bar and dining area. Jill Spell said a restaurant of this kind was a long time coming in Charlotte, and community support for Backyard Bistro has been strong.

Jill described the restaurant’s dining experience as fun, casual, and creative. She said the bistro will also feature theme nights and a more diverse menu than was offered last summer. Some dishes will be plucked from the menu of the couple’s



former Burlington restaurant, Auggies Island Grill.

Gelato will feature prominently on the Italian-style menu and will be sold by the pint in the restaurant as well scooped from a cart on busier nights. Jill said she hopes the community will keep Backyard



Pan seared snapper with fennel grapefruit slaw.

Bistro in mind as a takeout option, and she invites neighbors to subscribe to their website backyardbistrovt.com. Reservations at Backyard Bistro can be made beginning June 22 through the restaurant’s website or at Resy.com.



Tuna poke on fried wonton tostada.



Final preparations are being made for opening day.
Photos by Jill Spell

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Town

Sadie Devoid gifted dictionary from Charlotte Grange

Linda Hamilton
CONTRIBUTOR

Sadie Devoid makes good use of the dictionary she received this spring through the Grange’s program called Words for Thirds. It is a long-standing tradition for Charlotte Grange to gift an age-appropriate dictionary to each third grader at CCS.

Sadie is the daughter of Katie and Scott Devoid, who say she is an avid reader and has always loved books. Asked what she likes about her new dictionary, Sadie said, “I can turn to a random page, pick random words, and look at the meanings. Most of the words I already know, but not all of them!” She also mentioned that before the dictionary, when she didn’t know what a new word meant, she had to find a person to ask. And now she can look it up herself. She likes that.

Stay curious, Sadie, and keep reading!



Photo contributed

Facelift for the historic Grange Hall



Photo contributed

Volunteer EMS and Volunteer Firefighter Needed



CVFRS is always looking for new faces. If you ever wondered about or had any interest in giving back to your community, fire fighting or emergency medical services, we encourage you to contact us at:
www.cvfrs.com

Trina Bianchi
CONTRIBUTOR


The Friends of the Lyceum Schoolhouse proudly announce their commitment to

supporting the restoration of the historic Lyceum Schoolhouse, now the home of the Charlotte Grange. This 501(c)(3) organization was organized, registered and accepted by the IRS in the fall of 2020 with this restoration as its sole mission. And so it begins!

Heritage Environmental of South Burlington, an outstanding environmentally conscientious firm, has been hired to do the work, including scraping, priming and painting the west, north and east sides of the building, including the belfry. The main entrance doors will not be included with this project as they are in need of restoration prior to painting.

We invite you to drive by the next time you are in the area and see the progress being made on this historic community resource! If you are so inclined, financial donations are needed to complete this project, and they are, of course, tax deductible and can be mailed to FLS, P.O. Box 54, Charlotte, VT 05445. Donations can also be made to Friends of the Lyceum Schoolhouse via PayPal from the Charlotte Grange website. The PayPal button is on this page: charlottegrangevt.wixsite.com/website/friends-of-the-lyceum-school.

Send us your photos!



Charlotte events, people or places. We want to publish your photos. Email them to:
news@TheCharlotteNews.org

The Charlotte News

Sacred Hunter

Lone wolf pup



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

Summer. Most people crave the warmth of the sun, the long days spent lounging by their favorite mountain pool. Campfires in the evening. The smell of woodsmoke, s'mores and rolling in the warm freshly cut grass. It's all so easy to like. But growing

up, I didn't take conventional team activities like other kids. I was an awful baseball player, mediocre at football and horrible at basketball. To put it mildly, I sucked. I spent my time avoiding other kids unless they were interested in catching crayfish and roasting them over a small fire in the woods. I built tree houses and rode my bike a lot. But most of it was solo, yet sometimes with my younger siblings.

Summer, it seemed, was meant for kids with social skills. Kids that knew how to get along with others in traditional games. Instead of going to the local swimming pool, doing daring gainers and twisting flips off the diving board, I played in the woods. As a Cub Scout, I was a miserable failure. I loved learning how to camp and whittle saplings with my knife, but when the Scoutmaster's son kept picking on me, knowing that I would not fight back, it just got to be too much. One evening at a pack meeting, Frankie Olivieto pushed me too far in front of the other cubs, and like Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*, I lost my mind. I went after him full of rage, tackled him to the ground and began mercilessly beating him with my fists. That was the end of Cub Scouts. I was excommunicated from the pack. A lone wolf pup out in the woods, vowing to make my way in this world. A renegade survivor of all things social.

I turned inward to seek peace in the mountain streams, catching crayfish and learning the traditions of a long bamboo rod with a string and a hook. I would march to the pond behind my grandfather's house and spend the day catching bluegills. I would paint my face with the slippery clay mud and let it dry in the sun, tightening my skin. The earth smelled so good. The musty diatomaceous dirt in the pines felt just right in my hands. I wasted nothing. Anything that fell prey to my boyish wonderment, I felt obligated to explore with all my senses. And I tried everything. Snakes, frogs, bluegills, small rock bass, caterpillars, cicadas, locusts, berries (that was a tough lesson that nearly led me to the hospital). I was in a constant state of wonderment. Curious. Amazed at the multitude of life in the backyard.

And somehow, I was not really a hunter. A



A young child admires the first fish they caught fishing. Photo by Bradley Carleton

sensitive lad, who, by some wobbly moral compass, had no trouble killing and eating crayfish or frog legs, I was anti-hunting. When my father told me he was going hunting with a group of men, I told him that if he came home with a deer I would never speak to him again. He did not come home with a deer, but he also didn't share any of his experience with me.

As the years rolled onward and my adolescence began to make itself known (naturally I was a "late bloomer"), my voice began cracking and I began to grow hair under my armpits. I started to feel curious about what it meant to be a "man." Pining for some connection to my father, who represented manhood as powerful and capable, I wanted so badly to please him and get him to recognize my painful longing to belong.

Then, on Christmas Day at the age of 13, I ran downstairs with my brother to find leaning against the French doors beside the tree, a pair of brand-new Marlin .22 caliber rifles. I was dumbstruck. Is this the portal to

connecting with my father—to a fraternity of outdoorsmen? I was excited and afraid at the same time. I remember hearing my mother say to my father, "Are you sure he's ready for that?" My father replied firmly, "Yes, Nancy. It's time." He then lectured me for as long a period as my adolescent attention span would allow, concluding with "You will not get any bullets until you pass the Hunter's Education Course." A challenge to my lackadaisical academic skills! Well, I'll show them just what I can learn!

I applied myself to the books and learned all the parts of the firearm, how to disassemble it and handle it safely. I studied like a madman. When testing day came, I aced it. I was given a small box of bullets and told that they would remain locked up until we had a chance to sight in the little 4x Tasco scope. My relationship with my father, as rocky as it was through my teens, began on that foundation of trust.

My first hunting season was squirrels—big, bushy-tailed grays in southwestern Pennsylvania. I remember the first one I killed. I picked up its lifeless body and held it in my hands. I sat down on a downed tree and cried. Why had I done this? What have I become? Remorse washed over me like a salty wave, its tears running down my cheeks. Warm and cold stinging saline. Remorse and joy in the same breath. I asked for forgiveness. But instead, I felt the weight of responsibility on my shoulders. If I had taken this life, I could not waste it.

I took it home. My grandmother was so proud of me. She helped me to clean and butcher it. Then together we rubbed the legs, the flanks and the muscled back with butter and plopped them into a plastic bag with flour. We shook the bag, coating all the parts with a light crusting. Then she showed me how to fry them. When I took my first bite and tore the meat off the bone with my incisors, I felt primal. I felt like I had found a key to the Circle of Life. I respected and loved this small animal. It nourished my teenage hunger for maturity and built a foundation of wonderment

for the way we all need each other. Plants, animals, people, earth, sky and water. I was finally a part of all there is. A participant.

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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The Charlotte News

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Outdoors.....

More art in the outdoors



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

is the canvas at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Vermont’s one and only, in Woodstock.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park, Cornish, NH

Born in Ireland in 1848 and immigrating in his youth to the United States, sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens grew up in New York City. While apprenticed to a cameo cutter, Saint-Gaudens studied at night at both Cooper Union and the National Academy of Art. In 1867, at the age of 19, Saint-Gaudens was admitted to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, one of the first Americans to study sculpture in Paris.

Saint-Gaudens created more than 150 works of art, including a number that are familiar to many Americans. His General William Tecumseh Sherman Memorial towers above the edge of New York’s Central Park while the bronze high relief Shaw Memorial sits at the edge of Boston Common. Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, on horseback, leads a regiment of African American troops to fight for the North in the Civil War. Perhaps Saint-Gaudens’ most famous work is the 12-foot-tall Standing Lincoln in Chicago’s Lincoln Park. The sculptor died at his home in Cornish in 1907.

Over 100 works are exhibited in the galleries and on the grounds at Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the artist’s home and its galleries are closed. The grounds and studio are open. The gardens feature copies of several of the artist’s most famous sculptures and walking trails are also accessible. For current information call (603) 675-2175.

Shelburne Museum

Featured in the book “1,000 Places to See Before You Die,” Shelburne Museum is our neighbor. After being unable to score a reservation last year, I recently spent an afternoon re-connecting with old friends, the clutch of masterpieces by Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt and Manet in the Webb Memorial; the recently refurbished carousel, now protected from the elements beneath a wooden roof; coaches, carriages, decoys and the working blacksmith. I stopped in the print shop, smiled at children’s toys—probably all colored with lead paint— and strolled through the original Shelburne railroad station. I roamed the decks of the Ticonderoga. Oh, what a joy to return!

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 until 4 until October 17, 2021. This year, preregistration is not required. Members can always visit for free, and there is a reduced rate for Vermont residents.

Outside of each building a sign indicates a capacity limit and reminds visitors that masks are required indoors and when riding the carousel. A number of exhibits will not open this year: Apothecary Shop, Hat & Fragrance Textile Gallery, Lighthouse, Owl Cottage Family Activity Center, Weaving Shop and the Stagecoach Inn.

Shuttles circulate on the gravel pathways

and are limited to eight passengers. The Weathervane Café offers grab-and-go options and outdoor seating. Restrooms are open at several locations.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Woodstock, VT

The origin story of Vermont’s only national park begins with environmental destruction. Vermont was nearly totally forested when Europeans arrived in the 1700s, but within a century, industry, agriculture and general exploitation of the land resulted in a deforested and overgrazed landscape. Eroding topsoil diminished fertility of agricultural lands and devastated fish habitats. Into this world George Perkins Marsh was born in 1801, in what is now the national park.

A lawyer, congressman, linguist, naturalist and diplomat, Dartmouth-educated Marsh recognized the destruction that man had wrought upon the land. In his travels he also witnessed European land management plans designed to reverse the damage. In 1864 Marsh published *Man and Nature*, a book that earned him the title of Prophet of Conservation and laid the groundwork for the conservation movement of the 20th century. Marsh also inspired Arbor Day and establishment of the national forest service.

The writings of George Perkins Marsh had an enormous impact on fellow Vermonter Frederick Billings. A UVM graduate and lawyer, Billings went west where he made a fortune and grew to love the giant sequoias and dramatic landscapes. He advocated for the establishment of national parks in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Glacier and Mount Rainier.

Returning to Woodstock in 1861, Billings found his beloved hills and valleys eroded and denuded of soil, reminding him of the devastation he had seen in California’s gold rush towns. He saw sheep farmers struggling against competitors from both western states and overseas. Billings realized that Vermont farmers needed new tools in order to survive.

In 1869, Billings bought the farm that had once belonged to the Marsh family and added more acreage as it became available. In an effort to demonstrate healthy land management, Billings worked to create a model farm and forest. He bought a herd of Jersey cows and planted trees to create a managed woodlot. In 1893, Billings Farm received top honors at the Chicago World’s Fair. One generation later, Mary French, a great-granddaughter of Frederick Billings, married Laurence Rockefeller, and in the 1950s the couple inherited the property.



Ticonderoga at The Shelburne Museum.
Photos by Elizabeth Bassett

Outdoors

LCA combats aquatic invasive species at Bristol and Monkton Ponds



Photo contributed

Staff report

The Lewis Creek Association will continue its efforts to combat aquatic invasive plant species in the Lewis Creek watershed, thanks to a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

In a June 7 press release, LCA announced it was awarded funding to continue its Boat Launch Steward Program at Bristol Pond and to establish a second program at Monkton Pond. The boat launch stewards greet boaters as they arrive at the ponds and offer to inspect their boats for aquatic invasive species, as well as collect data on where the boat has been and how many aquatic organisms were encountered.

Invasive plants, which outcompete native plants by forming dense mats of vegetation, are known to degrade ecosystems and wildlife habitats and impede recreational boaters, swimmers and anglers. The troublesome plants are spread via seeds, roots, fragments, animals and humans.

Monkton Pond and Bristol Pond are known

to be menaced by invasive species such as European frogbit, Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. The two popular recreational sites could serve as “points of introduction” for the spread of aquatic invasive species in the Lewis Creek watershed and throughout the state, the LCA said.

The boat launch stewards educate boat owners on how to prevent the spread of AIS through proper techniques for cleaning, draining and drying boats and boating equipment before moving to a different water body. Even swimsuits and life jackets can carry microscopic organisms such as the fishhook waterflea, which was recently found in Lake Champlain, the LCA said.

According to the press release, LCA’s boat launch stewards interacted with 570 watercraft last summer and directly prevented at least 63 potential AIS infestations to other waterbodies.

For more information about the Boat Launch Stewards Program, contact Kate Kelly, Program Manager for Lewis Creek Association, at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com or 488-5203.

Hey, EAB! Come on over!



Tree Warden Mark Dillenbeck and Deputy Tree Warden Alexa Lewis finish rigging an EAB trap in an ash tree near the Thompson’s Point clubhouse on Thompson’s Point Road last week.

Photo by Vince Crockenberg

Vince Crockenberg
CONTRIBUTOR

The bright green triangular boxes hanging from a dozen ash trees in Charlotte are designed to attract any emerald ash borers in the neighborhood and give the town a heads-up that the borer has made its way into

Charlotte’s ash trees. As the tags attached to the trees note, nearly all of Vermont’s 160 million trees could eventually be lost to the EAB, and early detection of the insect’s presence in Charlotte will help the town take action to remove diseased trees before they threaten public safety, increase town expenses and decrease property values.

Town

Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

“The beauty of that June day was almost staggering. After the wet spring, everything that could turn green had outdone itself in greenness and everything that could even dream of blooming or blossoming was in bloom and blossom. The sunlight was a benediction. The breezes were so caressingly soft and intimate on the skin as to be embarrassing.”

~ Dan Simmons, *Drood*

The Senior Center has begun a ‘soft opening.’ Priority is being given to those groups that have not been able to gather on Zoom: **Bridge, Mahjong, Strength Maintenance, Tai Chi -Advanced.** By the end of this month, **Essentrics** and **Pilates** classes will be back in person.

Some courses will continue Zooming though the summer, such as **T’ai Chi for Beginners**, all the **Italian courses**, **Gentle Yoga**, **Mindfulness Meditation Practice** and **Writing Your Life Story**. Others have not yet decided. Yes, this transition period is a little confusing—but we’re on the way. Please call if you have a question.

Limited meals will start in mid-July with reservations necessary. A more regular schedule will depend on the creation of new, volunteer cooking teams. If you are interested in finding out more about cooking teams (volunteering for as little as one day a month), please call the Senior Center at 425-6345. There is no age limit.

Courses starting in June

If you act really, really quickly, there is still time to register for any of these courses below. The registration deadline is Friday, 6/18—for all of them. For how to register and pay, see information at the end of this article.

6/23 – CONFLICT RESOLUTION with Mark Williams

Register by: 6/18. Fee - \$48.
Wednesday mornings, 11–12.
Dates: 6/23–7/28. (6 weeks)
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. (All meetings for this course will be on Zoom.)
~ Mark Williams is a licensed couples counselor; however, please note that this course is not intended for couples.

6/23 – BOOKS OF THE WORLD with Steve Goldstein

Register by: 6/18. No fee.
Wednesday afternoons, 4–5:30.
Dates: 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4 & 8/18.
In five twice-monthly sessions, you will travel around the world reading and discussing novels by international authors that are rich in theme and sense of place. Titles we will cover (in order) are: *Atonement* (England),

Ian McEwan; *My Sister, The Serial Killer* (Nigeria), Oyinkan Braithwaite; *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (Thailand and Australia), Richard Flanagan; *Pachinko* (Korea and Japan), Min Jin Lee; and *The God of Small Things* (India), Arundhati Roy. Bring your curiosity and willingness to share your thoughts. (Note: This course will start on Zoom and is likely to switch to an in-person class.)

~ Steve is a veteran journalist, an experienced book group facilitator and a visitor to 73 countries. Co-sponsored by The Charlotte Library.

6/25 – ITALIAN – 4 different courses for all levels. Registration deadline: 6/18.

ITALIAN for CONTINUING BEGINNERS with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 1–2 p.m.
Dates: 6/25–7/30. (6 weeks)
Register by 6/18. Fee: \$48.
You’ve studied a bit of Italian? Are you beginning to put sentences together and carry on basic conversations? Do you spend your free time watching Italian movies and singing along with your favorite Italian songsters? Then this class is for you!

ITALIAN – INTERMEDIATE with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Dates: 6/25–7/30. (6 weeks)
Register by 6/18. Fee: \$48.
If you’ve studied Italian, but if your knowledge of the language is rusty, then this class is the right place for you. We’ll have fun with the Italian language and culture together, through conversation, reading, writing and taking virtual tours of Italian art, music, style and cuisine.

ITALIAN – ADVANCED with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 4–5 p.m. Dates: 6/25–7/30. (6 weeks)
Register by 6/18. Fee: \$48.
Join this class to strengthen your knowledge of Italian through conversation and grammar updates. Enjoy Italy virtually as you use Italiano in conversation, writing, reading, films, games and songs. Class is conducted almost exclusively in Italian.

ITALIAN for TOTAL BEGINNERS with Nicole Librandi

Fridays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Dates: 6/25–7/30. (6 weeks)
Register by 6/18. Fee: \$48.
You’ve never studied Italian? Do you dream of traveling to Italy and ordering your morning cappuccino? Now is the time to begin your study of Italian—and have fun along the way!

ITALIAN courses: If you have any questions about which class fits your skill set best, please contact Nicole Librandi at nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com.

6/25 – KAYAKING for WOMEN

Destination: Berlin Pond with Raymonde Mayhew and Patricia Lavery
For more information, please email Susan Hyde directly at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Registration required. Maximum is determined by leaders. Paddlers need to provide their own boats for all trips. No fee.



For expanded course descriptions see the printed **SUMMER SCHEDULE**, or visit CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. The mission of the Senior Center is to serve those 50 and up; some course enrollments 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.

Ongoing classes continue year-round. Check out the website and consider signing up for an online exercise or health course—which can be joined at any time during the season: **Chair Yoga (M, W); Essentrics™ (W, F); Gentle Yoga (M); Pilates (Th); Pilates PLUS (Tu); Tai Chi for Beginners (Tu, Th); and Mindfulness Meditation Practice (W)**. And, if a course is offered twice a week, you can opt for participating on just one of those days if you wish.

Talks at 1 p.m. – Wednesdays

These free talks are continuing online throughout the summer. They do *not* require advance registration and closed captioning is included. The Zoom invitation/link to each talk is posted on the website the day before at: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org. // Can’t make it? Talks are recorded and posted for 2 weeks afterwards on the website.

6/23: ETHIOPIA TRAVELS: HISTORY, CULTURE & SCENERY with Sheri and Rich Larsen

During their 3-week trip in 2019, there was a lot to see. In the north were the archaeological sites in Axum, wildlife in the Simien mountains, the castles of Gondor, the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela. A private tour in the south included visiting a number of tribes and the opportunity to observe many interesting birds.

6/30: BIKING in the DOLOMITES with Don Porter

Follow a troupe of intrepid bikers on a short sprint in Italy through some of the most beautiful mountain terrain in the world. From the spectacular high alpine meadows of Alpe di Siusi (a UNESCO world heritage site) to the famous and demanding Sella Ronda (a 9,186 ft. altitude change), explore this extraordinarily majestic region on cyclist’s wings. ~ Don Porter is an aspiring outdoor explorer away from his financial advisory desk.

7/07: KOLYMA – SIBERIAN ROAD OF BONES with Louise McCarren

Located in the Russian Far East, this 1300-mile dirt road from Magadan to Yakutsk was built to deliver prisoners to the infamous Gulag.

7/14: SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE MANDELA with Mark Williams

Plant sale

One person who was accidentally omitted from the list of helpers for the Plant Sale last month was Cindi Burns. Thank you for support and for all your hard work.

Could we really be at the end of the yellow brick road – at the gates of the Emerald City?

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. (Note: this is an email address, not a website.) Be sure to type in the title of the course in the subject line of your 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 the class starts.

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

• 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 per class hour. (This price will continue through the summer months.)

• For all courses with specific starting and ending dates, please pay at the start, and note the fee listed in the course description.

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

Charlotte Senior Center
(802) 425-6345
CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

Town Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Welcome Back to the Charlotte Library!

Library Hours:
Monday & Wednesday:
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday &
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Porch pickup will continue to be available during open hours.

Since we continue to be mindful of ongoing health concerns, the Charlotte Library Board has implemented a few requirements in this first phase of the reopening plan:

- We ask that anyone entering the library wear a mask and are happy to provide one if needed.
- Ten people may be in the library for library use at a time.
- Patrons are welcome to stay in the library for up to 30 minutes.

Library staff will also be following safety guidelines:

- Wear masks while in public spaces
- Maintain social distance while at circulation desk
- Wipe down books prior to checkout

We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Summer at the library:

What a treat it was to see kids running around last Thursday evening as adults enjoyed the folk and bluegrass tunes from Pete Sutherland and Oliver Scanlon. This program marked the start of the Grange on the Greens series but also marked a return to the engagement of library activity. We look forward to increased openness, beginning with book group meetings and outdoor programs for kids and adults throughout the summer.

Summer Reading at the Charlotte Library: Tales & Tails

Join us for fun-filled activity throughout the summer. Younger ones can meet on the Town Green with Cheryl for outdoor story time on

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Older kids can help create some tasty treats using the Charlie Cart portable kitchen on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Upcoming special events include:

Library Book Discussion:
A Long Petal of the Sea
Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende. From the author of *The House of the Spirits*, this epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home. Print copies available at the library circulation desk. Please register in advance.

Mystery Book Group: *The Big Both Ways* by John Straley
Monday, June 21, 10 a.m.
Rattled by the gruesome accidental death of a coworker, Slip Wilson quits his job at a logging camp and decides to make a clean start in Seattle. But along the way, he rescues a woman and her young niece from their car in the ditch, and his life takes a hard turn. The woman, Ellie Hobbes, is an anarchist with big dreams. But first, she has to take care of that pesky dead body in the trunk of her car...

Print copies available at the library circulation desk.

Libby for Beginners
Tuesday, June 22, 10 a.m.
Whether you are at the beach, in the garden or in the back of the car, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks are a convenient way to read on the go. Susanna, our tech librarian, will show you how to read and listen to books on your computer or device with the Libby app in live Zoom session. It's all free with your library card! Registration is required.

Need a library card? Charlotte Residents can get one on the library website.

Community Conversation #5: Community Connections and Capacity
Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m. via Zoom
The Charlotte Community Partnership joins with the Recreation Commission to host a conversation about the parts of our town that enable residents to effectively function, solve

problems, and thrive together. Join us to share your thoughts, accolades and suggestions!

The Charlotte Community Partnership* is taking the next step using the data from the Resilience Survey we conducted in November and December to foster a series of 5 community discussions. Each discussion will focus on one of the 5 survey categories: 1) COVID-19, 2) Basic Needs and Services, 3) Environment and Natural Systems, 4) Physical Infrastructure, and 5) Community Connections and Capacity. We hope you will add your voice to the discussion! Join the meeting.

*This group has met twice a month since last April and includes representatives from CCS, CCS PTO, Senior Center, Transition Town Charlotte, Seed Library, CVF&RS, Grange and others. With a mind toward learning if people thought our town was resilient and beginning the discussion of how to become more resilient if necessary, the group partnered with Vermont-based Community Resilience Organizations, which has run these assessments throughout the state.

Books of the World Discussion Series:
Atonement by Ian McEwan
Every other Wednesday at 4 p.m., beginning June 23
Travel around the world reading and discussing novels by international authors that are rich in theme and sense of place. Titles we will cover are:

Atonement (England); *My Sister, the Serial Killer* (Nigeria); *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (Thailand and Australia); *Pachinko* (Korea and Japan); and *The God of Small Things* (India).

Bring your curiosity and willingness to share your thoughts. —Steve Goldstein is a veteran journalist, an experienced book group facilitator and a visitor to 73 countries. Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Senior Center. Please contact CSCZoom@gmavt.net to register.

Garden Chat with Charlotte Seed Library via Zoom
Friday, June 25, 11 a.m.
Whether you're new to gardening, or have

been gardening your whole life, it is fun and rewarding to connect with other local gardeners to share your experiences, ask questions, and learn from each other. What's thriving in your garden? Any surprises? Bring your questions, and bring your ideas to share.

Come and chat with us, we'd love to see you! Please register in advance or contact the Charlotte Library for information on the session.

Very Merry Theatre on the Town Green
Tuesday, June 29, Noon
Join the Very Merry Theatre on the library lawn for a presentation of *Black Beauty*. Please bring blankets or low lawn chairs, sunscreen and water. Registration is required via Eventbrite. Covid restrictions will apply. www.eventbrite.com/e/very-merry-theatre-presents-black-beauty-tickets-155818251585

Vermont Institute of Natural Science: Animal Superheroes!
Wednesday, June 30, 1 p.m.
Faster than a speeding car, able to leap tall fences in a single bound... LOOK! It's an animal superhero! Discover the amazing adaptations animals have to be the heroes of the natural world. Get up close with two birds, a reptile and other amazing animal artifacts. You will walk away with the power to be a champion of nature. Please bring a blanket or low lawn chair, sunscreen and water. Registration is available via Eventbrite. www.eventbrite.com/e/vermont-institute-of-natural-science-super-power-critters-tickets-155816309777

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Growing popcorn is a fun way to extend the summer corn season

Bonnie Kirn Donahue
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER
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If you are familiar with growing sweet corn, growing corn for popping is very similar. Make sure to select seeds that are intended for popping instead of fresh eating. If you dry and try to pop a variety like sweet corn, you may be disappointed by the outcome.

Popping corn takes over 100 days to reach maturity. So it is important to plant the corn early in the season, after the soil has warmed to at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Corn is pollinated by wind. It is recommended that you plant corn in at least four rows for proper cross-pollination. If you have ever eagerly husked corn in late summer and found uneven kernels on the ears, poor pollination could be one of the reasons.

In order to prevent cross pollination of corn varieties, only plant one variety of corn per season. However, if you really would like to plant multiple types of corn, you can stagger the planting of the varieties by a few weeks so that the pollination timing of each does not overlap.

Prior to planting, make sure that your soil has enough nutrients and organic matter to support your crop. A soil test from the University of Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab (https://pss.uvm.edu/ag_testing) can be helpful to give you the exact nutrient recommendations for your crop and soil type. The test also may suggest the best times to add fertilizer throughout the growing season.

Corn seeds can be planted very close together. After they are a few inches tall, you should thin your rows to as close as 6 inches between corn stalks. Space between rows can vary from 18-30 inches depending on your preferences.

Last year I experimented with growing corn in a low, 4-ft. x 6-ft. raised bed, and the results were surprisingly successful. In a small raised bed, you can grow the rows closer together because you don't need space to walk in-between. I spaced my rows 12-14 inches apart.

One thing to keep in mind is that squirrels, raccoons and other animals also may be interested in your crop as much as you are. Consider planting a bit more corn than you need, planning to share with your furry neighbors. If they are too eager, you may want to consider electric fencing in the future.

Popcorn is ready to harvest when the husks have started to dry, and the kernels are shiny and hard. After picking, remove the husks and place the ears in a dry place with plenty of airflow to complete the drying process.

After several weeks, the popcorn should be ready to eat. You can put the whole cob in a paper bag and microwave it until there are about 2-3 seconds between pops. This method might take some finessing.

Another option is to remove the kernels from the cob using your hand. You can heat the kernels in a pot on the stovetop or in a popcorn maker. Add your favorite seasoning and enjoy!

Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.



Photos contributed

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