



Vol. 64, no.03 July 29, 2021 The Charlotte News

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

# Crash on Route 7 kills Bristol man



Gregory Ouelette
Photo from BrownMcClayFuneralHomes.com

Staff Report

A Bristol man was killed in a single vehicle crash on Route 7 in Charlotte early Saturday morning, July 17.

Police said Gregory Ouelette, 22, was driving his truck southbound near Claflin Farm Road at around 3:30 a.m. when he drifted into the lane of oncoming traffic, hit a guard rail and rolled. Ouellette, who was not wearing his seat belt, was thrown from the vehicle.

The Williston Police Department, Charlotte Rescue and the Charlotte Fire Department responded to the scene. Ouellette was transported to the University of Vermont Medical Center where he was pronounced

There were no passengers in the car. Police say weather and road conditions were clear.

According to an obituary from Brown-McClay Funeral Home, Gregory was born in Middlebury and had a great love of the outdoors and sports.

"He was a man of few words, but such a genuine soul and great friend. He is loved tremendously and will be greatly missed,"

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is asked to call the state police at 802-878-7111.

## **Zero for 10, and that's good news**



Deputy Tree Warden Alexa Lewis checks an emerald ash borer trap on Prindle Road in East Charlotte last Thursday. This was one of 10 traps checked during the day, none of which showed any borers stuck to the sticky outside coating. For the time being, at least, the borer seems not yet to have reached Charlotte.

Photo by Vince Crockenberg

# Custom wooden kiosk stolen from town

Mara Brooks

Vermont State Police were notified Tuesday of stolen property removed from Mount Philo State Park in Charlotte. A wooden informational kiosk constructed by volunteers was cut at the base of the structure and stolen from the intersection of State Park Road and Mount Philo Road.

On the same night the kiosk was stolen, it was reported that two of the three portable toilets at the park had been tipped over. Both events were believed to have taken place sometime Saturday night.

SEE KIOSK PAGE 2

# **Summertime** giving

John Quinney
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

Every two weeks, *The Charlotte News* arrives in your mailbox, no matter what. It's been that way for 63 years. Last week we were in your mailbox again—this time with our summer request for financial support.

We are asking *everyone* in town to consider making a tax-deductible gift to *The Charlotte News* because, although the paper is free, producing it is not. Each issue costs \$3,600. What is it worth to you?

The letter you received was signed by our three talented and dedicated, part-time employees—Mara Brooks, Christy Hagios and Anna Cyr—and our board members, all volunteers. Together, staff and board, we wanted to thank our writers, advertisers, donors and newsroom volunteers—several

SEE GIVING PAGE 3

# Health Center talks derail PC Meeting once again

Nick Bishop COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICES

The Planning Commission meeting on the 15th was supposed to cover a proposed sketch plan, but once again got sidetracked with talks of the proposed Charlotte Family Health Center.

As the meeting opened to comments from the public, neighbors of the proposed health center site, Jeanne and René Kaczka-Valliere, took the chance to raise personal objections. Commission Chair Peter Joslin stated that comments about the health center would not factor into deliberations. "The health center is not on the agenda and the hearing is closed, so we're not taking any testimony on the health center," he said. Jeanne rebutted, "we understand the hearing is closed, we would just like to take an opportunity to address the board

regarding the health center."

Jeanne and René Kaczka-Valliere moved into their property eight years ago and said they have put "considerable time, love, energy, sweat, and equity into building up the property." Jeanne said everything about this development disproportionately impacts their family. She voiced her appreciation for the quaint feel of the previous Charlotte Health Center, but noted, "this development is not that small doctor's office."

René said the couple is not opposed to commercial development on the neighboring parcel but does not feel their privacy concerns have been addressed in a thoughtful way. He said they fear the size of the project and its parking lot development will result in a loss of privacy at their residence.

The meeting then moved to a sketch plan

review of a proposed single residence at 1033 Converse Bay Rd., but due to a mix up in applicants and representatives, the review will be pushed to the August 5 meeting.

Bill Stuono of the planning commission brought up reopening the health center hearing after learning about stormwater issues with storm drains on Ferry Road at a Select Board meeting. Peter Joslin said, "the stormwater issue is a town issue. It's up to the town to fix it, so I don't think it should hinder the development." Other commission members agreed and the hearing was not reopened.

Kyra Wegman said while she understood the argument that the stormwater issue is a town fix, that "if there is a change in our knowledge of how the current stormwater plan on Ferry and Greenbush is working, then that affects how we assess the quality of the stormwater plan for the health center." Wegman spoke to the importance of integrating neighbors' concerns with development in a small town like Charlotte saying she doesn't want people to "feel like they've been railroaded over to get development through."

Escalating speculation around the health center and the Vermont Commons School were halted to focus on the agenda and finish out the meeting.

The commission held a special meeting on Tuesday to go into private deliberation over the Charlotte Family Health Center and Vermont Commons School.

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.

### **KIOSK**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The kiosk stolen is pictured here with Trails Committee members who helped install it on January 1, 2021. The Charlotte News file photo

"An awful lot of work went into the design and construction of the kiosk,"said Trails Committee Chair Bill Regan during the Public Comments portion of Monday's regular Selectboard meeting. Regan said he was one of the volunteers who helped to install the kiosk. "Obviously it's an affront to our community -- that was a piece of town property on town land. And someone took it away in the middle of the night."

Regan said he had "no idea" who might be responsible for taking the kiosk or why.

"I would hesitate to at this point to speculate," he said. "But it's the kind of thing that works against all Charlotters, not just those who are on the trails committee."

Regan said he had not yet given any thought to replacing the kiosk.

"We're just sort of getting our head around the fact that this community asset is now gone," he said.

Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to contact the VSP at 802-878-7111 and reference case number 21A102785.

## Charlotters enjoy all that is offered at Grange on the Green





Cousins Brynn Herlihy and Chapin Grubbs dig in after learning how the solar oven works. At the next concert on Aug.12, they'll get to learn how to work the smoothie bike that the Charlotte Energy Committee is borrowing from Photos by Rebecca Foster

Left: Charlotte Energy Committee member Jacqui DeMent with her newborn, husband and son, who's happily licking the solar-melted chocolate off his face. Jacqui joined the committee during the pandemic, so this was the first time the committee had met her in



Above: The Charlotte Energy Committee focused on renewable energy at its table at the Grange on the Green concert on July 15, with a s'mores solar oven made by college-bound committee member Carolina Sicotte. Is Mike Yantachka going in for a marshmallow...or is that big smile because he loves solar power and the energy independence it gives

## EC Chair to Town: More support, less micromanaging

Mara Brooks

Energy Committee Chair Rebecca Foster said she is perplexed by the Selectboard's "disproportionate" concerns over a series of small purchases made by the committee, given the EC's modest budget and the town's energy conservation goals.

At a recent Selectboard meeting, Foster was extensively questioned by member Jim Faulkner about invoices related to items not originally listed in the committee's budget. Foster maintained the purchases were small enough that a Selectboard review was not required.

During the warrant review portion of the June 12 Selectboard meeting, Foster was asked to explain several purchases related to information tables at Grange on the Green, an e-bike rental project in collaboration with the library, and materials for the WindowDresser insert program.

"The WindowDressers program was actually very specifically on our budget," Foster told the Selectboard. "We wanted to do that a year ago, and it was pushed off to this year, so that has long been a goal."

Foster said the information tables, which are run by students during concerts at Grange on the Green, are designed to raise public awareness around energy issues.

"We did the exact same thing two years ago at the Fossil-Free Jamboree," Foster said.

Faulkner continued questioning Foster and Library Director Margaret Woodruff at the meeting about the "particulars" of the e-bike program. He asked how many passes were purchased, what would happen if not all of the passes were used, why the passes could not just be purchased one at a time as needed, and what would happen if all 21 passes were used and

more were needed.

Town Clerk and Treasurer Mary Mead said the library, not the energy committee, should have purchased the e-bike passes.

"I've lost track of the number of hours the Selectboard has discussed the energy budget over the last year," Foster said amid the discussion. "But it's no secret that the energy committee is subject to wildly disproportionate

Rep. Michael Yantachka said he feared the Selectboard's "nitpicking" of the EC might discourage committee members from seeking out innovative solutions.

"I think you have to make a decision on whether you want the energy committee to just be a bunch of people sitting around talking to each other about energy or whether you want them to be creative and innovative," Yantachka

In an interview with *The News*, Foster said she found the Selectboard's questions "perplexing" because the town's purchasing policy "unambiguously" states purchases under \$1,000 can be made by a committee's purchasing agent without Selectboard review.

"As a committee chair, I'm a purchasing agent," she said. "The Selectboard needs to figure out if it's going to abide by its purchasing policy or not."

According to Selectboard Chair Matt Krasnow, the purchasing policy might be more ambiguous than it seems. While he agreed that purchasing agents have the authority to purchase budgeted items, he said the policy does not grant them the freedom to purchase items that were never discussed with the Selectboard in the first place.

"There's an expectation that if a committee wants to make a change in how they spend the money they [originally] proposed spending,

that they come to the Selectboard to talk about that," Krasnow said.

Foster pointed out the EC's current \$3,200 budget, cut from \$4,700 the previous year, is equal to "less than one line item" for the town's recreation committee. She said the Selectboard's excessive questioning about "\$25 expenditures" was "embarrassing" for the

"We're in the middle of a climate emergency," Foster said.

Foster said the Town Plan outlined "big goals" the EC would like to assist the town in moving forward. She added that no meaningful steps had been taken toward reaching the town's goal of using 25% renewable energy by 2025.

"It's right around the corner," she said of the deadline. "There's no time to lose."

Krasnow said while COVID-19 disrupted the town's efforts to meet its energy goals last year, he hoped efforts could be resumed in the next

"My hope is that the Selectboard and the energy committee can talk about larger projects that can move the needle," he said. "Based on the expectations in the Town Plan and the continuing problems that are increasing with climate change, everyone needs to invest more money now into solutions that reduce our carbon footprint. The town has an obligation to do its part.'

Foster said she hoped Charlotte could provide "inspiration" for other towns once its own conservation goals are reached.

"People think that local action is small, and it is," Foster said. "But that's not the same as being insignificant. It's really difficult to make changes nationally without making it at a local level. Because if it's not happening locally, it's generally not happening."



**Mission Statement**The mission of *The Charlotte News* is:

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

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.

#### **Editorial independence**

The editor makes final decisions on stories that are published in The Charlotte News. While we are funded by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news judgments are made in accordance with our mission and are independent of all sources of financial support.

#### Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

Consistent with our mission The Charlotte News publishes letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries submitted by our readers. All such materials are subject to review and approval by the editor in accordance with the following standards and requirements:

- The views expressed in letters or opinion pieces are those of the author, and are not endorsed by either the board or the editorial staff of the paper. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor will be clearly
- The News strives to stay clear of conflicts of interest. If an actual or perceived conflict arises or becomes known at a later date, it will be fully
- While letters or opinion pieces may endorse political positions or candidates for public office the paper always remains objective and impartial in such matters.
- All submissions are strictly monitored for personal attacks, score settling, blatantly false information and inflammatory language. The editor reserves contrary to the paper's standards.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
- Efforts will be made to publish submissions in their entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording, but minor editing may nonetheless be necessary. Contributors will be notified before publishing, if in the editor's judgment, significant changes are required, or the submission is rejected.
- Submission requirements:
- Letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries should be emailed to news@thecharlottenews.org as attachments in .doc format and must contain the writer's full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, contact phone number. Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500
- words and opinion pieces 750 words.
  All published letters and opinion pieces will
- include the writer's name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

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### Around Town

### **Congratulations:**

### A thank you to Carrie Spear and Sarah Reis

Thanks Carrie, Sarah and all the employees at Spear's Corner Store who teamed with the Town Recreation Department for their leadership in bringing a successful "Everyone Eats" program to fruition. They managed to collect 400 meals for needy families over a 10-week period. On behalf of Charlotte Recreation Department, Nicole Conley also thanks those who provided the food in order to make the program successful.

### **Obituaries:**

### Norman Warriner Bohn

Norman Bohn, 80, of Charlotte, passed away peacefully at home on June 29, 2021, following a long illness.

Norman, son of the late Harold and Mary Bohn, was born on February 10, 1941, in East Orange, New Jersey. He grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, and graduated from Hoosac School in 1960. Norman



Norman Bohn

attended the University of Vermont, where he met his beloved late wife, Roxie. They married in 1965. Norman also formed lifelong friendships through the University and Sigma Nu fraternity. He graduated from UVM in 1964 and taught for four years at Fryeburg Academy in Maine before completing a master's degree in non-western history from Montclair State University in 1970. He returned to Vermont, where he taught history at South Burlington High School for 29 years.

Norman was an avid lover of jokes and one-liners, current events and history (with a special interest in World Wars I and II). His life travels took him cross-country as a newlywed, to Florida and Costa Rica for vacations and abroad to Europe many times. As much as Norman enjoyed traveling, he was happiest at home in Vermont—spending summers on Lake Champlain with family and friends, cutting wood and tending his garden and yard.

He is survived by his two children (Christopher and Jessica Bohn); sister (Emily-Ellen Mudryk); three grandchildren (Garrett, Nathan and Halle Bohn); and two nieces and their families (Jennifer and Matt Culhane; Ellen and Al Turnbull).

A Celebration of Life will be held at the University of Vermont on September 18, 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dudley H. Davis Center, Livak Ballroom. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Norman Warriner Bohn '64 Scholarship Fund to help provide educational opportunities at UVM for Vermont students. Please make checks payable to the UVM Foundation and send to the UVM Foundation, attn. Norman Warriner Bohn '64 Scholarship Fund, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

Arrangements are in care of Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home, 9 Pleasant Street, Essex Junction, VT.

### Jane Codington Becker

Jane Becker, 86 died peacefully at Eastview's GardenSong Memory Care Community in Middlebury. Jane cherished her childhood on her family's dairy farm in Plainfield, New Jersey. Photos capture Jane on a tractor surrounded by farm hands, in the yard with an armful of kittens, and smiling from the rumble seat of her brother's car. She was an inquisitive, resourceful, independent person loved deeply by her parents, Albert Isaac Codington and Margaret Virginia Leggett, and older siblings Bill, Ginny and Ann.

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Jane began a lifelong career in nursing, training at Boston Children's Hospital. She met and married Harvard medical

student David Becker in 1955. They raised four children, Marcie, Jan, Meredith and Steven living in North Carolina, Japan, South Miami, Florida and Weston, Mass. Jane divorced yet prioritized a stable and



Jane Becker

supportive life for her children. She was the nurse manager of the busy emergency department at Waltham hospital, and then an occupational health nurse until her retirement in the 1990s.

Jane then moved to Charlotte, joyfully embracing all facets of Vermont living and the opportunity to be near her first grandchild, John. She worked at the Charlotte library, gardened and cared lovingly for her home on Thompson's Point, cherished a refreshing swim at Whiskey Bay, and was often seen walking briskly around the point or passing others on her way up Mount Philo. Jane volunteered with Howard Dean's campaign and walked with Bill McKibben for climate justice. She opened her home to young campaign staffers, VPIRG volunteers, musicians and visiting congregants from a church in Summerton, South Carolina. Jane volunteered at the Charlotte Food Shelf and at Vermont Elder Education Enrichment. She was a believer in community participation and contribution, from Town Meeting to Green Up Day.

To her last day, Jane was a model of resilience and grace. She was a practitioner of great ingenuity in the face of any challenge. She had a wry sense of humor, was whip smart, keenly observant and generous. She savored life in all its detail. She passed along her love of the outdoors and her spirit of adventure and discovery: a quiet paddle on Kennebago Lake, the pleasure of swimming, the joy of a good read in front of a crackling fire, the decadence of a bowl of cherrystone clams. Above all, we'll remember the warmth of her world-class smile.

Jane is survived by her children and their spouses: Marcie (John) Freeman of Brattleboro; Jan Becker of Boulder, Colorado: Meredith (Peter) Moses of Charlotte; and Steven (Carolyn) Becker of Dallas, Texas; grandchildren Ivy, Roome and Gwendolvn of Dallas, Texas: and John Moses and his wife, Alison, of Los Angeles, and former husband David Becker and his wife, Marylou, of Vero Beach, Florida. She will be missed by her beloved friends Susan and Vincent Crockenberg as well as numerous nieces and nephews. We will be forever grateful to Jane's extended family, the staff and residents of the Eastview community. In lieu of flowers, please pass along a good book or make a donation to the Friends of the Charlotte Library.

### **GIVING**

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hundred people in all—for their truly remarkable support, particularly during a pandemic.

To join our supporters, send your check to us in the envelope you received last week, or simply go to our website, charlottenewsvt.org, and click on the Donate button. Thank you.

What does the community receive for its support? We ask you to reflect on the value consistently provided by *The Charlotte News*:

- Extensive coverage and reporting on town affairs: controversy at the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the energy committee's budget struggles, topics discussed at Selectboard and Planning Commission meetings, to name a few.
- Regular updates and announcements from the Senior Center, Library and Food Shelf.
- A wide range of features covering school sports, local businesses, gardening, nature and the environment.
- Our regular columns: Sacred Hunter, Hi Neighbor, Legislative Report, Outdoors, Into the Woods, Out Takes, Around Town, College Preparation, Book Reviews and more
- Our website, charlottenewsvt.org, where you'll find articles from the paper going all the way back to 1958!
- And, by popular request, recent real estate transactions!

Add it all up, and this is our town; *The Charlotte News* brings it to you.

We're working hard to make *The News* even more useful—and I'm delighted to announce

that we have three new writers coming on board:

- Lucie Lehmann will be writing a regular column on food and farming,
- Dan Cole will be covering the history of people and places in town, and,
- Lynn Monty will be reporting on the school board.

In addition to your contribution, we'd love to hear what our readers want to see in the paper. So, take a look at the short survey form included in last week's mailing, fill it out, and send it back. Or simply send an email to news@thecharlottenews.org.

Not able to make a financial contribution at this time? No worries. Here are a three other ways to support *The News*:

- Consider writing for the paper. We're always on the lookout for reporters and writers, especially to boost our coverage of key meetings in town.
- Got a favorite photo or two? Send them to us at news@thecharlottenews.org, and look for them in a future issue of the paper.
- Ask about joining our board or a board committee. If your experience includes publishing, strategic planning, nonprofit board service, running fundraising campaigns, or advertising and marketing, I would love to hear from you at john@ theharlottenews.org.

From all of us here at *The News*, best wishes for a wonderful summer—on the lake, in your garden, walking our trails, spending time with family, friends and neighbors, and, of course, reading your favorite community newspaper.

## **Celebrating Marty and Terry**

The outdoor event celebrating Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan's lives will be on Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10 a.m. at the Breeding Barn at Shelburne Farms. Please RSVP. An accurate estimate of attendees is needed for event planners. To RSVP go to https://illickdinnan.wixsite.com/my-site/rsvp.

Bring what you need for seating on the lawn. The event will take place inside the Breeding Barn if rain is predicted.

Event attendees are welcome to stay at Shelburne Farms after the event, walk the grounds, have a picnic, and enjoy the area.





### Town

## Building community resilience one window at a time

Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox and Jamey Gerlaugh

In the months preceding the arrival of COVID-19, the Charlotte Energy Committee and Sustainable Charlotte (formerly Transition Charlotte) joined forces with the WindowDressers organization of Maine to make and install inexpensive, energy-saving window inserts in 10 Charlotte homes and one community building, the Charlotte Grange. The common theme of these structures is that they all had drafty or single-pane windows. That's where the window inserts came to the rescue.

The window inserts, consisting of custom-made wooden frames covered by two layers of clear, shrink-fit film glazing, are much less expensive to make and far easier to install and remove than conventional storm sashes. They fit on the insides of existing windows, adding two insulating spaces. Foam gaskets around frame perimeters provide tight seals against drafts and hold the inserts in place without fasteners. Although the program was grounded this last winter by COVID-19, the project is gearing up to start again in August for next winter.

This "green" energy idea germinated in Maine eight years ago, when a church group made and installed simple interior storm sashes in their building's old windows. They were so impressed by the resulting energy savings and improved comfort of the meeting space that they eventually formed a nonprofit organization called WindowDressers to share this



Ruah Swennerfelt helps prepare the window inserts.

amazing, low-cost solution with other area residents.

Over the past eight years, WindowDressers has conducted over 106 community builds in Maine, produced over 34,000 window inserts, and saved Maine residents an estimated 1.2 million gallons of heating fuel. A window insert can save as much as one gallon of heating fuel per square foot of window per heating season. Pricing depends on the window size, with a 30-inch by 60-inch insert costing about \$42.

After running successful builds in many towns throughout Maine, WindowDressers decided to branch out two years ago and see how well their technical assistance might work in six Vermont towns. In January 2020, a Charlotte chapter was created and successfully produced inserts. This year the Charlotte chapter hopes to expand to at least 30 homes. With a recent grant from the Charlotte Energy



WindowDressers work together to prepare the window inserts.

Photos contributed

Committee, the organization will provide deep discounts for low-income Vermont residents.

To further reduce costs, all recipients were asked to join other volunteers to help with the final assembly of the inserts at a community build scheduled last Oct. 29 through Nov. 3 at the Charlotte Grange. When the time came for volunteers to assemble the inserts, the sense of community and camaraderie was reminiscent of an old-fashioned "quilting bee." Assembly jigs created by WindowDressers had been delivered to the community workshop site, and the room was laid out with stations for each stage of the assembly.

The conversations among the volunteers were lively. Coffee, tea, and treats were available throughout the morning, and lunch was provided by a local caterer for the noon break. More important, our community was strengthened by neighbors helping neighbors.

WindowDresser's team of Charlotte volunteers is now accepting orders for the fall build season. Our fully vaccinated volunteers will begin measuring windows in August. The number of homes taken on by the local Community Build is limited to about 30, so interested households should sign up right away at WindowDressers.org or call 207-596-3073.

### Music

### Vermont Symphony Orchestra features Francesca Blanchard at Shelburne Museum

On July 24 the VSO performed as part of its well-loved July open-air concerts with "Summer Under the Stars" at Shelburne Museum. The concert featured Burlington-based songstress Francesca Blanchard and was conducted by VSO's Creative Projects Chair Matt LaRocca. In partnership with Higher Ground, the concert featured a dynamic 25-piece chamber orchestra playing music inspired by nature and the great outdoors with French-born.

Photos by Lee Krohn







Town -----

# Lewis Creek Association wraps up study of yellow iris control



Volunteers dig and hand pull yellow iris plants from Little Otter Wildlife Management Area, May 29, 2021 Photo by Robert Hyams, HRS/Riverscape Ecology

#### Kate Kelly LEWIS CREEK ASSOCIATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Yellow iris (Iris pseudacorus), with its striking yellow flowers, is a beautiful plant but also a threat to our priority natural communities and native plants. In recent years, it has gained a foothold in many Lake Champlain wetlands and floodplain forests (priority natural communities, as documented by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Natural Heritage Program). Lewis Creek Association, in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and HRS/Riverscape Ecology, began studying this problem in 2015. This year, LCA wrapped up a three-year study of yellow iris in the 12-acre Little Otter Wildlife Management Area in Ferrisburgh (at the mouth of Lewis Creek and Little Otter Creek).

The lake-influenced lower reaches of Lewis Creek contain important floodplain forests, buttonbush swamps and a range of state-significant, emergent-plant communities. Funded by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, this study was a survey of yellow iris from the North Ferrisburgh falls to the mouth of the lake, as well as a test of removal

methods and coordination to lead volunteers in yellow iris removal. Over the course of three seasons, volunteers dug out 335 clumps and 710 single yellow iris plants (using 125 volunteer hours). Larger clumps that were too big to dig (126) were treated chemically in the fall using a wetland-approved herbicide to minimize impacts on amphibians and other plants.

Results of the study showed that both methods (digging and chemical control) were effective at eliminating yellow iris clumps. Volunteers learned to identify yellow iris from the native blue-flag iris (*Iris versicolor*) even when it was not in bloom, using the tint at the base of the leaves (yellow vs. blue/purple) and leaf form (more upright on yellow iris, more droopy on blue-flag iris). LCA hopes yellow iris populations at Little Otter WMA will remain at low levels with annual maintenance.

LCA Program Manager Kate Kelly encourages all home gardeners to familiarize themselves with yellow iris and to remove it from their gardens and to encourage removal from other public places, as it spreads easily to natural areas. Additional information on the project is available on LCA's website, lewiscreek.org/invasive-species-control.

# Monday Munches are back at the Charlotte Senior Center!



July 26 Monday Munch cooking team—Front row: Cindi Burns, Carol Strobeck, Sue Foley, Susan Hyde, Beth Merritt, Jane McCullough. Back row: Marjorie London, Judy Dugan, Ann Hansen. *Photo by Lori York* 

We are excited to be offering our Monday Munches at the Charlotte Senior Center again. Our Monday lunch is from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. and we offer a soup, salad, beverage and dessert for a \$5 donation. Our upcoming August lunches will be held on August 9 and August 23.

Interested in volunteering? We have various roles from dishwashing, setup, food prep and baking. Consider joining our fun crews

of volunteers—whether it is volunteering once a month or for every Monday. For more information, please email VOL4csc@gmavt.net, or call 802-425-6345.

The Charlotte Senior Center is for curious and active people ages 50+. We're located at 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte. For information on our programming and volunteer opportunities visit: CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org.

# Charlotte Recreation fall sign ups

Nicole Conley RECREATION DIRECTOR

### **Fall Soccer Signups**

Early soccer registration fee is \$40 until Aug. 20. After Aug. 20 the fee will increase to \$55 per child. We will be ordering dri-fit rec T-shirts this season! If your athlete needs a T-shirt, you can purchase one for \$7 while you are registering.

### **Final Registration Deadline:** Friday, Aug. 27

The season will start the week of Sept. 7.

Soccer practices will be set by the coaches based on their availability. Please make a note if there are certain days/times your child is unavailable to practice.

Volunteer Coaches Needed! Contact the Recreation Director if interested!

#### **After-school Piano Lessons**

The Recreation Department is pleased to offer after-school piano lessons at Charlotte Central School this fall for students in grades 2 through 8. Lessons will be taught by Julie Holmes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Tuesdays, 8/31-12/21 Wednesdays, 9/1-12/22 Private Lessons \$390 Semiprivate Lessons \$330

#### **Safe Sitter Courses**

Safe Sitter® prepares teens to be safe when they're home alone, watching siblings or babysitting. The course offers four main

content areas: Safety Skills, Child Care Skills, First Aid & Rescue Skills, and Life & Business Skills. Lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Teens will practice choking rescue and diapering. Register for one date that works best for your child. Register with the town offering the program. Grades 6-8

Shelburne- Nov. 6 Hinesburg—Dec. 11 Williston-April 21 Charlotte-May 21 **Time:** 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Fee: \$60

#### **Tennis Lessons**

The tennis program is open to 1st through 6th grades.

Tennis lessons will be held at the tennis courts at the Charlotte Town Beach.

### Aug. 23-Sept. 13

RECREATION Mondays Grades 1–3 3:30-–4:30 p.m. Grades 4-6 4:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays Grades 1–3 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grades 4-6 3:30-4:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$75

#### Villari's Martial Arts

Most children and teens will receive some benefit from Villari's martial arts after

training for just a few short months. But the real benefit comes from long-term training. There is something special that happens to a child who grows up in a Villari's martial arts school. They are simply more confident, respectful, focused, healthy, hardworking and optimistic.

Session 1: 8/26-9/30 (No class 9/16) **Session 2:** 10/7–11/4 **Session 3:** 11/11–12/16 Kindergarten-8th grade, 3–4 p.m.

Location: Charlotte Central Fee: \$75

#### **Driver's Education**

The Charlotte Recreation Department will be offering a driver's education program this fall by the 802 Driving School. The eight-week driver's education program will be taught by Joe Barch, who

has over 15 years of experience teaching in the public schools.

Aug. 30-Oct. 20 **Time:** 6:30–8:30 p.m.

HARLOT

Location: Charlotte Central School

**Registration Fee: \$700** 

Please visit our website for exact dates.

### **Charlotte Recreation Basketball**

The Charlotte Recreation Basketball program provides a venue for athletes to learn and master basketball skills in a fun and positive environment. Winning is not the primary objective but rather development of sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for others and discipline.

### **Practice and Game Information**

The season starts the week of Dec. 6 and ends Feb. 11

Practice will take place on weeknights between 6–7:30 p.m. and/or Saturday 8 a.m.–12 noon. Times will be posted as coaches determine their availability.

Kindergarten – Practice will be on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m.

1st-2nd Grade: Teams will practice once a week with games on Saturday at 9 a.m.

**3rd–5th Grade:** Teams will practice twice a week with games on Saturdays.

\*\* All teams are dependent on roster size and volunteer coaches.

Registration: Sept. 16–Nov. 12 Fee: \$50 Late Registration: After Nov. 14 Fee: \$65 Registration Deadline: Dec. 3

#### Full and partial scholarships are available for all youth recreation activities.

To register visit charlotterec.com. Questions? Contact Nicole Conley by email Recreation@townofcharlotte.com.



## Hi, Neighbor!

# Tim Wall: Living in the fast and slow lanes at once



Phyl Newbeck CONTRIBUTOR

Tim Wall has found a balance in his life with one foot in the slow lane of his Three Chimney Farm and the other in the fast-paced investment world with Burlington-based Hula. For a while, the farm was a bigger focus in

Wall's life, but these days it is taking a back seat to his investment work.

Wall grew up in Los Angeles with an entrepreneurial father who was involved in multiple start-up companies. Wanting to do something different, he spent a year at the Mountain School in Vershire. "I was exposed to an unplugged lifestyle," he said "living in harmony with the land." Wall finished high school in L.A., but he returned to Vermont for a degree in environmental studies and horticulture at UVM.

Following college, Wall returned to L.A., but his job at an organic seed company was not what he expected. "I was wearing steel-toed boots, driving forklifts, working in a huge warehouse and being totally disconnected from the land," he said. Wall's father invited him to join a start-up subscription e-commerce business called YBUY. He enjoyed the work but left when the company changed direction.

Deciding to try the slow lane once more, Wall went back to school to study herbalism and Chinese medicine, but he ultimately decided the program wasn't for him. Back in the fast lane, he worked for a Finnish advertising technology company called Kiosked. "We opened offices in L.A., New York and London," he said. "I spent four years flying all over the world." Through Kiosked, Wall found a small publishing company called AdRizers and joined them as their third partner.

Wall and his wife, Danielle, thought about moving from L.A. to the Pacific Northwest, but a trip to Maine for a wedding started with a flight to Burlington and the couple fell in love with Vermont all over again. Danielle was in a pre-med, post-baccalaureate program at the time and she applied and was accepted to the Larmer College of Medicine at UVM. In 2016, the couple purchased a home with seven acres in Charlotte where Wall rekindled his love

of the land. Harrison Greene of Propagate Ventures planted 230 fruit and nut trees on the property, and Wall put in a garden big enough to feed the family all year, also growing wheat which he threshed and milled at home. "We ate what we grew," he said, "from seed to loaf."

With thirty 4x50 beds, Wall grows a little bit of everything. "If you can grow it in Vermont, I'm probably growing it," he said. He hired someone to help him with the farm. Since there was more food than his family could eat, they built a website to sell produce online. Wall developed partnerships with breweries and Burlington co-working spaces to sell produce at their locations and also worked with restaurants like Pauline's and the Shelburne Tap House.

The pandemic changed everything, so in 2020, Wall switched to what he described as a "super-flexible CSA model." For roughly \$35 a week, customers got door-to-door delivery of produce. "It was 24 weeks and you could join at any point in the season and pause it or skip a week," he said. At its busiest, Three Chimney Farm was delivering to 60 families.

Last August, Danielle gave birth to their son, Otis, who helped bring on more changes. Wall's farm manager left, and he started a new job in the fast lane. "I began working with a Burlington investment group called Hula," he said. "We invest in data technology." Wall enjoys being on the ground floor of another start-up so he is spending less time on the farm. "Farming is a passion project," he said. "I still grow a ton of food." Much of that food is now being given away to the Pathways Vermont Community Center and Soteria House in the Old North End. Wall has served on the Pathways board of directors for the last four years.

Wall is happy to have found balance between his two worlds. "Right now it's super harmonious," he said. Wall grows more food than he and Pathways need so he is hoping to find more places to donate extra produce. "I don't want to get back into selling things because it's a lot of work," he said "but, despite the fact that I didn't know how to farm when I started, I've got a good setup. My farming keeps my hands in the ground."



Tim Wall, wife Danielle and son Otis.

.....

Photo contributed

## Sports

# Shelburne Little League All-Stars dream big and play with passion



U10 All Stars

Shelburne Little League

Throughout May and June, the fields behind Town Hall in Shelburne, at Charlotte Berry Farm and on Harbor Road buzzed with activity every day of the week. More than 300 boys and girls from Shelburne, Charlotte and Hinesburg took to the field during the regular season. Thirtynine players, selected as all-stars, dreamed big with hopes of playing their way to the Little League World Series later this

The first milestone in this journey is to win the District 1 pool play and single elimination tournament, hosted this year at Schiffiliti Field in Burlington's North End (8-9-10 and 10-11-12-year-olds) and at Airport Park in Colchester (9-10-11-year-olds).

Both the U10 and U12 Teams made it to the championship game. The U10 team fell to Williston, 5-1. The U12 battled hard in a twice postponed final, ultimately being ousted by Addison County, 6-1. The U11 lost in their semi-final game to Winooski.

It was a terrific experience for these kids, led by a great group of coaches and supported by a terrific group of SLL families. Residents can be proud that these young players represented our community well, playing each game with heart, class, teamwork and love for each other.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary season in 2021, Shelburne Little League is proudly represented by youth in Shelburne, Hinesburg and Charlotte. Currently more than 300 kids participate in the program from Pee Wee T-Ball to Majors baseball and Minis to Majors softball. A Babe Ruth program is offered for those baseball players who have aged out of Little League. The league is incredibly fortunate to have so many coaches and volunteers who are passionate about the success of the players both on and off the field. Little Leaguers not only learn the skills, tactics and strategies of the game to improve as a player but also learn life and leadership lessons they carry with them beyond the playing field.

Photos courtesy of Shelburne Little League

### Members of the 8-9-10-Year-Old Team Coached by Andy Strauss, Ken McAvey and Jonathan Wolff

Felix Boyce
Griffin Daley
Grayson DiGuglielmo
Evan Dore
Willem Flanagan
Reid McAvey
Izyk McGuire
Tyler Niebur
Isaac Russell
Pete Stephen
Maxwell Strauss
Finn Wolff
Henry Wolff

### Members of the 9-10-11-Year-Old Team Coached by Don Ahrens, Dan Hughes and Ben Browdy

Jack Ahrens
Owen Daley
Broderick Deeley
Franklin Donegan
Leland Driscoll
Drew Friesen
Levi Hughes
Cooper Niebur
Liam Niebur
Kai Olin
Jacob Osekoski
Brennan Rettew
Heath Schnipke

### Members of the 10-11-120-Year-Old

### Coached by Ben Nunziata, Hollis St. Peter and Patrick Whitman

Jack Dore
Brady Driver
Yuri Grass
Teigen Holmes
Wes McManis
Will Myers
Nico Nails
Andrew Nunziata
Ethan Plante
D'Marcus Riggs
Theo St. Peter
Sawyer Wellman
Harrison Whitman

### Sports

# **Both Twin States Soccer turn green**



Edd Merritt

Vermont men and women both won their matches in Hanover, New Hampshire, against the "Granite Staters" in the annual Twin-State Soccer Cup. While New Hampshire still remains ahead by 1 with 2 ties

on the men's side and ahead by 5 with 5 ties on the women's side, this year's game was a four-goal win for the men (5-1) and a close one-goal win (3-2) for the women.

CVU's Olivia Zubarik earned the Vermont team's Most Valuable Player Award among women and was joined on the team by her Redhawk mates, Jess Klein and Josie Pecor. Following an early second-half tie among the men, the Green men took charge and pulled ahead for the victory. Colchester High's Adolphe Alfani earned the MVP honors for Vermont via his two goals and an assist.

### Coaches' All-League Softball team contains two Redhawks

Pitcher Amanda Gagne and catcher Kate Boget of CVU Softball earned Honorable Mention from league coaches for their play in 2021

### S.D. Ireland American Legion loses last week

Franklin County Post 01 was not deterred by playing on the CVU diamond as the beat this region's Legion team, S.D. Ireland, 13–1.



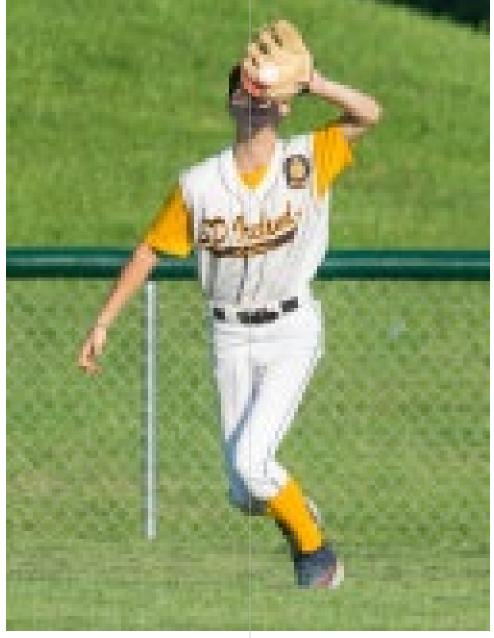
U11 All Stars



U12 All Stars

Photos courtesy of Shelburne Little League





Sun in his eyes, ball in his glove.

Photo by Al Frey







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### Outdoors -----

# The scoop on local trails

Enjoy a stroll in our beautiful town!



Elizabeth Bassett
CONTRIBUTOR

Every few years I revisit the inventory of walking trails in Charlotte. Our town is blessed with these resources and the vast network of volunteers who support them.

Straddling Monkton, Hinesburg and Charlotte, **Raven Ridge** is a 362-acre Nature Conservancy preserve encompassing wetlands, bobcat dens and migration corridor, nesting areas for ravens, three state-significant forest communities, and an anticline, a unique geological feature known locally as The Oven. Vernal pools provide breeding habitat for wood frogs and spotted salamanders. Take Roscoe Road south to end. Turn left onto Rotax Road, go 0.5 mile to small parking area. An upper loop trail rises from a boardwalk that crosses the wetland.

Total round trip is about 2.5 miles. No pets. Map at nature.org, website of The Nature Conservancy-Vermont.

Plouffe Lane Trail, 1.4 miles, easy to moderate, on 80 acres of town-owned land along the LaPlatte River in East Charlotte. Meadows, fields and views of the Green Mountains. Plouffe Lane is off of Carpenter Road, east of Spear Street. Parking and picnic table near trailhead. Follow Plouffe Lane to the end (there is a red gate), open the gate, and park your car inside.

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, also known as the Demeter property, 3.1 miles of easy to moderate trails for pedestrians and horses on 290 acres of farmland, succession woodlands and wetlands. A series of loop trails rise more than 200 feet to expansive views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Parking lot on the east side of Greenbush Road, 1.3 miles north of Ferry Road. No access from Route 7. Open daily from 8 a.m. until a half hour after sunset. No pets.

Pease Mountain, a 2.6-mile network of easy to moderate trails that includes a UVM Natural Area. Lower and upper loops are marked as are two spurs that lead to expansive views. A trailhead sign details Pease's natural history and has an excellent map. Pets must be leashed and on the trails at all times. Please clean up after them.

Williams Woods, 1.2-mile loop, easy.



Stock photo

Williams Woods is a Nature Conservancy preserve, an island of trees amidst farm fields. A boardwalk keeps visitors above often-waterlogged soil and the tangle of roots that grow above ground. The trail weaves beneath giant hemlocks, old oaks and white pines. Look for a Nature Conservancy sign on the west side of Greenbush Road, 1.0 mile south of Thompson's Point Road. Park at roadside. No pets.

Mt. Philo, Vermont's oldest state park offers year-round access to views, recreation and geology. The park sits on a 968-foot sheep back mountain rising abruptly from the Champlain Valley. Both an asphalt road and hiking trails climb to the summit overlooking Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Trail improvements are ongoing, and updates on construction are posted in a kiosk at the base. Mt. Philo Road at State Park Road. Admission charged mid-May to mid-October, 8 a.m. to sunset. Pets must be leashed.

With several completed sections, the **Town Link Trail** is "live" between Mt. Philo and the north end of the Cohousing on Greenbush Road. This includes an underpass beneath Route 7. Another segment meanders just south of the West Village.

Beginning at the base of Mt. Philo and across from the entrance to the state park, a crushed gravel path rolls gently beside, and

separated from, State Park Road from Mt. Philo Road to the Melissa and Trevor Mack Memorial Trail. The latter runs through farmland and passes a vineyard as it reaches the Route 7 underpass in 0.7 mile. Parking available on Lower Old Town Trail. The Cohousing section continues west from the underpass through fields and woodlands before arriving at Common Way, where there is limited parking in designated spots.

The Village Loop Trail combines several sections. From a parking area just off Route 7, a wide trail leads through the woods to a large meadow east of Greenbush Road. Two narrower and more rugged walking paths run slightly north, through the woods, also reaching the meadow. Mowed paths continue to Greenbush Road, crossing it just south of the Old Lantern where there is additional parking. A mowed trail climbs Barber Hill along the southern fence line. The top of Barber Hill (384 feet) provides views of Charlotte's West Village, Pease Mountain and Church Hill. The mowed path descends toward the Old Lantern. Continuing north across private property please respect signage and landowners' privacy—the trail passes through a wooded section enroute to Ferry Road, where the Village Loop Trail currently ends.

Maps can be found at Trail Finder, trailfinder.info, or the Town of Charlotte, charlottevt.org.

# A day on the Charlotte-Essex Ferry

Nick Bishop **COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP** 

The Charlotte News went for a ferry ride to take in the sights and scenes Lake Champlain Transportation has to offer. After a brief period of closure earlier this year, the ferry from Charlotte to Essex is back up and running for commuters and tourists to use the service. Enjoy these photos taken from a day trip on the ferry.

Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.

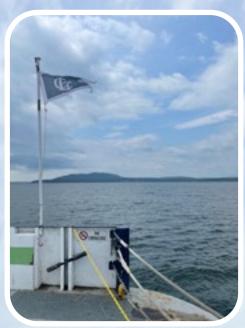


Left: Tickets to board the ferry can be purchased at the ticket booth. Standard-size cars can cross one way for \$11.75. A standard one-way pass for an adult costs \$5. Children six and under ride for free. Commuter passes can be purchased by regular crossers to save 30 percent each ride.



The first departure from Charlotte is at 6 a.m. The last departure from Essex is at 8:30 p.m. It's best to arrive at the dock 15 minutes before departure. The busiest times are around 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

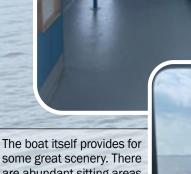


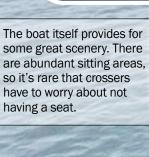


The three-mile trip across the lake provides some beautiful scenery on a summer day. The Green Mountains and Adirondacks have provided visuals for riders since the first Charlotte ferry departed in 1790.



The information stand sits next to the boarding area of the ferry. All types of brochures and pamphlets about the amenities around Vermont and New York can be found inside the stand. A great outdoor day trip for the whole family can be taken to Ausable Chasm in the Adirondacks or to a Lake Monsters baseball game in Burlington.







From the cover: A coin-operated viewing machine aboard the George D. Aiken allows riders to get a closer look at the beauty around them. This specific boat was built in 1975 and pays tribute to George Aiken, former Vermont governor and longtime U.S. Senate member.



Left: Arrival in Essex means that cars can depart to places like The Old Dock, a restaurant staple of the Essex community.

Right: The seemingly endless Lake Champlain stretches 120 miles from north to south.

Photos by Nick Bishop



# Charlotte History

# Cyrus Guernsey Pringle, botanist

Dan Cole CHARLOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cyrus Prindle was born in Charlotte on May 6, 1838, son of George and Louisa (Harris) Prindle. His father died on Cyrus's fifth birthday May 6, 1843, aged 34 years. Louisa remarried to widower Joseph Pratt, who brought seven children of his own. Stressors within the hybrid family eventually ended in separation.

Cyrus was a sensitive, quiet, studious youth who loved plant science, developing a natural flair for horticulture. According to family lore, Cyrus wandered alone through the woods of East Charlotte, writing poetry and collecting plants—very much a Thoreau-like figure. He decided to alter his last name to "Pringle," the ancient Scottish spelling,

He became a Quaker to marry Quaker teacher and speaker Almira Greene on February 25, 1863, then was drafted into the army in July. Several area Quakers pleaded the case for his exemption, many writing to Abraham Lincoln requesting Pringle—and all drafted Quakers—be paroled as conscientious objectors. Pringle's uncle Pitt Hewitt stepped forward with an offer to pay the \$300 commutation fee for him, believing it was the right thing to do; but Cyrus refused. Pringle decided that conforming to any request by military authorities would violate his anti-war principles. He determined to resist, was jailed and punished.

To understand Cyrus Pringle, it is necessary to understand Henry David Thoreau, who had died of tuberculosis in 1862. Pringle had so thoroughly embraced Thoreau's philosophy and attitudes that he became the personification of Thoreau:

"One would think, that a deliberate and practical denial of its authority was the only offence never contemplated by government; ... Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine. What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn."

In "Civil Disobedience" Thoreau also wrote, "I was not born to be forced. I will breathe after my own fashion . . . If a plant cannot live according to its nature, it dies; and so a man."

Faced with a moral dilemma, President Lincoln belatedly paroled Pringle.

Returning home, he and Almira welcomed their only child, Anne L., born on October 30, 1864; but his marriage to Almira ended in divorce. He never remarried, instead devoting his life to his beloved plants. According to biographer Kathleen McKinley Harris, he created hybrids of various wheat, oat, grape and potato seeds and grew over one hundred species of iris, as well as most of the known species of lily.

He was intensely interested in collecting and cataloguing plants. Harris writes: "During his lifetime Pringle collected over 500,000 specimens from some 20,000 species. Twelve percent of the species he gathered were new. His collecting trips ranged over northeastern United States, into Canada, northwestern and southwestern United States, and Mexico. He made annual and occasionally more frequent trips to the Southwest from 1881-1909, gathering specimens for Harvard, the Smithsonian, other major herbaria throughout the world, and for his own collection."

Cyrus was so often absent on his expeditions, few were surprised when he lost his farm to pay accumulating debts. According to Harris, "he was given living quarters and space for his herbarium at the University of Vermont" in the Williams Science Hall, with Pringle given rooms on the fourth floor.

In 1911, Cyrus became ill and was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. The renowned botanist died on May 25, 1911, age 73 years, 19 days, and was buried in Morningside Cemetery. The University of Vermont often relocated the herbarium, and much of the collection was lost due to neglect. Yet the herbarium on campus today bears Pringle's name—a mark of respect to this unique individual.

Most residents did not bear

Cyrus any ill will following his experiences with the army, his failure in interpersonal relationships, or his inability to pay his bills and keep his homestead intact. Despite all, he was not unlovable. Most had come to appreciate the eccentric genius, the humble homegrown botanist who had become increasingly well known. In 1897, William Wallace Higbee began an essay with a tribute to Pringle: "Gideon Prindle built a house on the old road leading eastward, but after it was changed to the present line it was torn down and some of it went into the house now owned by Cyrus G. Pringle, the famous



botanist and explorer of the Mexican wilds. Perhaps few men bear their heaped-up honors with the modesty of this citizen of ours who had rather discover a new plant than rule a kingdom."

You can learn more about Gideon Prindle and other Charlotte history by visiting the Charlotte Museum located on Museum Road in Charlotte. The museum is open through Labor Day on Sundays from 1–4 p.m. Admission is free; the museum is accessible to the disabled

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### Out Takes

# I know what to do. We'll settle it by declaring it war.



Edd Merritt CONTRIBUTOR

Us and them
And after all we're only
ordinary men
Me and you
God only knows
It's not what we would
choose
Forward he cried from
the rear

And the front rank died
And the general sat
And the lines on the map
Moved from side to side
Black and blue
And who knows which is which and who
is who

Us and Them – Pink Floyd

War? Is it really the best way to settle political disagreements between groups of people—showing others that they are wrong about how best to govern themselves by killing them? And on our side by sending the lowest members of the cultural rung into battle so that the higher ups don't endanger themselves, yet they give the orders? Just look at the officers taking credit for wars won, wars that were fought in the trenches, not in the officers' quarters.

We are a nation with a history of going off to war. The most recent happened not that long ago. We have now decided to pull our troops out of it.

As we are confronted by news that implies the only way to deter conflicts between countries and cultures is by doing battle with the perpetrators, those with whom we disagree, we feel we have no choice but to go to war. War, by the way, is defined as a state of armed conflict between nations or groups. To be armed is imperative insofar as it means killing people. It is that process that brings out the intensity, fear, conflict, psychological insight, yes, even bitter humor that focuses on how we accomplish the end result and how that result moves us emotionally forward.

This focus on war and its products took me back to a book I had read not too long ago by Michael Herr titled *Dispatches* (Vintage International, 1991). Herr wrote it originally in the late 1960s after serving as a war correspondent in Vietnam. In that capacity he was both on the front lines of battle—with the group of soldiers he identified as "grunts," before returning to Saigon or Khe San to send his observations and thoughts about them as "dispatches" for publication in this country and others, for as he says in his first chapter, "We also knew that for years now there had been no country here but

the war."

He calls those soldiers who crept up on Viet Cong base camps at night "Lurpes." They felt themselves to be in a world that was different from the one the rest of us inhabited. Several told Herr, "I just can't hack it back in the World." After returning home, one of them said he would sit in his room and point a hunting rifle at people and cars that passed on the street below his house.

American troops and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) felt that as those doing direct battle they needed to bring an American presence to the scene, and partly that was accomplished through names they gave to such areas as Landing Zones. The LZs took on American femininity such as LZ Thelma, LZ Betty Lou.

Unlike the previous world wars, the enemy in Vietnam became hard to identify. They did not wear badges. Often the VC worked in ARVN camps, shining shoes, laundering clothes then heading home and mortaring where they had just been.

Herr goes into detail (often lurid) about what he witnessed. "I went to cover the war, and the war covered me," he says.

Death became a symbolized event. In Dak To during services in their honor, the boots of the dead were arranged "in formation on the ground." At the same time their bodies were in bags and being shipped home.

I became interested in returning to this war because, as in today's conflicts, politicians spread lies about what was happening in this Southeast Asian country, managed to draft soldiers to fight it for them and physically stayed outside the rice paddies themselves.

I happened to be there as part of an operation that carried the American tag "Rolling Thunder." The aircraft off my ship were bombing Hanoi. The target city could have been Tokyo or Tucson or Anchorage, Alaska. It was an American effort nonetheless—war, to, once again, end all wars. We Americans have a way of saying that (and by the way often claiming victory regardless of the true results) each time we enter battle. In Vietnam we tended to be just "white boots marching in a yellow land."

At the end of *Dispatches* Herr admonishes us to remember that Vietnam's boundaries extend beyond its mapped borderlines, and even if we have not set foot in Southeast Asia, *Vietnam, Vietnam, Vietnam, we've all been there.* 

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The Charlotte News

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### **Charlotte Senior Center news**



SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

"Activity and rest are two vital aspects of life. To find a balance in them is a skill in itself. Wisdom is knowing when to have rest, when to have activity, and how much of each to have. Finding them in each other—activity in rest and rest in activity—is the ultimate freedom."

~ Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Celebrating Silence

Our OPEN flag is out. Do stop by to say hello, 9-4, M-F—we're right across from the post office.

If you wish to visit or join an activity, there are still mask requirements to keep in mind. Plus, some activities, like Bridge and Mahjong, are requiring participants to be fully vaccinated because these are played in close proximity and take place over long periods of time. Please do call to check.

#### Mask notes

Here is where things are now at the Senior Center.

If you are . . .

### Fully Vaccinated -

No mask required.

No social distancing required.

### Not Vaccinated -

Mask required. (This would also apply to exercise classes.)

Social distancing required (6 feet). (This would also apply to exercise classes.)

### Not Vaccinated - & Not Wearing a Mask (for any reason)

Kindly do not plan to visit at this time.

We ask that you come back after the mask guidance for the Senior Center is updated.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

### **Lunches—little by little**

Right now, the meals schedule is a bit fragmented. So, it's a good idea to call and check if lunch is served on a particular date. The information will also be posted on the CSC website.

8/2 – Monday – no lunch 8/4 – Wednesday lunch – starts at 12 noon This lunch is experimental—with the focus

more on conversation.

Bring Your Own Bag Lunch (BYOBL)—and we'll provide homemade dessert, cookies and beverage. Suggested donation is just \$2.

Please sign up by noon on 8/2 (call 425-6345) so the bakers will know how many are coming. If this goes well, we hope to do it again on 8/18.

### 8/9 - Monday Munch, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

No reservations needed for Mondays. First come, first served.

Menu: A refreshing lunch of summer salads—Ina Garten's chicken salad, festive black bean/corn salad

and cool watermelon salad—plus homemade dessert.

#### 8/11 – Wednesday – no lunch

Monday Munch is prepared by volunteer cook teams. We are looking for a few more folks who can lend a hand on this day of the week. The more cook teams that are up and running, the more Mondays there will be lunches. And along with a meal goes dishwashing. Looking for a few good hands to rotate that responsibility—on Mondays and/or some Wednesdays.

A volunteer cook or dishwasher commitment can be for a little as 2–3 hours a month. If you have questions, please email Lori York at vol4CSC@gmavt.net or call 425-6345 for more information.

### **In-Person Activities and Courses** New course in August -

If possible, kindly register for this online. See how to register at the end of this article.

### 8/5 – Exploring Your Roots with Kristin D'Agostino [in person at CSC]

Register by: 8/2. Fee: \$72, materials included.

Thursday afternoons, 2–3:30.

Dates: 8/5–9/9 (6 weeks).

In this six-week memoir writing class, we will explore various poetry, graphic novels and memoirs by well-known international writers. We will then write and share our memoirs with the aim of exploring our own family heritage.

Exercise classes take place in the Great Room. Yes, it really is big—and the space allows for plenty of distancing. Come and check out a class one time for no charge. See if it's a good fit for you. These are ongoing throughout the year—walk-ins are welcome. For course descriptions, please visit the website or call.

Chair Yoga – Monday, 9:30 a.m. Pilates Plus – Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. Essentrics – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Pilates – Thursday, 8:30 a.m.



Essentrics – Friday, 9:30 a.m.

### **ZOOM Activities and Courses New course in August -**8/6 – Writing Your Life Story

with Laurie McMillan [online via Zoom] Register by: 8/2. Fee: \$48. Friday mornings, 11–12:30. Dates: 8/6-8/27 (4 weeks). Explore storytelling techniques and utilize in-class exercises to help launch your own meaningful and important stories. Newcomers welcome.

Until Sept. 1, these ongoing exercise courses are on Zoom: Gentle Yoga, Mondays, 11 a.m. Tai Chi for Beginners, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

### Talks at 1 p.m. on 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.

NOTE: The following talk was rescheduled from July.

### 8/4: Who Was Mark Rothko? with Linda Finkelstein

Marcus Rotkovitch was born in Dvinsk, Latvia, and immigrated to Portland, Oregon, as a youngster. After being recruited to Yale, he eventually settled in New York City to become a world-renowned abstract painter. His journey will be a journey for all into the spirit of color, form, and space.

~ Linda Finkelstein is a mixed media artist and former art teacher, with degrees in art history and art education.

### 8/11: Temperance & Prohibition in the **Champlain Valley** with Susan Evans McClure

When you think about "Prohibition," most people imagine gangsters and bootleggers with tommy guns and fancy cars in the 1920s. But to truly understand federal Prohibition in the Champlain Valley, you have to go back before the ratification of the 18thAmendment in 1919. Learn how the Champlain Valley went from being a major producer and consumer of alcohol in the early 1800s to a hotbed of temperance sentiment by the mid-19th century. ~ Susan Evans McClure is the Executive Director of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

### 8/18: Braver Angels: Seeking to De-**Polarize America with Bill Mares**

Braver Angels (BA), a national citizens movement, aims to unite Americans across the political spectrum.

### **Annual Senior Art Show**

More to follow about participating in the **Annual Senior Center Community Art** Show that takes place during September. Questions? Call Judy Tuttle at 425-2864. Drop-off dates are Aug. 26 & 27.

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.

### How to register for a course

### For an in-person course, please register online—or call 425-6345. For a Zoom course, please register online.

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** 425-6345 CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org

### Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Although summer feels like it's winding down and the Dog Days of Summer are soon behind us, we know there are still plenty of reasons to enjoy the outdoors. Thanks to the Friends of the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Energy

Committee, we have some new offerings for you! Check out our new Cornhole set and gather your family for a game on the Town Green. Or plan a trip on the Burlington Bike Path with a free e-bike ride at Local Motion. Ever wonder where the Dog Days of Summer comes from? Borrow our telescope and check out Sirius the Dog Star! In addition to these new contributions, we also have museum passes for use to explore the many sights in the area. For details about any or all of these, please visit our website, charlottepubliclibrary. org, or call the library at 425.3864.

A good book with a glass of lemonade might also fit the bill on a summer day. Don't miss these new titles coming in August:

### **Fiction**

The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams Embassy Wife by Katie Crouch Mrs. March by Virginia Feito Billy Summers by Stephen King Yours Cheerfully by A.J. Pearce Last Chance Library by Freya Sampson

### Mystery

Another Kind of Eden by James Lee Burke Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins Man with the Silver Saab by Alexander McCall Smith

A Beautiful Place to Die by Malla Nunn Unthinkable by Brad Parks Bloodless by Douglas Preston The Damage by Caitlin Wahrer

### **Upcoming Programs**

Very Merry Theatre Presents "Guys & Dolls"

Monday, August 2 @ 4pm

Join the Very Merry Theatre teen group on the library lawn for an adaptation of the musical, "Guys and Dolls." Please bring blankets or low lawn chairs, sunscreen and water.

Friends Book Discussion: The Murmur of Bees Thursday, August 5 @ 7:30pm Set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution and the devastating influenza of 1918, *The Murmur of Bees* captures both the fate of a country in flux and the destiny of one family that has put their love, faith, and future in the unbelievable. Please register to meet via Zoom: https://bit.ly/3zl3j4I. Copies of the book available at the library circulation desk.

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### Garden Chat

### Friday, August 6 @ 11:00am

Join Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton for a mid-summer info session. Bring your garden questions, dilemmas and delights. Please register to meet via Zoom: https://bit.ly/ GardenChatAugust.

### Mystery Book Group: *Henrietta Who?* Monday, August 16 @ 10am

Early one morning in the quiet English village of Larking, the body of a woman named Mrs. Jenkins is found in the road. Miles away, her daughter, Henrietta, receives the bad news while working in the university library. Poor Mrs. Jenkins appears to have been the victim of a horrible car accident. When an autopsy proves not only that this was no accident but also that Mrs. Jenkins had never had a child, young Henrietta's life is thrown upside down. If she's not Mrs. Jenkins's daughter, then who is she? It's up to Detective Inspector C. D. Sloan of the Calleshire police force to bring the murderer to justice—and a sense of order back to Henrietta's life. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

### Saving the Lake by Being BLUE Wednesday, August 18 @ 7pm

Lake Champlain Sea Grant partners with BLUE, an innovative program that certifies homes, businesses, and institutions as watershed friendly. Learn how you can take part as the crew from the Lake Champlain Sea Grant at UVM shares the details of this innovative program that helps us help the lake.

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for our monthly newsletter.

### **Library Contact Information**

Margaret Woodruff, Director Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian Phone: 802-425-3864 Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org







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