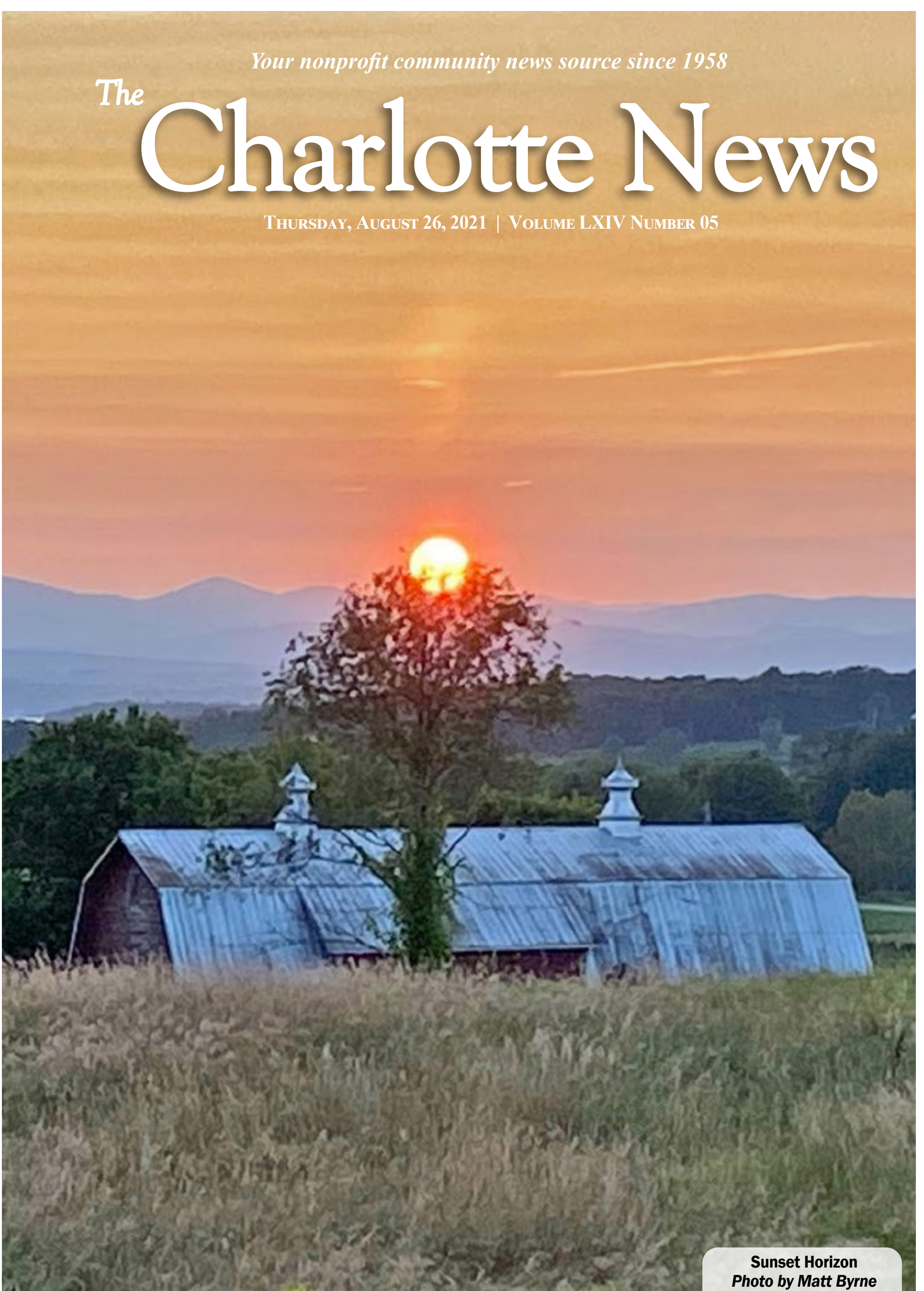


*Your nonprofit community news source since 1958*

# *The* Charlotte News

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 05



Sunset Horizon  
Photo by Matt Byrne



## Selectboard stalls on Vermont Commons highway access permit



The Selectboard voted to postpone the highway access permit review until October 11.

Photo by John Quinney

Mara Brooks  
EDITOR

In a 4-0 (1) vote, with Chair Matt Krasnow abstaining, the Selectboard delayed approving a highway access permit for Vermont Commons School until October 11 or such time as the zoning board completes its conditional use review. The applicant's site plan was granted conditional approval by the Planning Commission on July 29.

Attending the August 9 regular Selectboard meeting were neighbor Sarah Thompson and her attorney Joseph Obuchowski, Road Commissioner Hugh Lewis, Jr. ("Jr."), Civil Engineering Associates Principal Engineer David Marshall, site neighbors Janet and Gary Landrigan, and Vermont Commons Schools Board of Trustees

Secretary Craig Heindel.

Selectboard members' reluctance to move forward on the permit was based on a June 11 site visit where some members observed potential safety issues, as well as additional concerns raised by adjoining property owners.

Selectboard member Louise McCarren said she was "gravely concerned" about a utility pole at the access point that blocks drivers' line of vision when looking south.

"There's going to be a lot of traffic by a lot of inexperienced drivers, so I cannot support [approving] this [permit]," McCarren said, presumably referring to student drivers.

Krasnow countered that the applicants

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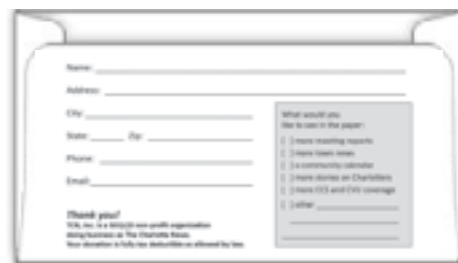
## With gratitude

John Quinney  
PUBLISHER & PRESIDENT

As I write this piece for *The News*, we're travelling to Washington DC to spend a few days with our sons, daughters-in-law and three grandchildren. Two days ago, my wife and I both received negative COVID test results, and, aside from our grandchildren, everyone is fully vaccinated. Except for a couple of outdoor activities, and an occasional masked supermarket visit, we'll spend our time in each other's company.

Being with our families is especially sweet these days. Over the past year or more, we have all learned that while Zoom and Facetime are useful for virtual communications, software is no substitute for face-to-face gatherings. I am so very grateful to have the opportunity to be with my family again.

**Here at *The News*, we're also grateful – for the dozens of gifts that we've received over the past month in response to our summer campaign. If you've not sent your contribution, please do so, in the envelope provided. Misplaced the envelope? No worries, make your contribution on *The Charlotte News* website. It's safe, secure and fast. Thank you.**



SEE **GRATITUDE** PAGE 2

We're also grateful for everyone who took a couple of minutes to complete the brief survey included with our summer campaign. The responses are not "statistically significant" I'm told, but coupled with previous results, the message is, "more town news, please." Message received.

Looking beyond family and paper, I'm grateful for so much more.

I'm grateful to our town leaders who listen, seek to understand, look for common ground, craft solutions to problems both trivial and intractable, and provide a public forum for those who wish to speak.

I'm grateful to the dozens of volunteers who give our town the gifts of their time, skills and experience, the members of the selectboard, planning commission and zoning board, and those who serve on our various committees and commissions, and at Fire and Rescue and the Senior Center.

I'm grateful for the walks around town that wouldn't be there but for the dedication and persistence of the trails committee. I think about our newly expanded library, an elegant response both to climate change and also the need for more space. I'm grateful to the energy committee for helping to make sure that this building is heated and cooled by heat pumps alone. I watch the skilled construction crew working to improve ventilation systems and reduce energy use at Charlotte Central. I'm grateful for the volunteer cooks at the senior center, our town employees, and the crew that keeps our roads in such good shape. I appreciate the essential service provided by Front Porch Forum, our town

## CVSD reveals new COVID-19 protocols for returning students



Mara Brooks  
EDITOR

New Champlain Valley School District Superintendent Rene Sanchez revealed COVID-19 protocols for the fall semester at the Aug. 17 CVSD Board of School Directors regular meeting. Sanchez was

hired as the new superintendent in April and officially stepped into the role last month.

Charlotte students will be released early on the first day of school, Wednesday, Aug. 25. All classes will be held in person, five days a week, with remote options available only to students with special circumstances.

"At this point, we're not offering any formal virtual learning outside the Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative," Sanchez said. "Families that are interested in remote learning need to contact the AOE to become an approved homeschool family."

Special education students may also be eligible for virtual learning if indicated by the student's special education plan or IEP, Sanchez said.



Consistent with guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education and the Department of Health, all students are required to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated students must also wear a mask outdoors, while vaccinated students may remove their mask when outside.

District schools will also feature improved ventilation and air filtration systems as part of a "four-pronged approach" to reduce airborne transmission of the coronavirus, Sanchez said.

"All [ventilation] systems have been

evaluated by HVAC professionals for maximum efficiency," Sanchez said. "We will increase outdoor air ventilation as much as possible while keeping temperature and humidity parameters in mind."

The ventilation systems will operate on an extended schedule "to make sure an appropriate amount of fresh air is coming into the building," Sanchez said. "We've upgraded the filters to ASHRAE (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) recommended levels to handle the additional filtration."

Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, the district will work with state agencies to limit the exposure through a combination of contact tracing and quarantining, Sanchez said.

"As we design our classes and activities and field trips, a big piece for us is making sure we have a really good idea of who is near who," Sanchez said. He added that all school events are being planned with the potential

SEE **CVSD** PAGE 2



## GRATITUDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bulletin board and community calendar.

There's much more. The hundreds of acres of land preserved for us by the Charlotte Land Trust and marked each July with those red roadside signs, the volunteers clearing invasive plants from the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, the views from Mt. Philo and the town beach, the flowering goldenrod, joe pye weed and asters that mark the passage of summer, the songbirds, bobcats, foxes and deer that have homes here.

Looking beyond Charlotte, I'm grateful to Governor Scott, Dr. Levine and the health care workers who have led Vermont to our enviable position as the most vaccinated state in the nation.

I'm grateful for the federal stimulus grants that have made such a difference to cultural organizations, businesses, newspapers and towns throughout the state. I expect to be grateful for the impact of the \$400,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding that is on the way to Charlotte.

Yes, we have our challenges. Many feel unsafe walking or biking in the west village. The fate of the health center is uncertain. The town's response to climate change falls far short of what's urgently needed. Invasive plants continue to spread. Our permitting and development process is cumbersome and flawed. Many who work here, cannot afford to live here. The town plan contains dozens of recommendations, but many are ignored. Conflicts of interest have arisen and are not yet fully resolved.

So, let's all keep working towards solutions

that will make Charlotte an even better place to live, play, learn and work.

But let's also pause awhile to give thanks for the contributions of the hundreds of Charlotters, our friends and neighbors, who, in so many ways, make this town special.

Thanks to many gifts of all kinds, *The Charlotte News* arrives in your mailbox every two weeks, with news reports on key events, and stories about new arrivals, food and farms, outdoor activities and the environment, programs offered by the Library and Senior Center, and more.

It's been that way since 1958. With the generous support of our writers, advertisers, volunteers and donors, you can expect to see *The News* in your mailbox for many years to come.

## CVSD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

need for contact tracing in mind.

DOH guidelines require those who test positive for the virus to isolate for a minimum of 10 days. In cases where a fully vaccinated person is a close contact of someone with a positive test, the vaccinated person does not have to quarantine unless they become symptomatic.

CVSD will also participate in surveillance testing, Sanchez said. The DOH is offering no-cost COVID-19 surveillance testing to

staff and students in all Vermont schools. Students must have parental consent to participate, and test results will be made available to students and parents through a private login to a personal testing portal.

Due to trash collection and supervision concerns, students will not eat lunch in their classrooms this year. All grades will dine in the cafeteria, with younger students seated by class. Sanchez said high school students last year proved "reliable" in providing their close contacts to contact tracers and can sit where they wish in the cafeteria.

Other district COVID-19 protocols include virtual student assemblies; required masks

at all large group gatherings; masks for all individuals on all school transportation vehicles; and no overnight out-of-state or international trips.

In cases where new guidance has not been provided by state agencies, the district will rely on existing guidance from last spring, Sanchez said.

"We are really excited about being able to offer school five days a week," Sanchez said.

The CVSD COVID Recovery Plan can be found at [sites.google.com/cvsdvt.org/cvsdrecovery/home](https://sites.google.com/cvsdvt.org/cvsdrecovery/home).

## Nordic Farms food truck approved

Mara Brooks  
EDITOR

On August 9, the Selectboard approved Nordic Farms 3.0's permit application for a food truck to operate at its farm stand on Thursdays from August 26 to October 7. The truck will serve woodfired pizza, the application said.

Nordic Farms 3.0 Facility Director Robin Jeffers, who attended the meeting on behalf of Nordic Farms 3.0 developer William Raap, addressed concerns from the Selectboard about emergency access for fire trucks and rescue vehicles, parking, and restroom facilities. Jeffers presented a diagram indicating the farm stand will be located on the patio, which she described as "a great big concrete slab between the pole barn and the big old red barn." She said the farm stand also



features "parking galore" and portable toilet facilities.

Jeffers added that the purchase of Nordic Farms has not been completed, which is why the farm stand is not being launched until August 26.

The farm stand will be held entirely outdoors from 3 p.m. to dusk. Jeffers said the farm will comply with any new COVID-19 restrictions as they are announced.

## Letter to the Editor

### The discussion on speeding

As a longtime Charlotte resident, I've followed the discussion of speeding in town with great interest, and I think two critical issues are being conflated: excessive speed and pedestrian/child/pet safety.

Inherent in the safety issue lies an underlying assumption that our quaint, rural roadways should be a lovely place for a family stroll or a postprandial constitutional.

When I first moved to town, I lived on Old Route 7 where there was, and probably still is, very little traffic. Soon, though, we bought our house on what was then Spear Street Extension, and it didn't take long for us to realize that what had looked like a quiet country road was in fact a major thoroughfare.

Then, the speed limit on Charlotte's roads was 50 mph. Our major roads—Greenbush, Mt. Philo, Spear, Dorset, Hinesburg, Ferry—carry thousands of vehicles a day, and many of them (farm machinery, construction vehicles and the like) are huge and heavy. A large dump truck can weigh more than 15 tons. These roads were designed to carry large amounts of traffic at reasonable speeds. They have no shoulders and many blind spots. They simply are not safe for pedestrians, much less unpredictable children and pets. Not at any speed.

So, I support our trail system to get recreation off our roads, and when I go for a walk, rather than risk my life and scare the pants off drivers on Spear Street, I go to one of our beautiful, less-frequently-traveled roads, of which we have many. To me, it doesn't make any sense to spend tax dollars trying to mix recreation and transportation on roads that can't support it.

Abby Sheldon-Dean  
Charlotte



### 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.

### 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 labelled as such.
- 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 disclosed.
- 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 the right to reject any submission that is deemed 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](mailto: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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VT COMMONS

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had already agreed to remove two trees to improve the line of sight, but McCarren said the pole should be relocated or the curb cut moved.

Marshall explained that drivers exiting onto Spear Street would be looking “behind the utility pole”, and the only obstruction to their line of sight were two trees the applicants intended to remove.

Jr. confirmed that drivers “can see behind” the pole and said his only recommendation to Marshall was removing the trees.

Thompson, whose family has used the proposed access point as a driveway since purchasing the property in the 1970s, said she was concerned that permits approved by the Selectboard and planning commission could be rendered moot by decisions yet to be made by the zoning board.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Frank Tenney agreed, stating the ZBA still has to determine “where buildings go and where the uses are. How can you approve a site plan when the use has not been approved [by the zoning board]?”

Thompson referred to language in Charlotte Land Use Regulations stating that in cases where both planning commission and zoning board approval is required, zoning board decisions should precede those made by the PC. The board reviewed Land Use Regulations Section 5.1 “Conditions of Review” during the meeting.

Neighbor Gary Landrigan said he and his



Photo by John Quinney

wife, Janet, “share Louise [McCarren]’s concern” about the utility pole and “the volume of traffic” resulting from school events.

“My understanding is that anywhere from 30 to over a hundred vehicles will come and go through that access,” Landrigan said. “So, I really share Louise’s concern for the safety of the access, and I really feel that there’s a safer alternative.”

Landrigan said consideration should also be given to Thompson who, if the permit is approved, will be forced to share the the

only driveway that accesses her property with student and other school-related vehicles.

“If I were in Sarah’s position, I would be really disturbed by the whole lack of consideration for her continued quiet enjoyment of her property, which certainly includes the driveway,” Landrigan said.

Krasnow pointed out that the curb cut Thompson uses to access her property is on land owned by Vermont Commons School.

“This is an unusual case where one property owner is using a highway access curb cut on someone else’s property,” Krasnow said. “There is nothing that precludes Sarah from having a curb cut on her property.”

Krasnow said attempting to limit the existing curb cut on someone else’s property was a consideration the Selectboard “hasn’t seen before.”

Obuchowski described Krasnow’s remarks as “prejudicial and misleading.”

“There’s a conclusion here about someone else’s property and not having rights,” Obuchowski said. “These are questions that can be determined in court, if necessary.”

Obuchowski said that after promising Thompson they would “work something out” with her regarding the access to her property, the applicants had not been in touch with her since April.

“Can you defer [approval] until the zoning board has approved the use?” Thompson asked the Selectboard. “Because right now everything feels sort of out of order and premature.”

Thompson reminded the board that the

planning commission required applicants to give her the right of way “before anything moves forward”, but said she had yet to receive it.

Heindel said Vermont Commons “would not be opposed to” Thompson’s request to postpone the project’s highway access permit review.

“We... know that we need to go through the conditional use review process with the zoning board and there is a possibility that there will be significant discussion about the location of the curb cut,” Heindel said. “Although the application in front of you has been approved by the PC [and] we would prefer for you folks to move ahead, if you’re not feeling comfortable on that I can understand the complication.”

Heindel added that the reason the application was submitted to the planning commission prior to the zoning board was because at the time, Town Planner Larry Lewack “suggested there was turmoil... in the town planning processes and boards,” and “it would be better to have separate hearings.”

When reached for comment, Lewack confirmed the “turmoil” in question referred to last April when four of the five zoning board members, including then-ZBA Chair Tenney, resigned, leaving current ZBA Chair Lane Morrison as it’s sole member.

The Selectboard voted to postpone the highway access permit review until October 11 at 7:30 p.m. If the ZBA has not yet determined conditional use by that time, the Selectboard said they will reschedule the item to a later date.

Around Town

Congratulations

to the following 6-12 grade students at the Vermont Commons School who earned placement on the school’s honor roll for the preceding term:

- Eli Quickel, 8th grade, high honor roll
- Tyco Lawson-Ryan, 8th grade, honor roll
- Silas Cohen, 8th grade, honor roll
- Iain Mahaffey, 10th grade, honor roll
- Tess Foley-Cox, 11th grade, high honor roll
- Iris Lawson-Ryan, 11th grade, high honor roll
- Riley Tyler, 12th grade, high honor roll
- Rachel Bergstein, 12th grade, honor roll

to six public high school graduates from our area who are planning to attend college or trade school, who received scholarships from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom. The recipient from CVU is

Charlotte’s **Madison Hallock**. The scholarships come in memory of the late of Eunice Farr who was a former owner and operator of the telephone company.

to **Brynmira Kaplan** of Charlotte who earned placement on both the president’s honors and deans lists at the University of Hartford. She graduated in May.

to **Noelle DeLauriers** of Charlotte who earned a bachelor’s degree cum laude from Cornell University.

to **Jenna Bushey** of Charlotte and **Jennifer Roth** of Hineburg who were accepted into next-year’s Snelling Center for Government’s School Leadership Project. Bushey is the Champlain Valley School District Literacy Leader, while Roth is

co-principal and grades 5-8 instructional leader at Charlotte Central School. to the Charlotte-based public relations firm, **Junapr**, for being named by PR News as one of the most innovative PR and communications companies in the country. In addition, its founder, **Nicole Ravlin**, a Charlotte resident was named by PR News as one of the Top Women in PR for 2021.

Sympathy

is extended to family and friends of **Theresa J. McCaffrey** of South Burlington who died August 7 at the age of 93. She and her husband Franklin were married for 59 years, and they split their time between Vermont and Palm Bay, FL. She worked for the South Burlington School District for many years.

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The **Charlotte News**

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**September 23, 2021**  
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**NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS**  
**August 17, 2021**

The following boards currently have unfilled seats:

- Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2024)
- Energy Committee (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2022 & 2023)
- Board of Auditors (1 seat; elected position; appointment to Town Meeting, 2022)
- Trustee of Public Funds (2 seats; elected positions; appointments to Town Meeting, 2022)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities, please send a short statement explaining your interest and relevant background information to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator, at dean@townofcharlotte.com. If you have questions, please e-mail or call (802)425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.



## Town

# "We feel their inspiration as they live on."

Molly McClaskey  
CONTRIBUTOR

There were murmurings and greetings among friends and acquaintances as we gathered on Saturday morning, August 14, in the Breeding Barn at Shelburne Farms for the memorial for Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan. A hush settled over the group of more than 400 as reverberations from a soulful saxophone playing "Amazing Grace" echoed and enlarged the grandeur of the hall we filled and the lives we were there to remember. It was fitting to gather in this open, air-filled space, with its dirt floor, parked machinery, raw timber and massive, structural elegance emblematic of Marty and Terry's lives. Their presence was palpable as we sat in this hallowed space beneath "...birdsong like a canopy" (Wendell Berry, "A Vision").

Reverend Don Chatfield welcomed us to our purpose, to celebrate together Marty and Terry's legacy of connection, building community and uplifting others. "It is all 'we,'" he said. "They were concerned for all beings and the natural world. We feel their inspiration as they live on."

Reverend Kim Marie Glynn then invited us to open our hearts and minds as she led us in a meditation. Glynn read from Wendell Barry's poem, "A Vision." "Memory, native to this valley, will spread over it like a grove, and memory will grow into legend, legend into song, song into sacrament. The abundance of this place, the songs of its people and its birds, will be health and wisdom and indwelling

light. This is no paradisaal dream. Its hardship is its possibility."

Family members and friends shared stories that imparted the very core of Marty and Terry, the childhood years that shaped their adult lives. Chris Dinnan, one of Terry's siblings, described a close family with six siblings, all born in just six years. Together they made a hardy team. When their mother shooed them outside, they created adventure, searched for snakes, and made mischief in the woods and fields around their rural Connecticut home. These formative years cultivated Terry's sense of beauty, form and love of the natural environment.

It was in the woods that the roots of Terry's proclivity to think big grew: big bonfires, big machinery, big adventure and eventually big stone, explained lifelong friend and neighbor Jimmy Swift. Even in his youth Terry noticed his surroundings and "created a sense of place," Swift said. Reflecting on the years he lived with Terry in Vermont, he smiled, remembering Terry's single box of clothes and faded t-shirts. "Terry was about practical merged with beauty," Jimmy recalled—evidenced in his cameras, creative wood piles and stone creations. "For Terry, natural materials stood for themselves."

Ginny Jaskot, Marty's eldest sister, described her family upbringing in Middlebury and Beirut, Lebanon, where the family lived for two years. Ginny remembers Marty, a young child in Beirut waking up delighted with every day, eager to explore and meet new people.



Tai Illick Dinnan, Marty and Terry's daughter and mother of their grandson spoke to attendees on Aug. 14.

While humble, Marty was also outgoing, strong, engaging and happy in herself. Even the ponytail she wore on top of her head was her own statement. The family fondly named it "sprout." Themes of friendship and connection so characteristic of Marty were woven throughout Ginny's portrait of her sister's life. While a senior in college, Marty visited Ginny, who was working in Togo at the time. So moved was she by her experience in West Africa, Marty wore Ginny's Togolese dress to her Hartwick College graduation. She was her colorful, confident self among the black caps and gowns surrounding her. In honor of her sister, Ginny stood before us wearing this very dress. Twenty years later Ginny and Marty returned to Togo to a rich reunion with Togolese friends with whom deep and enduring ties spanned the ocean between them. Marty's connections ran long and true.

Friend Andrea Morgante spoke of Marty's innate inclination to bring people together. "Marty formed transformational relationships with people, engaging anyone and everyone. She was beyond judgmental," she said. Her own friendship with Marty evolved through their mutual effort to preserve Lewis Creek. Andrea reflected that Marty painstakingly researched the issues she advocated for, held the end in mind as she patiently attended and led meetings, and skillfully navigated regulations and differing points of view. She didn't let the ball drop. "Like a kingfisher, Marty kept watch," Morgante recalled.

Tai Illick Dinnan, Marty and Terry's daughter and mother of their grandson, revealed how her parents were different from one another and brought unique qualities to the family in ways that have contributed to the person she has become. She was shaped by her parents' "collective energy and power of connection." Tai described the truths her parents imparted that continue to guide her life. Marty often said, "Pull your weeds before they go to seed." And Terry, true to the consummate fixer and creator he was, would say, "Invest in good tools."

In keeping with Terry and Marty's love of music, our voices filled the great barn with "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and "Stand by Me" as we collectively conjured the indelible imprint Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan have left on our community and hearts, connecting us to one another. We walked through the arched doorway into the brightening day full with new stories about Marty and Terry and grateful for the generous telling of them.

I found myself repeating the last line of Berry's poem: "Its hardship is its possibility." Our lives are imperfect; loss is hard. And from this comes unexpected possibility. There is music, a kingfisher keeps watch, and we find our way.

*Rev. Don Chatfield is Lead Pastor at All Souls Interfaith Gathering.*

*Rev. Kim Marie Glynn is Minister of Service Coordination at All Souls Interfaith Gathering.*

## The Cure for Summertime Blues



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Attendees filled the Breeding Barn at Shelburne Farms.

Photos by Orchard Cove Photography



Farm Series .....

# Update: Nordic Farms 3.0 kicks off farmers market August 26, moves closer to land purchase

Lucie Lehmann  
CONTRIBUTOR

A temporary farmers market featuring some of the current and future on-site businesses is the next major step in the Nordic Farms 3.0 redevelopment effort. According to site director Robin Jeffers, the market will open and run for seven weeks beginning August 26 and ending October 7, with hours from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Dubbed “Nordic Nite Out,” it’s one of the first tangible manifestations of Gardener’s Supply founder and entrepreneur Will Raap’s multi-faceted plan to transform the defunct dairy operation into a diversified regional agricultural hub.

Jeffers described the market as a “toe in the water” that will showcase products with a connection to Nordic Farms. Among the vendors will be Sweet Sound’s head-on aquaculture shrimp, which are grown in tanks in one of the farm’s converted barns; field-grown flowers by Clayton Floral; as well as seasonal produce from Nordic Fresh Organic Produce; and baked goods from Slowfire Bakery in Jeffersonville, which uses Nitty Gritty flours, one of Nordic’s future tenants. Nitty Gritty flours and baking mixes will also be for sale, along with garlic from future tenant Vermont Farms and Gardens, which plans to create an edible plants nursery at Nordic beginning next year.

Thirsty shoppers will be able to choose among several types of alcoholic beverages, including wild ales from House of Fermentology/ Foam Brewers that are made with honey from Nordic’s bees and barley malted by the Vermont Malthouse, another of the farm’s early tenants. Shoreham-based WhistlePig Whiskey, which also malts their grains at Nordic, will sell their award-winning spirits at several of the markets.

Non-alcoholic, fruit-infused drinks will be

represented by Hinesburg-based Shrubbly, which will not only begin steeping batches of the fruit-infused vinegar syrups on the farm, but will also be among Nordic’s next tenants. Matt Sayre, Shrubbly’s owner, plans to start growing Aronia berries, a key ingredient in the bubbly, prebiotic drinks, on site next spring.

“We’re really setting the stage for what we’re going to launch next year,” Jeffers explained about the market, outlining their vision of offering a wide array of unique products that “are actually grown here, made here or raised here.”

A food truck serving Open Hearth pizza and Farmer’s Market pizza will alternate weeks, while savory treats from Pie Empire will be featured at some, but not all, of the markets on a rotating basis, as well. The Charlotte Selectboard signed off on the temporary food truck at their August 9 meeting.

Asked about the possible effects of a new market on existing Charlotte farm stands like Sweet Roots and Head Over Fields, Jeffers was upbeat. “In order to be sustainable, every farmer does something unique to develop a niche. It could be that some of everybody’s niche things could be in our market. We’re about collaboration and supporting not only this farm, but all farms.” Jeffers noted that they don’t want to compete with other local growers. “If we grow berries here, it’ll be Aronia berries for Shrubbly.”

The sale of the overall property is still pending, but plans are on track for a late September or early October closing, according to Jeffers. In the meantime, each week brings more activity to the farm. The first batches of this year’s barley were malted two weeks ago, with a second one soon after, and orders for the malt have been strong, including orders from regional breweries like Foam.

Jeffers said they are in the middle of planning



Nordic Farms, Charlotte, VT.

Photo By Gail Callahan

for the fall planting of cover crops and the apportionment among businesses of the spring cropping fields. The Kenyon family of Charlotte, owners of Aurora Farms and Nitty Gritty Grain Company of Vermont, are leading the three-year process of turning the property’s soil into certified organic land.

Many of the plans—including demonstration

gardens, a bakery and a culinary medicine initiative—will take months, if not years to come to fruition. Nonetheless, Jeffers is pleased to see the inaugural market ready to launch. “You’ll be able to get a malted beverage, a bite to eat and some fresh produce and bread. Kind of simple, but nice.”

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PROPERTY TANSFERS JULY 2021

**July 1** David & Jane Garbose to Zachary Latta, condominium unit #5, 27 Inn Rd., \$379,000.

**July 6** Stacey C. Sigmon Trust to Peter Osler & Jane Earnshaw, .14 acres with dwelling, 14 Common Way, \$525,000.

**July 6** Monica & David Marshall to Aaron Walkman-Stokes & Cecily Stokes-Prindle, 6.16 acres with dwelling, 1234 Church Hill, \$900,000.

**July 7** David & Jane Garbose to Harrison Brown, condominium unit #3, 27 Inn Rd., \$491,000.

**July 7** Jason Meltzer & Kaitlin Corrigan to Jason Meltzer, 2.87 acres with mobile home, 1239 Hinesburg Rd., \$130,650.

**July 13** Frank & Elaine Ittleman to Jeff & Stephanie Lobel, 2.0 acres land only, Homestead Drive Lot 8, \$164,900.

**July 14** Robert & Emily Caldwell to

Bradford & Melissa Allen Coolidge, 31.9 acres with dwelling, 201 Dorset Street, \$3,005,000.

**July 19** Cynthia Toombs-Trustee to Igor Schwartzman & Kendra Ward, 5.01 acres with dwelling, 7108 Spear Street, \$415,000.

**July 23** Positively St. Paul Street LLC to Whit’s Beginning LLC, .06 acres, 260 Ferry Rd., Brick Store, \$345,000.

**July 23** Positively St. Paul Street LLC to Whit’s Beginning LLC, 3.0 acres land only, 2662 Greenbush Rd., \$30,000.

**July 26** Patnaude Family Trust to James R. & Jennifer S. Anaire, 140 acres with dwelling, 725 & 773 Greenbush Rd., \$750,000.

**July 26** Kiley Family Guinea Road Partnership to Olema Properties LLC, 66.10 acres land only, 301 Guinea Rd., \$730,000.

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



## Calendar Events

We welcome appropriate community event listings with a maximum of 100 words. Print fees may apply to community events outside of Charlotte.

Email your events to  
[ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org).

### Nordic Nite Out - Supper and Farmstand, Aug 26, 2021, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

1211 Ethan Allen Hwy, Charlotte

Beginning this Thursday, August 26, and every Thursday following through Oct 7

Each Nordic Nite Out will feature a unique supper option of fresh shrimp, pizza, meat pies, or other delicious treats, each week's specialty will feature Nordic raised products. Join us for supper this week for Farmer's Market Pizza and salad made from Nordic's fresh organic produce. See their menu options here:

[www.farmersmarketpizzavt.com](http://www.farmersmarketpizzavt.com).

Go to the website for more information and to stay up to date with each week's special supper option. [www.nordicfarmvt.org](http://www.nordicfarmvt.org)

### FALL PAINTING WORKSHOPS

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Church Hill Road, Charlotte

Gourmet farm to table style lunch is served next to our heritage perennial gardens.

[www.kehoedesign.com/painting-workshops](http://www.kehoedesign.com/painting-workshops)

9/18 Landscapes

9/25 Barns

10/2 Barns

10/9 Landscapes

10/16 Landscapes

10/23 Fall Flowers

Come learn and paint in and around our historic 1800s Studio Barn. Any experience level is welcome. Mediums can be watercolor, pastel or oil. Demonstrations will be taught throughout the morning.

## Town News from the Charlotte Energy Committee



Above: Matt Sargent pitched in to be our roof-climbing carpenter. When the forecast was for 100% rain, he and Wolfger decided they were "basically waterproof" and carried on the installation as planned.

Left: Wolfger Schneider of Sustainable Charlotte not only designed a photovoltaic system for the Charlotte Energy Committee for its dual use demonstration project at the compost shed at the Charlotte Central School, he took the lead on installing it as well. Here Wolfger is on the lid of one of the compost bins running the wire from the back of the solar panel down to the inverter and battery.

Right: The 100W panel is now charging a battery that is connected to an outlet where the public can plug in to charge their phones, electric saw batteries, blender... whatever you want. We also have a solar powered security light and decorative lights around the shed and picnic area that go on after dark.

Below: Come to the garden and be inspired by the perfect pairing of solar power with pollinator-friendly flowers. Mike Keirnan of Bee the Change donated seeds to enhance the pollinator beds at the CCS vegetable garden. In the fall we'll have a celebration of the project — keep an eye out for the date. Meanwhile, enormous thanks from the energy committee to Wolfger, Matt, and Mike!



Photos by Rebecca Foster  
and Deirdre Holmes





Town .....

Don't miss the final Grange on the Green Sept. 9



A good crowd braved the threat of rain to watch Addison County trio “Va et Vient” play French songs and tunes on the library porch last Wednesday. Organized jointly by the Grange and Library, the event was sponsored by Cumbancha, College Essay Coach and Mow Electric!

The final “Grange on the Green” concert of the summer will take place on Thursday, Sept. 9, featuring the Will Patton Trio playing swing, jazz and Brazilian Choro, as well as ice cream, beverages and local farmer displays.



Young and old alike enjoyed fruit popsicles from Adam’s Berry Farm.

Photos by Mike Walker

Monarchs!



Over 50 monarchs have been raised and released so far by Carol Talley (pictured) who has been caring for them.

Photos by Lee Krohn

Nominate your neighbor!

Know someone interesting in Charlotte? We want to interview them and share their story.

Email [news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)

The Charlotte News





# Hi, Neighbor!

## Zach Pollakoff—generalist curator



Phyl Newbeck  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's hard to summarize Zach Pollakoff's life because he is involved in so many creative endeavors. Borrowing from an artist he works with named Ross Simonini, Pollakoff refers to himself as a generalist curator.

"Generalism encourages creative people not to box themselves into one discipline," he explained.

That said, music is the centerpiece of Pollakoff's career. He DJ'd and then served as general manager for Indiana University's radio station before moving to Brooklyn, where he was a music producer for an ad agency and founded Twosyllable records. Pollakoff's in-laws live in Hyde Park, and at the start of the pandemic he and his wife and young kids came to visit. "We thought we'd stay for a week or two but ended up staying seven months as we looked for a house of our own," he said.

Pollakoff found his dream house in Charlotte, and the family moved in last October. The rental had belonged to painter Maize Bausch and architect and boat builder Carl Bausch. "Without sounding too granola," Pollakoff said, "the house has a real energy with a unique shape, big open space, incredible light and a jaw-dropping view of the Adirondacks." He loves that Maize's studio is still on the premises, as are remnants of Carl's boat projects. The



Zach Pollakoff with wife, Nancy Rosenbloom, and children Maia Pollakoff and Asa Pollakoff. *Photos contributed*

family will leave their prized location at the end of the year because they have purchased another home in town.

Pollakoff works for Heavy Duty Projects, which produces original music and music supervising for advertising, television, film and video games. They are based in Los Angeles, so Pollakoff has always worked somewhat remotely, but with pandemic restrictions being lifted, he recognizes that he will probably be travelling for work again soon.

Under the name Narrow Shoulders, Pollakoff has produced an album called *Now Be Here* on which he plays the clarinet



and a bit of guitar. "The clarinet was my first instrument," he said. "I recorded little samples that are layered and layered and manipulated. My playing is very rudimentary. Digital music plays to my skill set, which is less about being virtuosic and more about arranging and organizing other people's bits of recordings or those I made myself." In addition to his own music, the album features the sounds of frogs, wind and water that Pollakoff recorded on his phone. "Arranging and organizing is how I make my soundscape," he said.

Pollakoff started Twosyllable Records in 2008, thanks to a loan from a sympathetic banker who had been a member of the band Smog. They have released over 30 records. "The style of music differs across the board,"

Pollakoff said. "The most popular band was Candy Claws, which has since reformed as Sound of Ceres. They have a devout following and are considered part of the shoegaze indie genre."

When Pollakoff first moved into the Bauschs' old home, he knew he wanted to have an art show. "It seemed like a natural thing because this house looks and feels like a gallery," he said. Inspired by the thought of painters with some of their output splashed across white painter's pants, he got Dickies to donate several pairs to serve as canvases. "Their warehouse was in the part of Texas where the power went out," Pollakoff recalled, "so there were delays. Then, shipping them across the globe became challenging, so I changed it to a domestic project and we had 18 artists in all." Roughly 100 people came to the show at the improvised gallery where there was a DJ, snacks and Zero Gravity beer. "It was a circuitous and successful way to meet some of my cool neighbors," Pollakoff said. "A lot of people are doing great creative and interesting things that I didn't know about." He is hoping to do another show, possibly with large-scale installation pieces, before he moves into his new home.

Pollakoff is the co-founder of Likeminds, which staged annual events from 2016 to 2019 in upstate New York. Covid put that on hold, but he's hoping to have an upcoming event in Vermont. "They are part conference, part festival," he said. "Anyone can buy a ticket, but we like to bring together a diverse array of curious and interested people from a variety of disciplines." The events have speakers, workshops, food and music.

For Pollakoff, Likeminds events are a way to inspire creativity. "I always had a spark," he said, "but to see how others manage their ideas is great. The more people you meet, the more you think about what you can do. I love getting that kind of inspiration."

### Volunteer EMS and Volunteer Firefighter Needed



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# Charlotte History

## Caroline Ardelia Yale

Dan Cole  
CHARLOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

No person should be restricted or defined by disabilities. Society seems to have few expectations of people with disabilities such as deafness, perhaps ascribing a lack of ability to overcome them.

Caroline Yale began life in Charlotte on September 29, 1848, the youngest of five children of Deacon William Lyman Yale and Ardelia Strong. At Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts, Caroline found her calling, and with insight and patience helped alter the direction of education of those once referred to as deaf and dumb (meaning incapable of speech).

The Yales believed strongly in the value of education and brought a teacher from Mount Holyoke Seminary to Charlotte to homeschool their children. Three-year-old Caroline badgered her parents to be allowed into the classroom. She was admitted but admonished to remain quiet. She absorbed so much knowledge that she was years of instruction ahead of her peers. "The constant presence of [a young teacher] was an educational influence not to be overlooked."

Desirous of furthering his children's education, Deacon Yale moved his family to Williston, where he had helped establish the Williston Academy, which offered some of the finest higher education instruction in Vermont.

Being the youngest and of small stature (she was 5'5" tall, with auburn hair and hazel eyes), Caroline was believed to have a weak constitution. "From childhood, medical advice had cast dark shadows on my pathway. I was not allowed to do this because I was not strong; I was not to be allowed to do that for the same reason; I was not to entertain any hope of further study. Mother and I discussed the matter seriously and agreed that we had a right to make our own decision."

A brilliant student at Williston, Caroline taught at a nearby district school and began to tutor young men for college entrance exams. She entered Mount Holyoke Seminary in 1866, but after two years, "claims of home and family prevented their continuance." The year 1868 found her in charge of 90 students in Brandon, Vermont. In 1869, the directors of Williston Academy offered her the position of assistant principal, and she accepted. Early the next year Deacon Yale moved his family back to Charlotte.

Harriet Rogers, principal of a new school for the deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts, heard of Caroline's skills and reached out to invite her to join the staff. In the fall of 1870, "I decided to leave all else and cleave unto this work. I have never for a moment regretted this decision." Clarke School was the first to employ an "oral method" (lip reading and vocal speech) of instruction rather than the "manual method" (signing).

Caroline became both teacher and mentor. She led young people's religious services at Edwards Church; helped provide religious services to inmates at the jail; and once, in a local tenement, comforted a poor woman who died of consumption in her arms. "There was also a section of the town occupied by a small group of colored families. While some of them attended certain churches, they greatly appreciated religious services held by and for them in their own homes."

"In April of 1873, I was, by action of the board of trustees, made associate principal. When I pled my inability to fill this position, Mr. Sanborn's quiet rejoinder was: 'Do not be troubled. The position always develops the person called to it.'" In June 1886, Caroline became principal. She traveled extensively in Europe to research methods of teaching the deaf.

Caroline stressed "to educate a deaf child means the same as to educate a normal child. ... In the advanced department of the Northampton school hang maps of Greece and Rome, busts of Shakespeare and Milton, pictures of the Acropolis and Forum. The recitations in medieval history and Elizabethan literature show much thought and progress. The moral and religious natures of

the students receive watchful care. Industrial training and physical exercises are especially emphasized. There is often a basketball victory for the Clarke team in a matched game. ... [Under Miss Yale's leadership], from the beginning the Northampton school has done pioneer work along broad lines, sending back into the family, society and the state most serviceable men and women." \*\*

The youngest students learned through play. Phonetic element charts were developed that revolutionized the instruction of the deaf, who were taught the natural sciences, art, history, mathematics, algebra, plane geometry, geology, astronomy—even dance. Yale helped develop and administer a Normal School to train teachers in their methods to become educators of the deaf in their own localities. One teacher Caroline trained was Grace Goodhue, who later married Hon. Calvin Coolidge.

By 1922, Caroline's physical strength failed and she was forced into a wheelchair. The trustees voted her "principal emeritus." She received an LLD from Illinois Wesleyan University, an LHD from Smith College, and another LLD from Mount Holyoke College. She remained as Director of the Normal School until her death of pneumonia in Northampton on July 2, 1933. She is buried in Barber Cemetery (West Burying Ground). Her marker is a fieldstone from the farm of her birth, featuring a plaque donated by the grateful Trustees of Clarke School.

"Sweet lady! with a pure and heartfelt joy,  
I look upon thy gentle, speaking face,  
On which with artist interest I trace

The spirit-promptings to thy blessed employ.  
Seated before thee, eager girl and boy  
Take from thy lips the messages of grace,  
And in their souls the precious gems  
incase, —

Jewels Divine! the gold without alloy. —  
Yet the rich tones that reach my gladdened ear,  
Music nor meaning to their souls convey. —  
The little band of earnest seekers here; —  
O'er them the thunder-peal has lost its sway;  
But to the eye thy *lips* are eloquent;  
*Their* flexile graces mould the message sent."  
(by trustee James Congdon)

*All quotes from Caroline's memoirs, except \*\* St. Johnsbury Republican, St. Johnsbury, Vermont, 7 March 1906.*

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



Caroline Ardelia Yale. Photo courtesy of Charlotte History Museum.



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# In The Garden .....

## Differentiate weed seedlings from garden-worthy plants



Joan Weed  
CONTRIBUTOR

Recently a friend mentioned how difficult it was, in spring, to differentiate weed seedlings from more valuable garden-worthy plants. True, as we excitedly look to see what returned or self-seeded, our puzzlement grows. So many plants look alike as babies.

First, I guess we each must determine what we consider a weed. All gardeners have different ideas, depending on attributes or needs. Does aggressiveness make a plant a weed? Physical characteristics like thorns? Toxicity, such as in poison ivy? Is the plant a native to our area? Is it garden worthy? Just plain breathtaking? Do we value it as food?

Photos or in-hand samples are the best help in identifying plants, but for our purposes here today we must find another route. I am going to suggest some sites for identifying and learning about the attributes of the greenery that surrounds us.

There are many sites that offer photos and descriptions. The best are usually created by educational institutions and extension services. There are also some good ones found on NGO sites, such as The Ladybird Johnson Center. Finding a site that covers your very own state or area is important. One commercial site that I have found has the very best photographs of common weeds is the Better Homes and Gardens site (bhg.com). You will hit a paywall here, but I found my way around it by temporarily joining. Usually, the dot-coms are more troublesome to navigate, as they are commercial, but occasionally they are worth investigating.

iNaturalist.org, which is formed by a collaboration of National Geographic Society and the California Academy of Sciences, is a very useful site that allows one to offer a photo. It covers weeds and also plants in general, as well as insects. It is also free.

Another more local site is pss.uvm.edu, which includes some great photos to compare your weeds to. It also has keys to which are annuals, biennials and perennials. It does use common names rather than Latin nomenclature, but we mostly know weeds by their common names. One new to me but neatly done site is clemson.edu, which has good photos and other information on roots, leaf shapes, characteristics and growth patterns.

The University of Missouri has a very good list of weeds from its Division of Plant Sciences. Both common and Latin names are noted. Photos accompany each entry when clicked upon. Usually, a variety of plant stages and particular attention to leaf forms is featured.

The UC Davis site (wric.ucdavis.edu) is good for western area weed identification, but don't dismiss it for this reason. It has benefit for us in the east because there is up-to-date info from research and management of weeds. Sometimes just a nugget of valuable information adds to our success in managing weeds and understanding their patterns.

When visiting an institution's site, you may

have to search for "weed ID." I have tried to use addresses that open directly to a destination for identifying common weeds. It is time consuming to travel the various offerings. Some are too scholarly for a busy gardener, while some have reliable information for those who want to learn more. This is a good project for those long winter evenings when we prepare for the "best garden ever" next year!



Canadian Thistle



Common Dandelion



Hairy Fleabane

Photos by Joan Weed



Outdoors

More local trails



Elizabeth Bassett

Widening the focus to neighboring towns, let’s explore the wealth of options in Shelburne and Hinesburg.

- Shelburne Farms is listed in *1000 Places to See Before You Die*.

Miles of trails traverse the Farms’ 1,400 acres of forest and farmland. The Inn, farm barn and visitor activities are currently suspended, but it’s possible to bring home chef-prepared meals made with farm-produced ingredients and to buy the Farms’ meat, cheese, fruits and vegetables. Map and information at [shelburnefarms.org](http://shelburnefarms.org).

- Allen Hill rises 180 feet above Lake Champlain on a small peninsula on Shelburne Point. Its dry summit hosts early spring wildflowers and the chestnut oak, an uncommon tree in Vermont. The loop trail is about 1.5 miles.
- Recreation Path. A gravel path keeps your feet (mostly) dry on a route just inland from Allen Hill. The 104-acre Shelburne Bay Park, site of the Recreation Path and Allen Hill, lies next to the mouth of the LaPlatte River on Bay Road. Total trail network of 3.7 miles. [Shelburnevt.org](http://Shelburnevt.org).
- Ti-Haul Road was built decades ago to transport the paddlewheel steamer *Ticonderoga* to the Shelburne Museum. The one-mile gravel path runs between Bay and Harbor Roads, ending across the street from the Recreation Path.
- LaPlatte River Marsh. Managed by The Nature Conservancy, this 245-acre parcel protects marshes, wetlands and rich shoreline at the confluence of McCabe’s Brook and the LaPlatte River. A 1.75-mile trail meanders along the banks of McCabe’s Brook. Bay Road.
- Shelburne Pond. More than 1,300 conserved acres (UVM’s largest natural area) surround Shelburne Pond and include a one-mile walking trail. Just 10 miles from Burlington, Shelburne Pond is also the largest undeveloped body of water in the Champlain Valley of Vermont. The State of Vermont recognizes Shelburne Pond’s wetlands, wildlife corridors, rare communities and endangered species as a site of extremely high

biological and ecological significance. In addition, there is evidence of human activity dating back 11,000 years. Pond Road.

- LaPlatte Natural Area. A mowed trail loops over the meadow adjacent to the Shelburne Post Office and then winds along the LaPlatte River. Park on LaPlatte Circle, not at the post office. [Shelburnevt.org](http://Shelburnevt.org).
- Upper LaPlatte River Natural Area at the Vermont Zen Center. The Lake Champlain Land Trust (LCLT) collaborated with the Zen Center to conserve 65 acres of critical LaPlatte River watershed. Walking trails of 1.2 miles explore river shoreline and fields enroute to a hemlock forest on a limestone bluff. Park in designated spaces at the Zen Center, 480 Thomas Road. Dogs prohibited. [Lclt.org](http://Lclt.org).

Hinesburg’s many trails are managed by a range of entities: Hinesburg Area Recreation Trails (HART), Vermont and Hinesburg Land Trusts, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, and UVM Natural Areas.

- Gillespie/Copp-Welch and LaPlatte Headwaters properties offer several miles of trails through forest and meadow, including stunning cliffs and towering hemlocks. Between Lewis Creek and Gilman Road, with parking on both, this mix of public and private land is open for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Geprags Park. Two miles of foot trails on conserved land on the Shelburne Hinesburg Road, close to Hinesburg Village.
- Russell Family Trails. Two miles of trails in Hinesburg Village on a conserved 63-acre working farm.
- Lincoln Hill Project. The Hinesburg Land Trust conserved 144 acres that connect 1,172 acres of the Fred Johnson Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with the Hinesburg Town Forest (see below). There are two parcels of the WMA, one on each side of Hinesburg Hollow Road. Additional parking on Lincoln Hill Road. The WMA is owned by the state and managed by Fish & Wildlife. Timber rights are privately held. There are no trails on the WMA.
- Hinesburg Town Forest. Seventeen miles of trails crisscross hundreds of acres of rolling terrain for walking,



From Pixabay

- mountain biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and limited ATV use. It’s a good idea to print a map from the town website (HART), as there are many intersecting trails and three parking areas.
- Carse Wetlands Natural Area, on Baldwin Road, is a mix of upland forests, fields, wetlands and a beaver pond on 330 acres. The family of the late Henry H. Carse donated the property to UVM for educational purposes in partnership with the Vermont Land Trust and Hinesburg Land Trust.
  - Thistle Hill Trails connect the Thistle Hill neighborhood, on Mechanicsville

- Road, to the Russell Farm Trails. HART site has details.
- Passing the Buck Trail, at 0.75 mile, connects Buck Hill Road with Lavigne Hill Road. Dogs must be leashed.
  - Northeast Quadrant Public Trail. Between May 15 and Oct. 31, four miles of public trails connect with mountain bike trails maintained by Sleepy Hollow Center and Fellowship of the Wheel. Ideal for running and mountain biking, the public trails are marked with HART blazes. Access on both Sherman Hollow and Texas Hill Roads.

Happy trails!

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& Renovations.

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## Sports

### CVU has a number of top stars returning for the coming season

Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

The state coaches and the press have named the “2021 Girls and Boys Soccer Lists.” Both contain a number of CVU players.

#### Girls:

- Emma Crum, senior forward
- Anna Morton, junior midfield
- Chloe Pecor, sophomore forward

#### Boys:

- Holden Batchelder, senior forward
- Riley Gauthier, senior midfield
- Chance Therrien, senior forward
- Fritz Wetzel, senior defense

**Know someone interesting in Charlotte?**

We want to interview them and share their story.

Email news@  
thecharlottenews.org

The Charlotte News

## 9th Annual Diamond Island Regatta and inaugural Split Rock Race

Tim Etchells  
CONTRIBUTOR

Two days of blue skies and (mostly) fair breezes welcomed Lake Champlain’s best sailors back to Town Farm Bay for this year’s Diamond Island Regatta and its new partner, the Split Rock Race.

Hosting the two-day event—with the Diamond Island Regatta (DIR) on Saturday and the Split Rock Race (SRR) on Sunday—were the newly renamed Diamond Island Yacht Club (formerly the Royal Savage Yacht Club) and Point Bay Marina on Thompson’s Point in Charlotte.

Twenty-six boats competed in Saturday’s DIR, and 14 took part in the SRR on Sunday morning. Boats came from up and down the lake to compete over the race weekend. Sailors hailed from, among other places, the Diamond Island Yacht Club (DIYC) in Charlotte, the Lake Champlain Yacht Club (LCYC) in Shelburne, the Mallets Bay Boat Club (MBBC) in Colchester and the Valcour Sailing Club (VSC) in Plattsburgh, New York. Both races are part of the Lake Champlain Championship Series, a season-long competition that determines annual bragging rights in five classes, three Spinnaker classes and two JaM (Jib and Main) classes. The races are scored using the PHRF (Performance Handicap Racing Fleet) system, so boats with different speed potentials can compete against each other.

*Polar Express*, a Henderson 30 from VSC

sailed by Chris Duley, was the first to finish in the Diamond Island Regatta, also winning Spinnaker Class A on corrected time, while *Spirit*, a Pearson Flyer owned and sailed by Steve Koch of DIYC, took both line honors and first place on corrected time for the JaM Class A. The next day, *Odinn*, a J-111, also from VSC and sailed by Kjell Dahlen, took line honors in the SRR but ended up in second place behind Jeff Hill’s *Foxy Lady*, who won Spinnaker Class A on corrected time.

But perhaps the biggest winner was the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM), for which the DIR is a benefit event. After last year’s event was pared back because of COVID-19—no pre-race breakfast, no Lobster Fest dinner, no T-shirt sales or fundraising raffle. All those traditional features of the weekend returned for 2021, and the participants stepped up bigtime, with the club raising a record number of dollars for the museum. Previously the club has subsidized proceeds and donated \$1,000 each year to LCMM. Early returns this year indicate the breakfast, raffle and T-shirt sales will make it possible to top that number significantly for 2021.

On Saturday morning, racers headed out to Town Farm Bay for the race. Saturday’s Diamond Island Regatta was sailed on a 10-mile course, starting in Town Farm Bay between Ferrisburgh and Charlotte, sailing north to a turning mark off Charlotte’s Cedar Beach, heading south to Diamond Island, and then back north to Town Farm Bay for the finish. The race



*Muse*, representing both Diamond Island Yacht Club and Lake Champlain Yacht Club, flies its spinnaker during the Diamond Island Regatta on Aug. 14.  
Photo by Ramsey Hazbun

began in a lovely north wind and ended in a dying breeze for some of the later finishers.

On Sunday, the inaugural Split Rock Race was sailed in a stiff north wind, between 15 and 20 knots. The boats competed over

SEE **YACHT RACE** PAGE 13

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Sports

YACHT RACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



*Lil'Bot*, sailed by Benedek Erdos, heads downwind during the Diamond Island Regatta on Aug. 14. *Lil'Bot*, representing Diamond Island Yacht Club, finished first in the Spinnaker C Class in the DIR.

Photo by Joe Gannon

a similar course to Saturday’s, but a bit longer, just under 13 miles. The wind and waves on the broad lake north of Split Rock made for a rollicking windward leg to a mark just south of Sloop Island off Charlotte, followed by a fast downwind leg to Diamond Island, and then another beat back to the finish in Town Farm Bay.

Both races were overseen by DIR/ SRR Race Director Wendy Friant from the committee boat, the Lord Nelson Tug *Rosie*, owned and captained by Will Patten. DIYC volunteers were supported again this year by LCYC, which loaned race management equipment to DIYC for the event. And dozens of other DIYC volunteers worked tirelessly, on and off the water, to make the weekend possible.

In addition to the club and Point Bay Marina, other sponsors who contributed to a successful two days of racing, socializing and fundraising for the museum included Helly Hansen’s Church Street store in Burlington, the Hinesburgh Public House, The Old Dock in Essex, New York, Barkeaters in Shelburne, and West Marine and FastSigns in South Burlington.

Here are the top finishers in each class on Saturday and Sunday:

Diamond Island Regatta, Aug. 14

Spinnaker A Class

- 1. *Polar Express*, Henderson 30, Chris Duley, VSC
- 2. *Odinn*, J-111, Kjell Dahlen, VSC
- 3. *Foxy Lady*, J-105, Jeff Hill, LCYC

Spinnaker B Class

- 1. *Chicken Dinner*, J-70, John Beal, DIYC
- 2. *Enki*, C&C 99, Cindy Turcotte, MBBC
- 3. *Unity*, C&C 99, Bob and Robin Turnau, LCYC

Spinnaker C Class

- 1. *Lil'Bot*, Santana 2023-R, Benedek Erdos, DIYC
- 2. *Osprey*, C&C 33 MkII Thomas Porter, DIYC-LCYC
- 3. *Joyride*, J-30, Lennart Lundblad, MBBC

Jib & Main A Class

- 1. *Spirit*, Pearson Flyer, Steve Koch, DIYC
- 2. *Exit Strategy*, O'Day 35, Jerry and Sharon Henrichon, DIYC
- 3. *AJA*, Ericson 33, Michael McGrath

Jib & Main B Class

- 1. *Blew Sky*, Catalina Capri 25, Chip Kaupp, DIYC
- 2. *Bandolero*, Nonsuch 26C, Pat Furr, DIYC
- 3. *Mackinac*, Pearson 32, Tim and Betsy Etchells, DIYC

Split Rock Race, August 15

Spinnaker A Class

- 1. *Foxy Lady*, J-105, Jeff Hill, LCYC
- 2. *Odinn*, J-111, Kjell Dahlen, VSC
- 3. *Muse*, J-37c, Doug Friant, DIYC-LCYC

Spinnaker B Class

- 1. *Enki*, C&C 99, Cindy Turcotte, MBBC
- 2. *Rum Butter*, C&C 41 MkII, Ted Castle, DIYC

Spinnaker C Class

- 1. *Osprey*, C&C MkII Thomas Porter, DIYC-LCYC
- 2. *Lil'Bot*, Santana 2023-R, Benedek Erdos, DIYC

Jib & Main A Class

- 1. *Schuss*, J-30, Cameron Giezendanner, MBBC
- 2. *Slingshot*, J-30, Fritz Martin, DIYC
- 3. *Pas de Deux*, Pearson Flyer, John and Joni Huling

Jib & Main B Class

- 1. *Dragonfly*, J-24, John Beal, DIYC
- 2. *Mackinac*, Pearson 32, Tim and Betsy Etchells, DIYC
- 3. *Bandolero*, Nonsuch 26C, Pat Furr, DIYC

Full results can be found on the Diamond Island Yacht Club’s website:  
<https://diamondislandyc.org/diamond-island-results-for-2021>  
<https://diamondislandyc.org/split-rock-race-results-for-2021>

Out Takes

The former president moves up on Martha’s Vineyard

Edd Merritt  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Throw my ticket out the window  
Throw my suitcase out there too  
Throw my troubles out the door  
I don’t need them any more  
‘Cause tonight I’ll be staying here with you*  
(Bob Dylan - “Tonight I’ll be Staying Here with You”)

*New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd took former president Barack Obama to task for lavish parties at his new house in the posh section of Martha’s Vineyard, the island off Cape Cod. The Vineyard is a series of small towns, each with its own character—from Edgartown, where the rich and famous spend summers, to Oak Bluffs, which developed into a racially mixed summer colony, to the mooring harbor of Vineyard Haven, to the fishing port of Menemsha, and the end of “up island,” the Aquinnah-Wampanoag tribal village.

Our family has a summer residence in Oak Bluffs, to which we have been going each summer for the last 50 years. Our house is somewhat unique to its neighborhood. It was built in the nearby Methodist campground and followed the gingerbread design of tents turned into houses. It had been moved out of the campground long before my wife’s family bought it and is now a part of the main village of Oak Bluffs where it carries the name “Plumb Blossom’s Place.”

I bring President Obama into the picture here because of Oak Bluffs’ unique character, that of an integrated summer colony.

The first African-Americans on the Vineyard were servants who also acted as slaves and whalers whose bounty provided them with oil and the money from its sale. That changed in the 19th century when families of these whalers turned Oak Bluffs into a resort town. By the 1950s, middle-class Black doctors, lawyers and executives made it a summer colony—with a character that remains today.

Neighbors include Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard’s director of the Hutchins Center for African and African/American Research. His house happens to be just down the State Beach road.

Ed Brook, retired Massachusetts United States Senator, owned a house just around the corner. A civil rights activist, Vernon Jordan, summers in our neighborhood, as does award-winning journalist and author Charlene Hunter-Gault.

Early in our Vineyard tenure, we became close friends with nearby neighbors, a mixed-race couple who had moved to the Vineyard year-round to escape the racist outlook on their marriage in New York City. The city problem was particularly demeaning because he held a well-paying position that he gave up to move to Oak Bluffs, but they felt the move was positive.

The street from our house to the Nantucket Sound leads past many summer cottages whose porches, on a nice day, hold families catching the rays, talking among themselves, and greeting those of us walking down to the beach. From house to house, these families are white, Black and Hispanic, and we chat with each on our way to a section of the beach ironically called “the Inkwell.” Named that because it was where the black kids went to play at an earlier time, it is now where my grandsons go and mingle with black friends, building sandcastles together and splashing each other with water from the sound. The Inkwell has become truly multi-racial. Only the name remains.

In her *Times* piece entitled “Behold Barack Antoinette,” Ms. Dowd implies that by purchasing and holding gatherings in his multi-million-dollar mansion in largely white Edgartown, the former president is placing money over heritage.

Maybe he would have done better by choosing the neighborhoods of Oak Bluffs with those of his earlier comrades who were not invited to the strictly fundraising gatherings across the harbor.

My father-in-law, a dairy farmer from northwestern Connecticut, originally purchased our Vineyard cottage. He joined the front-porch sitters, regularly greeting all walkers with a friendly “hello!” and a moment’s chat about any topic—local, national, seaworthy or landlocked.

To me, it demonstrated that no matter what work life held, interpersonal thoughts helped keep us a human collective. And in Oak Bluffs that meant a multiracial body. Not that many places have chosen to mix like Oak Bluffs. Author Dowd felt that the Obamas, unfortunately, have chosen money over mixture.

Whenever our clan takes off toward the Inkwell, we hope that Jaws won’t join us. We are quite certain that we don’t taste as good as he’d like. After all, we go there for our cultural pleasure, not his taste.



# Town

## Charlotte Senior Center news



Carolyn Kulik  
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the *William Tell Overture* without thinking of the Lone Ranger.

~ Billy Connolly

I believe that if life gives you lemons, you should make lemonade. . . And try to find somebody whose life has given them vodka, and have a party.

~ Ron White

Summer is winding down, and the new **Fall Schedule** is an insert in this issue. It covers September to November, and all courses and events will be taking place in person. There are no Zoom courses planned as of this date. There are 42 courses, gatherings, events and lectures to choose from, and hopefully, there will be several things that will speak to you.

### Courses starting soon

These courses are starting very soon, so please make a note of the registration deadlines. Longer course descriptions can be found in the Fall Schedule in print or on the website. As of September, registration is only in person, by phone, 425-6345 or by mail: CSC, P.O. Box 207, Charlotte 05445.

**Watercolor – Fall Spectacular!**  
**with Lynn Cummings**  
**Register and pay by 9/2. Fee: \$77.**  
Two Tuesday mornings, 9–12.  
Dates: 9/7 & 9/14.

We'll paint fall-themed, local subjects that reflect the colors, shapes and textures of our surroundings. Some experience with watercolor necessary.

**Italian For Total Beginners**  
**with Nicole Librandi**  
**Register by 9/3. Fee: \$48. (5 weeks)**

Tuesday afternoons, 1–2. Dates: 9/7–10/5. You've never studied Italian? Do you dream of traveling to Italy and ordering your morning cappuccino on the plaza? Now is the time to begin your study of Italian—and have fun along the way!

**French Coffee Club with Alysse Anton**  
**Register by 9/7. Fee: \$80. (8 weeks)**  
Friday mornings, 9:15–10:15.  
Dates: 9/10–10/29.

Have an engaging French conversation with your morning coffee. This course is designed for high-beginner/low-intermediate French speakers who are able to carry on a basic conversation, but who would like to improve confidence and fluency. Short articles and movies will be used to facilitate conversations. Not intended for beginning French speakers.

**French Book Club** with Alysse Anton  
**Register by 9/7. Fee: \$80. (8 weeks)**  
Friday mornings, 10:30–11:30.  
Dates: 9/10–10/29.  
The classic play *Cyrano de Bergerac* is

adapted for French learners, and is filled with duels, war, drama and romance. Students will be encouraged to read parts aloud and debate about the underlying meaning of the dialogues. Language level: High-intermediate to advanced.

**Book Discussion Group:**  
***The Book of Joy* with Katie Franko**  
**Pre-registration required by 9/8; limit of 10. No fee.**

Monday mornings, 10:30–noon. Dates: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22 & 12/6.

We will be reading *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. Join us to ponder and discuss our musings as we read through this unique book together.

### Exercise & Health

These classes take place in our spacious Great Room. You're invited to come and check out a class one time—for no charge. These are ongoing throughout the year; you can join at any time. Stop by and fill out an address form. Walk-ins are welcome.

Fees will be returning to the original pre-Zoom rates, and this means that exercise courses will no longer be \$5 per class. Be sure to check the course descriptions in the Fall Schedule or see the website for details. Pay for a session series in advance and receive a discount.

**Chair Yoga – Mon., 9:30 a.m.**  
**Gentle Yoga – Mon. 11 a.m.**  
**Pilates Plus – Tue., 8:30 a.m.**  
**Essentrics on Wed., 8:30 a.m.**  
**Pilates – Thur., 8:30 a.m.**  
**T'ai Chi for Beginners – Thurs., 10 a.m.**  
**T'ai Chi – Advanced – Thurs., 11 a.m.**  
**Essentrics on Fri., 9:30 a.m.**

### Wednesday Talks at 1 p.m.

All Wednesday talks and events will be in person only, and no registration is necessary. The first three events in September are a little different. All are at 1 p.m.

**9/1: Music of the 50s & 60s—Oldies Revival with Peter & Helen Rosenblum**  
Join the musical fun as this Hinesburg duo strums and sings the hits that will forever live in our hearts and minds—from the romantic ballads of the Everly Brothers to the rockin' rhythms of Chuck Berry.

**9/8: Vermont Humor Through the Ages in Art, Words & Performance with Bill Mares**

With words and cartoons, Mares will detail the evolution of Vermont humor—from anonymous jokes told on old country store porches to stand-up performances like Vermont Vaudeville and Ground Hog Opry. Bill's talk will help you forget your worries—just as over the years known and unknown humorists helped wipe the sweat and tedium from Vermont labor.

**9/15: Greenbush—Music with John Creech & Cobey Gatos**

As long-time friends and neighbors, John and Cobey draw on a lifetime of playing jazz, blues and rock, as well as years of weekly get-togethers in Cobey's backyard studio. They'll choose from a library of their own original pieces and from carefully selected compositions written by



musical masters. They seek out a personal connection with each tune, creating a unique and evolving version each time they perform.

### Lunch schedule

Right now, the schedule for meals is irregular, so it's a good idea to call to check if lunch is served on a particular date. The information will also be posted on the CSC website: [CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org](http://CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org). Our Café is spacious and airy, and our porch has tables with big sun umbrellas.

The next lunch will be on Sept. 13, the first Monday after Labor Day. There is no lunch scheduled for Aug. 30. There are no Wednesday lunches scheduled at this time.

If you would like to volunteer to be on a cooking team or be a team leader, please contact Lori at 425-6345 or [VOL4csc@gmavt.net](mailto:VOL4csc@gmavt.net).

### Art News

Until the end of August, stop in to see the art of Deb Peate. She is exhibiting watercolors, pastels, silkscreens and five fanciful decoupage pieces; most are available for purchase. Since the space is also used for classes, the best times to view the exhibit in August is: Mon. at noon; Wed. after 1:00; Tues., Thurs. & Fri. after 12:30.

**Annual Senior Art Show**  
**September is the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Center Community Art Show.** If you have registered, please drop off your artwork only between noon and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, 8/26, or Friday, 8/27. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Tuttle, Art Show Coordinator, at 425-2864 or [jtuttle@gmavt.net](mailto:jtuttle@gmavt.net). The best times to view art in September are: Monday at noon; Tuesday & Wednesday after 2:30; Thursday & Friday after 12:30.

### About Volunteering

Ever thought about becoming a volunteer? There's a special spot for you whether you are available once a month for a couple of hours, or on a weekly basis. This is a great opportunity to meet other people,

make new friends and to be part of our community. Lori would love to meet you and talk with you about the possibilities of volunteering at the Charlotte Senior Center. She can be reached at email [VOL4csc@gmavt.net](mailto:VOL4csc@gmavt.net) or 425-6345.

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

### Notes on masks

Here is where things are now at the Senior Center.  
If you are . . .

#### Fully Vaccinated:

No mask required – but encouraged.  
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!

Please visit our website for expanded course descriptions and more information: [CharlotteSeniorCenterVT.org](http://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. Questions? Call or stop by between 9–4, or leave a message at 425-6345.

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



# Town

## Library news



Margaret Woodruff  
DIRECTOR

### Library Reminders

#### Time to mask up

Due to the increase in COVID cases in Chittenden county and in alignment with guidelines from CDC, the Charlotte Library

will hold all public programs on Zoom through the month of September. Please feel free to contact the library with any questions or concerns. All registration information will be available in our calendar listings on the library website: [charlottepubliclibrary.org](https://charlottepubliclibrary.org). We appreciate your help and support as we all work to keep our community safe.

#### September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Here's the word from the American Library Association:

Marley Dias, author, executive producer, and founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, is joining the American Library Association and libraries nationwide in promoting the power of a library card this September.

As honorary chair, Dias wants to remind the public that signing up for a library card provides access to technology, multimedia content and educational programming that transforms lives and strengthens communities. "A library card provides opportunity for discovery and access to a rich and diverse world. It empowers you to make change and experience new stories," said Dias.

Visit your library online or in person to see what's new and take part in the celebration. Libraries across the country are participating. Do you have friends who don't have library cards? Invite them to sign up during September. **Get a Library Card.**

#### Happening At The Library

##### Grange on the Greens: Will Patton Trio Thursday, Sept. 9, 5 to 7 p.m.

The last concert of the season! Join us for live music on the Town Green. Activities for children provided by the Charlotte Children's Center, sponsor of the event.

##### Friends Book Discussion:

##### *All Creatures Great & Small*

##### Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Delve into the magical, unforgettable world of James Herriot, the world's most

beloved veterinarian, and his menagerie of heartwarming, funny and tragic animal patients.

For over 40 years, generations of readers have thrilled to Herriot's marvelous tales, deep love of life, and extraordinary storytelling abilities. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way, from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Register to join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8442111111>

##### Charlotte Seed Library Garden Chat Friday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m. via Zoom

The garden season is winding down. Share your triumphs and get answers to your garden puzzles with Linda Hamilton and Karen Tuininga. Register on the library website.

##### Media Literacy Local & National Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. via Zoom

The word "literacy" usually describes the ability to read and write. Reading literacy and media literacy have a lot in common. Media literacy is the ability to identify different types of media and understand the messages they're sending. Join veteran journalists Christina Asquith, Adam Davidson, Jack Fairweather and Jesse Wegman for a guided tour of the media landscape and how

to understand it. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8442111111>

##### Men's Book Group: A Libertarian Walks into a Bear Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

*A Libertarian Walks into a Bear* is the sometimes funny, sometimes terrifying tale of what happens when a government disappears into the woods. Complete with gunplay, adventure and backstabbing politicians, this is the ultimate story of a quintessential American experiment—to live free or die, perhaps from a bear. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

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

##### Library Contact Information

Margaret Woodruff, Director  
Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian

Susanna Kahn, Tech Librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864  
Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)



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