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The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 22



Bee aware

Courtesy photo

The Quinlan Covered Bridge butterfly garden is one of five gardens in the area that Julia Parker Dickerson, second from the right, has started and maintains through the help of donations. A group of volunteers, including Alex Bunten and Paula Joslin, showed up on Friday, April 15, to remove dead foliage while taking care not to disturb bees that might be nesting in the leaves.

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Mother-daughter art show at Charlotte Senior Center



Watercolor by Barbara Lane 'Peony'

Charlotte artists Barbara Lane and Brenda Myrick are showing their work in a rare mother-daughter art exhibit at the Senior Center. Through May, Lane will be showing her watercolor paintings of florals, the Vermont landscape and Maine. Her daughter Myrick will be showing her semi-abstracts in oil and acrylic. The best days for viewing art at the Senior Center are Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2:30-4 p.m., or Fridays, 12:30-4 p.m. The center is closed on weekends. Info: 802-425-6345.

Charlotte Central School co-principal leaving

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Add another to the list of Champlain Valley School District administrators who are leaving for other positions, mostly outside of the district. And this one hits a bit closer to home. Charlotte Central School co-principal Stephanie Sumner announced she is moving on after the school year. Sumner is taking a position with the South Burlington School District as a co-assistant principal. She said two new assistant principal positions have been created to serve the three elementary schools in the district, but primarily she will be assigned to Rick Marcotte Central School working with the kindergarten-sixth grade students. Although she has worked with older kids, she's been working with younger students for seven years as the co-principal at Charlotte Elementary School. Sumner is happy to be staying with that age. Describing the move as more of a "lateral move" than a promotion, she said, "There are things I'm really happy about and excited about. I do love the idea of just working in a different configuration that is straight elementary."

Sumner wouldn't go into details or acknowledge disappointment with the Champlain Valley School District upper administration or superintendent Rene Sanchez, but she said, "Nobody leaves a position if they're pretty happy in it." She hastened to add that she loves what goes on in the Charlotte Central School building. "We have amazing teachers and children and families in our Charlotte community. This has been a really hard year and my priorities as an educator have always been to work in a system where I can have an impact," Sumner said, adding that many of her feelings about resigning were expressed very well in Shelburne Community School principal Scott Sivo's email to that school's families announcing he was leaving to take over as principal of Frederick H. Tuggle Middle School in South Burlington. At least eight administrators are leaving their positions with the school district, al-

"We have amazing teachers and children and families in our Charlotte community. This has been a really hard year and my priorities as an educator have always been to work in a system where I can have an impact."

— Stephanie Sumner



Stephanie Sumner

though Jeanne Jensen chief operating officer is moving to a part-time position in the Champlain Valley School District. A number of emails and public comments at school board meeting have criticized school district leadership about a "mass exodus" of administrators. Sanchez has said the turnover is in large part due to the same forces, primarily the pandemic, that has led to the current shortage of educators at school systems across the state. "The role of a school leader in the current educational environment can feel perilous on a good day. The ability to be bold and strong, in difficult moments, is predicated on trusting that you are well supported and fully backed by well-established systems of leadership and governance," Sivo said in the email announcing his departure. "While change is always difficult, the unprecedented amount of leadership change we have and will face as a school district, along with the general uncertainty it brings, greatly impacted my decision to seek and accept this new opportunity."

Town considers a proposal for seeking 'path' to itself

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

A kinder, gentler Charlotte. A closer, more confident, friendlier and a more helpful Charlotte. These are just some of the benefits community members advocating for Community Heart & Soul see coming from that process. On Monday, April 25, the selectboard joined the planning commission in giving at least a thumbs up to considering the Community Heart & Soul proposal. While the selectboard didn't pass a formal motion like the planning commission did, Selectboard Chair Jim Faulkner said, "It sounds like such a great idea." Commission members Kyra Wegman and Bob Bloch spoke to the rest of the planning commission the previous Thursday, singing the praises of Heart & Soul as a community-based way to bring the community closer and make the community stronger.

Community Heart & Soul is a program developed by Lyman Orton and The Vermont Country Store for "engaging a community in shaping its future," according to information from the Orton Family Foundation (communityheartandsoul.org). "Developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with over 90 small cities and towns across the United States," says the website. The first year of the Heart & Soul process the cost is \$20,000, but Wegman and Bloch said Charlotte won't have to pay anything. They are confident the Orton Family Foundation will give a \$10,000 matching grant and that the town's match will come from donations. The second year the town's cost goes up to \$25,000, but Wegman is optimistic about getting that without having to ask the town for funding. "I just want to be clear — the kind of support that we're asking for is more emotional than financial," Wegman said.

Bloch admitted supporters of the program might approach the selectboard in the second year for donations in the same way the town donates to other nonprofit organizations. Wegman said Community Heart & Soul offers a way for people to come together and talk about their town outside of town meetings. When Orton, the owner of The Vermont Country Store, served on his town's planning commission, he grew frustrated that decisions were being made that would shape the town's future without any input from the majority of the residents, according to the website. He created Community Heart & Soul as a way to establish a community development process that reflects the desires of the entire community and not just the few that attend planning



commission meetings. "What we're trying to create is large gatherings where these conversations can happen," Wegman said. "We're wide open to input." Former planning commission chair Peter Joslin spoke up for the Community Heart & Soul program, the goals of which are very consistent with his oft-repeated position that Charlotte needs to decide

Planning commission navigating the twists and turns of land-use regulation

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The planning commission has been chewing over land-use regulation amendments as diligently as a room full of teething toddlers trying to find a crack or cranny wherever their regulatory teeth can find purchase.

One issue that didn’t inspire much in the way of gum bumping is regulations about holding events on private property. The planning commission seems to be consumed, but unsure, with consideration of how event regulations should be written.

Sorry to dash your dreams, but the planning commission did seem to strongly agree that you should not be allowed to hold a carnival without a permit.

But where to draw the line? No loud or passionate debate was offered. All seemed in agreement that people should be able to hold a family wedding. But when do too many weddings become an event business?

And even for a one-off family wedding, how many guests before you’re required to get a Porta Potty? What’s the maximum number of people that can attend a gathering before arrangements for parking and traffic are required and what are those arrangements?

And then there’s the philosophical conundrum that would have knocked Descartes on his keister: What’s a food truck?

Town planner Larry Lewack told the planning commission at its meeting on April 21 the town staff is working on an ordinance to regulate such things as food trucks, concerts and festivals on public and private property.

“Let’s say we have a farm parcel that wants to bring in a carnival, one of those full-blown carnivals with mechanical rides,



“Let’s say we have a farm parcel that wants to bring in a carnival, one of those full-blown carnivals with mechanical rides, a midway and the whole nine yards?”

— Larry Lewack

a midway and the whole nine yards?” Lewack said that would have implications for traffic safety and parking.

He doesn’t think the town would automatically prohibit such an event. It’s not something that would be permitted on a permanent basis, but it might be allowed on a temporary basis.

“That would be something that we would want them to ask for permission, rather than just bring in this big carnival and set it up in the farmyard and expect

that it’s going to be OK without a review,” Lewack said.

The regulations the town develops should include guidelines about what sort of fire code or other safety restrictions will apply to events that are not permanent but regularly reoccurring like farmer’s markets.

“I think what we’re trying to do is set a standard for review that is not onerous, for ongoing temporary uses—and by temporary, I think seasonal would be a good way to think of it,” Lewack said.

Commission member Bob Bloch warned against the planning commission “spinning its wheels” working on these regulations when the selectboard might ultimately pass ordinances that cover such event issues. A conversation with the selectboard might help coordinate what will be covered in the ordinances by the selectboard and what should be covered in land-use regulations by the planning commission, he said.

To Bloch’s concern that the planning commission’s efforts to develop event regulations might mean the town might pass so many regulations that it doesn’t enforce any, commission member Kelly Devine replied it is like state park regulations that prohibit drinking at campsites: “They rarely enforce that until you act like an idiot.”

Member Kyra Wegman said what events are allowed on private property should be tempered by the possible consequences.

“I really am just thinking about environmental consequences for neighbors, like a lot of rodents,” Wegman said.

However the regulations develop, Lewack doesn’t see the town “going onto private property with a backyard party for a three-year-old’s birthday. We don’t want to go there. Land-use regulation really tries to straddle very important distinctions.”

HEART & SOUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what it wants to be.

“What do we want? What’s the vision that determines 10 years from now what we’ll see?” Joslin said. “It all flows from that question.”

Joslin said he felt like the Heart and Soul process would get people really focused on all the underlying issues in the land use regulations, leading to an examination of whether there’s a disconnect between what the town wants and what the land use regulations say.

There are four phases to the process. In the first phase, Heart & Soul teams are formed to build awareness and commitment across the community. In the second phase, residents’ stories are collected and the teams work on Heart & Soul statements identifying what matters

most and what participants love about their town.

In the third phase, the participants work on action plans to guide future town planning based on the Heart & Soul statements. In the final phase, the participants work to have the Heart & Soul statements officially adopted by the selectboard and other town boards and councils and incorporated into plans guiding future policies and decisions.

The town’s Heart & Soul statements are incorporated into town policy and planning, and “posted in town offices and memorialized to remind town officials about what matters most to residents and the future they want for their communities,” according to Community Heart & Soul information.

Bloch said the program will need a coordinator and they plan for this to be a volunteer.

“We have such a history of volunteerism, the way we run things, the way we do things, that we really think that’s the way to go,” Bloch said.

Wegman touted Hearts and Souls’ emphasis on getting people talking about what they like about their town instead of what they want to fix.

Heart & Soul is a method of starting a community-wide conversation that continues one on one in lots of different places, from a table at the farmers market to a variety of settings and demographics. The town will get coaches that help the process happen.

Community Heart & Soul is a process that was designed from working in small towns for small towns. It won’t work for larger towns or cities.

Bloch said it’s based on three principles: Involve everyone, focus on what matters most to the town, and play the long game.

“This is something that, if it’s really successful, the process will sort of be embedded in the community and it’ll carry on beyond to some planning horizon,” Bloch said.

LOST PENDANT!



Silver pendant lost during Repair Café at Charlotte Congregational Church on Saturday, 4.30. Broken chain turned in, but not the small pendant, which shows a figure paddling the dragon boat stroke. Very meaningful!

Please contact Ellen – 802.598.3639, or elleninvermont@gmail.com. Thanks!



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 Charlotte 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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Letters to the Editor

Overdose prevention sites don’t work

As the author of the overdose prevention sites (also called safe injection facilities) literature review for the governor’s Opioid Coordination Council Report published in October 2018, I take great exception to the enthusiastic endorsement by Diaz and Baker published in The Charlotte News recently. Their uncritical approach lacks scientific rigor and misstates several important aspects of these sites. Since space issues constrain my response, I would refer readers to the full report by Googling the Governors Opioid Coordination Council and accessing the “reports, testimony and comments” section and clicking on the Safe Injection Facilities report link.

In brief, almost all the benefits listed by Jay Diaz and Ed Baker (e.g., reduction in HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne diseases) are attributable to syringe exchange services at a significantly reduced financial investment (overdose prevention sites are very expensive to establish and maintain — Canada’s first facility called InSite in Vancouver is supported by \$3,000,000 a year in taxpayer funds.). The vast majority of data about overdose prevention sites has been derived from InSite and a lot of it is misinterpreted, incorrect, or both. For example, the large reduction in the overdose death rate in the neighborhood surrounding InSite immediately after its opening in 2003 was due to a dramatically increased police presence in the area operating 24 hours a day, seven days per week. This had the effect of displacing the drug market surrounding InSite from the area which also resulted in a reduction in crime in the

immediate InSite area. Not a surprise. I’ll mention three more salient points. First, injections at InSite accounted for less than six percent of all injection drug use in their service area. Second, there are very little data demonstrating that individuals accessing overdose prevention sites avail themselves of enrolling in treatment programs — one of the main selling points of their establishment. Finally, opioid overdose deaths in the Vancouver area (where Insite is located) are at their highest level in history and show no signs of declining. 2021 saw a 23 percent increase in opioid overdose deaths there, so the ameliorating function of overdose prevention sites is highly questionable. Everyone in public health wants to see the reduction and eventual elimination of preventable opioid overdose deaths. However, we should seek methods that are aligned with science that provide the biggest “bang for the buck.” Overdose prevention sites do not fulfill that promise.

John S. Searles

(Searles is a retired doctor who worked in substance abuse research and programs for the Vermont Department of Health.)

Yantachka running for reelection as representative

To the Editor:
It has been my privilege to serve as the Charlotte-Hinesburg State Representative for the past 12 years. I am taking this opportunity to announce that I will be running for re-election this year for another term.
During my time in office, my priority

has always been to support policies that benefit Vermonters and make Vermont, and our community in particular, a better place to live and work. I believe in a strong democracy in which all citizens can participate through their right to vote. I have advocated for a livable minimum wage, for mental health benefits for first responders, and for sustainable pension funds for our hard-working teachers and state employees, as well as many other policies to support working families. During the worst days of the pandemic, I helped many employees, small business owners and self-employed persons in Charlotte access state and federal economic assistance programs. Through my work on energy and environmental policy, Vermont has taken significant steps to address climate change. However, much more needs to be done to further reduce our greenhouse gas emissions while helping folks save money on their heating bills and adapt to the changing weather patterns. One of my most important responsibilities is keeping you informed through my bi-weekly Legislative Reports in our local newspapers and occasional Front Porch Forum posts. You can access those reports at my website,

MikeYantachka.com, for a look at what I’ve been working on throughout my legislative career.
With your support I will continue working to support policies that will benefit the social fabric, the economic vitality, and the natural and lived environment of Vermont. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Rep. Mike Yantachka

(Yantachka is the Charlotte-Hinesburg (Chittenden 5) District representative and a member of the House Energy & Technology Committee.)

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The Charlotte News





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Around Town

Honoring Leon Lestage Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A celebration of life for Leon Lestage will be held at the Catamount Country Club, located at 1400 Mountain View Road, Williston.

Leon worked for many years at Champlain Valley Union High School as a bus driver and in the athletic department. He knew many students from Charlotte. During the mid 70s to 80s, he volunteered on the Hinesburg Fire Department but also assisted the town of Charlotte with their needs. He was one of the early volunteers



Leon Lestage

on Iroquois Rescue that covered Charlotte. Leon had many friends in the town of Charlotte. He also owned a hat and T-shirt-printing business and set up as a vendor at the Charlotte Flea Market on Rt. 7 when it was in existence. Leon’s grandson, Tyler Lestage, is a current resident of Charlotte.

This is the party Leon would have planned. Celebrate his life the way he would have wanted. Come and share your stories. Leon’s family welcomes you.

Little Free Library

Thanks to the carpentry skills of an Eagle Scout and the generosity of a member of the Senior Center, the Little Free Library is up and running at the Charlotte Grange. Here is food for thought for children, birth through teenage. Tell the children you know to head over to the Grange and find a book.

Sustainable Charlotte joins Green Up Day again



Photo by Ruah Swennerfelt

Louis Cox, left, and Ken Spencer collect electronic waste at a previous Green Up Day. This year the quest for the holy grail of litter-less roadways is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. this Saturday, May 7, and they’re still looking for people to join in. You can sign up for a route to pick up litter on the website charlottetvgreenupday.com by 6 p.m. Friday, or you can show up Saturday morning at the collection center on the west side of Charlotte Central School on Hinesburg Road.

Ruah Swennerfelt
Sustainable Charlotte

Do you have old stereos, VCRs, boomboxes and the like that are just cluttering your house? Are you wanting to be sure they don’t end up in the landfill?

Sustainable Charlotte will once again coordinate electronic waste collection at Charlotte Central School in conjunction with Green Up Day, this Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

In addition to the importance of cleaning up the waste we find on our roadsides, the electronic collection eliminates thousands of pounds from ending up in our Vermont landfill. Only one landfill services the state of Vermont. It’s located in Coventry and will be full by 2040. Anything we can do to reduce waste or recycle may extend that

termination date.

Even though it’s not legal in Vermont to throw away what is recyclable, many people are still filling our landfill with electronics. Good Point Recycling, which collects the electronics, helps make sure that they are recycled.

The Green Up Day collection will take all electronic devices such as computers and their components, DVDs, VCRs, stereos, phones, record players, radios, TVs, laptops, video machines, microwaves, small kitchen electronics and their various cords and chargers. They cannot accept appliances such as air conditioners, stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers.

Call 802-922-2259 or email ruahswennerfelt@gmail.com with questions.



Have a hot news tip?

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The **Charlotte News**

Hi Neighbor!

Providing fresh food for those in need with Farm Stand Together



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Staunch supporters of local agriculture, Justin Reidy and Meaghin Kennedy have found a new way to ensure that those with limited resources have access to good food. The couple supports Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont’s farm share program, which provides reduced cost community supported agriculture (or CSA) shares to needy families, but they wanted to do more.

“The problem with that program is that it’s only community-supported agriculture-based,” Reidy said. “CSAs are wonderful, but there is a limit to who can take advantage of them because there are upfront costs and limitations in where and when to pick up the produce. We thought there was room for additional support for those who couldn’t take advantage of existing programs.”

Reidy and Kennedy recognized that COVID had changed the way some farms operated.

“Several started farmstands and many adopted self-service models,” Reidy said. “That gave us the idea of a system of point-of-sale purchase with gift cards.”

With assistance from Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, they created Farm Stand Together from their Charlotte home in late 2021. The pilot program launched this year.

The pilot program will provide gift cards to 115 families who will pick up produce at six farm stands, including Sweet Roots

in Charlotte, Hudak Farm in Swanton, Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne, Dog River Farm in Berlin, Wild Carrot Farm in Brattleboro and Jericho Settlers Farm in Jericho.

The gift cards can be used for any food products at the farm stands and can be spent all at once or spread out over time. A single user’s card is for \$50, with \$75 for couples and \$100 for larger families.

“Operationally it’s not that complicated,” Reidy said. “We’re not doing income verification. Logistically, it’s just collecting names and addresses and sending out the gift cards. Our main limitation will be funding.”

Reidy and Kennedy are paying for the pilot out of pocket. But if the program is a success, they might consider affiliating with Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont or becoming a stand-alone nonprofit.

“The goal this year is just to get an understanding of what works and to see where the biggest needs and challenges are,” Reidy said.

Reidy and Kennedy met in the Washington, D.C. area. Kennedy’s work as an elementary school counselor led to her involvement in the farm-to-school movement. When the couple moved to New York, she continued in that field while also working for a start-up that promoted farmers markets.

From there, the couple moved to Portland, Ore., where Reidy was a staff engineer for Airbnb. These days he serves as the director of product at a video messaging start-up called LOOM, which, even before the pandemic, was an entirely remote operation.

Kennedy is currently focusing on the couple’s five-year-old and 22-month-old children. When they get older, she hopes to



Courtesy photo
Justin Reidy and Meaghin Kennedy are working on a nonprofit to help get local produce to the needy.

do some farming on their property with the goal of furthering the couple’s mission of providing food for those in need.

Reidy praised Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont for their assistance in establishing Farm Stand Together: “They are doing such strong work in Vermont for those with food insecurity, as well as advocacy work and supporting Vermont farmers and healthy agricultural practices. I can’t imagine a better farm advocacy organization.”

Reidy and Kennedy are pleased with the community they’ve found in Vermont.

“I think Vermont is extremely blessed with its agricultural history and the amazing farmers and farm stands across the state,” Reidy said. “It’s a state with a strong agricultural identity and ethos, even among

those who aren’t farmers.”

Reidy gave the example of locals who wear baseball caps emblazoned with the name of their favorite farm as though it was a sport team that they supported.

“Vermont has food insecurity issues like any other state,” Reidy said, “but it is uniquely situated to address those issues in the form of community support and mutual aid.”

Farm Stand Together as simply one more tool to help bring healthy food to those who can’t afford it. “If we can work together to find creative opportunities, we can solve some of those issues using the bounty that our community members are producing and growing.”

Commentary

Most homeless in Vermont are children and families

We may imagine a homeless person as someone who was evacuated from Sears Lane in Burlington or a person sitting on the sidewalk with a sign asking for money, but statistics tell us most homeless people in Vermont are children and families.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates 2,591 people in Vermont were homeless on any given day in 2021. This number is based on a “point in time count” that is done once a year; it includes people in shelters or motels, but not people who are couch-surfing or sleeping in cars. The U.S. Department of Education estimates 1,006 Vermont public school students experienced homelessness during the year 2021.

One of the biggest contributing factors to homelessness is domestic violence. When a person leaves an abusive situation taking children with them, they might find shelter couch-surfing, living with family or friends, or sleeping with their children in the car — even in winter. Here is a story from COTS (Burlington’s Committee on Temporary Shelter):

“Samantha” and her children came to COTS after fleeing a domestic abuse situation. She was scared and suffering from compounding traumas.

Samantha’s COTS housing navigator empathized with and supported her because she was also a survivor of domestic violence. Ultimately, Samantha received job training, affordable childcare, and was able to heal and move on with her children to a sustainable permanent housing situation.

When a person becomes homeless, it is difficult to find new housing, hold a job, provide consistent parenting and even benefit from government subsidies. Finding a new place to live is very challenging because Vermont’s rental availability rate is low, and the rents are high. A worker who earns the minimum wage of \$2,100 per month can afford 30 percent on housing, \$650 per month. This would not pay for a one-bedroom, market-rate apartment that costs \$979 per month. Instead, a person who earns the minimum wage would need subsidized housing, and without a mailing address, they could not receive welfare or subsidy checks. At current rental rates, rent would consume 60 to 80 percent of a person’s income, leaving them vulnerable to eviction in the event of unforeseen car troubles or medical expenses. The cost of childcare, combined with the unpredictability of pandemic school closures, has made it difficult for single parents to hold down a job without paid time off. Here is a story from Vermont Interfaith Action:

“Jane” was living in the Northeast Kingdom with her two young children, working and barely scraping by, paying well over 50 percent of her income for rent. Her apartment was poorly maintained by the landlord, with a leaking roof, mold, giant cockroaches and peeling paint, but there were no other apartments available that she could afford. She had experienced a period of homelessness as a child and was determined to keep her children from becoming homeless. The tipping point came when she discovered her daughter’s lead level was elevated. She left the apartment and settled her children in a nearby relative’s home so they could continue with consistent childcare and school. She became homeless, sheltered in a motel two hours away from her children.

Services provided by organizations such as COTS, STEPS to End Domestic Violence, ANEW Place, and Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity help homeless people navigate complex systems while they are in dire straits. But the valuable services they provide have limitations. Imagine living in a motel room with two or three children. Where can the children play during the winter? The aisle between the beds? The motel parking lot? If you’re lucky there might be a park within walking distance, but many motels are on the main artery and most parks are in neighborhoods. The living conditions of these children will undoubtedly affect their ability to function as adults. They risk becoming impoverished, inadequately educated and severely traumatized.

Headlines about homelessness influence how we think about homeless people, so when you hear about the 40 adults who were evacuated from Sears Lane, please remember the families with 1,006 children who suffered the effects of homelessness during 2021. Please consider supporting additional affordable housing initiatives that will provide safe and consistent housing for people who are trying to work their way out of homelessness. Vermont Interfaith Action encourages you to write to your legislators to support S210, which creates a rental registry and inspection services and increases the availability of more rental units.

What are your ideas to better provide for young families and their children who, for no fault of their own, are experiencing homelessness?

Virginia Munkelwitz and Joey Corcoran, both of Burlington, are leaders in the Affordable Housing & Homelessness organizing committee of Vermont Interfaith Action.

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Lake Champlain Basin Program

After a long winter, many anglers and boaters look forward to starting their recreation season on Lake Champlain as early as possible. Unfortunately, aquatic invasive plants and animals, like curly leaf pond weed and zebra mussels, do not take the spring off.

Many invasive species overwinter in our lakes and streams and will be growing as soon as the ice is out. If you are boating in April and May, please make sure to clean, drain and dry your boats and trailers and disinfect your fishing gear. All of the Northeast states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Rhode Island) will thank you if you do.

The Northeast states spend millions of dollars each year protecting the ponds, lakes, rivers and streams that call to you when the spring peepers are singing and the snowdrops are blooming. Together we can keep your favorite fishing hole or aquatic home away from home an enjoyable and relaxing place to be.

“We depend on the people who enjoy the natural beauty of our waterways in Vermont to do their part to ensure they remain healthy. It is a small measure that has a great impact to clean, drain and dry your watercraft to protect one of our greatest resources,” said Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife commissioner Christopher Herrick. “Aquatic invasive species are waking up alongside their native counterparts, and we all need to make sure we do not move any plants or animals to ensure we are protecting the natural resources we enjoy,” said Eric Howe, director of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Please check lcbp.org/our-goals/healthy-ecosystems/aquatic-invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species-spread/ for tips on how to clean, drain and dry. #protectyourwaters #cleandraindry.

For more information about aquatic invasive species in Lake Champlain, call Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program aquatic invasive species management coordinator, at 802-372-0216 or visit lcbp.org.

The Lake Champlain Basin Program



Photo courtesy lcbp.org

coordinates and funds efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin’s water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation and cultural resources.

Rolling through Charlotte



Photo by Eric Buttery

The main field of the men’s A race in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference event in Charlotte on Saturday, April 23. About 50 schools from Maine to Delaware competed.

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Town of Charlotte Beach Attendant



The beach attendant position begins Memorial Day weekend and ends Labor Day weekend. The beach attendant will be responsible for the daily operations of the beach and the facilities located around it. Dependent on the shift, the attendant will be responsible for setup or clean-up of the beach, supervision of the parking area, and management of beach pass sales. There will be daily responsibilities to help maintain the cleanliness of the beach and its facilities. This is a seasonal position with flexible hours averaging 20-25 hours per week.



If interested please contact Nicole Conley, Recreation@townofcharlotte.com

Environment

Celebrate Emerald Ash Borer Week with a bash ash borer bash

Vermont, along with the rest of the country, will recognize National Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week, May 22-28. The week is designed to draw attention to the impact that this invasive species, a native of Asia, can have on ash trees. In Vermont, the emerald ash borer was first spotted in 2018 in Orange County and is now confirmed in all but Essex County. The beetle attacks all three species of ash that grow in the state. Although it can't be eradicated, increased awareness of this destructive, wood-boring beetle can help slow its spread. To that end, University of Vermont Extension is collaborating with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to get the word out. Vermonters are encouraged to get involved by organizing

a community activity or posting on social media. An online Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week toolkit is available at go.uvm.edu/eab-toolkit to provide ideas and information. It contains posters, videos, sample social media posts and other tools; resources for educators; information on ash tree identification; and guidelines for hosting a neighborhood ash tree walk or tree tagging event. The Vermont Invasives website (vtinvasives.org) has a number of resources, including videos and maps indicating infested areas, to help homeowners, municipalities and forest landowners and managers identify, understand and control the spread of the emerald ash borer. If you think you have spotted an infested ash tree, you can use the website's Report It! link to



Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

submit a photo. There's also a link to sign up for the EAB Update Listserv. Public events planned for the week include: **U-32 Middle and High School, East Montpelier. EAB and Resilient Roads May 24, 6-8 p.m.** Join the East Montpelier Resilient Roads committee and Joanne Garton, Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program technical assistance coordinator, for a walk and presentation to learn about East

Montpelier's proactive approach to emerald ash borer management. **Nulhegan Basin Visitor Center, 5396 VT Rte. 105, Brunswick May 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Join Abenaki craftspeople and basket makers to learn about the significance of black ash trees in Abenaki culture and their use in basketmaking. Come help pound ash trunks and learn how ash splints are made into baskets. Volunteer pounders are needed. Lunch is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. *For information about other planned activities, visit go.uvm.edu/vtucfevents. To list an event in your community, contact Ginger Nickerson, UVM Extension forest pest education coordinator, at ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu.*

Into The Woods

Reflections on branches and the complex society of trees


Ethan Tapper

Are trees individuals? I started to think about this question after hearing a researcher say that trees are "colonial organisms" — more like colonies of autonomous branches than individuals. As I struggled to find answers, I found that this topic is as nuanced and as complex as our forests. While humans and other animals are unitary organisms — with a single body — plants and trees are modular organisms, comprised of repeating "modules." Unlike unitary organisms, modular organisms like trees are unconstrained by the determinate growth of a human or animal body. Instead, they have an indeterminate growth pattern, able to repeat themselves over and over again by creating new roots, branches, buds and sometimes trunks. While branches are connected to a common trunk and root system, they may also behave autonomously, competing with

each other for light and satisfying their own energetic needs before exporting resources to the rest of the tree. When they are shaded (or otherwise consume more than they produce), they die. Though they have some autonomy, a branch is also part of a tree, an organism that must maintain its overall shape and growth pattern to survive. Trees regulate their overall growth largely through processes known as apical dominance and apical control, using hormones to suppress the growth of certain buds and branches. Trees with high apical dominance and apical control — like conifers — are excurrent, resulting in a relatively symmetrical shape. Shrubs are decurrent, with low apical dominance and low apical control, creating an asymmetrical growth pattern of many competing stems. Deciduous trees fall in between these extremes, with a more-or-less symmetrical (excurrent) overall growth pattern within which each branch is somewhat decurrent.

With some species of trees, such as eastern white cedar, branch autonomy is especially pronounced. Cedars form stem strips: sections of bark that connect groups of branches directly to groups of roots. When exposed to drought or other stressors, a single stem strip and its associated roots and branches may die while the rest of the tree is relatively unaffected. Some tree species produce clones — sprouting groups of genetically identical trees from their root system. Covering over 100 acres in Utah, an aspen clone called Pando is the most massive and perhaps the oldest organism (some would say clonal organism) on Earth, weighing an estimated 13 million pounds and thought to be between 14,000 and 80,000 years old. While Pando looks like a forest of young aspen trees, each tree is a ramet — genetically identical and connected, at least initially, to the same root system. To think of these ramets as individuals is both right and wrong: they compete with each other for light and even for resources within their common root system, but are also indisputably part of a larger entity. Many of us have been captivated by the idea of the "Wood Wide Web," the underground networks of mycorrhizal fungi that can connect trees together, even facilitating communication and resource-sharing between trees. While some have taken this research to mean that forests are unified entities, or that they are entirely cooperative and altruistic, the truth is more

complicated: while they cooperate at times, trees also compete with each other — often to the death. Like a branch on a tree, a tree in a forest is both autonomous and dependent on a larger system. Even a small forest is comprised of billions or trillions of organisms, each living an autonomous, complex life. Trees rely on other organisms to build soils, to regulate populations of pests, for pollination and seed dispersal — and much more. Together, these countless independent organisms, their environment and natural processes form a natural community: an entity with behavior and properties of its own. As the fate of a branch is linked to the fate of the tree to which it is attached, the fate of a tree is inextricably linked to the fate of this natural community. Like us, a branch on a tree or a tree in a forest is an individual, but also part of something greater. As we exercise our autonomy as forest stewards, it's up to us to recognize our part in the bigger picture, to learn how to sustain ourselves while also sustaining the trees, the forests and the living landscape to which we are connected. *Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. To see what he's been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he's written at linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester.*



The Town of Charlotte
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Development Review Board
Special Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 5:30 to 6:50 p.m.

Recreation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, May 5, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Development Review Board Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 7 to 9 p.m.

Selectboard
Monday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Gardening

First-time gardeners need to know to start with a plan



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

For vegetables, such as tomatoes, that require support, put the trellis or tomato cage in place at the time of planting.

Deborah J. Benoit
UVM Extension Master Gardener

Do you want to enjoy fresh, home-grown veggies this summer? Perhaps you’d like to adorn your home with fresh-cut flowers.

Whatever the reason, this year you’ve decided to start a garden of your own. But before you grab a spade and head for the backyard, put pen to paper and make a plan.

Dream as big as you like, but for this year at least, plan small. Your first garden will be a learning experience. To ensure success, narrow your focus. Trying to do it all is a sure way to become overwhelmed.

Whether you choose to garden in a small plot, a raised bed or a few pots by the back door, gardening success isn’t hard to achieve.

First and foremost, like the old saying, it’s all about location. Look around your yard at various times of day before you decide where to put your garden. The location needs to provide three things that are key to success: soil, light and water.

If you’re gardening in containers or raised beds, you can purchase soil to meet your needs. If you’re planning on a more traditional garden plot, choose a location with good soil. Ideally, you’ll want soil that’s loam—a balance of clay, silt and sand that retains moisture but drains well and will provide nutrients for your garden.

If you’re not sure about your soil, consider a soil test. If your soil is less than ideal (most are), it can be amended, for example, by the addition of compost. A soil test will tell you about your soil’s pH and nutrients and make recommendations for amendments and fertilizer. More information on soil testing can be found at the University of Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab’s website (pss.uvm.edu/ag_testing).

The location you select should provide full

sun for at least six to eight hours a day, since most vegetable plants and flowers require that to grow to their fullest potential. And you’ll want a convenient source of water nearby. Toting water to the far side of the yard in the summer heat is a sure way to dampen your enthusiasm, resulting in skipped watering and unhappy plants.

Once you’ve selected a location and know how much space you have available in your garden, get to know the plants you want to grow. Invest some time in a little research. That tiny tomato plant in its four-inch pot may grow two feet wide and six feet tall or sprawl out to cover several feet of your raised bed. Be sure to give your plants room to grow.

Introduce your plants to the outdoors gradually. “Hardening off” allows them to adjust to conditions in the garden, particularly the sun. Place your plants outside in a semi-shady spot, gradually moving them into direct sun over a week or two.

When planting, water them well. If a support, such as a trellis or tomato cage, will be needed, put it in place at the time of planting. Cover garden soil with mulch to help retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Keep an eye out for pests or signs the plant may be stressed. Be sure plants get adequate water, fertilize as recommended for your particular plant, and remove weeds. Before you know it, you’ll be enjoying the fruits of your garden.

The UVM Extension Master Gardener website (uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener). If you have questions, click on “Gardener Helpline.” If you’d like to expand your knowledge of gardening, consider becoming an extension master gardener. Information is available through the “Master Gardener Program” link.

Walkabout



Susan Sim sent in this picture of Charlotte’s foxiest resident on the move.



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Stronger Together

The Grange holding Memorial Day remembrance ceremony



Linda Hamilton
CONTRIBUTOR

What is Memorial Day?
Since 1968 the last Monday in May has been an official federal holiday, and the whole weekend is popularly considered the start of summer and time for the first of the season’s outdoor gatherings and picnics with family and friends.
But why are there often public parades with marching bands, lots of uniforms and lots of American flags? Many families visit cemeteries and leave flowers. Some people pin a bright red poppy made of paper to their clothes. What is this all about? And how is it different from Veterans Day in November?
Basically, Memorial Day is a call to remember and honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military at home and abroad. There have been a lot of them, starting with a shocking 620,000 who died in the 1860s during the Civil War. Not only do their families and friends feel the loss of these loved ones, but the nation officially honors the fact that they died while serving under the dangerous conditions of armed conflict.
Veterans Day is a holiday that acknowledges the many non-fatal sacrifices

of active duty, National Guard, Reserve troops and their family members, recognizing that active duty in combat zones can inflict life-changing physical and psychological injuries that, although not fatal, can be severe and long-lasting. Both holidays have important cultural value.
The idea of Memorial Day arose spontaneously in communities in both the North and South right after the Civil War, with family, friends and returning veterans decorating soldiers’ graves with flowers. Within three years, National Decoration Day was established, and the first annual May 30 ceremony honored both Union and Confederate graves in Arlington National Cemetery.
After World War I, the name was changed to Memorial Day and now includes honoring all military personnel who die in U.S. wars or conflicts at home and abroad, and a solemn ceremony of the president placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.
What about the poppies? They came in after World War I. The horrors of that war took a greater human toll than any previous conflict, with 8.5 million soldiers dead of battlefield injuries or disease, and the absolute ravishing of the landscape of Western Europe.
Despite the devastation, a common red poppy survived and somehow managed to keep growing in battlefields of France and Flanders (northern Belgium). In 1915, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian brigade surgeon reeling from the carnage of the Second Battle of Ypres, took hope from patches of these bright red blooms peeking through the havoc and wrote the poem “In Flanders Field,” in which he channeled the voice of fallen soldiers buried under those tenacious poppies. It became one of the most famous works of art to emerge from WWI, and both the poem and the wearing of a red poppy are now widespread symbols of remembrance.
How does Charlotte remember and honor those who have died in US military service? We have both ongoing and periodic reminders to help us remember: a World War II stone memorial on Town Green and a World War I stone memorial at the corner of Ferry and Greenbush roads, and special observances on Memorial Day, like flying the U.S. flag on Town Green at half-mast.
For years, Charlotte Grange has placed flags on veterans’ graves in Charlotte cemeteries. Many individuals and families have their own private ways of remembering and honoring.
This year, Charlotte Grange will hold a public Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony on the Town Green to speak the names of those with Charlotte connections who died in conflict while in military service, recently or in the more distant past. Speaking their names is a powerful reminder that they were all individual people just like us — with family and friends, hopes, dreams, loves and commitments, fears, talents and frailties. Service to their country put them in harm’s way, and they died because of it.



The Charlotte Grange file photo

The Grange will draw on public records for names and also encourage community members to contribute names to be included in this Remembrance Ceremony. Contact charlottegrangevt@gmail.com if you have names to include or if you can help with the reading out of names. Veterans and their families are especially invited to participate. Watch for the time of the Remembrance Ceremony and other details in The Charlotte News later in May.
Linda Hamilton is a member of the Charlotte Grange.

Charlotte Central School

School fields alive with record number of active students

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

A huge spring celebration has seen the fields at Charlotte Central School full of students participating in the growing body of

spring activities available to them.
Charlotte Central School has a record number of middle school student participants in the spring co-curriculars of ultimate Frisbee, baseball and track and field. Additionally, there are many participants in

the third to fifth grades in the volunteer-run (non-school activity) Girls on the Run, and in the rec programs, including soccer for younger students and martial arts for students of many ages.
The after-school Part 2 Program also takes great advantage of the spaces to incorporate play, movement and fresh air into the students’ day.
On any given day after school a huge number of kids are taking part in something active.

Appreciating teachers
Teacher Appreciation Week runs through tomorrow, Friday, May 6. The activities and acknowledgements showered on the staff during this week not only bring joy, but have a way of energizing the school through the final weeks of school.
Also, Friday is National School Lunch Hero Day and a great day to show some extra appreciation for cafeteria staff — Sherry, Deb, Vicki and Scott.

Jazz band at jazz festival
The Charlotte Central School Jazz Band will perform at Burlington’s Discover Jazz Festival on Wednesday, June 8, noon-1 p.m. at the Church Street Amphitheater on the Mall Block. Band members will leave the

school at 10:45 a.m. and arrive by bus, but will need their own transportation back from the performance. This performance is free and open to the public.

Chorus and band concert
The seventh and eighth grade chorus and band will present their spring concert on Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Students should arrive at 6 p.m. and go to the band room first. The concert is free and open to the public.

Summer camp information
Charlotte Central School provides summer camp information as a community service to local families, but does not specifically recommend or endorse any camps listed.
Champlain Valley Union High Summer Camp 2022 — a fun and welcoming opportunity for all incoming ninth graders. The days are filled with engaging activities to help make connections with new fellow classmates of the class of 2026.
Royalty Elite All Stars — for students in K-12. Website: royaltyeliteallstarcheerleading.org/. Talent Development Institute Johnson — entering fourth to ninth grade students.

Sports

Boys lacrosse team takes thriller over Burr and Burton

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Boys lacrosse

CVU 9, Burr and Burton 8, OT

The Champlain Valley Union High boys lacrosse team hung on to take down Burr and Burton 9-8 in overtime on Wednesday, April 27.

Peter Gilliam scored the “golden goal,” the deciding score when teams are tied after regulation.

Owen Pierce was the Redhawks’ leader on offense with three goals and an assist. Gilliam was just behind him with two goals and an assist.

Matias Williams showed up on the offensive side with two goals. Colin Zouck and Turner Elliott each scored a goal to round out a balanced offensive effort by CVU.

Goalie Miles Kapan grabbed six saves. “Hats off to Burr and Burton on a great game,” coach Tom Garvey said. “We’re very proud of the grit out team displayed to come from behind and never get down on ourselves.”

Garvey said the victory was a team win earned through hard work and his players cashing in on their investment in such things 6 a.m. practices and hill runs.

CVU 9, South Burlington 6

On Friday, the Redhawks downed South Burlington 9-6. Details of that match were not available by press time.

CVU 10, Mount Mansfield Union 4

The Redhawks toppled a Mount Mansfield Union team Garvey called “competitive” on Thursday, April 21.

“Hats off to their players and coaches for giving us a good game throughout,” Garvey said.

The coach had kudos for the balanced scoring of Williams with three goals and Nolan Shea and Gilliam who each knocked down two goals.

“Our attack played well,” Garvey said. “We’re pleased with the improvement we see in each game.”

Girls lacrosse

CVU 11, South Burlington 8

The CVU girls lacrosse team never trailed in an 11-8 victory over South Burlington at home on Friday, April 29.

The Redhawks jumped out to a 5-0 lead before South Burlington found the back of the net. It was 6-2 at halftime, favor of CVU.

Chloe Snipes was the scoring leader with four goals. Dicey Manning and Stella Dooley each scored twice. Tess Everett, Amelie Scharf and Grace McNally each had a goal.

CVU goalie Clare Stackpole-McGrath had five saves.

The victory gave the Redhawks a 5-1 record with the lone loss to BFA-St. Albans.

BFA-St. Albans 17, CVU 13

On Tuesday, April 26, the Redhawks fell to BFA-St. Albans, the team that knocked them out of the quarterfinals of the state tourney last year.

After a tight first half, BFA-St. Albans had a 9-7 lead at halftime and were up 16-10 in the second half before CVU made it closer with a couple of goals late.

Stella Dooley tossed in five scores and an assist, and Ava Bartlett got three. Tess Everett and Chloe Snipes each scored two goals. Amelie Scharf added one.

Stackpole-McGrath stopped six in goal, and Ava Medici stopped three.

Coach Tucker Pierson said her team is very different than last year’s team with just six starters who are returners, but she likes how those who have returned are mentoring the newer players.

“We’re working on lacrosse IQ. The seniors are really good at helping younger players with situational strategy,” Pierson said. “That’s been really fun to see.”

Girls tennis

CVU 6, Essex 1

The Redhawks took every match except No. 1 singles in a girls tennis contest with Essex on Saturday, April 30.

Scarlett Wagner fell 6-4, 6-1 for CVU’s only loss.

Tabitha Bastress 6-4, 6-4; Cassie Bastress 6-1, 6-2; Sage Peterson 6-3, 6-3; and Leonie Schwetlick 6-1, 6-3 all won in straight sets at singles.

The trend continued in doubles with the teams of Stella Makay/Ariel Toohey, 6-4, 6-1, and Millie Boardman/Eliza Willoughby, 6-2, 6-0, not dropping a set.

Baseball

The CVU varsity baseball team was 2-0 after beating South Burlington and Rutland to start the season last week.

CVU 12, Rutland 0

On Saturday, April 30, went to Rutland and returned with a 12-0 shutout of the Raiders.

Ryan Canty was the winning pitcher, going five innings and giving up three hits and no earned runs. Canty struck out nine.

Travis Stroh was the leader on offense going 2 for 3 at the plate and taking two singles, an RBI, a walk and a stolen base.

CVU scored in every inning but the third.

CVU 7, South Burlington 3

The Redhawks opened the baseball season with a 7-3 win over South Burlington on Tuesday, April 26.

Ollie Pudvar was the winning pitcher, going for six innings. Pudyar gave up two hits and an earned run, but struck out 12 and only walked one.

Stroh was 2 for 3 at the plate with a single, a double and an RBI.

Boys ultimate

The Redhawks also started the season with two wins in boys ultimate.

CVU 12, Burlington 9

On Tuesday, April 26, the Redhawks traveled to Burlington and snatched a 12-9 victory.

The scoring leaders were Zach Spitznagle’s three goals and Jared Kartschoke’s and DJ Steinman’s two goals.

Leo Sarandos and Sam Holmes both threw three assists. Victor Colon and Zach Spitznagle led the way on defense with three passes defended each.

Colon scored the go-ahead goal to make the score 8-7, after which CVU kept the lead for the rest of the game.

“We started out slow and fell into an early deficit at 2-5, after which things stabilized and went into half down 6-7,” coach Syrus Amedore said. “We came out of the half strong taking four points in a row to take a lead of 10-7 and stayed in control for the rest of the game.”

CVU 12, Rice Memorial 6

The Redhawks won 12-6 at Rice on Thursday, April 28. No details about this game were available by press time.

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Sacred Hunter

Considering in the dark — many ‘ifs’ of turkey seduction



Bradley Carleton
CONTRIBUTOR

Okay, I think we’ve really had enough of the April showers thing. I’m ready for the May flowers, and turkeys, and ramps, and fiddleheads, and nettles, and dandelion greens ... and turkeys.

As I write this column, I am fighting to stay awake. It is now 12:30 a.m. and I am hosting my friend, Jesse Lawyer, of Burlington, who is a 100 percent Native Abenaki (which I am sure he will correct me when he sees this piece, that the politically correct spelling of his tribe is “Wabanaki” but I am only recently educated so, for you, my reader, I will “fall on the sword” for both of us.)

Jesse is the chef at Sweetwaters restaurant in downtown Burlington and is one of the most talented wild-game chefs that I have met. He will be in my driveway in just three hours. I have offered to take him turkey hunting tomorrow morning, which seems odd, that an old white man with a bad hip will be guiding a Native American who hasn’t ever hunted “His Majesty, the King of Spring.” We are both a tad out of shape having a bit more in our paunches than we should.

We will head up the mountain, watching each other carefully, monitoring our breathing and taking as many breaks as we need to catch our breath. It will be pitch black as the moon will be at 7 percent waxing crescent with heavy cloud cover. We will reach the top of the ridge around 4:15 a.m. and camouflage ourselves with 3D “leafy-flage” suits, supplemented with small shrubby clippings stuck in the ground in front of us. We will have our backs to a wide tree. And then we will sit in complete silence for the next 45 minutes.

Having scouted the property for the

last three evening and mornings, the two full fan mature toms should begin their proclamations of dominance at about 5:05am — if they gobble at all. I have prepared Jesse by letting him know that even with all the scouting, studying and practice calling, we should curb our optimism to accommodate the reality that none of this plan may work. This isn’t the supermarket where you can walk to the meat department and order up your “free range” bird. This is the real thing. The Hunt. The pursuit of something much deeper than just shooting a big bird.

Hunting the eastern wild turkey tethers us to the land, the sun, moon, planets and the spirit of the bird itself. We will sit quietly (likely my eyes will be closed, and I will be “hunting with my ears”) listening for that first valley-shattering gobble of a boss gobbler screaming on the roost.

From that point on, we will begin a series of calling, starting with a gentle “tree yelp” of the hen still on the roost. When, and if, the tom answers back, we will begin the dialogue that will attempt to convince him that this hen we are imitating is sexy enough for him to consider leaving his harem to come to us. This is exceedingly difficult. The nature of the wild male turkey is to call his hens to him.

He will fly down with a loud cackle and when he hits the forest floor, begin to gather his girls around him. The way nature is supposed to work is that he calls the hens to him. But we are trying to convince him to leave them and visit us. For the next 45-60 minutes we will communicate with him, trying to seduce him away from his flock. Our decoys will be out in front of us, off to one side, so that when, and if, he does come in, he will not be staring at us just beyond the decoys.

If it works as planned, he will try sneaking up and strutting to get our hen decoy to come to him. This is where the jake, or immature male, comes into play. We have a jake decoy set up behind the hen, which portrays the illusion that the tom has



Hunting the eastern wild turkey. Photo by Bradley Carleton

competition. If it works according to plan, he will become infuriated at the young jake. His head will burn fire red, with a robin’s egg blue around his neck and a white at the base. His “snood” (that is the dangly piece of flesh that hangs over his beak,) which depending on the length of this horribly ugly appendage, determines his dominance in the flock. Jakes will recognize his superiority and back down, submissively letting the tom breed the hen. Sometimes, if there are a few jakes in the flock, they will try rush in before the tom gets there. But Jesse and I will wait this one out.

I will call aggressively until I get no return answer. That means he is on his way into the spread. The most effective call at this point in the game is silence. This strategy will aggravate the tom, because he must search out this ready-to-breed hen with his eyes, and as she won’t answer him, it drives him to madness. This psychological

game is played out until either he spots us and turns tail to go back to his flock, or, if we’re lucky, he will come running in. He will stop in a few yards to strut, spit and drum. These are breeding sounds that I have witnessed fully grown men use after too many cocktails in the bars of downtown Burlington many years ago.

But for now, Jesse and I will keep a clear head and watch this magnificent bird dance to the ballad of amore that has played out for centuries. And if, the native “give away” bird presents himself to us in a manner that the Great Spirit would offer to us as a gift, we will participate in the most ancient relationship between man and Mother Earth and accept this gift with honor and gratitude. Blessed be the beasts of the Earth.

Bradley Carleton is executive director of Sacred Hunter.org, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.

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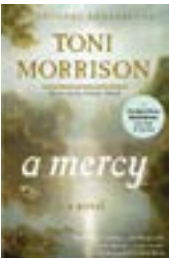
On Books

Welcome May with a trio of gripping novels by women

Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

I have read three good books lately that have almost nothing in common except that they are all written by women. Well, that, and they’re all good.

I am a big fan of Toni Morrison and noticed the other day, while browsing in a favorite out-of-town used bookstore (The Raven, Harvard Square), a novel that I did not recall ever having read. “A Mercy.” Fairly short relative to some of her other books, this one had me at hello.



As in other of Morrison’s later books, reality is sometimes suspended, hazy and/or distorted ... and while this might prove annoying in other less well-rendered works, it only made this read more wonder-full, mysterious, deep and true. Shadowy and sometimes inscrutable, like real life, like night. I have always felt magic in Morrison’s work. When I finish her books, I invariably feel changed in a way that is hard to describe.

“Don’t be afraid,” the book begins. “My telling can’t hurt you in spite of what I have done and I promise to lie quietly in the dark — weeping perhaps or occasionally seeing the blood once more — but I will never again unfold my limbs to rise up and bare teeth.”

Huh? I wasn’t quite sure what was going on here initially. But in no way did my lack of understanding make me want to stop or give up. Au contraire. I dug in and journeyed on, bewitched.

“A Mercy” begins in the first person. The year is 1690 and the narrator is on some kind of errand, it’s not exactly clear what. “My head is lost,” she says, “with the confusion of two things, hunger for you and scare if I am lost. Nothing frights me more than the

errand and nothing is more temptation. From the day you disappear I dream and plot. To learn where you are and how to be there.”

It all makes more sense later when we learn that Jacob Vaark, an Anglo-Dutch trader with a piece of land up North, takes a young slave girl as part of a payment on a debt owed to him by a Maryland plantation owner. Readers will put it together that the young slave girl is the one who opens the novel. Her name, it turns out, is Florens. When Jacob first meets her, she steps from behind her mother’s skirts wearing “way-too-big woman’s shoes,” her “little legs rising like two bramble sticks from the bashed and broken shoes.”

Jacob watches as the woman cradling the small boy on her hip comes forward. “Her voice was barely above a whisper but there was no mistaking its urgency. ‘Please, Senhor. Not me. Take her. Take my daughter.’” Jakob, writes Morrison, was struck by the terror in her eyes. He shook his head thinking, “God help me if this is not the most wretched business.”

It’s tragic, what happens to Florens (and others like her), but there is, as the title suggests, a mercy. To understand, one must read to the end.

At one point, Lina, a young servant woman whom Florens befriends, says, “We never shape the world. The world shapes us.”

I am still pondering this. “A Mercy” is powerful, poetic, transformative. The language is gorgeous — elegiac, elegant, compelling, mysterious, evocative of other realms. I’m glad I happened upon it and took it home. Highly recommend.

The Paris Apartment

Another recommendation: Lucy Foley’s “The Paris Apartment” — which I confess I did not actually read, but rather, listened to. I could not put it down — or perhaps I should say, could not turn it off. A mystery/thriller set in Paris, this novel is head and shoulders

above many others of its genre.

I heard the other day that Foley wrote it while pregnant and later, caring for a newborn — which is odd, I thought when I heard this, as the book is rather dark and at times a tad grisly. But there are some intense mother-daughter relationships, so maybe the pregnancy/early motherhood thing had a subtle influence. Just a thought.

The heroine here is Jess who, pretty much broke and lost in life generally, travels from London, where she has just quit her job as a bartender, to visit her half-brother Ben in his Paris apartment. (Hence, the title.) He has left her a voicemail telling her he will be there when she arrives, nothing unusual — except the voicemail is cut off midstream. A little odd, but not the weirdest thing ever ... but then, when Jess shows up, Ben is nowhere to be seen. And this Paris apartment? Well, it’s in a strikingly upscale building, which Jess soon discovers is filled with quite a bizarre, mismatched and increasingly suspicious assortment of residents.



The characters in this novel are well drawn and the writing is very good. The plot is compelling and fast-paced, the author takes time with descriptions of rooms and places, and the heroine is quite lovable, or so I found her to be. The setting: just the right amount of creepy. So, all in all, I would say this is a first-rate and very satisfying mystery. Whether you ingest it with eyes or ears, I think you will not be disappointed.

Black Cake

I found “Black Cake” by Charmaine Wilkerson a little slow at first, but increasingly interesting and engaging as it went along. I wouldn’t call it a mystery, but it opens with what I would call a very mysterious situation: Eleanor Bennett

has just died and left behind not only a traditional Caribbean black cake (composed of rum-saturated fruits, burnt sugar and a whole host of complex spices and ingredients) with firm instructions on who must (and when and how to) eat it, along with a voice recording in which she shares secrets about her life that leave her two adult children, Byron and Benny, reeling. I mean, they had no idea. No. Idea.

This novel is a story about the past, but it’s also a story about two grownup children living in the present trying to make sense of who their mother was in her life, and who they are in theirs. I’m telling you: this posthumous recording really throws them for a loop. The reader is taken back and forth from their drama (relating to having to hear their mother’s true-life story) to the story of Eleanor herself, which is quite gripping and intense.

Woven into the narrative are some very interesting observations about race, and also about food and its sometimes complex, sometimes controversial origins, and what it means for a food to be “local” and indigenous.

In an author’s note, Wilkerson writes, “It was my personal familiarity with a particular Caribbean food, black cake, that led obliquely to this book. It started me thinking about the emotional weight carried by recipes and other familial markers that are handed down from one generation to the next. Then it had me writing about characters who must hold fast to their sense of self when they learn that their lives have been built on a dubious narrative.”



An interesting, quite unusual book. Like green eggs and ham, I say try it, I think you might like it.

Happy May!

Calendar of Events

Calendar compiled by Mary Landon.

Event listings may be sent to
calendar@thecharlottenews.org
at least two weeks in advance.

Weather cancellations and COVID guidelines
are available on individual websites.

**Garden like a farmer
Begins Thursday, May 5, 5-6:30 p.m.**
Held at Burlington’s Intervale, this comprehensive free workshop series meets bi-weekly through Sept. 15 on Thursday evenings. Learn new techniques, tips and tools to up your gardening game. Perfect for small-scale gardeners, this is a project of Vermont Garden Network. To register, see vtgardens.org.

**Tree tour
Thursday, May 5, 6-7:30 p.m.**
Join the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program to celebrate Arbor Day during the entire month of May. The kick-off event is an evening walk exploring Middlebury College trees. Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist at Middlebury College, will lead a tour examining tree health, urban tree challenges and more. The tour is open to all tree enthusiasts and involves a 1.5 hour walk around campus. This event is weather dependent. For more info see vtcommunityforestry.org. An interesting history of Arbor Day can be found at arborday.org.

**Lavendula live
Thursday, May 5, 6-8:30 p.m.**
Free live music at Shelburne Vineyard with Vermont folk trio Lavendula. Unwind with some wine and friends. No tickets required. Outside show if weather is nice; bring blankets or lawn chairs. The New Deal food cart menu has offerings for most diets. Percentage of bar sales benefits VT Works for Women. For more info, see shelburnevineyard.com or call 802-985-8222.

**Play every town
Friday, May 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**
Pianist David Feurzeig has performed in

Tree planting

**Sunday, May 8,
9 a.m.-noon or
noon-3 p.m.**

The Lewis Creek Association is planting trees on 3.5 acres along the creek in Ferrisburgh to provide shading and a woody buffer along the creek. Trees will improve water quality and in-stream habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. Volunteers needed to sign up for a planting shift by emailing Kate Kelly at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com.



locations around the world. The COVID pandemic and airplane flights, which he realized were not sustainable or responsible due to the effects of flying on the climate, brought a halt to his travel. He vowed to perform a free concert in every one of the 251 towns in his home state, Vermont, by either taking public transport or using his solar-powered EV. His first performance is at the University of Vermont Recital Hall, featuring a program of Beethoven, Bach, Scarlatti and some ragtime. For more info, see playeverytown.com.

**Logger’s expo
Friday and Saturday, May 6 & 7**
The Champlain Valley Exposition hosts the Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo with a wealth of exhibiting companies, equipment suppliers and forest services on display. From 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday. For more info, see northernlogger.com.

**Bike swap
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon**
Frog Hollow Bikes in Middlebury holds a bike swap for all types of bikes; used bikes should be dropped off by May 6 for the sale. For

more info, see froghollowbikes.com.

**Bike swap
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.**
Drop off used bikes in good condition by May 6 for the Onion River Outdoors bike swap in Montpelier. Or just shop the deals at the swap. Big selection for all ages. For more info, see Events at onionriver.com.

**CHARLOTTE
Green Up Day
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.**
Put on your boots, gloves and reflective clothing for some roadside beautification. Bring electronic waste, including small kitchen appliances, to Charlotte Central School for recycling. Sign up in advance to clean a certain area, or show up at the school on Saturday to get an assigned route. Coordinators Ken Spencer and Kim Findlay will answer any questions you might have. Filled bags of trash are tossed at the school. For more info or to sign up, see the Charlotte Green Up Day website.

**Rokeby opens
Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.**
Rokeby Museum now opens for weekends

only, and starting May 28 is open seven days a week for the season. Experience the landscape that inspired the writings of Rowland Robinson, and learn about this National Historic Landmark that played such a role during the years of the Underground Railroad. Go for a self-guided or guided tour of the buildings. Enjoy the trails. For more info, see rokeby.org.

**Wildflower hike
Saturday, May 7**
The Breadloaf Section of the Green Mountain Club hosts an easy hike at Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh. For time and pre-registration, call leader Annette at 610-442-6348.

**Chamber singers
Saturday, May 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**
The Aurora Chamber Singers’ spring concert is held at the College Street Congregational Church in Burlington. Their performance features Mendelssohn’s “Hear My Prayer,” Dvorak’s Mass in D Major, and the “Alleluia” from Handel’s third Coronation Anthem. Conductor is David Neiweem. For more info or tickets, see aurorachambersingers.org.

**Mt. Philo hike
Saturday, May 7**
Judy Chaves, author of “Secrets of Mt. Philo,” leads this history-focused guided hike in our local State Park. Hike is free with limited registration. For more info and time, email chaves@gmavt.net.

**Interfaith gathering
Sat. & Sun., May 7 & 8**
The Thomas Keating Interspiritual Seminar takes place in Shelburne at All Souls Interfaith Gathering on Meach Farm Rd. A panel discussion is held each afternoon, and a special guest speaker presents at the Music and Spirit service on May 8 at 5 p.m. Tickets available for the panels at All Souls or at the door. Sunday’s service requires no ticket and is open to all. For more info, call 802-985-3819, ext. 102, or visit allsoulsinterfaith.org.

Library News



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Keeping reading easy on your eyes. If you or someone you know needs assistance with reading due to vision impairment, there's good news: The latest books are now available in large print. Stop by the library to sample the selection or request titles.

If you'd like to consider an audiobook option, you can also try out the Talking Book demo at the library. This playback equipment reads audiobooks (called talking books) and magazines, which are circulated to patrons by postage-free mail.



Large print books available now.

Programs and activities

Please note that some programs take place at the library, some on Zoom and some offer both options.

'Reuniting America' film and discussion Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

Join Braver Angels Vermont chair, Lincoln Earle-Centers, for a discussion of this film that launched the Braver Angels work. The film introduces the small-town community members who took part in the first Braver Angels workshop following the 2016 election — their political differences, what they said to each other, what they learned. It's a great preparation for the Charlotte workshop on May 15 that launched the organization's mission to "bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic." Register for the in-

person event at bit.ly/3vkhBY8 and for Zoom at bit.ly/38ky7zw.

Short Story Selections Thursday, May 12, 1- 2 p.m. via Zoom

Join library director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Register at bit.ly/ShortStorySpring2022.

May garden chat: Getting started Friday, May 13, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Join seed library coordinators Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton to share fun progress and seek answers to puzzling questions about your vegetable garden as it starts up this year. Register at bit.ly/3kr0VsM.

'Depolarizing Within' workshop Sunday, May 15, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

The "Depolarizing Within" workshop is designed to foster skills to help you lessen the effects of polarization when you encounter them in your political conversations. Note that by "polarization," we are not referring to healthy disagreements over issues or philosophy; we are talking about how we regard large groups of ordinary people on the other side of the political aisle. Register at braverangels.org/event/depolarizing-within-16/.

Mystery Book Group: 'Arsenic & Adobo' Monday, May 16, 10 a.m.

When Lila Macapagal moves back home to recover from a horrible breakup, her life seems to be following all the typical rom-com tropes. She's tasked with saving her Tita Rosie's failing restaurant, and she must deal with a group of matchmaking aunties who shower her with love and judgment. But when a notoriously nasty food critic (who happens to be her ex-boyfriend) drops dead moments after a confrontation with Lila, her life quickly swerves from a Nora Ephron romp to an Agatha Christie case. Join the discussion via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/84467010512.

Preschool story time resumes Tuesdays, April 5-May 17, 10-11 a.m.

Join us Tuesday mornings in the library for preschool story time fun with stories, crafts and play time. The program will be held in the program room unless it is warm enough to be held on the library porch. All children two years of age and over and their guardians must wear a mask at all times per library policy when indoors. No registration required.

Be a pollinator ally Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.

Join us to learn how we can all help put

Charlotte on the "Pollinator Pathways" map. Julia Parker-Dickerson, who designs and manages the pollinator gardens in East Charlotte, brings her experience to help plan next steps forward in our public spaces and personal gardens. This is a hybrid event. No registration for in-person participation. Register here for Zoom participation bit.ly/3KEfpR7.

Men's book group: 'The Lincoln Highway' by Amor Towles

Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

In June 1954, 18-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother and head west where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join the discussion: bit.ly/34m2Udk.

ReUse Workshop Thursday, May 19, 2-4 p.m.

Follow up the senior center film showing and put your reuse skills to the test. Can you make a dog toy from a T-shirt or a coaster from a tile set? You can — and all materials available during this drop-in workshop session. In-person event, no registration necessary.

Pollinator potential workshop Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.-noon

Do you want to promote and protect pollinators in your garden and yard? Chloe Silverman from the Charlotte Energy Committee is leading a family-fun workshop to create wildflower seed balls and Mason Bee "hotels." All materials supplied. In-person event, no registration necessary.



After school maker challenge: Make it fly Thursday, May 26, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Make catapults, paper airplanes and more. How far can your catapult launch a marshmallow? How long does your airplane stay in the air? For 4th grade



and up. Register at eventbrite.com/e/after-school-maker-challenge-let-it-fly-tickets-330731325297.

Ongoing programs

Free little art gallery opening

Come by the circulation desk to visit the smallest art gallery in Charlotte. Feel free to take a piece that you like, add a piece of your own artwork, or both! All media is welcome, as long as it fits inside. Use your own materials or pick up the April Take & Make for supplies to make your own masterpiece.

Knitting drop-in Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.

Swing by for knitting night at the library. Dust off those old projects you've been wanting to finish, start a new project, or even pick up a new skill. Jessica won't be able joining this month but come to knit with fellow fiber enthusiasts.

Book Chat Fridays beginning May 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Join Margaret Friday mornings on Zoom to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Margaret selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Register at bit.ly/3BtebDj.

Library contact information

Margaret Woodruff, director
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian
Phone: 802-425-3864

Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For information about agenda and Zoom access, please contact the library director.

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Senior Center News

Hiking, Italian, painting — variety is spice of center life



Lori York
DIRECTOR

Interested in getting outdoors with others for a spring hike?

Have you always wanted to visit Italy, but the language is a barrier?

Looking to try your hand at painting?

Check out the Charlotte Senior Center this month for a wide variety of programs from a spring hike at Shelburne Bay, a beginner Italian class, and a painting workshop where no prior painting experience is needed.

Registration open for May programs

The Charlotte Senior Center May newsletter is now available. Stop by the senior center to pick up a copy. It is also available on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Follow “charlotteseniorcentervt” on Facebook and Instagram for a glimpse into the activities happening at the center.

Upcoming events and programs

Making a difference with Hands to Honduras Tela

Wednesday, May 11, 1 p.m.
Hands to Honduras Tela is a service group of dedicated volunteers of all ages who travel to Tela, Honduras, to create positive change. Projects are specifically focused on: maternal-child health; educational improvements; medical/dental brigade; community assistance. Linda Gault Gilbert of Charlotte, director of Hands to Honduras Tela, will share photos and stories of how the love of service creates happiness for all involved. Her presentation will show how one small group can accomplish big projects successfully and have fun while doing it.

Italian for total beginners

Fridays, May 13-June 17, 10-11 a.m.
Do you dream of traveling to Italy and ordering your morning cappuccino in a sun-drenched piazza? Feeling tongue-tied? Then Nicole Librandi’s class is for you. Now is the time to begin your study of Italian — and have fun along the way.

‘CODA’ screening

Friday, May 13, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
This award-winning film revolves around the tensions that arise when the only hearing member of a deaf family (a CODA, child of deaf adults) discovers that she has a talent for singing and is torn between the obligations she feels to her family and the pursuit of her own dreams. ,

Coffee & Canvas — Monet-inspired paintings

Friday, May 20, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Unlike traditional Paint & Sips, this “Coffee & Canvas” class with Sherry Senior will allow you to explore and create your own unique painting. But don’t worry — there will be plenty of inspiration from paintings of water lilies, flowers and landscapes with lots of instruction. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included. .

Birding expedition with Hank Kaestner

Wednesday, May 18, 9 a.m. departure
Please meet at the center 10 minutes prior to the 9 a.m. departure so the group can carpool to the location for spectacular bird watching. Group size is limited. Registration required by email to cscbirding@gmavt.net and include your name and phone number. Free.

‘Reuse! Because You Can’t Recycle the Planet’, Wednesday, May 18, 1 p.m.

“Reuse! Because You Can’t Recycle the Planet” is a documentary that follows reuse expert Alex Eaves’ cross-country adventure as he discovers endless reuse solutions for our waste problem that are easy, sustainable and fun. (Spoiler alert: It features visits to Conant Custom Brass and the VT Peace and Justice Center.) The documentary is about 60 minutes and will be followed with a discussion led by Chittenden Solid Waste District staff.

Spring hikes in the Champlain Valley

Tuesday, May 24, 9 a.m. departure
Join Mike Yantachka for the first of four spring hikes. The group will meet at Shelburne Bay in Shelburne. Hike starts at the parking lot on Bay Road. The forest trail will take us to the beach near the Lake Champlain Yacht Club. Depending on the wishes of the group, the group can either stay



Locals participated at Coffee and Canvas at the Charlotte Senior Center. Each painted their own unique Sunflowers with the direction of Sherry Senior.

on the easier, more level trail or climb Allen Hill for great views of the bay. Please bring water and good hiking shoes. Registration required by Friday, May 20. Free.

If you are interested in leading additional hiking trips or co-leading the spring hikes, please email Mike Yantachka at myantachka.dfa@gmail.com.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday lunches

Served weekly. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m., or when there is no more food. Suggested lunch donation of \$5.

Monthly men’s breakfast

Thursday, May 12, 7-9:30 a.m.
On the second Thursday of the month, the men gather for breakfast and conversation. This month the guest speaker is Fritz Horton, who is a sailplane and glider pilot. He will share his gliding experiences — and he’s actually going to plan to bring his plane to the Senior Center parking lot (all folded up, of course). Register by Tuesday, May 10, by contacting Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com. Suggested breakfast donation of \$5.

Weekly Grab & Go Meals by Age Well

Pick up on Thursdays between 10–11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center.

May menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Please note new pickup time (10–11 a.m.) for meals. Registration required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Lori York at 802-425-6371 or lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Free.

Exercise classes

The senior center offers daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activities levels. A complete list of exercise programs is on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Questions?

The senior center staff would love to meet with you. The center is located at 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 802-425-6345 or email Lori York, director, lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Residents from other communities are always welcome.

Peanut butter was once just for wealthy but now can be had in senior center cookies

SUSAN OHANIAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Monday Munch, May 9: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food is gone.

Menu: Chicken and barley soup with spring vegetables, green salad, peanut butter cookies.

Remember: These munches are popular, and when the food is gone, it’s gone. While the food lasts, a \$5 donation is appreciated. Conversation around the dining room is lively, but takeout is available.

Peanut butter doesn’t even rate an entry in “The Oxford Companion to Food,” but per capita, the U.S. is one of the largest consumers in the world.

Touted for its nutritional value and served at expensive health care institutes such as the one founded by John Henry Kellogg, the breakfast cereal magnate, peanut butter was known as a food for the wealthy. Then it gained common popularity during World War I as a meat substitute and has been going strong ever since.

Thursday, May 12, Grab-&Go Meal, Pick Up: 10-11 a.m.

Menu: Roast pork with raisin sauce, mashed sweet potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, apple crisp.

Be sure to register by Monday. Call

or email: 802-425-6371 or lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org

Monday Munch May 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We offer the May Monday Mystery. We’re only telling what’s for dessert: Apple bread pudding with blueberry sauce.

As for the rest, think of Doris Day’s keynoter: “Que Sera Sera.” Many will remember this upbeat tune: lyrics.com/lyric/15708487/Que+Sera+Sera

“The Man Who Knew Too Much,” the Hitchcock film in which she introduced the song, offered a darker version (after 5-second ad): youtube.com/watch?v=91hU6LDJoA

Day sang the song frequently, and if you manage to stick with this clip to the end, you’ll hear her duo with Arthur Godfrey: ukulelemagazine.com/stories/arthur-godfrey-doris-day-the-glass-bottom-boat

Not surprisingly, what it lacks for in attention to peanut butter, “The Oxford Companion to Food” makes up for with a fulsome entry for bread pudding, noting that there are common and rich versions around the globe — in Egypt, the Middle East, India, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and more — varying from a way to use stale bread to offering filo pastry or bread fried in ghee.



So come to the senior center and enjoy bread pudding a la Charlotte, pudding with blueberry sauce on top.

Thursday, May 19, Grab-&Go Meal Pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, winter squash, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pudding.

This sounds rather like Thanksgiving in May. Enjoy and know that although there is no charge, Age Well always appreciates donations.

Classifieds

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

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EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

CHARLOTTE

Pansies for mothers
Sat. & Sun., May 7 & 8,
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Horsford Gardens and Nursery encourages you to visit on Mother’s Day weekend with Mom and take home a free pack of pansies. One per family while supplies last.

Warbler warm-up
Sunday, May 8, 7-9 a.m.

Join a group of birders and identify warblers and other migrating birds in the area. Meet at the Watershed Center, Plank Road in Bristol. This event is put on by ottercreekaudubon.org. For more info, email ocasvt@gmail.com.

Mother’s Day breakfast
Sunday, May 8, 8-10 a.m.

Full breakfast with delicious choices for all tastes. Bring Mom or Grandma to this family event sponsored by the Vergennes Knights of Columbus. St. Peter’s Parish Hall welcomes all to this breakfast at 85 Maple St. in Vergennes. Take-out is available by calling 802-877-2367.

CHARLOTTE

Music for mothers
Sunday, May 8, 2-2:30 p.m.

Classical pianist Annemieke McLane, from Sharon, will perform a free concert, Music With Mothers in Mind, at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Donations will benefit Malayaka House, an organization supporting children in Uganda. For more info, see charlotteucc.org.

Ukrainian desserts
Tuesday, May 10, 5:30-7 p.m.

Join anthropologist and cook, Anna Mays, as she introduces several dessert traditions from Ukraine in this free live webinar. Donations encouraged; proceeds go directly to World Central Kitchen. Participation instructions sent with registration; see education at citymarket.coop.

Plants for birds
Wednesday, May 11, 8-9 a.m.

Native plants in our gardens and lawn make a big difference for the health of birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. Horsford Gardens and Nursery hosts Gwendolyn Causer of Audubon

Vermont for an educational outing for both gardeners and birders. Learn about what plants grow best in your area while benefitting birds and providing habitat. Program is free; a portion of native plant sales goes to Audubon Vermont. Register at horsfordnursery.com.

Pet loss healing
Thursday, May 12, noon-1 p.m.

Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society, offers a presentation entitled, “Your healing journey from the loss of your beloved pet,” led by Don Glauber, certified bereavement companion. Share stories and support with others who grieve the loss of a beloved pet companion. Zoom seminar is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required by emailing Hannah Manley at hmanley@homewardboundanimals.org.

Dog obedience
Thursdays, May 12- June 16

This class is designed to provide enjoyment and interaction for both you and your pet. Experienced trainer Jim Warden leads the classes from 6-7 p.m. at Hinesburg Town Hall. He is known to have a special connection to the animals, even if they are challenging. Leave your dog home for the first class. Sign up at hinesburgvt.myrec.com.

Waterbury birding
Friday, May 13, 7-9 a.m.

North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier leads a trip to Waterbury Reservoir, a location known for its birding opportunities. Appropriate for all birding abilities. Group meets onsite; dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. To register for this free program, or for directions, please see calendar at northbranchnaturecenter.org.

All about lilacs
Saturday, May 14,
10 a.m.-noon

Tour the lilac collection at the University of Vermont Horticulture Farm with caretaker Kitty Werner. Discuss varieties, when to plant, how to prune, as well as sun and soil requirements. Free program takes place at 65 Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington. For more info, see fhfvvt.org.

Big truck day
Saturday, May 14,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring the family to a display of construction vehicles, tractors, fire trucks and other fascinating work vehicles behind Hinesburg Community School. Visitors are encouraged to touch and explore the vehicles. Enjoy a BBQ lunch, bake sale and music. All proceeds from entrance fees and food support the Hinesburg Nursery School. For more info, call 802-482-3827.

Bella Voce chorus
Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

A range of musical offerings, from Mozart to Eric Whitacre, are on the program of this local women’s chorus. This live event, Celebrating Spring, will be held at the College Street Congregational Church in Burlington. Proof of vaccination and masks are required. For more info, or to buy tickets, see bellavocevt.org.

Global Big Day
Saturday, May 14

Keep track of birds in your area, for 10 minutes or 10 hours, between 12:01 a.m. to midnight on May 14. Birders from all countries submit sightings virtually through eBird, a free online data collection site. A free phone app is also available. Data gathered helps scientists understand bird population changes and migration patterns. Enter your lists by May 17 to be included in the 2022 count. For more info, see ebird.org.

Chainsaws for women
Sunday, May 15,
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For those of you who would like a basic chainsaw safety and operation course for women only, this is for you. Held at the Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, the class goes over parts, maintenance, and safe use of a chainsaw in a comfortable, empowering setting. The class is organized by Game of Logging and requires participants to bring substantial personal protective equipment. For more info or to register see merckforest.org.

Community chorus
Sunday, May 15, 3-4 p.m.

For the first time in over two years, the Middlebury College Community Chorus presents its annual concert. This year’s event celebrates the beauty of the earth and its people. The chorus brings together students, alumni, staff, faculty and community members for the joy of singing. This free event is at the Mahaney

Arts Center on the Middlebury campus. For more info, call 802-443-6433.

Sunset picnic
Thursday, May 19,
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) for a BYO picnic at Otter Creek Gorge Preserve on Morgan Horse Farm Rd. in Weybridge. There will be outdoor games, a campfire and live banjo music. Bring blanket and picnic. Rain date is Thursday, May 26. For more info, call 802-388-1007.

Music in Richmond
Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m.

Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Maya de Vitry will perform onstage at the Richmond Congregational Church. Formerly a member of The Stray Birds, she brings her dynamic and powerful new album to listeners, thanks to Valley Stage Productions. Virginian indie folk singer Alexa Rose opens. Tickets for live or streaming performances are available at valleystage.net, or call 802-434-4563.

Find more events on
The Charlotte News website
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