Bee aware

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.
Mother-daughter art show at Charlotte Senior Center

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

**“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

Vol. 64, No.22 May 5, 2022

Charlotte News

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

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.”

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.

Blew 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.

“We’re trying to create is large gatherings where these conversations can happen,” Wegman said. “We’re wide open to suggestions.”

Charlotte Central School co-principal leaving

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

Town considers a proposal for seeking ‘path to itself’
Planning commission has been churning over land-use 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 concerned, but not with the consequences 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 helped 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 there’s the philosophical conundrum that would have knocked Descartes on his keister: What’s a food truck?

“The 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

Let’s say someone wants to bring in a carnival, one of those full-blown carnivals with mechanical rides, 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 regulations will apply to events that are not permanent but regularly recouping 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 for temporary, I think seasonal would be a good way to think of it,” Lewack said.

Commission member Bob Bloch warned that the planning commission must be “optimizing its wheels” working on these regulations when the selectboard might ultimately pass ordinance to regulate such things as food trucks?

Lewack said that would be something that 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 Kya 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 roosters,” Wegman said. However the regulations develop, Lewack doesn’t see the town “going onto private property with a midway and the whole nine yards?”

Let’s say we have a carnival, one of those full-blown carnivals with mechanical rides, a midway and the whole nine yards?

— Larry Lewack

Heart & Soul statements. In the final phase, the planning commission has been helping people talk about what they like about their town instead of what they want to fix.

Heart & Soul is a method of starting the conversation, and “posted in town offices and by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news volunteers on matters related to the town and the people who live here.

Lewack doesn’t see the town “going onto private property with a midway and the whole nine yards?”

It all flows from that question.

Lewack 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 community engagement across the town. In the second phase, residents’ stories are collected and the teams work on Heart & Soul statements identifying what matters most and what people 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 memorials to remind town officials about what matters most to residents and the future they want for their community,” Lewack said.

Blich 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 toasted 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 for working in small towns for small cities. 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, 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.

Farm-Crafted Compost™

Compost and topsoil for gardening connoisseurs

Convenient Low-Cost Delivery

Also Available:

Topsoil Plus – Raised Bed Mix: A weed-free blend of compost, silt, peat moss, high-carbon wool ash and broad spectrum rock dust.

Topsoil Plus – Lawn/Flower Mix: A weed-free blend of compost and silt for thriving flower beds and lawns.

Champlain Valley Compost Co. Serving NV Vermont gardeners since 1996

363-3930 | www.champlainvalleycompost.com

Silver pendant lost during Repair Café at Charlotte Congregational Church on Saturday, 4:30. Lost pendant 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!
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 is misinterpreted, over generalized, and lacks scientific rigor and misstates several important aspects of these sites.

First, injections at InSite accounted for less than six percent of all injection drug use in their service area. Second, there are very few 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

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

Yantaschka 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, MikeYantaschka.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 livable environment of Vermont. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Rep. Mike Yantaschka

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

Letters to the Editor

Mother's Day is This Sunday!

Shop with the gals for Jewelry, Clothing, Gifts & More!

Free gift wrapping!

Happy Mother's Day, All Eyes On You Mom!

a little something

Jewelry & Gifts

Shelburne bay plaza
2989 shelburne rd  | 985.9809
aitlesomethingvt.com
Next to the Shelburne Meat Market

Stone's Throw Wine Club Alert!

Sign-up on our website:
stonesthrowpizzavi.com

Happy Mother’s Day, All Eyes On You Mom!
**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 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 charlottevrgreenupday.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 roadides, 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.
Providing fresh food for those in need with Farm Stand Together

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 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.”
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’s Committe on Temporary Shelter: “Samantha” and her children came to COTS after fleeing a domestic abuse situation. She was scared and suffering from compound 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. 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 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 system 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 system 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 system 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 system 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.
Community

Clean, drain, dry boats and gear in April and May

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.”


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

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.

Update the look of your home or business

- Quality Craftsmanship
- Courteous Customer Care
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Free Estimate
- Lead Certified
- Fully Insured

802-345-2038 or classichadespainting@gmail.com
Local references available.

KLEY LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Full Service Landscape Installation
Stone Work—Walls, Steps, Walks & Patios
Plantings
Tree Spade
Excavation—Ponds, Waterfalls, Grading, Land Clearing, Minit-Excavation on Call

Est. 1993
Deedle Kiley • 425-2882

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.

Rolling through Charlotte

Photo courtesy lcbp.org

Photo by Eric Buttery

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

"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.”


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.
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.

The online Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week toolkit is available at go.uvm.edu/ eab-toolkit to provide ideas and information. It contains a media kit containing 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 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, Brunswic

May 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Join Abenaki craftsperson and basket makers to learn about the significance of black ash trees in Abenaki culture and their use as basketmaking material. Come help pound ash tree 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/eab-events. To list an event in your community, contact Ginger Nickerson, UVM Extension forest pest and invasive species coordinator, at gnickerson@uvm.edu.

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 complex as our forests.

While humans and other animals are unitary organisms — with a single body and brain, and as complex as our forests.

With some tree species, 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 ramet can sprout 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 1.3 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 or stop by to learn how to sustain ourselves while also sustaining the trees, the forests and the living landscape to which we are connected.
First-time gardeners need to know to start with a plan

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

Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

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 (psu.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 ( Horticulture/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.

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

Photo by Susan Sim

Walkabout

Advertise with us and reach over 4,000 potential customers!
│Email ads@TheCharlotteNews.org

WE CAN DESIGN YOUR AD!

New Construction & Renovations.
Quality Work. Cheerfully Done!

Fenn & Company
802-734-0353

The Charlotte News
10 • May 5, 2022 • The Charlotte News
Gardening

Lake Front Painting, LLC
Fine Interior & Exterior Finishes.
Charlotte, VT
Efficient & Professional.
Collin Branley
802-999-2999
1735 Lake Road, Charlotte
collinbranley@lakefrontpainting.com | www.LakeFrontPainting.com

Fully insured. Free estimates.
Call to discuss your project.
The Grange holding Memorial Day remembrance ceremony

Charlotte Central School

School fields alive with record number of active students

Harvest The Sun

With as little as 1/10 of an acre you can power up with clean energy or host a solar system for community use.

You can use the rest of your land for grazing, growing or gathering!

We have options we'd like to show you.

Acorn Painting

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR!

We are a fully insured painting company that serves the Addison and Chittenden County areas.

Call 802-872-9600 to schedule a FREE site evaluation or visit allearthrenewables.com

The Charlotte News  •  May 5, 2022  •  11
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.

Mattias 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 our 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 as 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. Dickey 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 strategies,” 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 Schwalwelck 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, 6-4, 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. Pudvar gave up two runs and five hits and no earned runs.

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.

Lael Satandos and Sam Holmes both threw three assists. Victor Colon and Zach Spitznagle led the way on defense with three passes defensed 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 Amadore 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.
Sacred Hunter

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

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 Carleton, of Burlington, who is a 100 percent Native Abenaki (which is fine 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 even 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 5:05 a.m. and Jesse will be in my driveway in just three hours. If it works as planned, he will try to seduce him away from his flock. But for now, Jesse and I will keep a clear dialogue that will attempt to convince him that this hen we are courting 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 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 decay 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 competition. If it works according to plan, he will become infatuated 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 many times before. 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 relationship between man and Mother Earth. The Hunt. The pursuit of something much deeper than just shooting a big bird.

The Hunt.

Burlington many years ago.

For the next 45-60 minutes we will communicate with him, trying to seduce him away from his flock.

Our decoys will be 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 decay 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 competition. If it works according to plan, he will become infatuated 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
Calendar of Events

On Books

Katherine Arthaud

I have read three good books lately that have also allowed me to think about how they are all written by women. Well, that, I have read three good books lately that have also allowed me to think about how they are all written by women. Well, that, I have read three good books lately that have also allowed me to think about how they are all written by women. Well, that, I have read three good books lately that have also allowed me to think about how they are all written by women. Well, that, I have read three good books lately that have also allowed me to think about how they are all written by women.

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. The trees are a mix of native trees and shrubs and a wooly butterfly along the creek. Trees will improve water quality and in-stream habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. Volunteers needed to sign up for planning shift by emailing Kelly Lewis at kelly.rollback@gmail.com.

Tree swap

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon or noon-3 p.m.

Drop off used bikes in good condition by May 6 for the Onion River Outdoors bike swap. Big selection for all ages. For more info, see rokeby.org.

Rokeby Museum now opens for weekends

Put on your boots, gloves and reflective clothing for some road-side beautification. Bring electronic waste, including small kitchen appliances, to Charlotte Central School for recycling. Sign up in advance to help sort materials. For more info, email aclark@_ARRD.org.

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. The trees are a mix of native trees and shrubs and a wooly butterfly along the creek. Trees will improve water quality and in-stream habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. Volunteers needed to sign up for planning shift by emailing Kelly Lewis at kelly.rollback@gmail.com.
Library has ways to keep reading easy on the eyes

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 Equipment reads audiobooks (called talking books) and magazines, which are circulated to patrons by postage-free mail.

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 the film that launched the Braver Angels movement. Join seed library coordinators Karen Tuninga and Linda Hamilton to share fun and seek answers to puzzling questions about your vegetable garden as it starts up this year. Register at bit.ly/3KrVxW3.

‘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 bravangelgs.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 the typical rom-com tropes. She’s tasked with saving her Tita Rose’s failing restauranteur and she must deal with a group of matchmaking aunts 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 us62web.zoom.us/j/84467016512.

Preschool story time resumes Tuesdays, April 5-May 17, 10:10 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.
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 wildlife seed balls and Mason Bee “hotels.” All materials supplied. In-person event, no registration necessary.

Pollinator potential workshop Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.-noon
Do you want to protect and promote pollinators in your garden and yard? Chloe Silverman from the Charlotte Energy Committee is leading a family-fun workshop to create wildlife 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, 3:15-4:35 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-33971325297.

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 Wednesday, 6:30-7 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 authors by Amor Towles. Register at bit.ly/34m2Udk.

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.

Large print books available now.

To Advertise in The Charlotte News
Contact ads@TheCharlotteNews.org

New reason to smile:
One appointment = One new crown
If you need a crown, there’s no need for two or three appointments and a week or two of waiting. Shelburne Dental now has CEREC® digital technology, which measures your mouth’s need with the highest level of precision and efficiency for impeccable and immediate results!

One appointment. One crown. One beautiful smile.

Shelburne Dental Group
Dr. Nathan Bouchard | Dr. Dan Melo Shelburne Shopping Park www.shelburnedental.com (802) 985-3500

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

**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 fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@charlotteneighbors.org. Need a fresh start to 2022? Let Lafayette Painting give your home a beautiful new look. Our painters can do a lot in a day. LafayettePainting123.com or call 802-863-5397 to hear about our winter discount.

**THE CHARLOTTE NEWS: FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE**

In addition to our professional staff, as many as 170 people provide stories, photos and commentaries to The Charlotte News each year.

Join us! Send your story ideas, commentaries and great photos of Charlotte to news@charlotteneighbors.org. Let your voice be heard.
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
Malaya House, an organization
supporting children in Uganda.
For more info, see charlottenews.
group.

Ukrainian desserts
Tuesday, May 10, 5:30-7 p.m.
Join anthropologist and cook,
Anna Mays, as she introduces
desert traditions from
Ukraine in this free live webinar.
Donations encouraged; proceeds
go directly to World Central
Kitchen. Participation instructions
sent by 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,
bears 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
benefiting 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,
“Young 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
registration is free and open to
the public. Pre-registration
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 birthing
Friday, May 13, 7-9 a.m.
North Branch Nature Center
in Montpelier leads a trip to
Waterbury Reservoir, a
location known for its birthing
opportunities. Appropriate
for all birthing 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
fhvt.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,
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.
Singersongwriter 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 singer각
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
www.charlottenewsvt.org