

# The Charlotte News

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## Charlotte zoning administrator turnover saga continues

Scooter MacMillan Editor

Six years and eight zoning administrators. The saga of Charlotte's difficulties in hiring and keeping a zoning administrator continues.

On Monday, June 6, at a special meeting of the selectboard dedicated to an executive session to discuss a personnel matter, the board reconvened in public session and voted unanimously to advertise for a new zoning administrator.

Current zoning administrator Keith Oborne has resigned.

Some say Oborne's resignation is further evidence of something wrong in Charlotte's town government or at least in its planning and zoning office.

Others, including town administrator Dean Bloch, believe the turnover of zoning administrators is consistent with what other Vermont towns are experiencing in having trouble hanging onto and filling that position.

"The current zoning administrator's performance has been excellent," said Bloch, who neglected to talk or email about the situation, in a social media post. "He is leaving for personal reasons; he was not asked to leave."

Zoning administrator might be the hardest town job, Bloch said: "There are constant time pressures, complex town and state regulations that require interpretation, conflicting goals between parties and occasionally difficult personalities. The permitting and enforcement processes can be stressful for all parties, and this can bring out the less pleasant side of people going through the process. And sometimes doing a good job means taking unpopular positions."

He included in his post a partial timeline of Charlotte zoning administrators since 2013: Jeannine McCrumb (December 2013-April 2016), Aaron Brown (March 2018-July 2019) and Wendy Pelletier (April 2021-December 2021).

His timeline left out Joe Rheaume, a former Colchester police officer who began filling in at the position after McCrumb left; Lee Krohn, current Shelburne town manager who was formerly with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission which loaned him to temporarily work in the position during the summer of 2017; Daniel Morgan (July 2019-December 2020); and town planner Larry Lewack, who also filled in as zoning administrator after he was hired in January 2021 until Pelletier was hired three months later. The positions of zoning administrator and town planner were combined for a while, but after Morgan was pressured to resign because of performance issues, the selectboard decided the two jobs were too much for one person and the positions were separated. At the time of Pelletier's resignation, the reason given was that she had two bedridden family members and the pressure of helping with their care and fulfilling her job responsibilities was too much. During the current controversy, there have been allegations that the pressure of balancing work and care for her family members wasn't the sole reason for Pelletier's leaving. At the zoning board meeting on Nov. 17, 2021, Eli Lesser-Goldsmith, who was



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Above: Charlotte Central School principal Jen Roth takes a selfie with graduating Levi Russell after handing him his diploma. Below: Graduates waiting for their turn to get their matriculation certification.

### **Eight graders bid adieu to Charlotte Central School**

Scooter MacMillan Editor

On Thursday night, June 9, 44 students graduated from the eighth grade at Charlotte Central School, an occasion that was marked with just the right amounts of pomp, circumstance and humor.

Departing co-principal Stephanie Summer complimented the graduates on leading the way as the school emerged from the past few unusually grim years and helping to bring back social gatherings like concerts, full sports seasons, the spring musical — and that night's graduation.

"We are happy that you were able to experience these events in your final year here, and we appreciate the energy and the joy that you brought back to Charlotte Central School," Sumner said.

"We're going to miss you as a group and as individuals," principal Jennifer Roth said.

Instead of having the staff sing to the graduates as has happened at past graduations, eighth grade chorus students gathered as a group to start a new tradition, singing as part of the ceremony, music and choral teacher Monica Littlefield said. "I asked the students, 'So, do you want people to be happy and excited about your future after graduation or do you want to make them cry?" Littlefield said.



Naturally, the students unanimously chose to sing a song called "Fly Away Home," guaranteed to have some in the audience crying.

One of those affected by the chorus' performance was school counselor Betsy Lloyd, who commented between tears about how special the graduates had been in dealing with some tough pandemic years and shared a quote, "Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path to the best things that will ever happen to us." Graduating eighth grader Ceci Scriver brought the humor when she reflected that it seemed impossible that they would soon be learning to drive.

Scriver got a big laugh when she said, "I don't think I should be in charge of a car, let alone high school."

An even bigger laugh came towards the end of the handing out of diplomas.

When Levi Russell's time to go up to the podium came, he paused to take a selfie.

SEE **ZONING ADMIN** PAGE 2

But he couldn't get one over on the principal. After handing Russell his diploma, Roth whipped out her cell phone and snapped a selfie of the two of them together. Talk about a photographic memory.

## **Mudge declares candidacy for Vermont Senate**

#### Scooter MacMillan Editor

Having worked in Africa for 13 years trying to help countries build democracies and having young kids helped persuade Lewis Mudge to run for the Charlotte Selectboard. Now, those same experiences have induced him into a run for the Vermont Senate.

Mudge announced his candidacy at the end of May via social media, saying the new Chittenden Southeast Senate District presented an opportunity for the county's smaller towns after redistricting gave Charlotte and other towns a district not dominated by Burlington. Besides Charlotte, the Chittenden Southeast District will include Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, Williston, Richmond, Bolton, Jericho, Underhill and South Burlington.

With less than half, or just over 30,000 of the total 69,000 residents, of this new district living in South Burlington and Williston, the smaller towns should have a stronger voice in the Senate.

Mudge said that under the old districting, Charlotte and these smaller towns have been dominated in voting by Burlington and the larger municipalities. The smaller Chittenden towns haven't been "on the radar of our state senators as much as they should be."

Redistricting broke up the old Chittenden

Senate District into Chittenden Southeast and Chittenden Central (Burlington and Essex) with three senators each and a Chittenden North District with one senator.

Besides Mudge, others in the race for the Democratic nomination for the Chittenden Southeast are incumbents Thomas Chittenden, Virginia Lyons and Kesha Ram Hinsdale and Steve May and Ken Scott.

This race has become something like a Rube Goldberg machine with candidate changes knocking other candidacies into different races like a row of sequentially tumbling dominoes.

Mudge's chances of getting the

SEE **LEWIS MUDGE** PAGE 3

## Champlain Valley graduates fill gym with hope

Scooter MacMillan Editor

Thirty minutes before the ceremony marking the conclusion of 285 Champlain Valley Union students high school careers, the mostly unmasked gathering was hushed, trying out indoor voices after two graduations outside during the preceding years.

Fifteen minutes before the ceremony in the Patrick Gymnasium at the University of Vermont, the families and friends that were slowly but surely becoming a crowd had begun to realize that it was, after all, a gymnasium. The hum had become louder with occasional cackles of remembered high school hijinks and shouts hailing others to open seats.

Just minutes after 2 p.m., the keening of the St. Andrew's Pipeband of Vermont split the air, as has been traditional at Redhawk graduations for some years, and the band members marched into the gym to begin the ceremonies marking the end.

After the ubiquitous and incontrovertible music had ceased, principal Adam Bunting said, "I want to welcome you back to the Patrick Gymnasium for our first graduation here since 2019."

Bunting reminded the graduates that their achievement in reaching this place in their lives was not through their efforts alone. The walk they would soon make across the stage to get their diplomas was not just for them.

'This short walk is for your families, your friends, your mentors, your teachers, your guardians and your siblings," Bunting said. "The walk reflects the efforts of your community past and the promise to your communities of the future."

He then asked the graduates to stand and point to someone in the audience who helped them get to this point. Many of the graduates pointed at multiple someones.

Senior speaker Eva Frazier said her class had witnessed some of the most tumultuous events in American history - COVID, widespread economic strife and crumbling social and mental support systems.

"Across the country, the notions of democracy and hallmarks of American government have eroded," Frazier said. "In

### ZONING ADMIN

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a member of that now-defunct board for just a few months before it was replaced by the development review board, challenged Pelletier in an appeal of zoning violations for an event at Charlotte Crossings.

In September 2021, Pelletier issued four zoning violations for an unpermitted music event to Backyard Bistro, one of the tenants of the multi-use commercial building on Route 7 south of Ferry Road. Lesser-Goldsmith cast the lone vote on three of the votes on rescinding the violations - for not having a permit, for violating parking restrictions and for exceeding the restaurant's seating limit.

The zoning board voted unanimously



Principal Adam Bunting addresses the 2022 CVU graduating class.

the summer of 2020, racial injustice hit a point of widespread visibility, illuminating for white America the current insidious state of racism in the United States."

She said she had to return to her graduation speech to revise it after the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and again after the shooting in a Tulsa, Okla., hospital.

Although it is easy to feel despair, Frazier urged the graduates "to become the leader you need today by refusing to give in to despair."

"I urge all 285 of us to use the hope remaining within ourselves to make tomorrow what we hope for today," Frazier said.

Calling CVU's Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program the most impactful program they had seen, Jack Averill, Nora Van Vranken and Oliver Pudvar announced the class gift of the money the class raised during their four years of high school was going to Special Olympics.

The invited speaker for the graduation was CVU graduate Megan Nick of Shelburne, who won a bronze medal in freestyle skiing at this winter's Olympics in China.

Nicks said she knew the last thing the graduates wanted to hear about was another graduate challenge, but she said they might feel better to know she had just finished her graduate challenge — seven years after she graduated from Champlain Valley.

Nick grew up as a gymnast and that was always her dream, but someone suggested she try aerial skiing and it took, even though skiing wasn't her favorite sport. When she was asked to join a developmental program for the Olympics, she decided to accept the challenge.

Although skiing wasn't her passion, she realizes now, "It wasn't so much about which sport I was best at or what extracurriculars might get me into the best college. It was about how I challenged myself that made me the athlete and person I am today."

Although AP classes and extracurricular activities are important, what was most important to her was challenging herself every day to make herself better.

Nick said, "My story is less about winning a bronze medal and more about the countless failures I've endured during these past seven years."

currently advertising, and you can always find some town looking for a zoning administrator," Krasnow said.

He would like to see a study of the average length of time Vermont towns keep zoning administrators. If Charlotte did fall outside the standard deviation for keeping zoning administrators, Krasnow said, that is definitely something the town should look into. He isn't convinced yet that the town is out of the norm in retaining people in this position.

"It's a relatively entry level position and expecting someone to grow in the position and stay at an entry level wage as they mature, doesn't really happen in any industry," he said.

Krasnow feels the town has done good work in recent years to attract and



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"I'm tired of being the fall guy."

#### - Frank Tenney

In particular, Tenney took exception to the assertion in an April 26 article in The Bridge about an email from Oborne to Bloch complaining about excessive supervision. Tenney said he was not the person Oborne was complaining about. But he wouldn't say who was.

"I have some serious concerns about the perception of my position and competency in the eyes of the selectboard," Oborne wrote, questioning, probably facetiously, whether there was another zoning administrator that "he didn't know about."

to rescind the fourth violation for moving gravel in a wetland buffer area.

At the appeal hearing, Lesser-Goldsmith asked the zoning administrator what her relationship was with all the businesses in Charlotte. Pelletier objected to the question as irrelevant and said she couldn't know all the businesses in Charlotte.

Lesser-Goldsmith said all the businesses "are tied to permits" that she regulated.

The town doesn't have a perfect system, Pelletier said, but that she strived for fairness. At this point her voice waivered as she was on the verge of tears.

A couple of people who were at that meeting have said they tried to console Pelletier after the meeting, but two days later she turned in her resignation, citing her family's health issues.

Selectboard member Frank Tenney said he was one of the people who consoled Pelletier, told her she was doing a good job and encouraged her to stay. He said he has been unfairly and inaccurately blamed for some of the zoning administrators leaving.

"I'm tired of being the fall guy," Tenney said in a phone conversation.

Tenney declined to say who he thought Oborne was referring to, but said they have a good relationship.

Oborne confirmed that he was not referring to Tenney, as the article and selectboard chair Jim Faulkner had assumed in an April 25 executive session where the sound was inadvertently left on for a few minutes. Faulkner could be heard saying that Tenney was interfering in the planning and zoning office.

At that meeting, Tenney was removed as the selectboard liaison to that office.

Oborne said his interactions with Tenney have been professional and characterized their relationship as "good." But Oborne declined to say who he was referring to in his April email.

Selectboard member Matt Krasnow said the turnover in zoning administrators is not unique to Charlotte.

"I think there's at least two towns

retain planning and zoning employees by increasing pay, by separating the zoning administrator and town planner positions and by adding a planning and zoning assistant.

The turnover at the position is also symptomatic of the labor shortage across the job market. He cited a recent news report saying there are three jobs available for every person looking for work.

"It's a real issue across every sector retaining employees and being able to hire employees," said Krasnow.

Town clerk Mary Mead addressed the zoning administrator situation during the public comments portion of the selectboard meeting this past Monday, June 13, saying Oborne was good at his job and that the board should work harder to keep him.

As of Monday afternoon, Oborne said he had resigned but hadn't submitted a resignation letter. He said the date of his departure was "fluid."

As to whether there was a chance he could be persuaded to stay, Oborne had no comment.

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### Community

## Monday the 13th



Photo by Lee Krohn

At least 18 responders helped evacuate a 70-year-old woman who fell and injured her leg hiking on Mt. Philo shortly before 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13. Charlotte Fire and Rescue chief Dick St. George said the woman was hiking on the Devil's Chair Trail, the oldest trail on the mountain and the trickiest to evacuate someone from. Besides Charlotte, responders came from Ferrisburgh, Shelburne and the park ranger. Getting the injured woman to the ambulance took almost two hours and extensive rope, rigging equipment and complicated belays, St. George said, 'We never would have gotten her out without the mutual aid manpower.'

### LEWIS MUDGE

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Democratic nomination appeared greater before Ram Hinsdale decided to run for the state senate again. In January, Ram Hinsdale had declared a run for Vermont's sole seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, but at the end of May she dropped out of that race and declared for the Chittenden Southeast District.

"I'm definitely going to run," Mudge said. "I'm going to do my best, but it has gone from something that was very much a possibility to much more of an uphill battle in the last couple of days."

Ram Hinsdale threw her support behind Senate President Pro Tempore Becca Balint, who is now in a four-person race with Lt. Gov. Molly Gray, Louis Meyers and Sianay Chase Clifford. for the U.S. House seat that had been held by Peter Welch. Welch is running for the U.S. Senate seat of retiring Patrick Leahy.

"I'm a firm believer that as Chittenden County goes, so goes the state of Vermont, so I do think a strong Chittenden County means a strong Vermont," Mudge said.

He believes the Legislature needs more

have younger children in public schools and who "are on the front end of their mortgages."

people like him who

The average age of a state senator is 68, and although it is important for that demographic to be represented in the Legislature, Mudge

said it is also important to have more representation from younger

people "who have an eye towards growth, have an eye towards the state's future." During his years working in Africa as a director for Human Rights Watch, Mudge lived in in various countries in south and central Africa, including Kenya, Congo, Burundi and Rwanda, documenting war crimes, working for human rights and promoting democracy in Central Africa.

Working in places where he saw people who were imprisoned or even killed fighting for the right to vote has given him a desire to do public service at some level.

Mudge said he is not quitting his "day job" with Human Rights Watch, and if he wins, he won't step down from the selectboard.

### Krahn comes back home to be **Charlotte Central School administrator**

Courtney Krahn has been appointed as the Charlotte Central School assistant principal.

She will join principal Jennifer Roth and special education director Beth Slater on the school's leadership team on July 1.

Superintendent Rene Sanchez said, "I am very excited that Charlotte's new assistant principal will return home to Charlotte Central School. Her experience as an instructional leader in Middlebury will help not only Charlotte, but also the Champlain Valley School District as a whole.'

Krahn's recent leadership roles include that of curriculum leader and director of the Proficiency Recovery School for the Addison Central School District, language and literature teacher at Middlebury Union Middle School, and English teacher and literacy coach at Leland and Gray Union Middle and High School. She also taught in Wisconsin. She is a National Board-certified teacher and holds a Vermont principal's license. Courtney is a 2022 member of the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont School Leadership Project.

Courtney earned a bachelor's from Dickenson College and a master's from the Middlebury College Bread Loaf School of English.

Courtney is originally from Charlotte and a graduate of the Champlain Valley School District.

Principal Jen Roth said, "I am delighted to have Courtney joining the Charlotte Central School leadership team. I first got to know Courtney during our time at Snelling's Vermont School Leadership Project. She is a

Courtney Krahn

thoughtful listener with a deep understanding of how to foster curiosity and engagement in learners."

Courtney said she was proud to be joining Charlotte's students, families and the broader Champlain Valley School District community "to carry on the good work, strong traditions and important collaboration that make Charlotte Central School the special place that it is. As an alumna of both Charlotte Central School and Champlain Valley Union High, I am proud of the formative learning experiences I had in this school district, and I am humbled by the opportunity to return to where my educational journey began."

<sup>44</sup>I'm going to do my best, but it has gone from something that was very much a possibility to much more of an uphill battle in the last couple of days. <sup>77</sup>

- Lewis Mudge

"Our state legislators in theory are

He said it is wrong that ordinary citizens can't afford to run for the legislature and feels lucky to have a job that allows him to do so.

he wouldn't have been able to have served because he was traveling to Africa about once a month. But now his job has changed.

When he was younger, Mudge moved to Congo during a war there. "Now," he said, "I've aged out of the sort of dangerous parts of that job, and I'm now just the director

and help facilitate teams that are doing that work."

He and his wife Niccola met in Rwanda. Their three sons were born in Kenya. He believes his experiences give him a unique appreciation of the democratic process.

"I've really seen some of the worst of what humanity has to offer, and I am fairly optimistic about the future of our state and the future of our county," Mudge said. "I think we might need some of that optimism back in Montpelier to recognize that we do have some big problems on the horizon as a state, but also maybe to have some people who really feel blessed to live here and to be able to raise their kids here."



Lewis Mudge

supposed to be people with jobs," Mudge said, explaining that the job of a legislator was designed to be part-time; just four months, January to April, and four days a week.

When he first moved to Charlotte in 2016,

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## **Sports**

## Working out before dawn at Champlain Valley Union High

Scooter MacMillan Editor

The morning light is indecisive, still introspective, unsure about whether to go ahead and be a full-fledged day. But downstairs under the main floor of Champlain Valley Union High School in the fitness center it's high noon, filled with music pumping and shouts of encouragement — even though it says 6 a.m. on the wall clock.

Around 20 athletes come to these morning sessions on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, two hours before school starts.

"Hey," Rahn Fleming says and slaps his hands rapidly, celebrating for Joseph Merola's benefit. "That's a spanking."

Merola smiles about the previous day's lacrosse victory. As he prepares to join the steadily growing group of athletes straining at the various weight machines, Merola and Fleming go over details from the Redhawks' 15-0 shutout of Mount Mansfield Union the day before, June 2, in the first round of the boys state playoffs.

"I love the goose egg," Fleming says. "I know we know how to score, but what was that? The second shutout of the year?"

Fleming is learning center coordinator, head football coach and fitness center coordinator, but more than all those job titles, he is the enthusiastic supporter of everything Champlain Valley Union High School. His omnipresent smile fills his face, which is appropriate because the name "Rahn" means song of joy in Hebrew.

Two years ago, Fleming was the students' choice to give the faculty speech at the remote graduation at the Champlain Valley Fairground, and he cried as he spoke. "How could you be in the presence of folks like this and not cry?" Fleming says.

He interrupts himself and hollers across the room, "Get it, Kenyon. Come on. Try. Try."

Kenyon Thompson transferred to Champlain Valley Union High School a year ago. He had never lifted weights before. Since the transfer, he's lost 100 pounds and is a good size for a defensive tackle.

"Coach, we need a bigger room," shouts assistant football coach Chris Destito, joking because Thompson's gotten four reps at the heavily loaded bench press. The massive weights look like together they weigh more than a Volkswagen.

Destito says the boys come in early and "really get after it. They're really good kids. They are all really pleasant, hard-working guys."

Both the coaches emphasize that the aim of these workouts is not to get stronger, but safer. For example, the goal of an exercise where one of them lies on bench and tries to lift their head while someone pushes down is to build neck muscles. Building neck muscles helps guard against injuries to the



neck vertebrae or concussions.

Joining the morning workout is Matthew Trifaro, who graduated two years ago. He started as a kicker at CVU but moved on to defensive back.

Trifaro is home for the summer from Clarkson University in Pottsdam, N.Y., where he's seen work as an offensive lineman and a cornerback. He's back at his old high school, up before dawn has bench pressed its way into the sky, because working out with coach Fleming makes him feel good — and the ambiance.

"There's something about the smell of this room," Trifaro says with a straight face.

"There's a story to every single kid," Fleming says. "One of my favorite things about this room, in particular, is every single summer vacation we have little family reunions in here. They come back. Now, they're grown, and they all have new stories to tell."

Fleming started at Champlain Valley Union High School more than 20 years ago. In 2008, the school fitness room opened.

They don't lift weights to become better athletes but to prevent injuries. If the best quarterback in the country is injured, they're on the sidelines. And they're not the best quarterback in the country, coach Desito says.

The most important muscle in football is the neck, he says. "If you hurt your neck, you're done."

By design, there's no snatching or jerking of weights in the fitness center.

"We want to take momentum out," Desito says. "I want them to move the weight."

So, instead of suddenly thrusting the weights up, the boys lift and lower on a four count. The exercises are designed to emphasize the importance of lowering the weight, or "the negative part of the exercise," which is where the majority of



Photos by Scooter MacMillan Left: Max Destito of Shelburne well into working on quadriceps extensions.

Above: Kenyon Thompson of Hinesburg gets encouragement from Rahn Fleming as he works out on the hip press.

Right: Ray Hagios of Charlotte works on strap upright rows, which target the trapezius muscle group at the top of the shoulders and base of the neck.

strength conditioning comes from, Desito says.

"Beautiful range of motion," Fleming shouts from another side of the room, soloing above a symphony of grunts, gasps and strains of strain against an overpowering backbeat of music that's not quite rap, not quite heavy metal, definitely not pop, but which features a steady, pounding, relentless and irresistible rhythm.

Love it or hate it: It's the rhythm of motivation. Or to paraphrase the old song: "In the fitness center, it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that bomp jiggy bomp jiggy bomp bomp, bomp."

Fifteen minutes just standing in the CVU fitness center with the music up loud and you're ready to try lifting a Volkswagen. Or a defensive lineman (with his permission of course).

The early morning workouts "boost my serotonin for the rest of the day," says sophomore Charlie Taylor, who plays lacrosse and football and is wearing a T-shirt with the slogan: "More than an athlete."

He feels more awake in his first class and happier for the rest of the day.

Fleming says the aim of these fitness



fests is to have the boys growing tougher physically and mentally, so they'll still be in the game late in the fourth quarter. Or the final period or the home stretch or whatever sport or life challenge they're wrestling.

He says this news story should focus on the boys and not be about him.

However, when Fleming is on the other side of the room, coach Desito says the strength conditioning program has gotten so much better "because of that man. He's the nicest man in the world."

Shortly after 7:30 a.m., upstairs the school still appears mostly empty.

Outside the parking lot is mostly empty too with the sun struggling to do its daily push up and straining for a brightness to match Rahn Fleming's smile.

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## **Sports Roundup**

## Is Champlain Valley's state title streak a nine-nasty?

Scooter MacMillan Editor

#### Boys lacrosse CVU 13, Burr and Burton 11

If two championships in a row are a repeat and three consecutive championships are a three-peat, what is nine state championships in a row?

A nine-peat?

That term just doesn't have the same poetry of the original title-streak portmanteau, but the Champlain Valley Union High Redhawks will have several months to contemplate a better term for their domination of Vermont boys high school lacrosse.

Coach Tom Garvey said he wasn't comfortable with referring to the team's winning ways as a dynasty. Wonder how he would feel about the term nine-nasty?

But that wouldn't fully cover what the Redhawks have achieved over the years because the school has won a total of 12 state boys lacrosse championships.

On Saturday, Champlain Valley hung on for a thrilling 13-11 victory over Burr and Burton in the Division 1 title game to continue its title streak.

Garvey called it "an amazing win over a very talented, well-coached Burr and Burton team."

Sophomore Matias Williams and senior Owen Pierce led the Redhawks scoring charge with three goals apiece. Seniors Nolan Shea and Turner Elliott and sophomore Peter Gilliam each tallied two scores. Elliott also showed up on the stat sheet with an assist.

Junior Max Destito had a goal and senior Colin Zouck had an assist.

If you're noticing some patterns here, it might be that the contributions are spread around the team. Another is that, although graduating seniors are well represented, there are other players keeping the Redhawks in games that won't be graduating this year and some who may be contributing for two more years.

Senior goalie Jake Bowen had seven saves. "Our entire defense and goaltending by Jake Bowen deserve recognition for turning back Burr and Burton's offense in the fourth quarter," Garvey said. "The entire senior class deserves credit for their leadership both on and off the field."

#### CVU 12 - Middlebury 3

The Redhawks beat Middlebury on Monday, June 6, 12-3 to advance to the Division 1 state boys lacrosse championship this past Saturday at the University of



Photo by Al Frey

The Champlain Valley Redhawks celebrate a hard fought 13-11 Division 1 boys lacrosse state championship win over the Burr and Burton Bulldogs on Saturday afternoon at the University of Vermont's Virtue Field.

Vermont's Virtue Field.

Garvey credited the strong defense of Destito, Peyton Anderson, Ryan Boehmcke, Sam Decker and Sam Whitcomb for helping ensure the win.

The championship game against Burr and Burton was a rematch of last year's state championship.

#### CVU 15, Mount Mansfield 0

The Champlain Valley lacrosse team played its way into the state semifinals with a 15-0 shutout of Mount Mansfield on Thursday, June 2.

Needless to say, coach Garvey was proud of his team's defense.

He also lauded the faceoff play of Devon Fay and Jacob Bose.

Gilliam and Williams led the scoring onslaught with four goals apiece. Gilliam added four assists and Williams dished out one.

Shea found the net for two goals. Both Zouck and Pierce tallied a score and

an assist. Elliott, Bose and Max Brumsted each tossed in a goal.

Bowen had four saves for the Redhawks

and Harper Anderson had two.

The score might have been even more lopsided except for goalie Ray Chamberland's 10 saves for Mount Mansfield.

#### Girls lacrosse CVU 19, Rutland 15

Champlain Valley beat Rutland 19-15 on Friday, June 3, in girls lacrosse.

The Redhawks were up 10-7 at half, but Rutland tied it at 11-11 in the second before CVU went on a six-goal run.

Amelie Scharf dominated for Champlain Valley on the offensive side of the field, netting five goals to go with three assists.

Chloe Snipes and Dicey Manning each contributed four goals.

Ava Bartlett's three scores, Stella Dooley's two, and Tess Everett's goal and an assist rounded out the Redhawks offensive effort.

CVU goalie Clare Stackpole-McGrath had 13 saves.

#### Baseball

No. 1 CVU 9, No. 8 South Burlington 7

The Redhawks made it to the state baseball semifinals with a nail-biting 9-7 win over the South Burlington Wolves on Saturday, June 4.

Travis Stroh's two-run walk-off homer brought the contest to its thrilling end.

After trailing 4-0 after the first inning and 6-2 after the second inning, Champlain Valley managed to come back and take a 7-6 lead.

The Redhawks couldn't put the Wolves away and South Burlington tied the game at 7-all in the seventh inning, then sophomore Stroh delivered his crucial homer.

Stroh was dominant at the plate going 3 for 4. He hit a single, a triple and the homerun for a total of three RBIs.

Ryan Canty was 2 for 4 with two doubles and two RBIs.

Oliver Pudvar was the winning pitcher. In his two innings on the mound, Pudvar gave up one earned run on two hits and got two strikeouts.

## Season-ending run



Courtesy photo

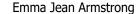
On Saturday, June 4, the Charlotte Central School Girls on the Run team ended the season with a 5K run at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex. Girls on the Run helps third to fifth grade girls build social, emotional and physical skills while encouraging healthy habits for life. Team members were third grade — Anna Andriano, Hadley Ringler, Eva Samuel, Ansley Sprague, Seren Barrus, Stella Mayo, Austen Helzer, Avery Wannop, Matilda McCracken, Margot Adams, Annie Palmer, Lucy Palmer, Nina Kahm; fourth grade — Reagan Bohlin, Georgia Dorsey, Skylar Gallese, Bea Horikawa, Louisa Langfeldt, Lilah Akselrod; and fifth grade — Ava Ringler, Lena Ingalls, Calista Lasek, Lucy Cummings. Coaches: Sarah Ringler, Sarah Wannop, Donna Millay.

## CONGRATULATIONS H GRADE GRADUA

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Brahm Lasek



Sullivan Morris



Rebekah Lucia



Audrey Neilson



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Alexis Pearce



Charlie Miner









Coleton Pizzagalli









Ceci Scriver



Lena Smith



Tristan Spear



#### Jenna Sweeney



Apryl Tuiqere



Veronica Weston

Leah Rauch



**Rowan Williams** 



Will Wygmans



Grace Zappala



## *You are a star* in the making. Shine on!

### **Outdoors**

## How much garden would a woodchuck chuck?



Elizabeth Bassett CONTRIBUTOR

First the good news: The vernal pool that our team monitors is brimming with tadpoles.

On a recent visit, patches on the surface of the water appeared to be boiling. On closer inspection, we found our pool to be a soup of tadpoles. We felt like proud parents and floated home on a wave of delight. Many predators find tadpoles utterly yummy, but never mind. There's hope.

Meanwhile, in my vegetable garden things are looking rather hopeless as a family of woodchucks makes merry, devouring parsley, beets, chard, lettuce, kale and strawberries (so far).

One of the few silver linings is that woodchucks don't appear to appreciate asparagus, but that season is winding down.

A woodchuck that we spotted last summer, likely an immature female, has become a mother and has brought forth a litter, size yet to be confirmed, of juveniles with voracious appetites. The little ones are pretty clueless, as happens with youth, and amble into our have-a-heart trap for a nibble of cantaloupe. Not so Mama.

What are we learning about woodchucks? Also called groundhogs or whistle pigs, they are marmots, large rodents with enlarged claws for digging and large heads with ever-growing incisors well designed to demolish vegetation. When a member of the family perceives danger, it whistles in warning, hence one of its monikers.

Not only do they wreak havoc in gardens, groundhogs can undermine the structural integrity of sheds, driveways and foundations. Their extensive burrows can be 2-6 feet deep and up to 40 feet long with chambers for nesting or wastes. The main entrance, easy to spot in our yard, has a heap of dirt alongside. The tunnel system may also have as many as five other openings, ready to snap the leg of a grazing horse or cow.

Groundhogs are diurnal, doing their foraging during the day and sleeping at night. They are also among true hibernators, feeding up — we are witnessing this — for a winter slumber that begins in October and ends in early spring. During hibernation a woodchuck's body temperature drops from 99 degrees to 40 degrees, and its heart rate from 100 to 4 beats per minute.

Mating occurs in the spring with a month-long pregnancy. The male does not remain with the female, who can bear a litter of from two to six babies each year once she is 2 years old. The average lifespan of a woodchuck in the wild is five or six years.

Like all mammals, woodchucks can carry rabies. It is rare for them to attack humans unless they or their babies feel threatened. Favorite foods include alfalfa, clover, peas, beans, lettuce, broccoli and soybeans. Groundhogs hate the smell of garlic, pepper and human hair.

What's a gardener to do?

Build a fortress-like fence, of course, with wiring buried 10 inches or more against these tunnel diggers and 4-5 feet



tall with a 1-foot overhang bent outward to prevent the critters from climbing into the garden. Not simple.

Massachusetts Audubon has detailed instructions on its website (massaudubon. org/learn/nature-wildlife/mammals/ woodchucks-groundhogs/situationssolutions) for fence building and also has another suggestion: After July 1, when the young have left the nest, soak cloth in olive oil and stuff all of the holes (if you can find them) except one.

The smell of rancid oil will drive the chucks away but with no guarantee that they won't start digging other tunnels on your property. Image by Vince Alvino from Pixabay

#### On a positive note

If you are looking to make a difference locally this summer, consider removing invasives from Lake Champlain.

Lewis Creek Association runs a wellorganized program on Town Farm Bay in Charlotte. Volunteers spend a few hours on summer mornings pulling frogbit and depositing it on a raft for composting.

Over the years this invasive has been reduced significantly through these efforts. Share a canoe (provided by Lewis Creek Association) and visit with a friend while helping the health of our wonderful lake. Contact Sara Lovitz at lewiscreekorgassistant@gmail.com. Happy summer!





This snapping turtle stopped all the traffic in Charlotte as it crossed Ferry Road headed from the post office to the fire department. Representatives of the two organizations — a postal worker and a fireman — helped nudge the 12-inch pedestrian along. Photographer Linda Gilbert said his nasty expression clearly communicates his displeasure at having his picture taken.



**Planning Commission: Regular mtg.** Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Selectboard meeting with Town & State Emergency Management Personnel Monday, June 20, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Selectboard Monday, June 27, 6:30 p.m.

#### **The Town of Charlotte**

#### MEETINGS

Visit charlottevt.org for more information.

**Development Review Board** Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Conservation Commission June Meeting** Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Planning Commission: Regular mtg.** Thursday, June 30, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## Outdoors

## Winner and new champ

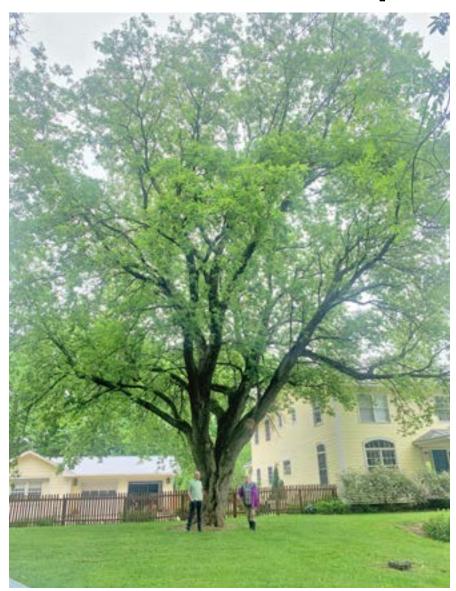


Photo by Vince Crockenberg

The Charlotte Tree Tribe, led by deputy tree warden Sue Smith (right), has crowned a new town champion box elder. The new champ trains at the home of Robert Shapiro (left) and Sharon Morrison on Whalley Road. It measures 122 inches in circumference at breast height, eclipsing by one inch the former champion on Ferry Road.

## **Tapper tapped for tree award**



Photo by Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program

Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County forester and columnist for The Charlotte News, was honored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program with its 2022 Tree Steward Practitioner Award for his work including management plans for municipal forests and public forestry education.

## **Star teacher**



Courtesy photo

Andrew Lounsbury, middle level science educator at Charlotte Central School, received the Rising Star award, one of three Vermont educators to receive the award this year. From left, co-principal Jen Roth, the Vermont Association of Middle Level Education executive director Dave F. Brown, Lounsbury and co-principal Stephanie Sumner.



## **Around Town**

#### Congratulations Graduations

This year's commencement at the University of Vermont — the 221st in its history — marked a return to a traditional celebration outdoors on the university green after two years of re-imagined ceremonies due to pandemic restrictions.

The following students from Charlotte graduated from the University of Vermont during commencement ceremonies in May:

**Grace Slauterbeck** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

**Ethan Leonard** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in computer science & information systems.

**Andrew Slauterbeck** graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in health sciences.

Jayce Slesar of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in data science. Kaileigh Doyle of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in

anthropology. **Sydney Vincent** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in

professional nursing.

**Trevor McGlaflin** of Charlotte graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in computer science & information systems and business administration.

**Brandon Donahue** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

**Clayton Chisholm** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

**Faith Thompson** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in early childhood preschool.

**Alex Nelson** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in the College of Education and Social Services.

**Sage WhiteCloud** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Science in the College of Education and Social Services.

**Samuel Comai** of Charlotte graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in secondary education - social science.

**Samuel Raszka** of Charlotte graduated with a Doctor of Medicine in the Robert Larner College of Medicine.

**Danne Elbers** of Charlotte graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in complex systems & data science.

**Oliver Creech** of Charlotte graduated with a Master of Arts in English.

**Katharine Mahoney** of Charlotte graduated with a Master's degree in public health.

**Naomi Cunningham** of Charlotte graduated with a Master of Science in community development & applied economics.

\_ \_ \_ \_

for the spring semester, which goes to students with a grade point average of 4.0.

**Jakob Holm** of Charlotte was named to the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Letters and Science.

#### Scholarship

**Heather Moss**, part of Champlain Valley Union High's graduating class this year and a Charlotte resident, was one of six recipients of the annual \$1,000 Eunice B. Farr Incentive Award from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.

#### **Professional Awards**

**Patricia O'Donnell** of Charlotte and her firm Heritage Landscapes were awarded the Honor Award for the Magnolia Plantation Cultural Heritage Report in late April. The award was for Heritage Landscapes work at the Cane River Creole National Historic Park, part of the National Park System in Cloutierville, La.

**Jim Donovan**, who installed the rain garden at the Charlotte Library, won the Planning, Research and Analysis Merit Award from the Vermont chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for the library project.

#### Condolences

#### Jane McCullough

Jane Anne Bankert McCullough, a resident of Charlotte and The Villages in Florida, passed away in Summerfield, Fla., on Friday, May 6, 2022, at the age of 77 after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

Jane was born on May 3, 1945, to Charles and Dorothy Bankert at what was then known as the Muroc Army Air Field (now Edwards Air Force Base). She was raised in Lake Orion, Michigan, and enrolled at the University of Michigan, where in January 1966 she met the love of her life, Timothy, on a blind date. The couple married soon thereafter and remained together for more than 56 years.

After having her two children, Michael and Susan, Jane returned to school and obtained a law degree at DePaul Law School in 1981. For more than 35 years, she practiced law at three of Chicago's top firms: Winston & Strawn, Altheimer & Gray, and Greenberg Traurig. In 2004, she and Timothy moved from Chicago to Charlotte.

Whether at the office or at home, Jane had endless generosity for those close to her and was a boundless source of encouragement and optimism. She filled the rooms she entered with warmth, kindness, vibrance, intelligence and humor.

Jane is survived by her husband, Timothy; her two children, Michael (Christine Todd) and Susan (Jay Carpenter); her granddaughter Fiona, her brother Judd (Dabney) Bankert, and her dogs, Bobo and Badger. On Sunday, July 17, 2022, Jane's family will host a celebration of her life in Charlotte, Vermont. For information, please call Susan McCullough at (202) 441-0489.

#### Academic awards

**Mason Otley** of Charlotte was named to the dean's list at Lehigh University for the spring semester.

**Wiley Simard** of Charlotte was named to president's list at Castleton University

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## **Opinion - Where do we go from here?**

## **Balancing NIMBYism and the greater good in Charlotte**

#### Peter Joslin

I doubt anyone who reads this column doesn't know what NIMBY stands for: Not In My Backyard. I've been thinking about this for some time since it is, at its core, a significant factor in where and how

### CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS MAY 2022

#### May 3

Frederick & Betsy Tegatz to Andrea S. Harvey, 32.93 +/- acres, 1000 Guinea Rd., open land, \$400,000

#### May 9

Elise Legere, Karen Legere & Joel Henderson to Matthew B. & Rebecca Lindy Coll, 7.5 +/- acres, 4003 Greenbush Rd. with dwelling. \$890,000

#### May 13

Estate of Andy Mansfield to Braxton Robbason & Penninnah Ragasa 5.33 +/- acres 175 Church Hill Rd. with dwelling, \$532,500

#### May 24

Clark W. Hinsdale III to Jonathan Maguire, 15.05 +/- acres, 2760 Spear Street with dwelling, \$625,000

#### May 31

Ernest Silagyi & Patricia DiRuocco to Chris C. & Catherine J.K. Stroup, 32.1 +/- acres, 135 Parkview Place, Land \$775,000

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



much development occurs in Charlotte, sometimes regardless of what has been approved by voters in the town plan and land use regulations.

A recent New York Time's article titled "Twilight of the NIMBY," by Connor Dougherty, focuses on this issue. The article is centered around Susan Kirsch of Mill Valley, California, who has fought for two decades to prevent a developer from building 20 condominiums on a hill at the end of her street. Dougherty says Kirsch "wraps her opposition to development in a 'small c' conservative philosophy that a smaller local government is better and more responsive to its citizens than a bigger one further away. Where many people see gridlock, she sees having her voice heard — and in the midst of a brutal housing crisis, fewer people want to listen."

Dougherty goes on to say, "Around the country, cities and states that have struggled to tame rising housing costs are now trying to wrest control from neighborhood activists like Ms. Kirsch. Their logic is that too much of the power over whether new housing and infrastructure projects get built is left to a relatively small band of activists who pack late-night city meetings to tell their city councils that whatever is being proposed is 'out of character' and should be built somewhere else — not in their backyard."

Charlotte is not Mill Valley, California, but the parallels are obvious. NIMBYism is right here in Charlotte. I've witnessed it firsthand during my tenure on the Charlotte Planning Commission. Neighbors' concerns are important to hear and consider; sometimes they are valid, sometimes not. The question we face is where and how much growth is sustainable and appropriate, while protecting the qualities that make Charlotte so special: the rural landscape, scenic views and vistas, farmland, wildlife corridors, woodlands, streams, etc.

Dougherty adds, "Susan Kirsch was partial to 'Small Is Beautiful," which was published in 1973 by the economist E.F. Schumacher. The book cast doubt on a growth-at-all-costs mentality and was but one entry in what the historian Kevin Starr called "this developing genre of population and land-use apocalypse." Kirsch says that part of how the book influences her "is I think greater selfreliance and self-resiliency are qualities that keep a community or culture strong ... and the trends we have now, with being able to have efficacy in your own life, is part of what I think is being diminished."

I agree that local control is important. I also believe some state statutes, such as focusing development in existing villages and growth areas to protect open land, are equally important for town and state. What are we willing to live with in our backyards?

The answer differs from person to person and is also dependent on the zoning district one lives in. Additionally, an approved use may not jive with what a neighbor thinks is appropriate.

In the article "Twilight of the NIMBY," Dougherty adds: "Housing politics is driven by emotion, specifically the fear of losing what you have. The economist William Fischel, a professor at Dartmouth, laid out the financial dimensions in a theory — "The Homevoter Hypothesis" — that holds NIMBYism is a form of insurance. Since you can't buy a policy that will protect you from the neighborhood going to hell, the thinking goes, people compensate by packing planning meetings to fight anything (be it a dump, a freeway or a low-rent apartment complex) they perceive as a threat."

Susan Kirsch believes "local communities would do a much better job of solving these problems ... using the language of centralized power is what charges me to do this — I think small is beautiful."

I grew up in a small, rural farm town. Today, it is unrecognizable from its bucolic past and has been engulfed by the overdeveloped suburban landscape of Fairfield Country, Connecticut. Vast stretches of farmland and open space have been overridden by housing tracks, condominiums and commercial development.

I don't want this for Charlotte. I do wish the town to be vibrant and affordable into the future. Our town has to come to general agreement as to what we want the future to look like. Development in Charlotte over the last 20 years is at odds with what the town plan, approved by the voters, clearly states. Infill has been,



and continues to be, slow, persistent and unnoticed by most. Why? Perhaps because it's not in their backyard, all is good.

Appeals to subdivision decisions and neighbors' concerns of some proposed projects over the past few years illustrate that there is no guarantee of a project's completion regardless of whether the project falls well within the parameters of the land use regulations. As outlined in Vermont state statute, "interested persons" have the right to appeal a development review board decision to the state environmental court that, for all intents and purposes, often stops, and can end, an approved project. In some instances, valid concerns are at issue, in others, it's NIMBY.

Getting back to Dougherty's article, he states: "The impulse behind NIMBYism is timeless: People who already live somewhere have always raised objections to newcomers. The feeling applies to renters as well as homeowners, crosses boundaries of race, class, and culture, and has been a part of urban life for centuries."

So here we are. We all have a slice of that something special we cherish about living in Charlotte. We want to protect what we have, but we also, I believe, need to think about the greater good of the town and future generations. Perhaps some of Charlotte's children would someday like to settle back in town. Would they be able to afford it?

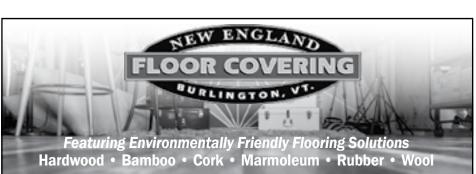
Would we welcome them back, if it were in our backyard?

(Peter Joslin is the former chair of the Charlotte Planning Commission.)





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## Hi Neighbor!

## Lane Gibson: Helping musicians both near and far



Phyl Newbeck CONTRIBUTOR

Performing music was the life Lane Gibson knew, but in 1994 he decided to look at the industry from another perspective, going to work part time for Charles Eller at his recording studio in Charlotte.

Gibson enjoyed the job so much that he turned it into a fulltime position. In 2009 he purchased the studio from Eller and renamed it Lane Gibson Recording and Mastering.

"When I took over the studio, I thought I'd do it for 10 more years and retire, but I wasn't ready to do that," he said. "I don't know if I'll ever completely retire."

Gibson came to the studio after years in music.

"I was the kid who got to sing solos in the school chorus," he said. In fourth grade he started playing piano, and after briefly switching to guitar, he returned to the keyboards when he discovered there was a glut of guitarists.

Gibson toured with the Davis Brothers Garage from 1968 to 1982. The band signed with Charisma Records and recorded a hit single called "Lookin' for Money." Gibson later played with a local wedding and club band called Downpour.

These days, his son is the family's active musician. "My son and I will play at family functions," Gibson said, "and I'll occasionally play on projects if musicians ask me."

Gibson has worked with an array of local artists from Elisabeth von Trapp to Grace Potter. "It's very satisfying," he said. "To support them is really important to me."

Gibson noted that recording time can be emotional for artists. "They really need encouragement because they are putting themselves out there," he said. "It's not easy. There's a lot of emotion that goes into writing music and singing and playing and recording, and the biggest thing is the encouragement that comes from the person sitting in my chair."

Other artists who have visited the studio include Anais Mitchell, Trey Anastasio, Jon Fishman, Rick Norcross and The All Star Ramblers, the Starline Rhythm Boys, the Vermont Jazz Ensemble, and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

Local artists may make up the bulk of his clientele, but Gibson has clients from across the country. He also works with a number of international artists, some of whom are referred to him by fellow Charlotte resident Jacob Edgar, who owns the Cumbancha label and is connected to Putumayo Music.

"I just did some work with artists from Israel and Africa," Gibson said. "They don't always come to the studio, but I do long-distance mastering and mixing. I've been exposed to a lot of wonderful music that I wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to do."

Gibson's studio includes a number of keyboards, ranging from a Hammond B3 organ to a massive grand piano, as well as a wide variety of microphones, but he traces the success of the studio back to the way Eller built it in the early 1990s.

"What you're hearing in the room needs to be accurate and not colored negatively by the acoustic space," Gibson said. "This is probably one of the best acoustically designed control rooms around." He explained that there are no



Lane Gibson

perpendicular or parallel surfaces.

"Everything is at correct angles to avoid standing waves and other acoustical anomalies," he said. "Even the window glass is angled."

Gibson said the back wall is 14 inches thick with layers of acoustic material. "Just that interior wall alone, in 1992 or 1993, cost \$15,000," he said.

Much of the equipment in the studio hasn't changed over the years. "Technology changes," he said, "but sound doesn't."

Gibson admits he's cutting back on work a little bit. He shares the studio space with Jeremy Mendicino and Ellers, who still has some clients. Gibson and Ellers recently worked on a bluegrass album with longtime Vermont artist, Banjo Dan Courtesy photo

Lindner. "He decided to do a final record," Gibson said. "It was great having that experience."

Gibson said he is happy to work with a wide variety of musicians, although he prefers to stay away from heavy metal, rap and hip-hop.

Gibson's studio has a panoramic view of Camel's Hump which makes it easy to spend time at work.

"My philosophy for the studio is just to help people," he said. "You have to be careful and make sure it's about them and not about the studio or the engineer or the equipment. You're here for them and their music. We're still here, we're still kicking and we're still making music and helping people."

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## Weed's in the Garden

## **Celebrate summer with fresh herb recipes**



Joan Weed CONTRIBUTOR

One of the best gifts of summer in my mind is the presence of fresh herbs in my own garden or as offerings from local farmsteads. Oh, you can purchase all year long these days, but there is nothing like heading out the back door, snippers in hand, basket over arm, and choosing your own from the garden.

I thought I'd emphasize some of my favorite herb uses from years of experience and add some not-so-old uses. Gotta keep learning.

My favorite annual herbs (those that need replanting every year or that may grow from volunteers) are dill, basil, Italian flat parsley, chervil and summer savory.

Basil defines Italian dishes so often and it's probably my favorite. I make pesto every year and freeze it. It is amazing as a sauce as is, or can be added to salad dressing for caprese salad or as seasoning for tomato sauce or ratatouille.

Dill is iconic in many Eastern European dishes and notably pickles, potato salad and cucumber salad.

I love chervil in a green salad.

Savory is fairly new to my repertoire and I'm still trying it out. Worthy of growing, in my opinion. It has a nice sharp flavor.

Notice I didn't mention cilantro. I am one who doesn't care for it, but if you love it, it falls in this category. I do use it for salsa if canning because it isn't pronounced when mixed in.

Perennial herbs are valuable in that they will survive, come back year after year and often can even be harvested under snow. They are more difficult to establish. I usually buy plants for a head start. My choices are rosemary (needs protection in winter), sage,

thyme, winter savory, tarragon, chives and horseradish.

The annuals can be started from seed quite easily.

Parsley needs a head start as germination can take as much as 21 days. Soaking the seeds helps.

The others can be seeded directly into your garden. I'm not sure if shallots and garlic fall into the "herb" category but they are essential summer crops too. Both are alliums but very distinct in flavor. I use both liberally in my savory cooking. I love leeks also for their unique addition to soup.

As I have said before, garlic bulbs are planted in fall when other bulbs go in the ground. After overwintering, they spring out of the ground early. Harvest will be late July. I love the variety called music and usually a German variety. Shallots appear more often in French recipes and offer a different, milder allium taste.

As simple as these sound, they are spicy and offer a treat for cocktail hour.

#### Leann's Hot Carrots

2 pounds of raw carrots 1 cup vinegar 1 cup vegetable oil 8-10 cloves of garlic (crushed) 2 tablespoons of seasoned salt (like Lowry's or other herb salt) Minced fresh parsley

Cut carrots into

thin short sticks. Mix other ingredients except parsley. Place carrots in marinade

and chill covered overnight. (Two

nights for an even stronger flavor.) Stir carrots every few hours. Drain and sprinkle with parsley and serve!

#### **Compound Butters**

Soften sticks of unsalted butter. Mix in finely chopped herbs of your choice. On

parchment or waxed paper, form a log of prepared butter. Roll tightly and twist ends. Place in sealed container or baggie and freeze. When needed, slice off as much as your recipe calls for and refreeze. Make combinations or single varieties.

#### **Basil Pesto**

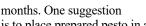
2 cups of packed fresh basil leaves, stems removed

- 2 large cloves garlic, peeled
- 1/4 cup pine nuts

1/4 cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese Olive oil, enough to make a smooth, fluid paste.

Pinch of salt

Place all ingredients except oil in food processor or blender. Slowly drizzle oil into mixture as it mixes. Consistency is up to you. It can be frozen for



is to place prepared pesto in a freezer-proof bag. Flatten bag, seal, label and freeze. Break off a piece for use and reseal for storage.

#### Boursin

1 8-ounce block of cream cheese 2 medium cloves garlic, pressed About 2 tablespoons of your favorite fresh herbs, such as thyme, sage, oregano, savory or dill, finely chopped.

Blend all together with a fork and refrigerate to marry flavors. Use as a spread on raw vegetables, crackers or melted on hot veggies. Let come to room temperature for serving.

This is also a nice addition to scrambled eggs or an omelet.



For the more adventurous cooks, I've learned of an herb concoction from Haiti, which sounded delicious. One of my correspondents on a food page mentioned he hadn't made "epis" in a while. I had to look it up.

The name comes from the French "épiceries," meaning spices or groceries. The sauce is commonly used in nearly every savory Haitian dish. A sort of pesto of vegetables, herbs and garlic. There were many variations within my search. Here's a place to start. Be flexible, as this is one of those familial favorites. A jar is kept in the fridge in most homes. Use as a condiment, ingredient or marinade. It's often served on rice.

#### **Haitian Epis**

2 cups of fresh parsley

- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped

1 bouillon cube (chicken or vegetable), crumbled

1 teaspoon of ground cloves

Several cloves of garlic

1 teaspoon of dried thyme (more if fresh) Olive oil

(Other possible additions are onion, cilantro, hot pepper, vinegar for shelf life, and lime juice.)

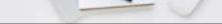
In a food processor or blender, mix all the ingredients, adding olive oil in a stream. If end result is too thick, small amounts of water can be used to thin. Store 7-10 days in the refrigerator.



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## Gardening

## Surprise: You can grow peaches in Vermont

Bonnie Kirn Donahue University of Vermont Extension Service

Peaches are one of the more surprising fruits that grow in Vermont. Easy to pick and fantastically juicy, peaches are beautiful, fuzzy globes to look forward to each summer.

Growing peaches is often associated with warmer climates, such as Georgia or South Carolina, as well as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other mid-Atlantic states. Vermont's U.S. Department of Agriculture cold hardiness zones (planthardiness.ars. usda.gov) are on the cold-end of the peachgrowing spectrum, ranging from 3a to 5b across the state. Luckily, certain varieties of peaches have been adapted to grow in cooler climates, and in some cases, can be grown here.

Two varieties that do well in cooler climates are reliance and contender. Reliance was developed in New Hampshire and is known for its reliable cold hardiness. Contender, known for its high-quality fruit, is potentially not as cold-hardy as reliance.

Because Vermont is fairly cold for peach growing, site selection is very important. It may be easier to grow peaches in parts of the state that have milder winters and warmer weather, although the right microclimate in cooler areas can have a positive impact.

Choose a warm site with plenty of sun and protection from wind. Peaches like soil that is well drained. Be sure to pick a site that has enough space for each tree to grow. A peach tree will grow approximately 15-20 feet wide and tall and will need at least that amount of

space per tree.

Unlike apples, peaches are self-fruitful, or self-pollinating, meaning that they do not require a second tree to pollinate and produce fruit. This means that you can start with just one tree, if desired.

Peach trees can be found at local fruit nurseries across the state. If you can, talk to the local nursery owners about their experience growing peaches. They will have invaluable information to offer.

You will likely find peach trees for purchase in containers or as bare roots. Containerized trees are available in a variety of sizes and prices.

Bare roots are small, dormant woody plants without soil that must be planted within 24-48 hours of purchase. The advantage to these plants is that they are less expensive, while the disadvantages are that the plants are smaller, so it will take longer to produce a peach.

Planting a peach tree is much like planting a deciduous tree. Check out the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry resources on planting trees (go.uvm.edu/treeplanting) to make sure you start your tree off on the right foot.

After your peach tree is planted, it will need to be watered at least one to two inches per week for the first year (including rainfall). This watering will help the roots get established in its new site.

Depending on the size of your tree, after about two to five years, you can expect to have peaches to pick.

Peaches are ready to pick when they turn a yellow-orange to pink and release fairly



Photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Peaches can be picked when they turn yellow-orange to pink and release fairly easily from the branch.

easily from the branch. Peaches can be kept on the countertop until completely ripe (there should be a little bit of give when gently squeezed). Ripened peaches can be stored on the counter or in the refrigerator in bags or containers for almost a week.

Interested in having peaches sooner? Look for pick-your-own farms in Vermont that

offer peaches in addition to other fruits like apples, pears and sour cherries.

(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a University of Vermont extension master gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.)

## Flowers, vegetables and berries to dye for

Bonnie Kirn Donahue University of Vermont Extension Service

Growing flowers, vegetables and berries for eating is fun and nourishing, but what about growing them to make colorful dyes?

Natural pigments can be harnessed to dye fiber or fabric. Indigenous people throughout history and across the globe have made pigments out of plants and minerals, adding incredible color to textiles, pottery, baskets, rugs and buildings.

The process of dying fabric is simple, although it may take some trial and error to get the color right. The basic formula is to add your dye material to a pot of water and simmer. The ratio of dye material to water varies, but you can start with 3:1 (water to flower/fruit/vegetable) and see how you like the color.

After your liquid reaches the desired color (15-20 minutes), remove the pot from the heat, and add your fabric to soak. You can practice on scraps of old white T-shirts, or jump right in and try dying onions, cabbage, marigolds and calendula can be easily grown within a summer.

Planting seedling starts from your local greenhouse for cabbage and marigolds will give them the best chance to grow. Beets and calendula grow well by seed, and onion sets can be found at a greenhouse, farmers market or hardware store.

You can experiment with this at home. Test what happens with fruits, vegetables and flowers in your garden to see what colors you come up with for dyes. You also can try to make dyes using vegetable or flower leaves or roots to see what colors they produce.

Check online or at your local library for more in-depth instructions on using natural dyes and to learn more about the fascinating global history of natural dyemaking.

(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a University of Vermont extension master gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.)



Photos by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Above: Dyes for fabric and fiber can be made from a number of different berries including blueberries, which produce gray-blue and purple dyes.

Right: Flower heads from calendulas, a popular choice for cut flower gardens, can be simmered in a pot of water to create dyes in a range of yellow hues.



T-shirts, tea towels or other fabrics.

Soaking time will depend upon the type of fabric, the concentration of your dye and the intensity of your desired color. It could take as little as 30 minutes to as long as a day of soaking. When you like the color you see, remove it from the dye, rinse with cold water to remove excess dye and hang to dry.

There are many commonly available vegetables and fruits that can be grown in your garden to make dyes. Red beets produce a butterscotch to pink color, while blueberries, blackberries and red cabbage make gray-blues and purples. Red and brown onion skins make lovely orange, yellow and brown tones.

Orange marigold and calendula flowers can be used to make a range of yellow hues. Over-the-counter spices such as turmeric also make fantastic yellow dyes. Use a ratio of about 1 tablespoon of turmeric per 4 cups of water.

There is still time to plant many of these vegetables and flowers this spring. Beets,



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## Gardening

## **Planning a cutting garden**

Deborah J. Benoit University of Vermont Extension

A cutting garden provides a homegrown source of material for fresh flower arrangements. It might focus on one type of plant, such as a spring cutting garden featuring a variety of daffodils or tulips, or include a season-spanning variety you can cut throughout the warm-weather months.

Whatever flowers you choose, select those with long stems. They can be perennials (plants that will come back year after year) or annuals (those that live only one year) or a mixture of both. If you're planning on mixedflower arrangements, also include filler and foliage plants to round out your design options.

A variety of daffodils and tulips make a beautiful springtime display and wonderful bouquets for the home. You can plant these bulbs in the fall in groups or scattered among other perennial plantings.

For a season-spanning cutting garden, consider perennials such as spring-blooming peonies (Paeonia) or bearded iris (Iris germanica), late spring to early summerblooming yarrow (Achillea millefolium), summer-blooming garden phlox (Phlox paniculata) or purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) and mid-summer to fall-blooming tickseed (Coreopsis).

While annuals will need to be replaced each year, their bloom time tends to be longer than perennials, often spanning months. Consider annuals such as cosmos (Cosmos bipinnatus), sweet peas (Lathyrus odoratus) and zinnias (Zinnia elegans) for a variety of color and as long-lasting additions to your cutting garden.

Including filler plants such as baby's breath (Gypsophila) and dill (Anethum graveolens) along with foliage plants such as coleus (Coleus scutellarioides) or hosta (Hosta) will round out your cut flower arrangements.

A cutting garden can take the form of a traditional garden plot with straight rows, a raised bed, an island planting or a row of flowers along a walkway. Whatever design you choose, be sure each plant will be within easy reach for ease of cutting.

Keep in mind the needs of the plants you want to grow when selecting a location. Just as when planning any other garden bed, for a successful cutting garden you will need a site with good soil and plenty of sun (six to eight hours each day), although there are bouquetworthy flowers that do well in partial shade, such as astilbe.

Begin by removing all weeds from the garden bed and turning the soil to loosen it. If the soil needs any amendments, such as compost or slow-release fertilizer, add to the bed at this time.

A soil test will help determine the soil's fertility. You can get your soil tested through the University of Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab (pss.uvm.edu/agtesting).



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit Daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs are the perfect choice for a cutting garden as they not only provide a beautiful outdoor springtime display but can be used for indoor flower arrangements.



Photo by Kolpachnikof/Unsplash Zinnias are an easy-to-grow annual with a long bloom time that will add vibrant color to your garden.

When designing the planting layout, take into account the mature size of each plant, both width and height, and include sufficient space between them to allow for anticipated growth. Perennials in particular will expand their footprint, so be sure to leave enough space between them to avoid overcrowding. Place taller plants behind shorter ones so that they don't block the shorter plants' light.

Annuals work well to fill in the empty space between young perennials that have not yet achieved their full growth.

In addition, supports for taller plants, such as dahlias and delphiniums, should be put in place when installing the garden. Adding a layer of mulch as a finishing touch will help suppress weeds.

As the season progresses, be sure to keep your cutting garden well-watered and remove any weeds to encourage healthy and productive plants. The removal (deadheading) of faded flowers will encourage many plants to produce more blooms, giving you months of fresh cut flowers to enjoy in your home.

(Deborah J. Benoit is a University of Vermont extension master gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of Vermont's Bennington County Chapter.)

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## **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.

#### Sun to cheese tour Fridays, through July 29, 2-4 p.m.

Meet the crew that makes the cheese that came from the milk that came from the Brown Swiss cows that ate the grass that grew in the sun. Shelburne Farms gives participants a behind-the-scenes tour of the cheesemaking process, including a cheese tasting and a visit to the dairy barn. Adult program with registration required. See shelburnefarms.org for more info or register at tinyurl.com/2p9t3jnh.

#### **Chilean beats**

Friday, June 17, 6-7:30 p.m.

Chilean singer-songwriter Pascuala Ilabaca and her band Fauna will perform at Lincoln Peak Vineyard on River Road in New Haven. Their music mixes Chilean folk traditions with jazz, Indian, African and Mexican influences. She plays a bright red accordion and is known as an exuberant vocalist. Doors open at 5 p.m. for picnicking; music starts at 6 p.m. Family event; bring a blanket. There will be food and wine for sale. Tickets and more info at tinyurl.com/2dj56zbb in advance or at the door.

#### **David Budbill poetry** Friday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.

Poetry by the late David Budbill is set to music, performed by various collaborators, musicians and friends of David, in a program called Sutras for a Suffering World. Performed at the First Congregational Church in Burlington. For details and tickets, see scragmountainmusic.org/sutras.

#### **David Bromberg**

Friday, June 17, 8-11 p.m. Multi-instrumentalist, singer and

## Juneteenth celebration

#### Sunday, June 19

The theme at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte for this celebration is Building Legacies that Matter. Activities include storytelling, traditional games, music, dance, food and a visual art co-creation workshop. Registration is free for limited openings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 765-560-5445 to inquire about Sunday's schedule and leave a message.

songwriter David Bromberg returns after several years to perform his blend of Americana, roots, blues and traditional music. With his bandmates, he plays at the T Rex Theater at the Double E Performance Center in Essex Junction, off Route 15. More info at essexexperience. com/events or tickets at tinyurl. com/42n46c8h.

#### Hot air balloon festival Friday-Sunday, June 17-19

Quechee hosts its 42nd annual balloon, crafts and music festival. Gates open Friday at 3 p.m. Balloon rides may be booked in advance, weather dependent. No pets allowed. Tickets at the gate only. More info on festivities, as well as balloon ride reservations, at quecheeballoonfestival.com.

#### Bike for the lake Saturday, June 18, 7 a.m.

This event for cyclists of all levels aims to raise awareness and funds for Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, a non-profit whose mission is to keep the lake water clean through education and projects that improve water quality. Bike loops begin at 7 a.m. at Knight Point State



Park in North Hero; four distances (30-100 miles) to choose from through the islands and along the shores of Vermont and New York. Lunch served 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. More info and registration at friendsofnorthernlakechamplain.org/ bikeforthelake.

#### **Beginning birders walk** Saturday, June 18, 9-11 a.m.

Join members of the Otter Creek Audubon Society and the Middlebury Area Land Trust on a walk along the trails at Wright's Park in Middlebury ending up at Otter Creek. Bring binoculars if you have them: some are provided for use. Dress for outdoors. Perfect family activity geared toward beginners. Strollers discouraged because of rough terrain. Free, donations welcome. Call 802-989-7115 with questions.

#### Intro to Zen Buddhism

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m. The Vermont Zen Center on Thomas Road in Shelburne offers an in-person or online introductory workshop on Zen Buddhism. Schedule includes discussion, guided meditation, demonstrations and question periods. More info and

registration at vermontzen.org/workshops. html. Vaccination guidelines explained on website for in-person participation. Open to ages 18 and over.

#### Wood carving class Saturday, June 18, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

All levels of wood carvers are invited to participate in this class at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington. Expect to carve and paint a male northern shoveler (a colorful duck) with instruction, wood and paint included in fee. David Tuttle of Green Mountain Woodcarvers leads the workshop. More info about what to bring and registration is at tinyurl. com/37c28n3h.

#### Vegetable growing

Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.-noon A family workshop for new and seasoned gardeners is taking place at New Village Farm on Harbor Road in Shelburne. Topics include maintenance, pest management, harvest and other aspects of growing vegetables. Bring gloves; all tools provided. Dress for outside. More info and registration at newvillagefarm.com/ workshops or call 802-265-0555.

#### Music at the vineyard Saturday, June 18, 7-9:15 p.m.

Soul singer-songwriter Myra Flynn performs her original tunes at Shelburne Vineyard. She has toured extensively and performed with numerous musical artists. Gates open at 6:15 and music at 7. The Waffle Wagon food truck will be serving. Tickets available in advance at tinyurl.com/y67tndnt or at the door. Bring blankets or lawn chairs, if desired.

#### Abenaki heritage weekend Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Abenaki community of the Champlain Valley gathers at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes for a variety of presentations, workshops, drumming and singing. Participating

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## **Calendar of Events**

Abenaki tribe members welcome visitors with activities for the entire family. A complete schedule for this free event is at tinyurl.com/yjxv3hb9.

#### CHARLOTTE

#### Juneteenth celebration Sunday, June 19

The theme at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte for this celebration is Building Legacies that Matter. Activities include storytelling, traditional games, music, dance, food and a visual art co-creation workshop. Registration is free for limited openings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 765-560-5445 to inquire about Sunday's schedule and leave a message.

#### Rokeby Museum

**Sunday, June 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Rokeby in Ferrisburgh welcomes visitors for no fee in celebration of Juneteenth. For more info, see rokeby.org.

#### CHARLOTTE

#### Father's Day music Sunday, June 19, 1 p.m.

Traditional bluegrass and Americana classics come to the Charlotte Senior Center in a free performance by the Mansfield Mountain Band, a four-piece acoustic group from Richmond. No registration required. All ages invited; seating is limited. For more info, see charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

#### Solstice celebration

**Tuesday, June 21, 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.** Breakaway Farm in South Hero welcomes everyone to their Summer Solstice gathering. Event includes short trail rides, craft projects, wagon rides, Maypole dancing, food and drink, craft vendors and a bonfire. For more info and tickets, see breakaway-farm.com/solstice.html or call 802-372-8491.

#### Conservation for landowners Tuesday, June 21, noon-1 p.m.

How does your land fit into the ecology of Vermont? Vermont Conservation Design can help you understand your woods, waters and wildlife. Learn how to access data and how to map your land in BioFinder in workshop led by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Free, but registration required. More info at tinyurl. com/5h2xpcax.

#### Try a dragon boat

**Tuesdays, June 21 & 28, 6-7 p.m.** At the Community Sailing Center in Burlington, the Malia Dragon Boat racing team hosts Try-it-Tuesdays. Here's

## **Father's Day music**

#### Sunday, June 19 1 p.m.

Traditional bluegrass and Americana classics come to the Charlotte Senior Center in a free performance by the Mansfield Mountain Band, a fourpiece acoustic group from Richmond. No registration required. All

ages invited; seating is

limited. For more info, see charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

a chance to try this challenging and competitive rowing sport with a group of mentors who lead and instruct. Dress for lake spray; bring water shoes and drinking water. Free event with limited space. For more info or to register, see maliaracing. com/try-it-tuesday/ or call 802-864-2499.

#### Make Music Day Tuesday, June 21, all day

Musicians and vocalists: Get your name on the festival map for this international event at bigheavyworld.com/makemusicvt and sign up for a day of making music for all. This is an inclusive festival – all music makers are invited to participate: on front porches, stoops, stages, lawns, balconies or sidewalks. Represent Vermont as communities around the world celebrate all kinds of music. Be a participant or get the map to catch the live performances. For more info, email dafschein@ bigheavyworld.com or call 716-640-4639. There are opportunities to join others in Charlotte for this event.

#### Fairy house trail Due date: Wednesday, June 22

For those with a creative penchant for miniature and magical places, consider entering a handmade fairy house for submission into the Fairy House Trail exhibition at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. Houses must be submitted by June 22 for public opening on Saturday, July 9. Artwork will be on display outside all summer, so needs to withstand the weather. The house must fit within a 2-foot-by-2-foot base. For more info, call 802-533-9075.

#### Farmers market Fridays from June 24, 3-6:30 p.m.

Buy from local producers and artists and enjoy music at the Richmond Farmers Market on Volunteers Green. More info at 802-881-1249.

#### Night at the farm Fridays from June 24, 5-8 p.m.

The Fisher Brothers Farm on Spear St. in Shelburne is hosting Friday Nights at the Farm. Featured are food trucks, local live music and treats from Sisters of Anarchy ice cream, which is made at the farm from farm ingredients. For more info, see tinyurl.com/3jdynnpd or call 802-495-5165.

#### Montpelier market Saturdays, from June 25, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

The Capital City Farmers Market features a wide selection of local food, art, crafts, cheeses and musical performers. Saturdays at 133 State St., outdoors. More info at capitalcityfarmersmarket. com.

#### Field sketching Saturday, June 25, 1-4 p.m.

Sharpen your pencils and practice sketching skills at the University of Vermont Horticulture Farm, off Route 7 in South Burlington. Instructor and artist Jane Neroni leads participants in observation skills and techniques, first inside and then en plein air. Bring supplies, a folding stool or blanket, bug spray and water. Rain date is June 26. Register at tinyurl.com/2p8azbbv or see fhfvt.org.

#### Luigi Lucioni opening Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

From 1932 until his death in 1988, Lucioni visited and painted in Vermont. He is celebrated for his realistic portraits, landscapes and still lifes. Modern Light, the Lucioni exhibition at the Shelburne Museum, opens on June 25. Curator Katie Wood Kirchhoff leads a tour of the exhibition 2-3 p.m. on June 25. For more info see shelburnemuseum.org/calendar.

#### Benefit concert

Sunday, June 26, 6:45-9 p.m. A concert featuring local jazz and blues guitarist Paul Asbell, joined by African multi- instrumentalist Mikahely, will benefit the local non-profit Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors, which provides food to Chittenden county seniors in need. The Shelburne Vineyard doors open at 6:45 p.m. and music begins soon after. Food truck on site from Mule Bar in Winooski. Some tables available; bring blankets or chairs if desired. For info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/ 2p82j4s6 or call 802-985-3346.

#### Community band Mondays from June 27, 7 p.m.

The Vergennes City Band plays marches and classic band arrangements at their concerts in the park in downtown Vergennes. Stop by for a little slice of the less hectic life. Pull up a chair or blanket and enjoy the brass on a summer evening.

#### En plein air pop-up Tuesday, June 28, 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m.

tranquil, drop in to c

Create your own artwork on the grounds of the Shelburne Museum, inspired by the historic buildings and lush gardens. Materials provided, free with admission, weather permitting. For more info, see shelburnemuseum.org/calendar/.

#### Fly fishing

#### Thursday, June 30, 6-8 p.m.

Meet with members of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and learn the basics of fishing: equipment, ecology, regulations and hands-on fishing at Vergennes Falls Park on the Otter Creek. All materials supplied. Free; register at vtfishandwildlife. com/event/ introduction-to-fishingvergennes-vt.

> Find more events on The Charlotte News website charlottenewsvt.org

## **Green Mountain Bicycle Club schedule for July**

#### Rouse's Point Rouser Sunday, July 3

The mostly flat 60-mile loop heads up from Grand Isle over the Rouse's Point Bridge and down through scenic, lowtraffic, lakeside roads in New York and returns via the Grand Isle Ferry. The short 50-mile ride circles Isle LaMotte and returns on the Vermont side. The Social Ride will also be the long loop but at a slower pace. Meeting Place: Old Champlain Flyer parking lot, Ferry Road, Charlotte, Note: Not the ferry parking lot.Leader: Kevin Batson - kevbvt@gmail.com

Co-Leader: Karl Garen - kgaren@gmavt.





Meeting Time: 8:45 a.m.

Meeting Place: Grand Isle Ferry Parking Lot. Those coming from the Burlington area may consider carpooling.

Leader: Kevin Batson - kevbvt@gmail. com

Co-Leaders: Amy Otten - amyotten@ netscape.com & Ralph Kilmoyer ralphkilmoyer@comcast.net

#### Willsboro Wanderer Sunday, July 10

40- and 55-mile options of hilly terrain on low-traffic roads in New York. There are two potential stops for ice cream.

Bring money for the ferry and food stops. The shorter version of this ride skips the big hill out of Willsboro.

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m. for the 9 a.m. ferry.

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#### Not Quite Quebec Sunday, July 17

net

51- and 64-mile rides on low traffic roads near the Canadian border. The route crosses the Missisquoi River twice and travels along the shore of Lake Carmi. Meeting Time: 8:45 a.m. Meeting Place: Tractor Supply Company at exit 20 off I-89

Leader: Dave Merchant - dpierchand@ comcast.net

Co-Leader: Joyce McCutcheon - mellowmiti@aol.com

#### Bound for Bristol Bakery Sunday, July 24

This 40-mile ride takes low traffic roads from Hinesburg to Bristol. Those doing the short loop (27 miles) can stop at the Bristol Bakery for an out and back but those on the longer loop will add a loop through New Haven and Bristol before earning their pastries. Meeting Time: 8:45 a.m. Meeting Place: Clifford Lumber, Route 116

Leader: Karl Garen - kgaren@gmavt.net Co-Leader: Brian Howard - bjhowd@ gmail.com

#### Covered Bridges of Franklin and Lamoille County

#### Sunday, July 31

The hilly 41-mile loop goes through Eden and Johnson, while the 55-mile ride passes more covered bridges in Image by Pexels from Pixabay

Montgomery Center, returning through Bakersfield.

Meeting Time: 8:45 a.m.

Meeting Place: Jeffersonville Fish and Wildlife Access (3/10th mile north of Route 15 and Route 108 intersection, across the bridge).

Leader: Phyl Newbeck - phyl@together. net

Co-leader: Dawn Fragola - dfragola1127@ gmail.com

## Library News

## Summer time and the reading is easy at the Charlotte Library



Margaret Woodruff DIRECTOR

Details about summer reading at the Charlotte Library's "Oceans of Possibilities" are available here: bit.ly/summer05445.

#### Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences: Super Power Critters Wednesday, June 22, 1 p.m.

Faster than a speeding car, able to leap tall fences in a single bound ... It's an animal superhero! Discover the amazing adaptations animals have to be the heroes of the natural world. Get up close with our live animal ambassadors, and other amazing artifacts. You will walk away with the power to be a champion of nature. Live animals will include a bird of prey and snake or turtle. This will be an outdoor, in-person program. No registration necessary.

#### Build a biocube Tuesday, June 28, 10 a.m.

Look for biodiversity in a cubic foot of space. A biocube is a cubic-foot frame that you can place anywhere you want to investigate — in a tree, on top of grass, halfway in water, you name it. After constructing a biocube at the Charlotte Library, you will collect, identify and return the life that you find, getting a chance to investigate the question, "What kind of life can you find in one cubic foot of space?" An in-person program. Register at bit.ly/ events05445.

#### Four Winds nature walk Wednesday, June 29, 1 p.m.

Ellen Gawarkiewicz is a Four Winds teacher who delights in finding wonder in nearby nature. A nature walk at Pease Mountain Natural Area will focus on different senses to explore who's blooming, who's buzzing, who's wiggling, who's waddling, who's swimming and who's singing. An in-person program. Registration via Eventbrite: https://bit.ly/events05445.



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#### **Adult Programs**

#### Walking and biking in Charlotte: A community discussion Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m.

The Charlotte trails and energy committees, in partnership with Local Motion, will present findings from a recent community survey focused on walking and biking in Charlotte, followed by a community discussion on how the town can become a better place to walk and bike. Register to attend via Zoom at bit. ly/3w0qBIH, but no registration necessary for in-person attendance.

#### Charlotte Library goes to the farmers market Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Look for us at the Shelburne Farmers Market. We'll have fun giveaways for all ages and the latest info on our summer books and activities.

#### Mystery Book Group: Edgar Allen Poe selections Monday, June 20, 10 a.m.

This month we're reading selections by Edgar Allan Poe. The short story packet is available at the circulation desk and includes "The Black Cat," "The Telltale Heart," "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Pit and the Pendulum." University of Vermont professor emeritus and Poe scholar Sydney Poger joins us to share his expertise. Via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/84467010512.

#### Fraud prevention Wednesday, June 22, 1 p.m.

If you use the internet, it is important to know how to keep your accounts secure and your information safe. Learn to recognize and avoid online scams, steps to take to protect yourself from identity theft, and what to do if you think you've been scammed. Presented by tech librarian, Susanna Kahn. This program takes place at the Charlotte Senior Center. No registration necessary.

#### Men's book group: All the Pretty Horses Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. All the Pretty Horses by Cormac



McCarthy tells of young John Grady Cole,

civilized. With two companions, he sets off

on an idyllic, sometimes comic adventure,

blood. Print copies available at the library

Join us for a facilitated discussion of

"We Contain Multitudes" by Sara Henstra.

Kurlansky are partnered in English class,

writing letters to one another in a weekly

grows into love. But with homophobia,

bullying and devastating family secrets,

pen pal assignment. With each letter, the two

begin to develop a friendship that eventually

Jonathan and Kurl struggle to overcome their

conflicts and hold on to their relationship ...

and each other. Required registration for the

Summer reading is not just for kids. Book

blogger and reading enthusiast Genevieve

Trono (aka GentheBookworm) will share

library porch. Find out about new releases,

books. Make it a conversation and share your

some old favorites, and get excited about

own suggestions. If you haven't had time

to read, are in a reading rut, or want some

people to talk to about your latest read, this

is for you. We will also review the various

ways to access physical and virtual books

from the library. No registration required.

some recommendations with us on the

Zoom link at bit.ly/3wOVBFF. Pick up a

copy at the library. For teens and adults.

Summer reading gems

Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.

the last of a long line of Texas ranchers.

beautiful, desolate, rugged and cruelly

to a place where dreams are paid for in

Vermont Reads book discussion:

Jonathan Hopkirk and Adam "Kurl"

We Contain Multitudes

Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m.

circulation desk.

Across the border, Mexico beckons -

Photo contributed

#### Emergency Preparedness Wednesday, June 29, 1 p.m.

Chris Davis and Karina Warshaw, Charlotte Emergency Management director and coordinator, respectively, explain the details of emergency preparation. Learn how you and your family can get ready for various situations, how to develop an emergency plan, put together a GO-bag, ID your property and what resources are available to help you. Presented by the Charlotte Senior Center and Charlotte Library. This program takes place at the Senior Center, no registration.

#### Library book discussion: The Beginning of Spring Wednesday, June 29, 7:30 p.m.

March 1913. Moscow is stirring herself to meet the beginning of spring. English painter Frank Reid returns from work one night to find that his wife has gone away; no one knows where or why, or whether she'll ever come back. All Frank knows for sure is that he is now alone and must find someone to care for his three young children. Into Frank's life comes Lisa Ivanovna, a quiet, calming beauty from the country, untroubled to the point of seeming simple. But is she? Print copies available at the library circulation desk. Join the Zoom discussion at bit.ly/3wOVBFF.

#### **Ongoing programs**

#### Free Little Art Gallery

Come by the circulation desk for a visit to 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.

#### or email ads@thecharlottenews.org.

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#### Book Chat Fridays, 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.

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

#### Library contact information:

Margaret Woodruff, director Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian Susanna Kahn, tech librarian Phone: 802-425-3864 Email: info@charlottepubliclibrary.org

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.

## Senior Center News

## **Charlotte is rich in opportunities to make connections**



Lori York DIRECTOR

Community connects us through shared experiences, and there are many opportunities for building and deepening these connections in Charlotte.

Whether it is sharing one's musical talent with neighbors and friends, or joining to listen to the variety of musicians as part of Charlotte Makes Music, or listening to a presentation by a Charlotte resident about local volunteers providing invaluable service work in Honduras, or learning from our community leaders about how to protect each other from fraud, or how to prepare in case of an emergency when the strength of the community is critical, there's lots of ways to connect with this community.

Coming together for a vaccination clinic, hiking, kayaking or just spending time having coffee and conversation with friends and neighbors are just a few opportunities to connect in the next couple of weeks in Charlotte.

What makes our town special are the many community connections, and the Charlotte Senior Center is fortunate to be part of this vibrant community.

#### Presentations

#### Making a Difference with Hands to Honduras Tela

#### Thursday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Hands to Honduras Tela is a group of volunteers who travel to Tela, Honduras, to work for positive change. Projects are specifically focused on maternalchild health, educational improvements, medical/dental brigade and community assistance. Linda Gault Gilbert of Charlotte will share photos and stories of how the love of service creates happiness for all involved.

#### Online fraud protection Wednesday, June 22, 1-2:30 p.m.

If you use the internet, it is important to know how to keep your accounts secure and your information safe. Join tech librarian Susanna Kahn and learn how to recognize and avoid online scams, steps to take to protect yourself from identity theft and what to do if you think you've been scammed.

#### Emergency preparedness workshop Wednesday, June 29, 1 p.m.

Charlotte's emergency management

director and coordinator, Chris Davis and Karina Warshaw, explain emergency preparation. Learn how you and your family can get ready for various situations, how to develop an emergency plan, put together a GO-bag, ID your property and what resources are available to help you.

#### **Community music**

#### Charlotte makes music Tuesday, June 21, 1-8 p.m.

June 21 is World Music Day when musicians from all over the world play free music for their communities, celebrating how music crosses borders and brings people together. bigheavyworld. com/makemusicvt. Join Charlotte Makes Music for an afternoon and evening of music in celebration of Vermont Make Music and World Music Day. If you are interested in sharing your music indoors at the Charlotte Senior Center between 1-4 p.m., please contact Lori York at lyork@ charlotteseniorcentervt.org. To sign up for a time slot to play music on the Charlotte Library porch between 4-8 p.m., contact charlottegrangevt@gmail.com.

#### Community health

#### **COVID-19** vaccine clinics Tuesday, June 28, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Free walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Charlotte Senior Center. No appointments necessary. Vaccines and boosters are available for pediatric Pfizer (ages 5-11); adult Pfizer (12+) and Moderna (18+).

#### **Outdoor activities**

#### Croquet on the side lawn Fridays, 1-3 p.m.

Remember passing afternoons playing a game of croquet with friends and neighbors? Or are you interested in learning how to play? The center is looking to start a weekly game of croquet on the side lawn at the senior center. Questions? Email Joan Mollica at jmollica3@comcast.net.

#### Hike Niquette Bay State Park, Colchester

#### Tuesday, June 21, 8:45 a.m.

Meet at the senior center at 8:45 a.m. to join Mike Yantachka and carpool to the trailhead. This 3.2-mile loop trail is rated as easy with several ups and downs. Total elevation gain is about 500 feet. Part of the trail drops down to the shore of Mallett's Bay before climbing back up. Free, but you need to register by Friday, June 17.



Photo by Scooter MacMillan Joan Mollica hopes croquet is a hit at the Charlotte Senior Center.

#### Kayak Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park Friday, June 24

A kayak trip for active women who share a love for exploring local lakes, ponds and rivers. Weather permitting, the kayak trips will happen on the second and fourth Friday mornings throughout the summer and early fall. To register your interest, email Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com to be placed on a master list of paddlers. An email will be sent to the master list regarding the details of the specific kayak trips.

#### Senior center contact info:

Lori York, director, lyork@ charlotteseniorcentervt.org Kerrie Pughe, coordinator, kpughe@ charlotteseniorcentervt.org 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte 802-425-6345 charlotteseniorcentervt.org

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.com.

## A pizza, a salad and a surprise at the Charlotte Senior Center

Susan Ohanian Contributor

#### Monday Munch June 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Mini pizza, Caesar salad and surprise dessert.

Julia Child created her recipe for Caesar salad from memories of enjoying the thentrendy delight as a young teen with her family at Hotel Caesar in Tijuana. Created by chef Caesar Cadi, this salad remains a favorite.

#### Grab-&-Go Meal Thursday, June 23, Pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Italian chicken breast duck sauce, rice with beans, broccoli florets, cranberry sauce, strawberry shortcake.

Thursday meals are provided by Age Well and there is no charge, but be sure to register by Monday. Call or email: 802-425-6371 or kerriepugh@ charlotteseniorcenter.org.



#### Monday Munch June 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Vichyssoise, tabouli salad and rhubarb squares.

As described in The New Yorker Talk of the Town interviews with head chef

at the Ritz-Carlton Louis Diat in 1943 and 1959, Vichyssoise is an American creation with French ties. Diat said that in 1917, reflecting on the potato-leek soup made by his mother and grandmother, he remembered that he and his brother cooled off the hot soup by pouring in cold milk. He named his cold soup creation at the Ritz after Vichy, then a spa not far from his hometown with no other international connotations.

Dining at the Ritz Roof Garden, industrialist robber baron Charles M. Schwab ordered the soup the first day it was on the menu — and asked for a second helping. The cooks at the Charlotte Senior Center hope you enjoy a generous bowl of this summer favorite, but please remember: Our kitchen is limited and offers no second helpings (even for industrialist robber barons).

#### Grab-&-Go Meal Thursday, June 30, Pick up: 10-11 a.m. Beef stroganoff with mushroom sauce,

rotini noodles, Brussels sprouts, blueberry crisp.

Ritz-Carlton head Chef Diat, mentioned above, had a few words to say about sauce: "Use good cream ... and good wine and you can make people enjoy eating chicken wings." We doubt that Age Well uses wine in their sauce, but they don't ask you to eat chicken wings either.

Some of Diat's food innovations did not have the staying power of Vichyssoise, but the fact that they ranged from chicken Gloria Swanson to pears Geraldine Farrar gives a hint of his staying power in the Ritz kitchen.

For musical delight, consider "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David for the film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Besides enjoying the music, you can watch Paul Newman's bike ride at https://tinyurl.com/2kk9458v.

