

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022 | VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 24



Photo by Lee Krohn
Sam Smith with the “running of the sheep” to their next pasture area.
Photographer Lee Krohn said, “It was so amusing how they ran right along and did not need any sheepherding to keep them headed the right way.”
The Smiths live off Greenbush Road and have been practicing rotational grazing on their land neighboring Ten Stones in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

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More than 40 people showed up to the Charlotte Memorial Day commemoration on the Charlotte Town Green.

Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

At least 40 people participated in the inaugural Memorial Day celebration on the Charlotte Town Green. The names of 31 Charlotters who gave their lives for the United States during war were read aloud by town residents.

After each name was read, there was a pause for reflection ...

In years past, members of the Charlotte Grange have celebrated Memorial Day by putting flags on the graves of town residents who have served in the country's armed forces.

"This year we wanted to do something more," said Grange member Linda Hamilton. "We wanted to honor the soldiers who had some connection to Charlotte, who died in military service, and we wanted to remember them as individual people. They had names. We don't know much about their lives, but we can imagine they were people just like us. They had families, they had friends, they had plans."

Jordan Paquette, a Charlotte fire fighter and a combat veteran in Iraq and Afghanistan, said, "It's so important to remember, especially for our young folks, that everything we have today, everything is because someone said, 'Yes, I'm going to stand up for what I believe in.'"

The 31 people remembered at Charlotte's Memorial Day commemoration were:

- War of 1812 — Private Elisha Hill
- U.S. Civil War — Private James Arnold Read, Private Oliver T. Archambault,

Private Cassius Newell, Private Alonzo E. Root, Private Joseph Kehoe, Private George Doolittle Sherman, Private Henry Drum, Private Daniel S. Ball, 1st Sergeant Michael A. Kehoe, Private Fordyce N. Wheeler, Private Alfred Tatro, Private James Little, Private Thomas Young, Private William Clark Powell, Private James Abell, Private Daniel A. Scofield, Private Jacob Lacey Jr., Private Moody Haskell, Private Frank Barslow and Private Freeman Mason

- World War I — Private Joseph Harry Hanks, Private DeLial W. Magee and Private Julius S. Munnette
- World War II — Private First Class William Arthur St. George, Private First Class Romeo Arthur Leclair, Private George Louis Sturgeon, Air Force Technician/5 Corporal Daniel P. Leonard and Marine Lieutenant Willard Holdredge
- Viet Nam — Marine Sergeant Fred David St. George
- Iraq — Army Specialist, Vermont National Guard Alan Norman Bean Jr.
- Many people from Charlotte served in the Revolutionary War but, Hamilton said, they don't have good information on who they were.

After the reading and quiet contemplation of these names, trumpeters Sarah Stein and Oliver Smith played "Taps."

Then those gathered gradually dispersed, returning to doing the kinds of activities that these fallen 31 Charlotters had helped ensure they would be able to do ...



Photos by
Scooter MacMillan

Above: Sarah Stein and Oliver Smith closed Monday's Memorial Day ceremony by playing "Taps."

Left: Jordan Paquette talks about the significance of Memorial Day.

Selectboard chair breaks ribs in mower accident

Charlotte looks for more affordable, energy efficient, aesthetically pleasing new town garage design

Scooter MacMillan
EDITOR

(This story has been updated since it originally appeared online.)

Although Charlotte Selectboard Chair Jim Faulkner broke three ribs when a large landscaping mower flipped over on him, the accident could have been much worse.

Faulkner spent four nights in the hospital and is still in a good bit of pain, but he's back at work, presiding at the May 23 selectboard meeting, albeit moving a bit carefully and trying not to laugh or cough because of the pain from the broken ribs.

He was working alone when the mower started to slide, and he jumped off and into a ditch. The mower flipped over and landed on top of him.

His whole body was covered by the mower, except for his head.

"Fortunately, it didn't hit me in the head, otherwise it would have been history," Faulkner said.

It was also fortunate that the mower flipped over, he said, so he didn't end up on the side of the mower with the spinning blade.

Although he was alive, it was still a scary situation. The sensor that cuts the mower off still had pressure on it because the mower was upside down resting on it. So, the mower was still running — until the motor flooded out and quit.

Even after the mower stalled out, Faulkner's ordeal was not over; he was pinned under it. At first, he was struggling to breathe, and it was a while before he could even move. It took a good deal of painful struggling to extricate himself and get himself to the hospital.

"Pain almost becomes immaterial in situations like that. The mind just says, "You



Jim Faulkner

have some pain, buddy, but there's a couple of more important things than the pain," Faulkner said. "It's an interesting concept."

Some members of selectboard had planned to hold a meeting with members from the energy committee to discuss the design of the new garage on May 18, but that meeting was cancelled because of Faulkner's injuries.

Town garage meeting

The rescheduled meeting was held on Friday, May 27.

Jim Faulkner and Louise McCarren from the selectboard were joined by members of the energy committee and industry professionals who are helping Charlotte plan a less expensive and more energy efficient garage than the initial design.

That plan estimated the cost of building a new town garage would be about \$3.5 million, selectboard chair Faulkner said. Adding septic and well would bring that cost up to around \$3.7 million.

A town garage is needed to replace the

private garage where road commissioner Junior Lewis housed his road equipment before it burned down just before Christmas.

Eyebrows shot up at the selectboard meeting when that estimate was announced and those eyebrows almost merged with hairlines when people heard how much Ferrisburgh and Hinesburg spent to build new garages several years ago.

Ferrisburgh's garage cost about \$1 million, a good deal of which reportedly was due to its construction being overseen by a town official who is also a general contractor.

Hinesburg's garage cost about \$3 million, Faulkner said.

Like so much else, construction materials, particularly steel, have gone way up in this post-pandemic world — if you can get them.

There has been a suggestion that one way to bring down the cost of the initial design is to reduce the garage from six to four bays.

Yantachka reverses abortion amendment position but will face primary opposition

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

An outcry over his vote on Proposal 5 has caused Rep. Mike Yantachka to reverse his position on the proposed state constitutional amendment and, at least in part, motivated another Charlotte resident to run against him in the August primary. Proposal 5 would add language to the Vermont Constitution protecting personal reproductive rights and prohibiting the government from denying or infringing upon that right unless there is a compelling state interest.

In February, Yantachka voted against Prop 5. After reading and hearing from residents, he said if he had the opportunity to vote again, he would vote differently. “Upon re-examination I’ve come to see the unintended implications that resulted,” Yantachka posted on social media. “I realize that I have given the impression that I do not trust women to make good decisions regarding their reproductive choices. That is truly not something I believe. I should have untangled the issues better and recognized that was the message I was sending with my vote.”

On Monday, May 23, Chea Waters Evans, the former editor of The Charlotte News, announced her intention to run against Yantachka. By Tuesday, she had already collected half of the 50 signatures she needed to qualify.

The deadline to turn in petitions to run for office was last Thursday, May 26. Only Yantachka and Evans qualified to run, both for the Democratic nomination in the Aug. 9 primary.

Absentee ballots should be available by July 21, said town clerk Mary Mead. “A matter like this is important enough that you should really as a person who’s representing the people in Charlotte, I think, you should be really firm on that position,” Evans said. “I think you should stick with that opinion. I don’t think waffling about things that are as important as a person’s right to reproductive freedom is something I can support.”

This was the second vote on the amendment. Two years ago, when this vote first came up, Yantachka voted for Prop 5. The right to reproductive autonomy is currently protected by state law, but this proposed amendment would enshrine that right in the Vermont Constitution.

A constitutional amendment must be approved in two different biennia or, in other words, there must be votes for approving an amendment two years apart so that two different sessions of the Legislature have a chance to weigh in. This requirement is intended to make amending the constitution difficult.

During the two years between the two votes on the amendment, Yantachka became concerned that having the right to an abortion as part of the constitution



Rep. Mike Yantachka and Chea Waters Evans

would preclude any further discussion about when a fetus is viable to live outside the womb. He said he still supports a woman’s right to an abortion.

Evans said she didn’t think the Legislature really got “in the weeds” about when a fetus is a viable life. She thinks the issue is about people being able to choose. She said from her conversations with residents it seemed Yantachka’s vote against Prop 5 was not how most people in Charlotte wanted him to vote, noting that he was the only Democrat voting “no” on the issue.

Politicians should vote the way their constituents want them to vote since they are their representative except in extreme circumstances, Evans said: “If there was like an angry mob of zombies who came to Charlotte and were like, ‘You need to vote that it’s OK to kill people and eat their brains,’ I would probably vote against that.”

Besides Yantachka’s vote on Prop 5, Evans was motivated by a desire to have someone who was younger and female. She believes there has been a cultural and political shift in the last five years or so which she understands.

Evans is 47 and Yantachka, who has served as Charlotte’s representative for 12 years, is 75.

Yantachka said a weekend that started out really nice turned challenging. The story in The Charlotte News about his hope voters would understand and appreciate his reasons for voting against the abortion amendment appeared on Thursday, May 19.

On Friday, as he was driving down to Binghamton, NY, for his granddaughter’s graduation from Binghamton University on Saturday, he hit a deer, which totaled his car and killed the deer.

He ended up in the median unable to see because of the deployed airbag, but fortunately neither he nor his dog, who was

riding in the back, were injured. Then social media began to blow up with people upset about his vote. So, what had started as a really nice weekend turned “challenging.”

He believes he’s done a lot of good things for Charlotte, working hard on such things as climate change, gun legislation, broadband access, school meals, agritourism, “all kinds of good stuff that benefits the people of Charlotte.” He was surprised to feel like this one vote seemed to turn so many people against him.

“That’s kind of a wakeup call. It caused me to reevaluate my rationale for voting the way I did and listen to other people’s perspectives and see maybe I was wrong to vote against it,” Yantachka said.

Running with opposition is good for democracy, Yantachka said. He had opposition the first three times he ran for re-election but ran unopposed the last three times.

He plans to return to a pre-COVID style of campaigning, knocking on doors and holding meetings as he has in the past on issues like immigration or a carbon tax.

“I’ll have to figure out another way to reach out and meet people and get them to meet me,” Yantachka said.

For her part, Evans feels like she has a good grasp of the issues that are important to people in Charlotte, like farming, affordable housing, diversity, equity and Proposal 5.

“I’m dialed in, I think, to the community in a way that fosters a sense of dialogue and a way to support lots of different people. I would say even the people who are excited that he voted no to Proposal 5,” she said.

After she resigned from The Charlotte News, Evans founded The Charlotte Bridge, an online newsletter. She said she hadn’t figured out whether her bid for office will mean the end of The Bridge, adding “I am taking things step by step.”
(In the interest of full disclosure: Mike Yantachka is a volunteer proofreader for The Charlotte News. After moving to Vermont five years ago, Scooter MacMillan may appear to have followed Chea Waters Evans to jobs as a reporter for the Vermont Community Newspaper Group, primarily for the Shelburne News and The Citizen, and as editor of The Charlotte News, after she resigned those positions. He will not be running for the Legislature.)



Mission Statement

The mission of The Charlotte News is:

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

The Charlotte News is a forum for the free exchange of the views of Charlotte residents and community volunteers on matters related to the town and the people who live here.

Editorial independence

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

Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

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

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

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News from The News

Bloch steps down from paper’s board

John Quinney
Publisher and President

Late last year, the Charlotte selectboard voted to establish a development review board. Soon afterwards, Bob Bloch let us know that he was interested in joining the planning commission. He was appointed by the selectboard at their Dec. 13 meeting.

To avoid the appearance of any conflicts, Bob decided to step down from the board of The Charlotte News. His last meeting was on April 27.

Bob had joined the board in 2015, bringing his business experience, marketing and sales smarts from a long career in consumer products, hospitality and technology services.

At the time of his appointment, Bob was the director of the Build Your Own Business program at Champlain College which helped students learn to create, build and lead their own business ventures. He had also served on the boards of the Charlotte Land Trust and the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center.

Back in 2015, Vince Crockenberg was our publisher. He writes, “When Bob agreed to join the news board, the paper was in the middle of a full-fledged financial crisis, and we needed to rethink our business model, and quickly, if we were going to avoid the fate of numerous other community newspapers that had recently closed their newsrooms. Bob’s arrival marked the beginning of a turnaround at The Charlotte News. He brought his business experience to the board as we rethought and reorganized how we did community journalism. I for one credit Bob’s arrival on the board as the first step in creating what is now a well-organized and well-funded nonprofit community paper. Given what’s happened elsewhere in local journalism, that is no small accomplishment.”

Bob played a key role in the creation of our first strategic plan back in the spring of 2019, and he frequently brought his brand of “out of the box” thinking to bear on some tough financial, governance and editorial problems. Almost always, he ended his contributions with the phrase, “That’s all I got.”

Over the past 15 months, Bob stepped up his efforts, serving as secretary and as a member of our governance and fundraising committees, writing stories on local businesses for the paper and covering several selectboard meetings. On occasion, he provided me with thoughtful and creative suggestions as we navigated difficult personnel and editorial decisions.

On behalf of all of us here at the paper, Bob, thank you for giving so selflessly of your time and experience for the past seven years. And, Bob, “That’s all I got.”



Bobl Bloch

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

On Thursday, Champlain Valley Union High students arrived at school to find members of the Hinesburg Police Department on duty after a shooting threat.

According to police, they received information at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, that a Burlington High School student threatened to “shoot up the school.”

The father of a CVU student said the Burlington High student made the threat against his daughter, her friends and the school.

Although the student claimed he had a handgun, when Burlington Police went to his home, his parents said he doesn’t own a handgun.

In a release, the Hinesburg Police Department said officers would be at CVU when students arrived and would “provide heightened coverage for the rest of the day.”

The Vermont State Police, the Hinesburg



Police Department, the Burlington Police Department and CVU are still investigating the matter.

Principal Adam Bunting has praise for the actions of the parents in getting in touch with the school, for the Hinesburg Police Department for its presence at the school and for students who had planned to walk out on Thursday to honor victims of recent mass shootings in Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, Texas. The CVU students agreed to postpone their walkout until Friday.

On Friday, when students arrived at

school there was music playing and there was a vigil. At 10:45 a.m. a few hundred students walked out, Bunting said.

It appears the Burlington High student made the threat over a series of days before a CVU student realized it was a serious situation and told an adult.

Bunting said he appreciated the relationships within his school’s community, whether it’s relationships students have with their parents or with trusted adults they feel comfortable sharing with when something like this happens.

He is also appreciative that the Hinesburg Police responded immediately and devoted so many resources to the school. And he’s appreciative that “they’re only 20 seconds down the road” from CVU.

“I just really feel thankful for our community and the number of parents who just reached out,” Bunting said, adding he was grateful to have a student walk up to him in the hall and say, “I want to make sure you’re OK.”

SELECTBOARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lewis has said several times he isn’t looking for a fancy, expensive garage. He wants a garage that’s functional at a cost town voters will approve when it comes up for a bond vote.

However, Lewis said, he believes the town should stick with six bays for the new garage.

“Everybody that I know or I work for might say their house is too big now that their kids have left, but I’ve never heard anybody say their garage is too big. Everybody is putting up little sheds because they need more space,” Lewis said. “I think we should build it not just for myself but for the future.”

Rebecca Foster of the energy committee said big grants are coming for electrical chargers specifically along Route 7, to get chargers every 50 miles, so installing a charger at the garage might bring in funds to offset the cost of the garage. She also said the site of the new garage at the old flea market south of Charlotte Crossings on Route 7 might be utilized as a park and ride and there are grants available for that.

While the town would like to have a bond vote for construction of a new garage on the ballot in November, Faulkner said the town is not committed to a vote then. That is “a moving date” as they go through the design and permitting process, but there is much anxiousness to get garage built as soon as possible so Lewis and his employees don’t have to work on his trucks outside on snow-covered ground in freezing weather.

Besides being more affordable and energy efficient than the initial plans, the town is wrestling with constructing a garage aesthetically consistent with other rural buildings in the area.

It will be a challenge to build a such a large building that fits with “the Vermont vernacular,” Foster said.

The challenge is “making it look like a barn when it’s not a barn,” said David Pill, a Charlotte architect recruited to help with the design issues.

A good bit of the discussion was about whether the garage should have a gabled roof that will be nicer looking or a flat roof that has lots of advantages for situating solar panels.

Faulkner said he was “going to hold out”

for a gabled roof. “I may have to give it up,” he admitted but talked about his concerns that traffic headed south on Route 7 would be looking down on a flat roof, which he’s not wild about.

Faulkner would also like for the building to have the aesthetic and passive solar advantages of windows, even though windows are expensive.

“I agree with you, Jim that natural light is nice, and I prefer a traditional roof experience aesthetically, but I will say that whole garage is not oriented particularly well for photovoltaic,” Foster said. “If it were a flat roof, we could actually orient the solar panels to the south and maximize what we’re able to gain from them.”

The perspective of Dan Edson, an energy consultant with Efficiency Vermont, who attended the meeting remotely, was to locate solar panels where it makes the most sense rather than having design or other considerations dictate where they go.

“Do due diligence. Make sure that you look at all the tools within the town to make sure that it’s on the most cost-effective piece of property,” Edson said. “Sometimes that is a roof because there is a financial benefit associated with putting it on a roof, and a flat roof is ideal for that.”

The first priority is making sure a building is as energy efficient as possible. Looking at installing solar is next on the list, Edson said.

“I want to say something as a citizen of Charlotte,” Ruah Swennerfelt of Sustainable Charlotte said, shortly before the meeting came to a close. “I’m so proud to be sitting here and listening to everybody being really concerned about being energy efficient, finding the right way to do this for the future.”

Charlotte could be an example for other towns going through this process, Swennerfelt said.



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Commentary

Child abuse is preventable and gun violence is child abuse

Linda Johnson

It is difficult to comprehend that there is yet another mass murder of children in our country. Nonetheless, a young 18-year-old boy who appears to have been bullied, dropped out of school, was unemployed, fighting with his parents and without a plan for his future, has committed the unthinkable. In his hands a weapon of war, an AR-15 machine gun, created for soldiers on the battlefield, not a classroom, ended the lives of 19 human beings.

Guns are now the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in our country. This is the ultimate form of child abuse. Although gun laws are controversial, and we are divided on the changes that need to be made, political leaders across this country need to take action to restrict

gun ownership in order to keep children and youth safe.

Guns in the home increase the risk of youth accidental death, fatalities resulting from familial disagreements, and youth and adult suicide. Additionally, guns make situations like home invasion more deadly. If you or someone you are close to owns gun, ask: Is it necessary to be a gun owner, and if so, why?

If you do own a gun and are rethinking your decision, consider looking into a gun buyback program, and always make sure that it is always stored safely. Take care that it is safely locked up, with the ammunition stored in a separate place. There are gun safety classes available to gun owners as well.

Hunting for food makes sense. In Australia, people store their hunting rifles

at their local police stations and sign them out during hunting season. This way, they are protecting their family from accidental tragedy and still continuing their tradition of hunting.

The Second Amendment was written at a time when guns were one-shot-at-a-time blunderbusses. We were in the middle of a war on our soil and militia groups were actively participating in this revolution. This amendment was one that needed amending a very long time ago ... probably more than 200 years ago, give or take.

The founding leaders of our nation could never have imagined the types of military weapons now in the hands of Americans, young and old. Honestly, they could not have foreseen the now common killing of children from stray bullets, mass murders of children in schools, citizens sitting in

houses of worship, and grocery stores.

I know I am far from alone in thinking we must change this, and we must be very brave now about forming our much more perfect union. If our nation does not allow for the safety of its children, youth and all folks, then what have we created? Healthy, safe communities that protect children are in line with the rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” that the founders of our nation intended.

It is time to use every one of our voices to consider what we need to do about this overwhelming gun problem. It is one that is killing our children and our future as a society. Child abuse is preventable and gun violence is child abuse.

(Linda Johnson is executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.)

Funeral traditions changing with growth of cremations

Cynthia Marshall
Morningside Cemetery Association

I had rarely given much thought to trends surrounding funeral choices. That changed when I joined the Morningside Cemetery Association’s board of trustees and began to look at files of recent burials in this historic cemetery. I noticed most were interments of ashes (or cremains), not casket burials containing the deceased; and that caused me to reflect on choices made by my own family.

My maternal grandfather died in the late 1960s when I was in high school. It was the first time I experienced the death of a close family member, and I still clearly recall

many of the funeral arrangements. These arrangements were carried out by a funeral home in Burlington and included use of a casket, calling hours both in the afternoon and evening, a traditional funeral mass and interment of the casket at Resurrection Park. I doubt it occurred to my grandmother or other family members to consider cremation. Even if offered as an option, they would surely have dismissed it as inappropriate for a Catholic burial.

Fast forward to a stormy winter day in 2016 and my mother’s death. Before her passing, my mother had been clear about her wishes — she favored cremation.

The question of when to have a memorial

service and internment for my mother’s ashes was a decision that required more discussion. My brother and I went back and forth about whether we should try to gather family and friends in mid to late December. We decided it would be difficult, and perhaps unsafe, for out-of-state participants to drive in from Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey on snowy roads. Additionally, we weren’t keen to have a funeral service within days of Christmas. So, we postponed a memorial until June. Fr. Cray, then pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, was helpful and supportive of our choices.

As a member of the Morningside Cemetery Association, I know that the changes I’ve seen within my own family involving memorials, casket burials and cremation are reflected in many other families. In fact, across the United States cremations are now the choice of a majority of families. One online estimate indicated that, in 2021, cremations were used in approximately 54 percent of deaths in the country. The percentage is even higher in Vermont. The reasons are many, including cost. Traditional casket burials are expensive, often 8,000 to 10,000 dollars. Cremation costs are just a quarter to a third of that amount.

Environmental issues also come into play. The impact of casket burials on groundwater has been a growing concern. Convenience is another consideration. With cremation, a family can schedule a memorial at a time of their choosing, which can be important for

those spread across the country and for those with demanding work or school schedules. The trend toward “at the convenience of the family” has been especially common since the COVID pandemic. Obituaries often state that memorials will be scheduled at a later time, presumably when warmer weather allows for outdoor gatherings and distancing.

With the shift to more cremations and fewer casket burials, cemeteries are rethinking their practices and options as well. Our neighbors in Shelburne have developed a cremation garden in the Town Cemetery. The Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph Center offers both in-ground and columbarium options (a columbarium is a structure with niches for storage of urns). Morningside Cemetery is planning to develop a cremation garden in the near future. In the meantime, the association has updated its policies to allow for the burial of up to six cremation urns in each plot.

As we move forward, we will no doubt see other options being offered. For grieving families, this is important. Different choices make possible options that work well spiritually, emotionally and financially.

Charlotte residents interested in purchasing a plot at Morningside Cemetery may contact Nancy Richardson at nancy@richardsonvt.com or 802-539-2110 to discuss their needs and available options.

(Cynthia Marshall, of Charlotte, is a trustee of Morningside Cemetery Association, morningsidecemeteryvt.com.)

NOTICE OF VACANCIES AND EXPIRING TERMS ON TOWN BOARDS AND OF TOWN OFFICIAL POSITIONS May 26, 2022

The following positions have expiring terms:

- Chittenden Solid Waste District, Town Representative & Alternate Representative—2 year terms ending on May 31, 2024
- First Constable—1 year term ending on June 30, 2023

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

Hi Neighbor!

Susan Ohanian: A passionate spokesperson for teachers



Phyl Newbeck
CONTRIBUTOR

Susan Ohanian has a lot to say about teaching. In fact, she’s so passionate about the topic that she gave up a teaching career in favor of one writing about teaching.

She has authored over 20 books and more than 300 magazine and newspaper articles about the classroom.

“I started out working for an ad agency in New York City,” Ohanian said. “I thought it was a disgusting job, so I went to night school for education courses. I saw an ad in the New York Times where they were issuing emergency certificates for high school English teachers, and I applied.”

Ohanian only taught for a year in the city before getting married and moving with her husband to Troy, NY, where she taught for 15 years.

“I taught all ages, but mostly seventh grade and some third grade,” she said.

Ohanian wasn’t impressed with a lot of the classroom teaching she saw and began to write about it. Initially she was published in trade journals like the National Council of Teachers of English and the Phi Beta Kappan.

“I wanted to reach a larger audience and I got lucky,” she said. “Teachers weren’t really writing and when they did, the articles were stiff and academic, while I wrote in a chatty style.”

Ohanian wrote for USA Today, but they limited her to 800 words, and other magazines, including the Nation, Washington Monthly and the Atlantic all had word limits.

“I had bigger stories to tell so books seemed like a good idea,” Ohanian said.

Her first book on education was published in 1991 and her last, a critique of No Child Left Behind, came out in 2007. Since then, she has written two books critiquing Donald Trump.

Ohanian’s husband taught physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, but soon he began writing books, as well. The couple kept a sailboat in Charlotte and came up every weekend.

“We’d sail no matter what the weather was because we’d made the drive,” she said, “and that led to going out in 35 mph winds.”

In 1994 the two decided to move to Charlotte to be closer to the lake.

Ohanian became a member of the Vermont Society for the Study of Education.

“We looked at what the state had done in terms of education, and we liked what we saw,” she said. “They had something called Design for Education, which was devised after administrators went around the state interviewing teachers. It was all about trusting teachers, children and parents but,

“I think teachers are pretty tough. I think teachers and librarians have the right ideas.”

— Susan Ohanian

to get federal dollars, the state had to sign on to No Child Left Behind.”

Ohanian noted that the original Design for Education was only 25 pages, including student artwork, but the revised plan ballooned so that almost 200 pages were devoted just to K-3 reading curriculum.

Ohanian said that when Vermont originated Design for Education, the state received applications from teachers across the country because they were impressed by the concept.

“There was nothing revolutionary about the program,” she said. “It emphasized local control and flexibility, and called for learning experiences geared to individual needs rather than group norms. The problem is that education becomes a football for political agendas.”

In 2007, Ohanian wrote a booklet about federal interference in the program called “A Roadblock in Vermont’s Design for Education.”

“We put a copy in every legislator’s



Susan Ohanian

Photo by Scooter MacMillan

mailbox,” she said, “and got only one reply.”

Of all her books, Ohanian is probably proudest of What Happened to Recess and Why Are Our Children Struggling in Kindergarten? which was published in 2002.

“There is a whole lot of pressure for kids to have measurable skills in kindergarten,” Ohanian said. “They should be learning how to play together and to negotiate with one another.”

Ohanian pointed to studies showing that even when children have extensive skill training in kindergarten, by the time they get to third grade they are back on the same level as other kids.

Ohanian missed teaching when she switched to fulltime writing, but for several

years she was a mentor at Charlotte Central School.

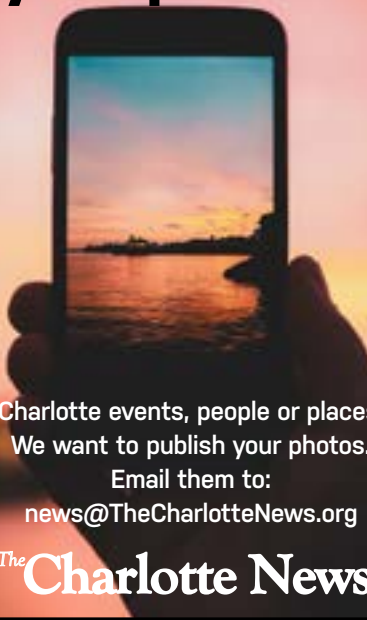
“I loved what I saw there,” she said. “I thought they were doing a great job.”

Ohanian is still involved in education policy as a fellow at the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado. Locally, she was involved in the installation of a Little Free Library for kids at the Grange.

Ohanian believes strongly in the power of play, sustained silent reading and the elimination of duplicitous language. She is fairly optimistic about the fate of her former profession.

“I think teachers are pretty tough,” she said. “I think teachers and librarians have the right ideas.”

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Community

Energy committee holds pollinator workshop, more coming

Rebecca Foster
Charlotte Energy Committee

People eager to feed and protect the pollinators in our gardens, neighborhoods and town convened at the library on a beautiful May 21 morning for our pollinator workshop.

Bees are not only helpful in stabilizing our food systems, they also play a crucial role in balancing an ecological system that sequesters carbon in the plants and soil. Wildflowers — or bee food — have proven to be an excellent partner with solar panels

located on meadows. Where there is one, there should be the other.

To see this pairing in action, visit the solar-compost shed between Charlotte Central School and the trail to Pease Mountain.

Use the free outlet powered by the solar panel to charge your phone, yard tool battery or electric bike while you stop for a picnic amid the emerging wildflowers. A poster inside the shed explains how the solar system provides us with free-from-the-sun electricity.

Stay tuned for more news this summer from the solar shed.



Photo by Rebecca Foster.

Marc and Pearl Richter add to a mural art project kicking off a summer of workshops.

Town green a great place for a village to coalesce

Linda Hamilton

The grassy area in the center of Charlotte Village, bordered by shade trees, town hall, Quinlan School and Charlotte Library is an attractive and welcoming public space. Yes, it provides tidy landscaping to showcase our public buildings, but it is much more than that.

Being intentionally quite open and versatile, the town green is meant to provide space for public gatherings and events which bring townspeople together in shared activities. It is meant to be accessible, whether for individuals seeking a quiet moment to read or eat lunch at the picnic table, or a gaggle of kids putting on a Very Merry Theater production, or for the town party showcasing local groups and projects. It's a space to use for our common good. And

rightly so, because it is our shared space — our commons.

Commons? That term came to us from a deep history in Europe, where most areas built public spaces into their villages and towns from the very beginning. Town squares and market places have always been vibrant and essential spaces for community life.

When rural villages first coalesced, a common grazing area for animals was normally established, to keep farm animals close at hand and safe. Native American cultures traditionally hold an even stronger concept of common good and sharing, and their settlement patterns reflect this. So, it is no surprise that early European settlements here included intentional public spaces — commons, or what became known as village or town greens. And, lucky us, we have one!

There is a tricky side to maintaining a common space, however, and it has to do with western culture's tendency to promote individual interests over community interests (private over public). This became dramatically clear in those historic public grazing areas. Everyone shared the benefits and also the responsibilities for keeping the space productive and useful.

But time and again it was just too tempting for an individual to try to get a little more personal benefit by putting a few more animals on the common land, even when clearly that would stress the grazing capacity and diminish everyone's benefits. Without strong cultural norms to rein in this temptation, many of these grazing commons were overused and lost.

When towns and villages were established in the American colonies (and later states), one way their governing bodies protected the larger interests of society was by accepting responsibility for land designated to be used for the public good, such as town roads, public schools, town forests and, in New England, often a town green.

And what of our little Charlotte Town Green? We can thank our lucky stars that we have it, available to all of us.

Let's appreciate it for the treasure it is, and use it. It is intended as a place to bring people together in ways that strengthen connections and understanding within the community. A great way to do this is through having fun

together, and Charlotte Grange invites you to do just that, starting with two special music events in June.

Back by popular demand, Grange on the Green will kick off the summer series of lively musical concerts from the library porch on June 9, featuring Charlotte's own contemporary vaudevillians Woody Keppel and the Hokum Brothers. Bring your friends, bring a picnic, and be prepared to laugh and sing along. Family-friendly music, banter and maybe some juggling(?), 5:30-7 p.m.

Then come back for more local music on World Music Day, June 21, when the Grange, library and senior center offer an open mic for both accomplished and aspiring local musicians to share their talents with the rest of us. Individuals and small groups can book a 15- or 25-minute time slot 1-4 p.m. in the Charlotte Senior Center (lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org) or 4-8 p.m. on the library porch (charlottegrangevt@gmail.com).

This is the way it works: If you offer to make music, we'll show up, clap and be happy for you. That's what you get when a supportive community gathers together.

And, as always, we treat our area with respect and leave nothing behind but good memories and happy anticipation of the next time we can share time there with friends and neighbors.

(Linda Hamilton is a member of the Charlotte Grange.)



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Monthly Meeting of the Trails Committee Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Selectboard Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.
	Development Review Board Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



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Education

Charlotte Central School predicted to grow by 50 kids

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

A demographic report on the Champlain Valley School District is predicting some abracadabra-type growth at Charlotte Central School.

Richard Grip, who works in school demography for Statistical Forecasting, a firm based in Dorset, came with five- and 10-year predictions to the school board meeting on May 17.

Among the prognostications Grip shared was his firm prediction that the Charlotte school will grow by 50 students over the next five years.

This mystified chief operations officer Jeanne Jensen.

“The numbers in Charlotte are really puzzling. They show growth with no new housing and a flat birth rate,” Jensen said. “I’m not really sure how we’re getting 50 kids. That’s magic somehow.”

In an email after the meeting, Jensen said the demographer attributes the growth entirely to in-migration, the turnover of existing housing.

The good news for Charlotte Central School is that, unlike Hinesburg Community School and Allen Brook School, it has room to grow.

“We have the capacity at Charlotte Central for this kind of growth, so we won’t need to take action ahead of seeing if it’s real,” she

said. Hinesburg and Allen Brook are projected to have more growth than those buildings can contain in the not-so-distant future and this will be something the school system will have to figure out, Jensen said.

There’s no way the Allen Brook School building will hold the 40 new students predicted for that school, she said.

Ironically, Shelburne Community School is experiencing a good bit of construction, but that school’s predicted growth is flat.

Grip admitted his firm’s 10-year predictions for middle and high school student numbers are easier. The 10-year predictions for elementary school students are slipperier because those predictions concern students who haven’t even been born yet. This introduces more chances for error.

Board member Lynn Jaunich of Charlotte wanted to know what the CVSD school system should do to avoid ending up in a situation like South Burlington where there has been so much growth that the schools are out of capacity.

Part of the problem: “You’re a victim somewhat of your own success,” Grip said.

He said the school system is so good that families are moving into the area so their children can attend schools in the district.

“It’s not cheap to be there, so it’s not cheap housing that’s driving people there,” Grip said. “It’s other factors and education is probably No. 1.”

Overwhelmed support staff

“What we experience in our school mirrors what’s happening in our community,” Charlotte Central School co-principal Jenn Roth said in a report from middle school administrators around the district.

Roth said there’s not enough mental health resources for families in this emotionally and psychologically tough time. Parents and educators are feeling overwhelmed by the lingering societal and educational impacts of the pandemic and the ensuing quarantine-induced remote schooling.

Schools are feeling an acute need to have people in the classrooms supporting students, she said.

People working as counselors, the school assistance program and the school service clinicians at Charlotte Central School “are amazing — and they are absolutely overtaxed,” Roth said. “We’re all trying to find solutions to keep our students safe and our families safe.”

Academic return on investment project

Some of the district administrators involved in an “academic return on investment” project gave a report on that project. The educators involved are required to work on a project in the school system, and they chose to look into how well the Champlain Valley School District’s middle school configuration is preparing students

for success in high school, Jensen said. Some characteristics of the district’s middle school configuration are that all the classes have about 18-20 students, and all of those schools have about the same budget for middle school-aged children.

Charlotte Central School and Hinesburg Community School are the only schools that don’t have looping in the fifth and sixth grades. Both those schools do loop in the seventh and eighth grades.

Looping in education is the practice of having students stay with the same teacher for two or more years. The intent of the practice is to give students a more stable learning environment.

By looking at individual high school students who are doing very well, not doing well or doing OK, the hope is to track them back through middle school to see what middle school configurations have worked well or not, Jensen said.

“The intent is to see if anything makes a difference or perhaps it doesn’t,” Jensen said, adding that it’s also important for the study to determine what the costs of various configurations are.

One of the biggest parts of the project is determining what student success is and how to measure it, Superintendent Rene Sanchez said.

School experiences two very different weeks

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

The last two weeks at Charlotte Community School have been a study in contrasts.

Two weeks ago, all grades at the school were engaged in end-of-year assessments with all the challenge and excitement that involves.

Starting with the wrap-up of the 2021-22 school year, the assessments can sound daunting and taxing, but it is also a time of classroom celebrations for students and teachers alike. Students are able to show many of the personal skills they have been working on — perseverance, patience and problem-solving, to name a few.

There is also time for students to reflect on their experience with assessments, and there are countless celebrations of things that students feel proud of regarding the knowledge and skills they have gained. A few highlights include:

- Student-led morning announcements have returned and are a great way to start the day.
- Second graders performed their music on the outdoor theater stage.
- Students in seventh and eighth grades

- held their spring music concert.
- Fourth graders participated in an afternoon of screen-printing class T-shirts.
- Champlain Valley Union High School drama students performed “You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown” for the second through fourth grades.
- Kindergarten students had a chance to fly their kites.
- Eighth grade science students had a chance to do microscopy using specimens gathered from pond water.
- Sixth graders did a trout release at Cota Field.

However, last week was a time of immense sadness and sympathy for educators and families in Uvalde, Texas, and the citizens of Buffalo, NY.

This concern was heightened by the threat made to CVU and another Vermont school.

It is important to share the Champlain Valley School District experience and responses with the community, as this partnership is critical to the overall safety and well-being of the students. Strong communication and collaboration with families is one element that can be very effective in preventing school violence. The “see something, say something” by

local students and quick outreach to school officials at CVU by a concerned parent is just one example of how our partnerships support the safety of students and educators.

Like educators and families everywhere, Charlotte Central School staff are grief-stricken, angry and worried. Through that, there is a steadfast commitment to continuously learn more about school safety practices and structures, including school violence prevention, to create the safest possible learning environment.

The difficult emotions being felt by many this last week were balanced by the adults in the building being very mindful and responsive to their students and one another. The focus in each learning space has been on connections and relationships, listening and ensuring social-emotional well-being, and in general, just wrapping students in environments that are supportive, caring and conducive to each student being able to navigate their own understanding in a developmentally appropriate way.

On that somber note, Charlotte Central School students and staff will be heading to summer vacation next week, which means that the news from the school will be on hold until next September when all the excitement will begin again.

Charlotte students at UVM making the grades

Congratulations

The following University of Vermont students from Charlotte were named to the dean’s list:

- Daniel Bernier**, biological science major
- Henry Bijur**, neuroscience major
- Annabelle Creech**, art history major
- Sebastian D’Amico**, political science major
- Skyler Heininger**, biomedical engineering major
- Seamus Higgins**, chemistry major
- Sadie Holmes**, environmental studies major
- Trevor McGlaflin**, business administration major
- Antonio Pugliese**, English major
- Andrew Slauterbeck**, health sciences major
- Grace Slauterbeck**, political science major.

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Community

Champlain Valley Union adds solar power to greenhouse

Champlain Valley Union High School has added a new element to its sustainability curriculum: an off-grid solar system to power its greenhouse.

The idea started as a project from students in the Nexus program before being handed off to Tom Mongeon, director of maintenance, and sustainability teacher, Dave Trevithick.

“It can run the honey centrifuge and power tools, keep the goat’s water unfrozen,” said Trevithick.

And, of course, it keeps the lights on, helping the students raise vegetables that are served up in the CVU cafeteria. Last year they grew 450 pounds of produce.

The system is made of 2200 watts of LG

solar panels, an Outback Power inverter and charge controller paired with KiloVault Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries.

Green Mountain Solar only does a handful of off-grid projects every year, said field supervisor Ben McFeeters.

“Off-grid is not usually a feasible solution for most homeowners, but this was a unique situation where off-grid made more sense than attempting to make a grid-tied system, because the electrical load was relatively small, and to run power to the greenhouse would have required expensive trenching across the parking lot,” McFeeters said. “Along with growing their own food, they can now produce all the power needed right on site.”



Courtesy photo

The system is made of 2200 watts of LG solar panels, an Outback Power inverter and charge controller paired with KiloVault Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries.

Volunteers to remove invasive species, improve wetlands

Kate Kelly
Lewis Creek Association

Have you heard about all the non-native invasive species in Lake Champlain? There are at least 50 of them, including species of plants, animals and pathogens introduced to the Lake Champlain Basin. Some were planted because they had pretty flowers. Others got here through ballast or bilge water from boats.

These non-native species (species that were not present at the time of European settlement) can, in some cases, spread and take over (becoming invasive) because they have no natural predators.

This can cause a major problem for ecologically rich natural areas, not only for our native plants and animals that get choked out by these intruders, but also for people who like to recreate on the water.

Plants like water chestnut, European frogbit and Eurasian watermilfoil can grow so thickly that it makes it difficult, or impossible, to boat, swim or fish in. Some of the aquatic invasive species you’ve likely heard about (like zebra

mussels) can be difficult to control. Others, like European frogbit, are more easily removed in order to limit their spread.

Lewis Creek Association has been working closely with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lake Champlain Basin Program since 2009 to monitor and remove European frogbit, water chestnut, yellow iris and flowering rush in Town Farm Bay in Charlotte, and the LaPlatte Natural Area in Shelburne. These two areas are very diverse ecologically, and many people recreate there, making control of non-native invasive species critical.

When frogbit was first discovered in Town Farm Bay in Charlotte, there was over 50 percent covered throughout the wetlands. The LaPlatte Natural Area had lower frogbit levels to begin with, due to earlier detection.

With funds from the towns of Charlotte and Shelburne, the Lewis Creek Association organized groups of volunteers, such as the Charlotte Land



Courtesy photo

A volunteer removes European frogbit from the LaPlatte River in Shelburne.

Trust and boat launch stewards, to rake frogbit off the surface of the water in these areas. Through this work, the percent cover has been reduced from 50 to 5 percent or less annually, and held there.

This spring, the Lewis Creek Association will be leading volunteers again to remove frogbit, leading groups in June and July to remove frogbit in Charlotte and Shelburne. These expeditions are great fun — all the equipment is provided, so all you have to do is show up and be able to paddle in a canoe or kayak, rake plants off the water

surface and put them into a bucket or laundry basket on your boat.

While paddling, your leaders will help identify as many animals and plants as possible — you’re almost sure to learn something new out there.

If you’re interested in joining the Lewis Creek Association for an enjoyable paddle while making a difference in the health of your local wetland, contact program manager Kate Kelly at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com. Even better, get a group of friends together and sign up as a group to make a difference.



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Sports

Redhawks finish spring season in winning fashion

Boys lacrosse

CVU 12, South Burlington 6

CVU took a dominating 12-6 win over South Burlington on Tuesday, May 24. Coach Tom Garvey lauded his team’s “sharp play.” Matias Williams scored more than half the Redhawks’ goals with seven tallies. Colin Zouck had two goals, while Nolan Shea had a goal and an assist. Owen Pierce tallied three assists. Goalkeeper Jake Bowen made seven saves for the Redhawks.

CVU 11, Essex 4

On Thursday, CVU was led on offense in a win over Essex by Peter Gilliam who tossed in four goals and an assist. Williams was just behind him with three goals and an assist. Shea tossed in two scores and an assist, while Turner Elliott scored a goal in addition to three assists. Max Destito had a score. Besides his pride in his team’s offense coach Garvey had praise for his defense, singling out Jake Bowen, Sam Whitcomb, Ryan Boehmcke, Sam Decker, Peyton Anderson and Max Destito. With this win the Redhawks improved to 14-1 for the season. And with this win CVU swept Essex for the season which means the Redhawks won the Battle for the Bucket, annual rivalry between the two teams. A vintage lacrosse helmet is known as a “bucket.”



Courtesy photo

The CVU boys lacrosse team won the Battle of the Bucket (or the Battle of the Old Timey Helmet) because of its regular season sweep of Essex. The win came behind great goaltending

CVU 12, Middlebury 7

On Friday, May 27, the CVU boys lacrosse team finished the regular season with a 15-1 record after a final season win over Middlebury 12-7. The win also evened the score against Tigers who gave the Redhawks their lone loss of the regular season.

from Bowen and strong defense from Destito, Anderson, Boehmcke, Decker and Whitcomb. Now, CVU waits to see what the upcoming playoff pairings will be.

Girls lacrosse

CVU 18-10, Mount Mansfield 10

The CVU girls lacrosse team took an 18-10 win over Mount Mansfield on Saturday, May 21. The Redhawks were up 14-5 at the half and the win appeared to be in hand. Chloe Snipes led all scorers with five. Amelie Scharf notched three scores and an assist, while Peyton Jones scored twice and had an assist. Grace McNally and Sydney Mast each scored twice. Ava Bartlett, Stella Dooley, Marlie Cartwright and Sophie Madden all grabbed a goal. CVU goalie Clare Stackpole-McGrath had 12 saves.

CVU 17, Middlebury 4

On Wednesday CVU didn’t have much trouble with Middlebury, beating the Tigers 17-4 in the Redhawks’ Senior Game. Scharf led CVU’s scoring with four goals and an assist. Bartlett added three goals to go with her three assists. Snipes had two goals and helped on two others. Both Kate Boehmcke and Dicey Manning scored twice. Stella Dooley, Cartwright, Jones and McNally added to the offense with a goal apiece.

Stackpole-McGrath had 5 saves.

CVU 17, Essex 5

Up 8-3 at the half on Friday against Essex, the CVU girls lacrosse team really took command in the second half on both sides of the field. The final result was 17-5, Redhawks’ favor. Bartlett led the scoring this time with five goals. Snipes was just behind her with four goals and an assist, and Scharf wasn’t far back with three goals and an assist. Tess Everett, McNally, Boehmcke, Manning and Mast all added a goal. In goal, Ava Medici had four saves and Stackpole-McGrath had one.

Baseball

CVU 6, Rice 3

The Redhawks took a 6-3 win over Rice on Thursday, May 19. Asa Roberts was 2-4 at the plate with a double, two RBIs and a stolen base. Oliver Pudvar pitched into the seventh inning and struck out 11 giving up two hits.

CVU 3, Essex 2

On Saturday, May 21, the Redhawks managed to take a close game over Essex, 3-2. Robbie Fragola went 2-4 at the plate with a single, a double and two RBIs. Pitcher Ryan Canty scored the winning run on a wild pitch. He stayed on the mound for 6.2 innings, giving up five hits, striking out four and walking six.

Into the Woods

Ephemeral flowers and insects — friends with benefits

Ethan Tapper

It is springtime in Vermont and our forests are beginning to fill with green. While the growing season for trees is just beginning, spring ephemeral wildflowers on the forest floor are nearing the end of their short lives. “Ephemerals” like Hepatica, bloodroot, trout lily, Dutchman’s breeches, blue cohosh, spring beauties and wild leeks are so called because they live the majority of their lives in the brief (ephemeral) window between when the soil thaws and trees sprout leaves. Ephemerals hold a special place in many forest-lovers’ hearts, both for their beauty and for their roles as harbingers of spring — the first flowers to bloom after a long winter. Besides being important in their own right, some of ephemerals’ most fascinating qualities are their enigmatic relationships with insects. Dutchman’s breeches (Dicentra cucullaria) and squirrel corn (Dicentra canadensis) have unique flowers, similar to the closely-related domestic plant, bleeding heart (Dicentra spectabilis). 60 to 80 percent of Vermont’s plants rely on insects for pollination, and Dicentra is among them; their strange flowers are pollinated nearly exclusively by queen bumblebees.

Bumblebee colonies die each winter, leaving only a mated queen to emerge and start a new colony in the spring. The evolutionary relationship between bumblebees and Dicentra is such that the emergence of bumblebee queens is timed with the blooming of these flowers. While bumblebees also visit other flowers,

some insects rely on a single species. The spring beauty miner bee (Andrena erigeniae), one of Vermont’s more than 300 species of native bees, is a spring beauty specialist, visiting only tiny spring beauty (Claytonia virginica) flowers. The uncommon West Virginia white butterfly (Pieris virginienensis) is completely reliant on toothworts (Cardamine spp.) to complete their life cycle; while adults may get nectar from other flowers, their larvae can only grow on toothworts. While bees and butterflies are our most famous pollinators, a variety of other insects also help our native plants reproduce. Rather than produce sweet-smelling flowers, wild ginger (Asarum canadense) and red trillium (Trillium erectum; also known as “wake robin” and “stinking Benjamin”) produce a gross smell which attracts gnats, beetles and flies foraging for rotting animals in the spring forest. Many ephemerals also rely on some of our region’s more than 130 species of ants to disperse their seeds. Ephemeral species such as bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), Trillium, Dicentra, spring beauty and wild ginger produce seeds with a fatty appendage called an elaiosome. Ants transport these seeds across the forest to their colonies,

where they consume the elaiosomes and discard the seeds. The presence of spring ephemerals in our forests is an incredible testament to their resilience. In a region whose forests have been about 80 percent cleared in the last 200 years, the fact that any of these ephemerals — and their insect associates — are here at all is nothing short of a miracle. But while they (like our forests) are resilient, they are also under threat. The biggest threat to any forest plant, animal or tree is deforestation; Vermont is losing thousands of acres of forestland per year, and with them entire biological communities. Our remaining forests are increasingly fragmented, preventing plants and insects from colonizing new areas and creating islands of habitat within which populations of many species are vulnerable to local extinctions. Besides deforestation, ephemerals and their insect associates must contend with many other threats embodied in our changed and changing world. High deer populations may browse these species to death, and non-native invasive plants like garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle and Japanese barberry form monocultures in the forest understory, displacing both ephemerals

and the insects that rely on them. As our climate changes, the complex and delicate evolutionary relationships between insects and plants, like the timing of the emergence of queen bumblebees and the blooming of Dicentra, are under threat. The effects of these changes ripple up the food chain, impacting larger species like songbirds, mammals and, of course, ourselves. Like so many parts of our forests, spring ephemerals and the insects that rely on them are unique, important and at risk. As our world changes around us, we must protect healthy, whole forests in the name of a functional and beautiful world — and to ensure that our grandchildren can enjoy these incredible wildflowers blooming in the understory of the spring forest. (Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he’s written at linktr.ee/chittendencountyforester.)

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Sacred Hunter

Fisherman’s despair soon supplanted by wonderment

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

I am standing in the Winooski River just a couple of miles upstream from the town of Jonesville off River Road. I’m not giving any secret spot away if I tell you that it’s just upstream from the railroad trestle. Everyone knows about this spot.

What most people don’t know is the thundering silence of the rapids, surrounded by the steep walls of stone just across the interstate, as dusk sets in. There is a mystical nature to the sky as the sun sets to the north and thunder rumbles in the distance after a rainstorm.

With the swift water just a few steps away, my feet seek stability in the sand between the rocks. I anchor my upstream foot and lean into the current. Looking up against the royal purple and sage colored sky, I see a hatch of yellow drakes beginning to burst through the tense surface of the undulating water. I can see them pushing their bodies upward toward the darkening sky, illuminated by the remaining light above the trestle. The tempo of the hatch begins to reach a crescendo as the darkness surround me.

I can hear the plop, plop ... plop, of fish rising to swallow the large yellow flies all around me. I can distinguish the sound of the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It sounds like a thirsty dog lapping at his water bowl. The plopping sounds build in intensity. Soon, everywhere I look, there are flashes of



Bradley Carleton tying fly.

silver against the blackened water. I raise my old LL Bean rod over my head and begin a long thrust behind me, letting out the weight forward five-weight floating line load the rod, bending the tip backwards.

The rod has become an extension of my own arm. I feel the flex and pause to let the line catch up to the back of the loop, then thrust forward with my forearm, bending at the elbow. The sensation of the line whipping through the guides and the quiet sound of air being split by its acceleration is like an angel’s whisper of a song, playing above my head. I retrieve a section of my line as it flies forward, to build more speed by denying the physics of forward thrust, and thus further

increasing the speed. For those who know the double haul and have practiced many hours, they will understand that the physics of such a strategy can be felt in the hand and the shoulder if done properly.

On my final cast, I hear the fly whiz by my head and rocket out into the darkness. If my projected trajectory is accomplished, the fly will land at the tail-out of a strong ripple in the middle of the river, where a large fish has been feeding heavily. I cannot see the fly, nor can I see the rise, but I hear the voracious gulp.

For a moment I am not sure if he has hit my imitation, or if he has chosen another true drake in the hurricane-like hatch, but before I can wonder for more than a second, my reel begins to spin. The rod tip bends powerfully toward the surface, and the spool is now whining a high-pitched whistle. I can feel the tremendous tug on the rod and bow to him, letting him have all the line he wants to run to the far side of the river. I cannot see him, but suddenly hear a loud splash, He is diving and straining against the line rolling off the reel. I cross my left hand under the bottom of the spool and gently apply pressure, palming it to provide more resistance to his fight. Just when I think he is tired and I have been able to retrieve about 20 yards of line, my rod bends in a strong arc. He is now extremely near to me. Maybe 20 feet. I reach back behind my head with my left hand to grab the net hanging on a magnetized clip between my shoulder blades. It takes but a moment to

realize my mistake.

As he nears me, he feels the pressure of the rod bending hard and he senses the physics of this equation trying to lift him up from his aquatic environs. He senses the additional pressure and turns abruptly to sprint away from the unseen danger. The reel begins to whine again, when he suddenly jumps high out of the water, and even in the darkness, I catch a flash of silver as he dives down into the depths once again. This time he runs downstream and uses the current to increase his speed, much like I used the double haul against him. Then in one swift and powerful turn, spins back into the fastest current just below the boulder.

My line goes limp and my heart sinks to the depths of a fisherman’s despair.

Fortunately, in fishing, especially fly fishing, the heartache dissipates a few hours later and the appreciation for the formidable fight of a magnificent Winooski rainbow will remain in my memory for the rest of my life.

Once again, the Great Spirit has shown me the humility that I need to keep me in a state of wonderment of this most precious planet on which we all dream of one day recognizing the incredible run we’ve been given. And one day, we too, will be released from our tethers to this splendid earth.

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

Gardening

Parsnip predator helps living with invasives for 28 years

John Quinney
Publisher

We moved to our Spear Street home on two acres 28 years ago. Since then, Colleen and I have established gardens, planted berries and fruit trees, erected bird houses, started compost piles, built stone walls and replaced lawn with evergreen ground covers. Today, we live with a landscape that is dramatically different from the one we first viewed in 1994.

What’s absent is as interesting as what’s present. We still see many of the plants known as “invasives” — honeysuckle, buckthorn, wild parsnip, garlic mustard, wild grape and Virginia creeper, to name the most aggressive, but their numbers are going down each year.

We intensively manage about a third of our landscape — the gardens, fruit trees, berry bushes, groundcovers and lawn. On the other two thirds, we encourage native perennials, trees and shrubs, allowing the landscape to slowly return to forest. I intervene in the process to remove invasives, those that would otherwise out-compete the natives. Full disclosure: I also remove wild grape and Virginia creeper, two aggressive native vines.

We follow organic practices in our gardens, but for controlling invasives,

I use Round Up (glyphosate) in some circumstances. I know that this is a controversial practice, one that Colleen doesn’t always agree with, and I respect the decision of those who choose not to use any herbicides in their yards and gardens.

Soon after we arrived in August 1994, I went after mature honeysuckles and buckthorns using a chainsaw and a circular saw mounted on a trimmer. To prevent regrowth, I treated the stumps with a spot application of concentrated Round Up. Covering the stumps with a dense black plastic to exclude light also works, but it’s more labor-intensive.

Every spring and summer while scouting for invasives, I always find plenty of young buckthorn and honeysuckle. They’re a foot or two tall, and are easy to pull, roots and all, especially the honeysuckle. Despite my efforts, I expect that young buckthorn and honeysuckle will keep germinating from the large seedbank that has accumulated on our land over many years.

At this time of year, wild parsnip has emerged and in a couple of weeks will start flowering and setting seed on roadsides, in old fields, and in yards and gardens all over Charlotte and beyond. Because wild parsnip is a biennial, the flower stalks appear during the second year after germination.

About five years ago, wild parsnip moved from the field to our south into two unmown

areas of our landscape. At about this time, in a fortunate coincidence, I stumbled across a remarkable tool that has helped reduce our wild parsnip population. The “parsnip predator” is a modified spade developed for prairie restoration work. It has a narrow blade and a grip that is turned 90 degrees.

Starting in early June, I go out every couple of days, predator in hand, looking for flower stalks and immature yellow flowers. Holding the tool at an angle to the vertical, it’s very easy to push the blade into the soil, and to cut the plant’s root an inch or two below ground level. I’ve seen very little regrowth after using this method. Normally, the final step would be to take the wild parsnip stems and flowers to the burn pile. However, I usually cut the stems before the flowers have matured and so I leave them to rot on nearby lawn. The few wild parsnips that germinate are easily controlled by regular mowing.

When bruised, wild parsnip stems produce a nasty oil that in sunlight can cause blisters on unprotected body parts. So, it’s best to wear gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when working with wild parsnip.

In the southwest of our yard, the ground rises gently to the west. Gray dogwood and a native viburnum are moving in, along with two aggressive native vines: wild grape and Virginia creeper. Our plans for the area call for establishing a low maintenance pollinator

plant garden and for encouraging native shrubs and trees.

Wild grape and Virginia creeper both have landscape value, but they can also smother shrubs and trees. So, in the fall of 2020, I started cutting and pulling out hundreds of yards of vines. Often, the vines led back to a single, mature stem. Cutting at ground level and applying Round Up to the stumps has eliminated about 75 percent of these two vines.

Landscapes are always in flux, and our climate is changing, so we can expect to see more invasive plants in the future. I look forward to identifying them, learning their ways, and then starting on the long process of management and elimination. Stay tuned.



The parsnip predator.

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Katherine Arthaud
CONTRIBUTOR

Setting: It is a beautiful Memorial Day weekend so far, after a brief bout of rain earlier today. I am writing this while sitting at a shaded picnic table, looking out over a vast expanse of green field bordered by green trees, with Mt. Philo in the distance under a light blue sky and some hovering pearly white-gray clouds, which seem to be inching very slowly westward. The dogs are napping; birds are singing and chirping. I can still smell lilacs, and I am thinking about what to tell you about books.

One of the best books I have read in some time is Marisha Pessl’s Special Topics in Calamity Physics, which is not a textbook, as it may sound, but a quirky, fascinating masterpiece and one of The New York Times’ 10 Best Books of the Year, which may be how I heard about it.

“First novels are dangerous, risky creatures,” says Gothamist.com. But this debutante of a book is stunning, not like anything I have read before – a dazzling success.

Written in the voice of Blue Van Meer — an insanely precocious teenager who lives with her dashing handsome and quite eccentric college professor father, frequently moving with him from place to place, seldom staying anywhere for longer than a few months — the story begins:

“Dad always said a person must have a magnificent reason for writing out his or her Life Story and expecting anyone to read it. ‘Unless your name is something along the lines of Mozart, Matisse, Churchill, Che Guevara or Bond — *James* Bond — you best spend your free time finger painting or playing shuffleboard, for no one, with the exception of your flabby-armed mother with stiff hair and a mashed-potato way of looking at you, will want to hear the particulars of your pitiable existence, which doubtlessly will end as it began — with a wheeze.’”

Given “such rigid parameters,” Blue always assumed she would not have her Magnificent Reason until she was an old lady, but it had been a year since she had found Hannah dead, and she still wasn’t able to get it out of her head.

Hannah, we learn right away (so no spoiler here, really), had been found hanging three feet above the ground by an orange electrical cord in the Great Smoky Mountains. But we don’t find out who Hannah is or why she ended up where she did till later. Her death is one of the several mysteries in this book that evolve over time.

Grim, dark and grisly as this all sounds, this work is also charming and funny and so well written that it frequently took my breath away. At times, it reminded me a tad of Donna Tartt’s The Secret History, but it is truly unique, truly its own, utterly unlike any book I have read.

Peppered with “visual aids” (line drawings by Blue herself), it is also riddled with (mostly fictional, I assume) citations — from Harvard University Press ... to “Continental Shelf Cliff,” Oceanic Terrain ... to Nietzsche ... to “The Lady of Shalott,” Tennyson ... to Thank God for the Telephoto Lens: Backyard Photos of the Stars ... to Flannery O’Connor ... to “Superstrings and M-Theory, or Mystery Theory, the Theory of Everything,” V. Close, 1998 ... and on and on. And on.

This book is crazy and, also, moving, in some of the way Salinger’s Catcher in the Rye is moving. But again, I am telling you, there is nothing quite like this. It is a coming-of-age memoir, a mystery, a wild ride of whip-smart sentences, cool customers, geniuses and rich kids, beauty, youth, false identities and twisting suspense, evocative descriptions of people and place. I couldn’t put it down and I didn’t want it to end. Inventive, clever, engaging and brilliant. Highly, highly recommend.

Would make an excellent book club read, I was just thinking.

Sisters is a novel (as spare and unvarnished as the previously described is tangled and complex) by Lily Tuck that is over almost as soon as it is begun. It begins with the frontispiece, “First and second wives are like sisters” (Christopher Nicholson, Winter).

The first page has only one sentence: “We are not related — not remotely.”

I love that.

Sisters is elegantly, beautifully written. Minimalist. Nuanced. What is it about? Well, the narrator is unnamed, but we know she lives with her new husband, who has two teenagers, one male, one female. Yet what this book is really about is not any of those people, but rather, the narrator’s husband’s first wife, who is referred to throughout this very short novel by the word, *she*. No name. Just *she*.

“And we don’t look alike,” says the unnamed narrator. “*She* is blond, fair-skinned, big-boned, and taller than I. I have also seen photos of her as a young woman and I have to admit *she* was lovely. Truly. Now, *she* is a handsome woman in a slightly ravaged way. Her best feature is her nose — a Grecian nose, I think they call it — the sort that has no bridge and starts straight from the forehead. Like Michelangelo’s David. “I am dark and petite.”

There are secrets and betrayal folded into this slim, poetic novel, along with a theme of yearning, longing, envy, obsession and restraint. And all through, compelling, elegant, graceful, surprising prose.

If this book were a song, it would be, I think, in a minor key. You can read it in a sitting. Likely, once done, you will want to go back and read it again.

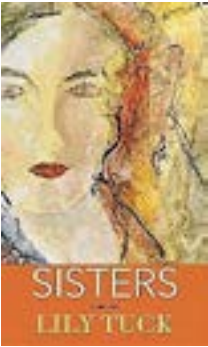
I wrote last time about Lucy Foley’s The Paris Apartment, which I have been lately recommending to anyone who has asked me about books, especially books to bring on a trip.

Addict that I am, no sooner had I finished listening to The Paris Apartment than I started on Foley’s The Guest List, which was equivalently satisfying. One of the New York Times Best Thrillers of the Year, The Guest List was also a Reese’s Book Club Pick. Like The Paris Apartment, it had me listening whenever I had the chance. Driving. Gardening. Walking the dogs. Couldn’t stop.

The setting: an island off the coast of Ireland. The scene: an upscale wedding.

I love how Foley manages time. There is the thread of “now” (with all the trauma and horror of the party-stopping scream and the body), and also the thread of the days and hours leading up to “now.” Expertly Foley toggles back and forth between them. But it’s not confusing. It’s perfect. Perfect and never dull. A fun, well-written, satisfying, page-turning mystery. An addictive escape. Highly recommend for beach or plane, hammock or sofa. (Audible version very good, with a competent array of male and female readers.)

Happy reading. Happy spring. It’s a beautiful time to live in Vermont.



Library News

Learn how to garden with Three Sisters



Margaret Woodruff
DIRECTOR

Recycling station

The library now has more options for recycling, but please pay attention to directions on recycling bins and make sure that all items are clean before dropping them off.

We can now offer recycling drop-off for these additional items:

- Oral care products and packaging, including toothpaste tubes, floss containers (no floss), toothbrushes and all boxes or other packaging. Please make sure all materials are clean on the outside before dropping off
- Rigid #6 plastic cups. Drop off clean Solo or other #6 plastic cups. Just in time for barbeque season and those graduation parties
- Shaving accessories. You can recycle all brands of blades, razors and plastic packaging at the library.
- We also have battery, stretchy plastic and e-waste recycling.

Programs and activities

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

Three Sisters Celebration Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.

Join Katie Devoid and her mother, Karen Tuininga, Charlotte residents of Ojibwe and Ottawa heritage, to learn about the Three Sisters. Both active gardeners, they will tell stories of the Three Sisters and lead us in the making of seed medallions. You will go home with a kit of seeds and instructions to grow your own Three

Sisters at home. Registration required at eventbrite.com/e/324032478867.

Fierce Little Thing book discussion Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.

Register for in-person attendance
Register for Zoom link

Author Miranda Beverly-Whittemore joins us for a discussion of her latest novel, described by the New York Journal Review of Books as “thoughtful, and tense, a great read for those who enjoy psychological thrillers and complex puzzles.” Copies of the book available at the library circulation desk. Register for in-person or for Zoom.

Ready to read Wednesday, June 8, 1 p.m.

If you or someone you love is experiencing vision loss, it is still possible to enjoy reading with some simple adaptations. Dan Norris, director of adult services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired shares the variety of large print, digital and audio resources that are available to help access print. Co-sponsored with the Charlotte Senior Center. This program takes place at the Senior Center; no registration necessary.

Grange on the Green: The Hokum Brothers Thursday, June 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The Charlotte Grange and Charlotte Library invite you to the town green for the debut of our second season of live music. The Hokum Brothers open the series with music and vaudeville for all ages. Bring a picnic supper or grab a pizza from Stone’s Throw to enjoy with the show.

Story Time at Adam’s Berry Farm Tuesday, June 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Stories and crafts in the barn at Adam’s Berry Farm in Charlotte. No registration required.

Ongoing programs Free Little Art Gallery

The smallest art gallery in Charlotte. Come by the circulation desk for a visit. 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. Thank you to Marcia Vogler for her help and inspiration.

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

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

Book Chat Fridays on Zoom. 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.

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.



Juneteenth Celebrations

Juneteenth is June 19 and commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in 1865 in Texas.

There are at least three Juneteenth celebrations in our area, one of them in Charlotte:

**Clemmons Family Farm:
Building Legacies the Matter
June 18-19**

**Burlington: Juneteenth:
A Love Story
June 17-19**

**Rokeby Museum:
Free museum day
June 19**

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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.

Lake issues and actions
Thursday, June 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The 2022 Vermont Lake Seminar is a day full of informative and free presentations on the health and welfare of Vermont’s treasured lakes. This virtual seminar addresses climate change, water quality, environmental quality standards and aquatic ecosystems. Learn what the federation is accomplishing to preserve our watersheds. For more info or to register, see vermontlakes.org.

Family fun day
Thursday, June 2, 4-7 p.m.
An afternoon of music, guest speakers, food, yard games and more happens at Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) in Hinesburg. Proceeds benefit the Vermont Make-A-Wish Foundation. The theme is Hawaiian/Summertime and festive clothing is encouraged. It’s an outdoor event; in case of rain, the event is in the CVU cafeteria. Join friends, students and staff to enjoy food trucks and entertainment. Tickets available in advance at tinyurl.com/bddwknjd or at the door. More info by emailing loganvaughan@cvsdvt.org.

Draw and paint peonies
Friday, June 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Linda Reynolds leads a five-session class in June for artists to work magic with paints or pastels at Horsford Gardens and Nursery. Participants bring supplies and are immersed in the sweet smells and colors of the Horsford peony hedge, with instruction and guidance. More info about dates is on the Horsford website. Call 802-989-3234 to sign up or email lsart@gmavt.net.

Discover Jazz Festival, June 3-12
Experience many styles of music, in the jazz tradition, performed by a variety of local and visiting artists. For a complete list of performers and venues, see tinyurl.com/259u5wds.

Bird banding
Saturday, June 4, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
Join Audubon Vermont biologist Mark LaBarr for a morning of bird banding, organized by the Middlebury Area Land Trust. Participate in bird banding, while learning about bird life cycles and migration patterns. Free event at the Hurd Grassland in Weybridge; preregistration required at maltvt.org. This family event ends with a casual picnic, so bring snacks if you’d like to linger and socialize. Come anytime, but best bird activity is early morning. See website for parking directions.

Guided walk
Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-noon
The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is turning an old dairy farm back into floodplain forest in Colchester. The property is now known as the Intervale Wildlife Management Area. Take a tour with biologist Toni Mikula and learn how this area will benefit wildlife, people and the environment. The walk is for all ages, rain or shine. Dress for mud and prepare for bugs and poison ivy. For more info, directions and to sign up, see vtfishandwildlife.com.

Specimen tree walk
Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-noon
Take an easy, two-hour walk with V.J. Comai, Burlington city arborist, at the Lake View Cemetery on North Avenue in Burlington. Learn about unique tree species in the cemetery and general

Grange on the Green

Thursday, June 9, 5:30 p.m.

The Hokum Brothers trio kicks off the Grange on the Green summer music series on Charlotte’s town green. The series, a partnership between the Charlotte Grange and the Charlotte Public Library, features four monthly concerts. The Hokum Brothers, who are related but not brothers, sing original songs filled with humor and satire, adding their particular social commentary to real-life experiences. They have performed on world stages and are descended from a variety of colorful showbiz and musical performers — or so it says on their website. They call themselves Vermont’s



premiere Americana and comedy band. Bring blankets or chairs, picnics, bug spray, sweaters. This concert is generously supported by Philo Ridge Farm.

tree identification. Free admission; donations encouraged to the organizer, Branch Out Burlington. For more info, see branchoutburlington.org or contact Comai at 802-862-8245. Event is rain or shine.

Venture Out
Saturday, June 4, 1-4 p.m.
The Venture Out Project hosts a free walk on the Intervale trail system in Burlington. The walk is a safe and welcoming gathering for LGBTQ+ youths and adults to cultivate community and experience the beauty of the Intervale. Pre-register for COVID tracing purposes at tinyurl.com/yrv5pvj8. Dogs on a leash are welcome; ages 13 and under must register with a guardian.

Rhododendrons
Saturday, June 4, 2-4 p.m.
The Friends of the University of Vermont Horticulture Farm in South Burlington invite visitors for a free walk and talk in the rhododendron collection. Most of the plants are over 35 years old. Bring questions and a camera (or sketchbook) and dress appropriately. Refreshments after the tour. Pre-register at tinyurl.com/yckhmzdv. More info at fhfv.org.

Jamie Lee Thurston
Saturday, June 4, 6 p.m.
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Snow Farm Vineyard and Winery in South Hero, country rocker and Vermonter Jamie Lee Thurston and his band play their first Vermont show of the year. The concert is free; bring a picnic and blanket. For more info see snowfarm.com.

River race and ramble
Sunday, June 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Onion River Race and Ramble is a 10.5-mile paddle from Bolton to Richmond on the Winooski River that welcomes racers and those who’d rather paddle for fun. Racers must register by end of day June 3. Proceeds will be used to protect and restore the Winooski River watershed. For directions, rules, schedule, maps and fees, see tinyurl.com/bdhsp7y4.

Ballet Vermont
Sunday, June 5, 5-6:30 p.m.
Set to Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons, Ballet Vermont’s outdoor dance, Bees and Friends, comes to Isham Family Farm in Williston. The story line celebrates all small creatures crucial to a healthy environment. Doors open at 3 p.m. for nature-oriented family activities. Bring a chair or blanket for the family to enjoy this story of the seasons. Picnics encouraged. More info and tickets at tinyurl.com/de68xeck.

Unknown Blues Band
Sunday, June 5, 7 p.m.
During the Discover Jazz festival in Burlington, the Vermont Comedy Club,

formerly R.W. Hunt’s Mill and Mining Company, transforms into an after-hours jazz lounge. In the late 1970s to the late 1980s, R.W. Hunt’s was the hot music spot in town for big-name bands and numerous local groups. The Unknown Blues Band (sadly, minus saxophonist Big Joe Burrell) returns to Hunt’s, the space they called home for a decade, at the corner of Main and Pine. For more info or tickets, see flynnvt.org.

The Hitmen in South Hero
Thursday, June 9, 5-8:30 p.m.
Burlington-based band The Hitmen entertain at Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero. Picnicking begins at 5 p.m.; music is from 6:30-8:30. Hear favorite classic hits and some from today. Bring blankets, chairs and picnics. Food also available from onsite vendors. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome; bring scooping bags. Free concert is weather-dependent. Last-minute changes on the vineyard’s Facebook page. More info at snowfarm.com or call 802-372-9463.

Planting party
Thursday, June 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Join fellow garden enthusiasts at Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg for a free planting party in their display gardens. Learn about soil quality issues from horticulturalist Chad Donovan in an informal and interactive gathering. Registration required at tinyurl.com/2p99e8sd. Bring your questions and gloves.

Sun to cheese
Friday, June 10, 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/8d7bcm6j.

Free First Friday Eve
Friday, June 10, 5-7:30 p.m.
On this second Friday of June, Shelburne Museum offers the chance to visit collections buildings at no charge, play lawn games, enjoy food for sale from local vendors, listen to music by Beg, Steal or Borrow, and much more for a summer evening. Music begins around 6 p.m. More info at shelburnemuseum.org or by calling 802-985-4436.

Tree identification walk Saturday, June 11, 9-11 a.m.
Forester Kathleen Stutzman leads a walk at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington. She will mainly help participants identify trees but will probably birdwatch at the same time she is pointing out herbaceous

woodland plants and other wildlife. Program is free; donations welcome. Limited group. Pre-registration required at birdsofvermont.org.

Tag & Book Sale
Saturday, June 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Stop by Wake Robin in Shelburne, rain or shine, for some bargains and treasures at their annual sale. Masks required; cash or check preferred. For more info, call 802-264-5100.

Ballgame and fireworks
Saturday, June 11,
Cheer on the Vermont Lake Monsters at Centennial Field in Burlington. The first pitch is at 6:05 p.m. Proceeds from ticket sales support Hinesburg Community School. Families and fans will celebrate summer with Champ and fireworks following the game. For tickets, buy at the gate or call the VLM at 802-655-6611 and mention ‘Hinesburg.’ Doors open 5 p.m.

State Park free days
Sat. & Sun, June 11 & 12
All Vermont State Park day-use areas, as well as select state-owned historic sites, are open at no charge this weekend. Overnight camping or accommodations not included in free days. **Saturday** is also Free Fishing day, when anyone can fish in Vermont without a license. For more info, see vermontdays.com. Also on Saturday, the Grand Isle Fish Hatchery hosts a fishing festival with numerous family activities. It’s an opportunity for kids to catch a big trout in the hatchery pond. Rods, reels, bait and instruction provided. For more info, call 802-372-3171.

Blockprinting workshop
Sunday, June 12, noon-3 p.m.
Carve botanical designs into linoleum blocks to print onto paper and fabric. Led by visual artist Jen Berger, the class covers the basics of the block printing process. Bring your own 4”x6” image or make one in class, held at Horsford Garden and Nursery. For more info, or to register, see horsfordnursery.com.

Shade planter project
Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30 p.m.
Make and take a lush shade planter full of interesting textures to brighten your porch or dark garden corner. Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg provides a variety of materials and plants with design inspiration. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/2p894n6j.

Bear picnic in Bristol
Wednesday, June 15, noon- 1 p.m.
Bring your favorite bear to the gazebo on the Bristol Town Green for stories, songs and fun. Free event organized by Bristol Recreation Department. For more info, call 802-453-5885.

Make Music Day
Tuesday, June 21, all day
Musicians and vocalists: To get your name on the festival map for this international event, visit bigheavyworld.com/makemusicvt and sign up for this unique day of making music for all. This is an inclusive festival where all music makers are invited to participate — on front porches, stoops, stages, lawns, balconies or sidewalks. Be a part of the scene and represent Vermont as communities around the world celebrate all types of musical expression. Be a participant or get the map to catch the live performances. For more info, email dafschein@bigheavyworld.com or call 716-640-4639.

Find more events on
The Charlotte News website
charlottenewsvt.org

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Senior Center News

Senior center vaccinates 79 at first COVID vaccine clinic



Lori York
DIRECTOR

Seventy-nine vaccines were administered at the first walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the senior center.

Don't worry if you missed this chance to get a vaccine or booster because there are two more clinics scheduled for June.

It is time again for the Red Cross Blood Drive and there is a variety of music and outdoor activities happening this month at the Charlotte Senior Center. The June newsletter is available on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/monthly-newsletter.

New writing group

If you are interested in joining a new writing group focused on writing memoirs, poetry or personal essays, an informational meeting at the senior center is planned on June 7 at 11:30 a.m. Please call 802-425-6345 to register.

Community health Blood drive

Thursday, June 9, 2-7 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Please consider donating blood. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: CHARLOTTE to schedule an appointment.

COVID-19 vaccine clinics

Tuesday, June 14 & 28, 12:30-4:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center

Cost: Free
Garnet Healthcare walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics — no appointments necessary. Vaccines and boosters are available for Pediatric Pfizer (ages 5-11), Adult Pfizer (12+) and Moderna (18+).

Music

Thursdays June 2, June 23 & June 30 at 1 p.m.

Don Helgesen will entertain with an afternoon of piano music from the Great American Songbook, including a wide range of early 20th-century American jazz standards, popular songs and show tunes. Free.

Shape-note singing Sunday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.

This traditional, a cappella, four-part harmony has been called "full-body, shout-it-out singing" and is also known as Sacred Harp (1750-1850). Open to newcomers and experienced singers. No performances and no auditions; a "good voice" is not required. Stop by to listen or sing, and leave whenever you wish. Questions: email Kerry Cullinan at kclynxvt@gmail.com. Free.

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 & 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. Charlotte Makes Music is a joint program with the Charlotte Grange, Charlotte Library and Charlotte Senior Center.

Outdoor activities Birding expedition Wednesday, June 8, 9 a.m. departure

Join Hank Kaestner for the June birding expedition. Group size is limited and registration is required; email cscbirding@gmail.com. Include your name and phone number.

Croquet 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.

Hikes in the Champlain Valley

Join Mike Yantachka for hikes around the region. Registration is required by calling 802-425-6345 or stopping by the senior center.



Photo by Mike Yantachka

Shelburne Bay hikers, from left, Judy Dugan, LeniLyn Johnson, Alison Williams, Barbara Motyka, Debbie Lamdon and Cyndie White.

- Saturday, June 11, Rattlesnake Mountain, Willsboro, NY
- Tuesday, June 21, Niquette Bay State Park, Colchester.

Kayak trips for women Second & fourth Friday mornings

Kayak trips for active women who share a love for exploring local lakes, ponds and rivers. Registration required by emailing Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com to be placed on a master list of paddlers. Free.

Friday, June 10, kayaking on Dead Creek in Ferrisburgh

Friday, June 24, kayaking Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park.

Presentations Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Wednesday, June 8, 1 p.m.

Dan Norris, director of adult services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, shares the variety of large-print, digital and audio resources that are available to help those experiencing vision loss.

Bag It! documentary Wednesday, June 15, at 1 p.m.

Join Robin Orr, from the Chittenden Solid

Waste District, for the presentation of Bag It, a 78-minute documentary that follows a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. Call 802-425-6345 to register.

Making a Difference with Hands to Honduras Tela Thursday, June 16, 1 p.m.

Hands to Honduras Tela is a service group of dedicated volunteers who travel to Tela, Honduras, to create positive change. Projects are specifically focused on Maternal-Child Health, Educational Improvements, Medical/Dental Brigade, and Community Assistance. Linda Gault Gilbert of Charlotte will share colorful photos and unique stories of how the love of service creates happiness for all involved.

Meals

Weekly Monday lunches begin at 11:30 a.m. The monthly men's breakfast will be on Thursday, June 9, 7-9:30 a.m. The free weekly grab-and-go meals continue to be provided by Age Well. For menus and registration information, please see charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Cooking as art practiced at senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

In "Today's Special" from Me Talk Pretty One Day, David Sedaris describes his dismay at celebrating his partner's birthday by eating in a restaurant with 15-word entrees, noting, "Part of the problem is that we live in the wrong part of town. SoHo is not a macaroni salad kind of place. This is where the world's brightest young talents come to braise caramelized racks of corn-fed songbirds. ... If cooking is an art, I think we're in our Dada phase."

You'll find that cooking is an art at the Charlotte Senior Center, a place where a special macaroni salad is on the menu.

Monday Munch June 6, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone.

Sliders: portobello mushrooms with caramelized onion, or bacon cheeseburger slider bake, Hawaiian macaroni salad, fruit trifle and chips.

A \$5 donation is appreciated, but what is really appreciated are more volunteer cooks and dishwashers to keep these meals going.

Men's Breakfast Thursday, June 9, 7-9 a.m.

Will Raap of Earthkeep Farmcommon will describe the innovative new project at the site of the former Nordic Farm on Route 7. Raap,



formerly the founder and chief executive officer of Gardener's Supply, will share his vision for this new farming initiative. Doors open at 7 a.m. and breakfast begins at 7:30, followed by the presentation and discussion.

Grab-&-Go Meal Pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce and birthday cake. There is no charge for this meal but be sure to register by Monday. Call or email: 802-425-6371 or kerriepugh@charlotteseniorcenter.org.

Monday Munch June 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Taco salad, esquites and strawberry

surprise
"Esquites" comes from the Nahuatl word "izquitl," meaning toasted corn, and although the origin is unknown, the deity Tlazocihuapilli of Xochimilcas is often credited its invention. Unless you go with the story involving Emperor Maximilian and Empress Charlotte who briefly ruled in Mexico.

Now about that strawberry surprise: Here's a snippet from the captivating life of Madame Thérèse Tallien (b. 1773), a prominent figure of Parisian social life who once arrived at the Tuileries Palace, then the chief residence of Napoleon Bonaparte, with whom she was briefly intimate, wearing eight sapphire rings, six toe rings, a gold bracelet on each ankle, and nine bracelets on each arm — plus a headband covered in rubies. Citing health benefits, Madame Tallien supplemented her bath water with the juice of strawberries — 22 pounds per bath.

Although strawberry surprise is on the menu at the Charlotte Senior Center, please note that no bath water is available. Nonetheless: Strawberry Fields forever [youtube.com/watch?v=44GB53rnI3c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44GB53rnI3c)

Grab-&-Go Meal Thursday, June 16, pick-up: 10-11 a.m.

Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and apple crisp.

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