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.
Faulkner said. "Otherwise it would have been history," Fortunately, it didn’t hit me in the head, started to slide, and he jumped off and into a pain from the broken ribs. Trying not to laugh or cough because of the accident could have been much worse. Jim Faulkner broke three ribs when a large landscaping mower flipped over on him, the Selectboard chair breaks ribs in mower accident.

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.

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

Scooter MacMillan

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 firefighter 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 Alonso E. Root, Private Joseph Kehoe, Private George Doolittle, Private Henry Drum, Private Daniel S. Ball, 1st Sergeant Michael A. Kehoe, Private George Louis Sturgeon, Air Force Technician 5 Corporal Daniel P. Leonard and Marine Lieutenant Willard Holdridge • 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 …

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 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 McCarten 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 $3.7 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.

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

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 Alonso E. Root, Private Joseph Kehoe, Private George Doolittle, Private Henry Drum, Private Daniel S. Ball, 1st Sergeant Michael A. Kehoe, Private George Louis Sturgeon, Air Force Technician 5 Corporal Daniel P. Leonard and Marine Lieutenant Willard Holdridge • 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 …
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 to be a person’s right to reproductive freedom is something I can support. This was a mistake on my 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 make the law that we have here in Vermont.

A constitutional amendment must be approved in two different biennias 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 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 started out 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, tourism, “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 reflect and evaluate my rationale for voting on 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. Her farming, affordable housing, diversity, equity and Prop 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 would mean the end of The Bridge, adding “I am taking things step by step.”

On 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 signed those positions. He will not be running for the Legislature.

Rep. Mike Yantachka and Chea Waters Evans

The Charlotte News • June 2, 2022 • 3
On behalf of all of us here at the paper, occasion, he provided me with thoughtful on local businesses for the paper and fundraising committees, writing stories as a member of our governance and up his efforts, serving as secretary and “That’s all I got.” ended his contributions with the phrase, editorial problems. Almost always, he on some tough financial, governance and of 2019, and he frequently brought his accomplishment.”

He had also served on the boards of the Charlotte Land Trust and the Lake Charlotte architect recruited to help with the challenge is “making it look like a large building that fits with “the Vermont vernacular,” Foster said. “I agree with you, Jim that natural light is nice, and I prefer a traditional roof experience aesthetically, but I will say that windows, even though windows are expensive. “I agree with you, Jim that natural light isn’t too big now that their kids have left, but I’ve never heard anybody say their garage is too big. Everything 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.”

Lewis said 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 garage.

Lewis said the town should stick with six bays for the new garage.

“For everybody that I know or I work for, that’s a flat roof, we could actually orient the roof in a way where it makes the most sense rather than having design or other considerations dictate where they go. “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 listening 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.

Lisa Tumminia said, shortly after the meeting closed, “I think it’s important to recognize that we’re not wild about. We’re not crazy about windows, even though windows are expensive. 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 listening here and listening to everybody being really concerned about being energy efficient, finding the right way to do this for the future.”

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Funeral traditions changing with 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 internments of ashes (or cremains), not casket burials and evening, a traditional funeral mass and of course the casket, calling hours both in the afternoon and with no caskets. I doubt it occurred to my grandmother or... is another consideration. With cremation, a service and interment 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 place 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. Conveniences are another consideration. With cremation, a family can schedule a memorial at a time of their choosing, which can be important for 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 Church. 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 interment for my mother’s ashes is 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 place 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. 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Susan Ohanian: A passionate spokesperson for teachers

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

— Susan Ohanian

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 Kappa. “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 the University of Colorado. “I thought I’d have bigger stories to tell so books were stiff and academic, while I wrote in a chatty style.

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 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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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 towns 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.

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. It is meant to be accessible, 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 commons, or what became known as village commons.

Commons? That term came to us from a deep history in Europe, where most areas normally established, to keep farm animals. And what of our little Charlotte Town Green? We can thank our lucky stars that we have it. It provides us with 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.

The Town of Charlotte TOWN MEETINGS AND AGENDAS Visit charlottetvt.org for more information.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Monthly Meeting of the Trails Committee
Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Development Review Board
Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Selectboard
Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.
Development Review Board
Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Open Mic Night
Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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 (?)

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 (charlottetgrangevt@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.)

Community

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School experiences two very different weeks

Nanom 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, every grade was both daunting and daunting, and 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 grade

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 students 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.

This week's celebration 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 among 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 the support system we have in place.

On that somber note, Charlotte Central School students and staff will be heading to summer school 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 Central School predicted to grow by 50 kids

Overwhelmed support staff

“What we experience in our school is 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.

David, who works 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 havelooping 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.

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
Anabelle 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 McGiffin, business administration major
Antonio Pugliese, English major
Andrew Slaunterbeck, health sciences major
Grace Slaunterbeck, political science major.

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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 goats’ 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.”

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

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, yellow iris and flowering rush can choke out by these intruders, but also for people who like to recreate on the water.

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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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.”

Matus Williams scored more than half the Redhawks’ goals with seven tallies. Colvin Zouck had two goals, while Nolan Shao had a goal and an assist. Owen Piercel tallied three assists. Goalkeeper Jake Bowden 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.

Stephen scored in two goals and an assist, while Tumer Elliott scored a goal in addition to three assists. Max Destito had a score. Besides his pride in his team, defense coach Garvey had praise for his defense, singling out Jake Bowen, Sam Whitcomb, Ryan Bohmecke, Sam Decker, Peyton Anderson and Max Destito.

With this win the Redhawks improved to 14-4 for the season. And with this win CVU swept Essex for the season which means the Redhawks won the Battle of the Bucket for the annual rivalry between the two teams. A vintage lacrosse helmet is known as a “bucket.”

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.

The win came behind great goal tending from Bowen and strong defense from Destito, Anderson, Bohmecke, Decker and Whitcomb.

Now, CVU awaits to see what the upcoming playoff pairings will be.

Girls lacrosse
CVU 16-10, Mount Mansfield 20

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 goals and an assist, while Peyton Jones scored twice and had an assist.

Grace McNally and Sydney Mast each scored twice. Ava Bartlett, Steela Dooley, Marlie Cartwright and Sophia Madden all grabbed a goal.

CVU’s goal scored 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 Dickey Manning scored twice. Stella Dooley, Cartwright, Jones and McNally added to the offense with a goal apiece.

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 Pavlar picked up the seventh inning and struckout 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 Frangola went 2-4 at the plate with a single. A double from Bartlett.

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.

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 "robin" and "stinking Benjamin" produce a leatherlike ground cover, preventing the growth of 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 and important. As our worlds change 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 NEWSLETTER AND READ ARTICLES HE’ S WRITTEN AT linktr.ee/chitten.dencountyforester/)

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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, Bohmecke, Manning and Mast all added a goal.

In goal, Ava Medici had four saves and Stackpole-McGrath had one.
Sacred Hunter

Fisherman’s despair soon supplanted by wonderment

Bradley Carlton
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 sound of a train as it surges up the steep walls of stone just across the interstate, as dusk sets in. There is a mystical nature to the sunset 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 hungry light above the trestle. The tempo of the hatch begins to reach a crescendo as the darkness surrounds me.

I can hear the plop, plop... plop, of fish rising to swallow the large yellow flies all around me. I can hear the sound of the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to the river in the background splashing against the big boulder in the center of the pool. It swells to

I retrieve a section of my line as it flies 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 hours. If 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 tips powerfully toward the surface, and the spool is now whining a high-pitched whine. 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 over the bottom of the spool and gently apply pressure, palming it to provide more resistance to his fight. Just as I think he is tired and have been able to retrieve about 20 yards of line, my rod bends in a strong arc. He is now weaving close to the surface.

I reach back behind my head with my left hand to grab the handle on a magnified 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 environment. He consults the additional pressure and turns abruptly to sprint away from the unseen danger. The reel begins to unwind, 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 spin, backs into the fastest current just below the boulder.

I feel the tension and my heart sinks to the depths of a fisherman’s despair.

Fortunately, in fishing, especially fly fishing, the heart rate can be slowed 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 rite we’ve been given. And one day, we too, will be released from our tethers to this splendid earth.

(Bradley Carlton is executive director of sacredhunter.org, a nonprofit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature.)

Gardening

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, and I have established gardens, planted vines.

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 eat the plant’s root in an inch or two below ground level. I’ve seen very little regrowth after using this method. Normally, the final step would be to cut the wild parsnip stalks 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 brushed, 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 is dry and grassy. It 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 upon 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.

In a recent study, 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 eat the plant’s root in an inch or two below ground level. I’ve seen very little regrowth after using this method. Normally, the final step would be to cut the wild parsnip stalks 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.

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Weather perfect for soaking in pool of great books

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 hoving partly white-grey 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 quietly, 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 dashingly 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:

“Bad 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 still 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 Hannah dead, and she still wasn’t able to get it out of her head. 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 am 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.
Learn now 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 Devold and her mother, Karen Tuininga, Charlotte residents of Ojibwe and Otaheita 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 Throy 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 Maria Vogler for her help and inspiration.

Knitting drop-in
Wednesdays, 6:30-7 p.m.
Swing by for knitting night at the library. Dust off those old projects you’ve been wanting to finish, start a new project, or even pick up a new skill. Jessica won’t be able 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@charlottelibrary.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
Calendar compiled by Mary Landon.
Event listings may be sent to calendar@charlottenewsvt.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 of informative and free presentations on the health and welfare of Vermont’s treasured lakes. This virtual event will feature lake-specific change, water quality, environmental quality standards and economic topics. Learn what the federation is accomplishing to preserve our watersheds. For more info or to register, see vermontfederation.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 ‘a day at the beach.’ Summer time 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, yard games, rock walls, inflatable rides, bike rentals available in advance at tinyurl.com/bd2wknj or at the door. More info by emailing LoganVaughan@cvudvt.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 paint, paper and peonies. Participants will create a complete list of performees and venues, see tinyurl.com/2595uw2s.

Bird banding
Saturday, June 4, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
Join Audubon Vermont biologist Mark LaBarr for a morning of bird banding, with instruction and guidance. More info about dates is on the Hurd Grassland in Weybridge; 802-989-3234 to sign up or email lsart@vermont.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 more info or complete list of performers and venues, see charlottenewsvt.org.

Guided walk
Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-noon
The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is turning an old dairy farm back into forestland in Colchester. The property is now known as the Intervale Wildlife Management Area. Take a tour with Intervale Forester Tony Mikula and learn how this area will benefit wildlife, people and the environment. There will be hikes in the rain or shine. Dress for mud and prepare for bugs and poison ivy. For more info and directions, to see vffwd.vermont.gov.

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 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 LBGTQ+ youth and allies. All are invited to learn about and celebrate the interwoven community and experience the beauty of the Intervale. Pre-register for COVID testing: purdue.edu/health-center/yrv5p8. 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 Hero and the Vermont Horticulture Farm in Hinesburg are hosting a free walk and talk in the rhododendron collection. Most of the plants are over 35 years old. Bring a water bottle and a camera (or sketchbook) and dress appropriately. Refreshments after the tour. Pre-register at tinyurl.com/yckihnnzv. More info at fhfvt.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 at Snow Farm in honor of the year. The concert is free; bring a picnic and blanket. 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 Onion River. Welcome racers and those who’d rather paddle for fun. Racers must register by end of day June 3. Preceding events will be used to protect and restore the Winooksi River watershed. For directions, rules, schedule, maps and fees, see tinyurl.com/dbpspp7x.

Ballet Vermont
Sunday, June 5, 5-6:30 p.m.
Set to Vivaldi’s ‘The Four Seasons.’ Ballet Vermont, with world-class dancers and Native American music, shares the story line of the cycle of the seasons and features a guest musicianship involved in a healthy environment. Doors open at 3 p.m. for nature-oriented family activities. Bring a chair or a blanket for the lawn to enjoy this story of the seasons. Picnics encouraged. More info and tickets at tinyurl.com/d6l6b6e.

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 flyvnt.com.

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. Picknicking 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 a 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 horticulturist Chad Donovan in an informal and interactive gathering. Registration required at tinyurl.com/2q99e6d8. 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 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 8 p.m. More info at shelburnemuseum.org or by calling 802-985-4436.

Free First Friday Eye 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 8 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 at Vermont Museum in Huntington. She will mainly help participants identify trees but she 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 birdwatchvt.org.

Tag ‘Em 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 this annual tag sale. Masks required; cash or check preferred. For more info, call 802-264-5100.

Batglove and fireworks Saturday, June 11, 11 a.m.
Chester 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 the Stars. For tickets, buy at the gate or call the VLM at 802-655-6611 and mention ‘Hinesburg.’ Doors open 6 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 anglers can fish without a license. For more info, see vermonef.org. Also on Saturday, the Grand Isle Fish Hatchery hosts a fishing festival with numerous fish to catch. 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 802-372-3371.

Blockprinting workshop Sunday, June 12, noon-3 p.m.
Come to a 3-hour workshop into the printing blocks to print on 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 Hord Garden and Nursery. For more info or to register, see hordnursery.com.

Shade planter project
Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30 p.m.
Main Street Hinesburg invites you to participate 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/Zp984n4j.

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 are invited to set your name on the festival map for this international event, visit bigheavenworld.com/makemusicvt and sign up for this unique day of making music for all. This is an inclusive festival where all music makers are welcome to participate – on front porches, stoops, stages, lawns, balconies or sidewalks. Be a part of the global Make Music Day as communities around the world celebrate all types of musical expression. Be a participant, make music and live performances. For more info, email dafshein@bigheavenworld.com or call 716-640-4369.

Find more events on The Charlotte News website charlottenewsvt.org
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Senior center vaccinates 79 at first COVID vaccine clinic

Seventy-nine vaccines were administered at the first walk-in COVID 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

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 music.

Outdoor activities

Birding expedition
Wednesday, June 8, 9 a.m. departure.
Join Hank Keesee for the June birding expedition. Group size is limited and registration is required; email cshedin@ gmx.net. 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 Jean Mollica at jmollica@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.

Cooking as art practiced at senior center
Susan Ohanian
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 paint colorful racks of corn-fed songs...”

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
Thursday, June 9, 7-9 a.m.
Will Raap of Earthkeep Farm common will describe the innovative new project at the site of the former Nordic Farm on Route 7.

Taco salad, esquites and strawberry surprise “Esquites” comes from the Nahua word “izquit,” 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 Thérésa 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 toes 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

Grub & Go Meal
Thursday, June 16, 7-9 a.m.
In addition to our professional staff, as many as 170 people provide stories, photos and commentaries to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 25L, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@thecharlottennews.org.

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Let your voice be heard.
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.