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The Charlotte News

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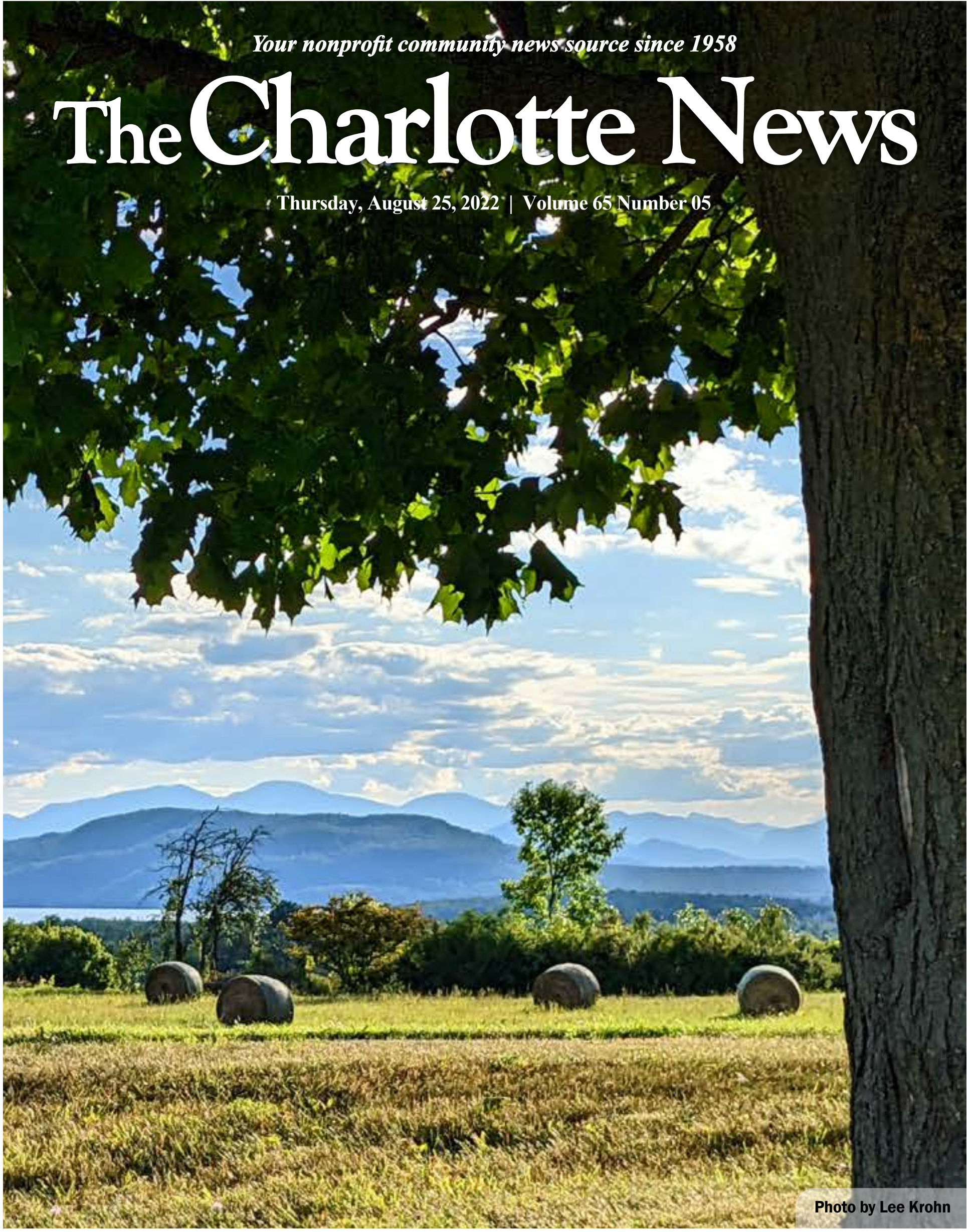


Photo by Lee Krohn

The Charlotte News

August 25, 2022

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

Vol. 65, No.5

No Merritt in proofing the newspaper

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

For more than two decades, this newspaper has gone to print with a variety of editors able to breathe easier and relax more fully from the tension of surviving story deadlines.



Beth Merritt

Lots of editors don't get to enjoy that sense of calm while their newspapers are committed to ink on newsprint because they haven't had the services of a super dependable team of proofreaders.

While we are confident we will continue to put out a newspaper with a minimum of

SEE **MERRITT** PAGE 3

Never too busy for 'The Charlotte News'

John Quinney
Publisher and President
Claudia Marshall
Fundraising Committee Chair

Sometime last week, we noticed folks switching from the question, "How is your summer going?" to "How was your summer?" We've heard several different answers, but one common theme: Many of us have been making up for lost time, traveling and seeing friends and family we hadn't seen in years.

Even though our calendars are full, dozens of Charlotters have paused to support this nonprofit newspaper, the oldest community newspaper in the state. And people have been making gifts — large and small — to ensure the paper's continued vibrancy. We can't thank those people enough!

In fact, while many of us have been busy with hikes and barbecues and boat rides, The Charlotte News has hired several new writers, thanks to these donations. New writers mean new voices and quite possibly ... new ideas.

If there's any bad news here, it's that all that summertime busy-ness has probably caused a few folks to forget to take care of our scrappy little nonprofit paper. After all, there are a lot of demands on your time and your money. And yet... this paper relies on donations to cover a sizable chunk of our budget. At the end of the day, we can't pay some of our bills. "Close" counts in horseshoes, not in budgets. We're closing in on our goal but still need to raise about \$1,200 in the next six days.

Can you pitch in? If you're a regular reader and can afford to throw a few dollars in the hat that we're passing, you can rest assured that every dollar donated is put to work to produce a paper we can all be proud of.

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Fluffy's bound for glory in the Nevada desert



Fluffy puts Chitty Chitty Bang Bang to shame. This is just a portion of its 14,000 LED lights.

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

(This story has been updated and expanded since it was originally released online.)

On Monday, Fluffy had a dress rehearsal. And Fluffy is just a newborn. Or more accurately, a newly reborn.

Fluffy is a 40-foot, flat-nosed school bus that has been reborn into an "art car," replete with clouds, LED lights and much more.

The dress rehearsal took place this Monday, Aug. 15, at Earthkeep Farmcommon on Route 7 just north of Charlotte.

Like most dress rehearsals, Fluffy still had a number of glitches, which Duane

Peterson, the owner, organizer and instigator behind the tricked-out bus, said would have he and many others working hard for the five days before its Saturday evening departure.

That night, Peterson and Fluffy headed to Burning Man, the annual event in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada.

Peterson said Burning Man's Black Rock City is a "pop-up city" of more than 70,000 people who gather about two hours north of Reno for the week before Labor Day.

The event features art, community, self-expression and self-reliance, culminating with the burning of a 40- to 100-foot wooden "man" on the closing Saturday night.

"It's not a festival. It's not something that somebody else produces for spectators. We put it on for ourselves and for each

other," Peterson said. "It's based on a gift economy, so there's nothing for sale there; it's not even for barter. It's just about gifting and artistic creativity."

Peterson bought the bus at the end of March and said he had the sense to know he couldn't design and produce what needed to happen to realize a vision of transforming a school bus into a cloud-themed art car, so artists and crafty types brought their skills to the project.

Will Raap of Earthkeep Farmcommon supplied the space for about 100 artists, mostly based in Burlington, with skills including carpentry, welding and electricity to work on the bus since the spring. With Saturday bearing down, Peterson and crew went into "full sprint."

SEE **FLUFFY** PAGE 2

Discussions between selectboard and fire and rescue service gets warm, fuzzy-ish

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Charlotte is buzzing with the possibility of changing its fire and rescue service from a separate nonprofit organization into part of the town government.

A discussion about how public the planning for this proposed transition should be began contentiously at a special selectboard meeting on Monday, Aug. 15, but ended more collaboratively. By the end of the meeting, while not full-fledged warm and fuzzy, there were hints the relationship between the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services and the selectboard might be improving.

The meeting began with selectboard chair Jim Faulkner saying that going forward it was that board's plan to have as much of the conversation in open session as possible, but this meeting would have to begin with a closed executive session to discuss a contract.

He said state statutes require closed executive sessions for some discussions.

The agenda for the meeting only scheduled two one-hour executive sessions, but a group from the fire and rescue board of directors argued for holding the first hour, which was devoted



to their meeting with the selectboard, in public.

Members of the selectboard responded that the meeting needed to be closed for a discussion of a contract. Under Vermont statutes covering executive meetings, discussions of contracts are one of the allowed exemptions from open meeting requirements (1 V.S.A. § 313 a1A).

Members of the fire and rescue board questioned how the executive session could be justified to discuss a contract when the only contract that exists is the memorandum of agreement between the town and the fire and rescue service, and that document is public.

There may have been violations of the memorandum of agreement, selectboard member Matt Krasnow said, and added that the boards needed to discuss a possible pending legal issue.

According to 1 V.S.A. § 313 a1E, "pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party" is another justification for holding an executive session.

Peter Richardson, a resident of Charlotte who was attending the meeting online, insisted that, just because an executive session was allowed, did not mean the selectboard was compelled to exclude the public.

"We can't discuss why we need to go into executive session," Krasnow said. "At this time, saying any more would be a breach of our responsibility of confidentiality."

"We need to be working together to move forward to a municipal department," Faulkner said.

And an overwhelming majority of the fire and rescue members in attendance spontaneously shouted in unison: "We agree."

Faulkner said, if the town decides to move forward in changing the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service from a nonprofit organization separate from the town to a municipal organization, the process will require multiple meetings, possibly every two weeks.

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 3

FLUFFY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The workers “are our folks who have been part of this kind of art event for some time,” Peterson said. They are people who have shared the Burning Man experience with him for over 16 years.

Transforming the bus fits with the panoptic vision for Earthkeep Farmcommon, said Raap. “One of the things we aspire to do is be a place where art is expressed, mainly sort of land-based, environmental art.”

He thinks once the barn is renovated, artists may be located there.

For the past 20-30 years Charlotte has been transitioning from a farming community into a “suburban bedroom community.”

Raap would like for Earthkeep Farmcommon to help the town maintain its agricultural heritage by becoming a 21st century realization of an agricultural community center, being more than just a place to buy things like vegetables, eggs, dairy products, meat, bread — and shrimp. His vision is for the farm to be a vibrant piece of the local economy.

“When you talk about a vibrant economy, you’re also talking about a larger view, things that include art, music and other kinds of ways people come together. We’re not trying to be only a farm; we’re trying to be a gathering space,” Raap said.

Sounds a lot like Burning Man.

Burning Man has been on pandemic hiatus for two years, but Peterson said they had been “noodling” over the idea of refurbishing a school bus to be a mobile art project that would qualify for certification by Black Rock City’s DMV at the event before it was shutdown.

Black Rock City is an actual annual temporary city with its own U.S. post office, radio station, hospital, a Federal Aviation Administration-approved airport, fire department and DMV, which at Burning Man stands for Department of Mutant Vehicles.

The city is 5 miles by 5 miles so a public transit system is needed — a fleet of 800 art cars that people bring from all over the world, Peterson said. In order to get a permit from the Black Rock City DMV, you have to affirm that you will give free rides to fellow



Courtesy photos

Fluffy the school bus is almost set to fly. It departed Saturday to Burning Man in the Nevada desert.



residents.

It took some time to find a suitable school bus because Peterson was insistent that Fluffy needed to be a bus with a wheelchair lift.

People with disabilities are often left behind in society at large, and even at times, in the stress of producing art for Burning Man, they are left behind there, he said. “I’m hoping to bring joy to all kinds of folks.”

So, the handrails will have Braille.

Fluffy features a flame blaster, a mast and 14,000 LED lights, all of which had to be taken down at Earthkeep Farmcommon and packed up, so it could be driven legally for the three-and-half-day trip to Nevada. Once they arrive, they’ll jump into reassembling it, which will probably take another three or four days.

Peterson said the bus gets about nine miles per gallon. As one of the founders of SunCommon, the solar power company, that mileage does not thrill him, but he will buy carbon offsets to match the gas that’s burned in traveling.

Black Rock City is broken up into camps and Peterson’s camp will have about 16 residents going by the name of Duane’s Whirl. To find out more, visit duaneswhirl.com/fluffy.

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The Charlotte News



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 Charlotte 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.
- While letters or opinion pieces may endorse political positions or candidates for public office, the paper always remains objective and impartial in such matters.
- 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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MERRITT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mishaps like “pubic” when “public” was intended and other such typographical and grammatical faux pas (not faux passes, faux pas is both the singular and plural — right Beth?), much of our confidence is based upon the tradition of strong proofreading Beth Merritt helped continue at the newspaper since the late 1990s.

Merritt has decided to step away from the rigors of proofing to spend more time traveling and with grandchildren. We wish her well and will miss her.

Two people who will miss her in particular are Mike and Janet Yantachka. For several years, the Yantachkas and Beth and her late husband Edd Merritt were The Charlotte News’ proofreading team.

“We would meet every other week in the evening a few days prior to publication of The Charlotte News at the Merritts’ kitchen table to go over the paper draft copy,” the Yantachkas said. “We each read every word of every article and added our markups.”

By the time the others showed up and began reading, Beth Merritt had already had time to read the copy, so she kept the rest of the team fueled with snacks and drinks during the four-hour proofing process.

When the three of them were befuddled by a reference or a piece of local trivia, Edd Merritt would call out, “Hey, Beth!”

In an email, the Yantachkas said, “She never failed to answer our questions from her extensive knowledge base. What she wasn’t sure of, she would do some research to make sure our information was accurate.”

They said Beth Merritt is a great example of how teamwork at different levels of the publication’s production process helps keep the local newspaper’s standards high.

For a decade former publisher Vince Crockenberg said he and Beth Merritt were the newspaper’s proofreading team.

“She was a perfect copy-editing partner.

“Beth Merritt is a great example of how teamwork at different levels of the publication’s production process helps keep the local newspaper’s standards high.”

— Mike and Janet Yantachka

She was unflappable in the face of deadlines and always got the work done on time,” Crockenberg said.

He admitted that sometimes they argued “good naturedly about the merits of the serial comma, whether headlines should be in upper case or lower case, and a myriad of other questions that only grammar dweebs can get excited about.”

“We were never able to turn out a perfect, error-free paper, but we had fun trying,” Crockenberg said. “And I would certainly do it all over again with her. It was a great run while it lasted.”

People talking about Beth Merritt’s sense of calm in the eye of the deadline storm begin to sound as if they’re getting ready to quote from the poem “If” by Rudyard Kipling: “If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs.”

Alex Bunten, who was editor in 2015, echoed that theme, saying that she was “always a calm presence in the news room, even in the stressful last hours before deadline.”

Bunten said, when the copy came to the Merritts for proofing “from a rattled editorial crew,” sometimes Edd Merritt would get “distracted and launch into a long, arching story about this or that local in the paper, Bob Dylan — or naval service.”

In spite of Edd’s penchant for storytelling, Bunten said, “Beth would be working away, making sure the paper was fit for print. Both had their role to play and both were very much appreciated in my time as editor.”

Nancy Wood founded The Charlotte News in 1958 when she was 16-years-old at

her father’s suggestion.

It was during the summer before she went away to school, and they had a horse named Sox they wanted to sell. Because Wood’s family didn’t have a horse trailer to deliver the horse to the buyer, her father said a local newspaper would be a good way to find a buyer close enough to ride it to its new home.

The first edition, and editions for years after, were a single sheet printed on a mimeograph at the Charlotte Congregational Church. It became a product of the church’s young people with an adult mentor overseeing its publication every two weeks.

When the initial issue of The Charlotte News finally came out, Sox had already been sold — to a man in South Burlington. So, Wood had to ride Sox all the way down Spear Street for delivery, which was a much different experience more than 60 years ago.

Although her initial tenure as editor was brief, ending just months later when fall and school rolled around, Wood returned to the post in 2009 for about three years.

Besides Beth Merritt’s wonderful contributions to the newspaper, Wood said it was important to remember her efforts for other town organizations, like the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Senior Center.

Library director Margaret Woodruff applauded Merritt’s service to that organization, noting that in 1993 she was one of the founding members of the library’s drive to get a building dedicated to a community library built.

Previously, the community library was part of the Charlotte Central School library,

but in 1997 it moved into its present building due to the efforts of Merritt and others.

Merritt is treasurer to the Friends of the Charlotte Library, which raises money for special projects and events.

She has also been important in the history of the Charlotte Senior Center.

Lane Morrison, who succeeded her as president of the senior center’s board, said she is very active, dedicated and at the center almost every day. She is on the senior center’s human resources committee and helped prepare the center’s policies.

Wally Gates, treasurer of the senior center’s board of directors, said he first met Beth Merritt in 2001. The senior center’s building was under construction and supporters had realized the funds they had were insufficient to pay for it.

Having been involved with fundraising for the Charlotte Library, Merritt’s expertise was valued by the senior center.

He thinks it should be apparent that he holds Beth Merritt in high esteem, commending her insight and hard work.

“When I met her, I said to myself, keep your eye on her,” Gates said. “She made a very good first impression.”

That first impression proved to be on point in light of Beth Merritt’s very successful efforts on behalf of the senior center.

And the Charlotte Library.

And The Charlotte News.

Corrections

- An article on Charlotte’s tax rate for fiscal year 2023 in the Aug. 11 edition of the newspaper stated the amount of town taxes on property valued \$300,000 incorrectly. The taxes will be \$5,244.90, an increase \$15.90 over fiscal year 2022.
- A photo of paddlers on a Charlotte Senior Center kayaking trip should have been credited to Kate Mesaros.

SELECTBOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ultimately, the two boards agreed to hold an executive session limited to five minutes and hold the rest of their conversation in open meeting, but that planned five-minute closed session lasted for almost 15 minutes. The rest of the first section of the selectboard meeting was conducted in public.

When the two boards returned to open meeting, a discussion ensued about how the transition would be complicated and time consuming, requiring expertise and time the members of the selectboard don’t have.

“The Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service has in place a municipal assistance committee, which is wonderful to have come to these meetings with the selectboard, to talk about what we need to do, the benchmarks to transition to the municipal service,” Krasnow said.

Although he and selectboard member Frank Tenney have been working with the municipal assistance committee, Krasnow said, the selectboard is thinking about hiring someone with the experience and knowledge to serve as a consultant to oversee the transition.

On the agenda, the second hour of the meeting was devoted to another executive session for a discussion with Rob Mullin about a contract. Mullin was demoted from deputy fire chief in September 2021, but continued to be employed by the fire and



rescue department until March of this year when he was terminated.

This was the second executive session the selectboard has had with Mullin. Speculation by several members of the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service, who declined to be identified by name, was that the selectboard was considering hiring Mullin as the consultant to manage the transition to a municipal department.

The second executive session of that night ended without the board making any motion or taking any action when it returned to open session.

But at the regular selectboard meeting this Monday, Sept. 22, a motion to send out a request for proposals for hiring a consultant to oversee the transition for no more than \$30,000 passed by a 4-0 vote, with board member Lewis Mudge absent on vacation.

At 7 p.m. this coming Monday, Aug. 29, the selectboard will hold another special meeting about changing the fire and rescue service to a municipal department.

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Agriculture

Big developments brewing at Vermont Malthouse

Juliann Phelps
Contributor

Vermont’s only malthouse is quietly undergoing a massive upgrade, right here in Charlotte.

Set back at the end of the Earthkeep Farmcommon driveway, Vermont Malthouse is located in a former dairy barn, massive in size, large enough to double its operations and house other businesses, including House of Fermentology. Upgrades to their steep tanks, heating system, chiller and a flaker system will enable Vermont Malthouse to increase production and offerings to the local and regional brewing market.

“We are safety-minded while working to become a world-class malthouse,” said Rob Hunter, general manager of Vermont Malthouse.

The day of the tour they were bagging finished product, the air dusty yet humid with the smell of grain. The visit included chance meetings with other staff including Jamie Dragon, head maltster, who was busy monitoring their current batch of barley malt.

While highly scientific, the nature of the malting process consists of a few simple steps: the grain is steeped in large tanks, soaked and split open, then dropped into a heating chamber. Once the grain is at the right temperature and moisture level, it’s kilned, cleaned and bagged. The malthouse does this every two weeks, producing barley malt used as base for pilsner-type beer.

“It’s the most used malt. It doesn’t impart the colors, but our new systems will allow us to do a proper pale ale, a proper Munich, a proper Vienna,” Hunter said.

He showed off a shiny new row of steep tanks, used for the first time last week.

“I haven’t been excited about something like this for years,” he said. “It does so much for our morale, for our mindset. It’s something that can stand up to the best.”

Previously they were using a large-scale version of a custom maple sap tank with a curved bottom and outlets on the sides, making transfer of product difficult if not dangerous. The new tanks are capable of steeping one ton of grain apiece, with new carbon dioxide extraction, aeration fans and bottom outlets.



Above: General manager of Vermont Malthouse, Rob Hunter scoops a handful of germinated barley in the heating room.

“These are three big wins, as steeping is the most important step,” he said.

After two days of steeping, the outlets on the steep tanks are opened, dropping the grain onto a germination floor, which is also a heating chamber. This dark, warm, enclosed room contains a large heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and series of monitoring sensors.

The grain is dumped into a large cement “bathtub” where an auger slowly turns, separating the rootlets that sprouted in the warm climate.

As the grains slowly germinate Jamie, the head maltster, checks the sensors every two hours for the next six days, monitoring humidity levels and temperature.

Temperature is important in the malting process. Hunter said in the warmer months the malthouse is challenged to keep the grain at the ideal temperature of 60 degrees during the germination process. Their second upgrade, a new 80-ton chiller system, will only be used a few months of the year but

will circulate much cooler air under the grain than the current HVAC system. Once most of the grain has germinated, it gets dried and cooked at a high temperature, called kilning. The third upgrade, a 100-percent efficient heat recapture system, will kiln the grain at 240 degrees instead of the current 180. This will allow the malthouse to kiln different grains at the higher temperatures required. The hot air halts the germination process, breaking down the grains into usable sugars for yeast. After kilning, the malt is sucked out of the room and into a de-comber where it’s cleaned and dumped into 1,500-2,000 pound “super sacks.”

The last and possibly most interesting upgrade is the flaker. It’s an unassuming piece of equipment behind a large dividing wall, independent from the malting process. The availability of flaked barley (or wheat) will be another game-changer for the business.

“It’s the secret ingredient in different beers,” said Hunter.



Top: Newly installed steel tanks on the top floor of the Vermont Malthouse.

Bottom: A handful of germinated barley.

In this process raw grains are used, which are steamed, cooled and rolled — putting the starch of the grain on the outside in a process called gelatinization. Hunter describes it as making oatmeal: “You put the hot water on your oatmeal and the dry oats become a creamy texture.” When it comes to flaked grains, “it’s all about mouth feel.”

You would think with all the upgrades in process, Vermont Malthouse would rest on its laurels. Instead, Hunter spoke of even more upgrades and opportunities.

The flaker process could be used to flake corn used in finishing beef cattle. They may invest in a small batch system which would create dark malts for stouts and porters or experiment with grains like kernza, a type of wheatgrass.

“I think Jamie is excited about getting creative,” said Hunter.

While in appearance it may seem like a sleepy red dairy barn nestled against fields of rye, inside Vermont Malthouse is wide awake and innovating.

Chea Waters Evans upsets incumbent in race for House seat

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Despite backlash about his vote against an amendment to the state constitution ensuring abortion rights, incumbent Mike Yantachka thought he would win another term as Chittenden-5 state representative, but he wasn’t taking it for granted.

Political newcomer Chea Waters Evans was also confident but not cocky about winning.

In the end Evans prevailed in a close primary contest 701-640 on Tuesday, taking almost 53 percent of the votes.

It is not too much of an assumption to attribute Yantachka’s loss to his vote on Proposition 5, a state constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights. After hearing from residents, Yantachka reconsidered his position and said he regretted voting against it.

In 2019, Yantachka voted for the amendment but became concerned about late-term abortions and enshrining the right in Vermont’s constitution.

Evans was persuaded to run for the seat because of Yantachka’s vote opposing the constitutional amendment.

It’s an overwhelming likelihood that Evans will win the seat in November’s general election because there were no candidates for the seat on the Republican or Progressive party primary ballots. The only way she could lose would be by write-in votes, and that’s just a bit less rare than pigs flying.

In 2010, in Yantachka’s first race for the Vermont House of Representatives,

he prevailed in a three-way primary race and again in a three-way race in the general election. In his next race running for reelection to the House, he faced a Republican opponent in the general election.

Evans was his first opponent after four campaigns without opposition in either the primary or general elections.

In his early years of campaigning, Yantachka did a lot of knocking on the doors of all constituents. He said in his recent campaigns, he’d concentrated on just visiting newcomers. With Evans mounting a vigorous challenge, this time he’d knocked on the doors of both longtime and more recent residents.

Yantachka said he’d only talked to a handful of people who were upset with the job he’d done during his time in Montpelier. For example, he heard from a land developer who was upset he hadn’t done more to modify Act 250 and another person who was upset about his position on guns.

Evans’ and Yantachka’s positions on guns are pretty similar. They both support gun regulations but don’t support banning them.

Evans has three boys — a 17-year-old, an almost 16-year-old and a 12-year-old. She’s aware of how much her two oldest are having to do to get driver’s licenses.

“I think if you actually have to get 30 hours of driver education, a class and all of this stuff to be able to drive a car, then you should have to have the same similar style and amount of education for operating a gun, and especially if it’s an automatic weapon,” Evans said.

Yantachka said his knocking-on-doors strategy would have been more robust, but it

was inhibited by the weather. Besides this and his vote on Prop 5, he feels like other factors contributed to his loss and one of those is his age.

“People started concentrating on my age,” he said.

There was a sense that some voters feel Charlotte needs new blood, that “we need somebody in there that wasn’t an old, gray guy, which really is off the

mark, because with experience and longevity comes knowledge and wisdom, even though you can make a mistake, obviously, but institutional knowledge is of great benefit.”

Yantachka was on the energy and technology committee and is respected for his knowledge in those areas. The chair, Timothy Briglin of Thetford, is not running for reelection. Yantachka said he has heard from legislators who are concerned about that committee losing so much knowledge and experience.

As a first-term legislator, Evans said, she doesn’t expect to have much leverage to choose what committee she serves on, but her first three choices would be human services, house operations and appropriations.

Besides gun control, other issues she feels strongly about are lack of mental health



Chea Waters Evans



Mike Yantachka

care, housing and jobs.

“There’s a catch-22 where it’s hard to move and work here because there’s nowhere affordable to live, and there’s no one to work anywhere,” Evans said.

She plans to delve into becoming more knowledgeable about the environment.

“Mike did a lot of work in that regard,” Evans said. “It is certainly a priority for me.”

She said she is unsure whether she will continue with The Bridge, the online Charlotte news outlet she started after resigning as The Charlotte News’ editor.

Evans said winning the election means there will be at least one big change in her life: “I have been the one to ask all the questions, as a journalist. Now, I’m the one answering the questions.”

Town

Charlotte voters approve construction of new garage, so town will keep its road commissioner

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

A barrage of garage “yes” votes in Tuesday’s election means the town will be building a garage to house snow plows and road equipment, and that road commissioner Junior Lewis will be staying on.

The two articles on building a town garage were supported by just over 78 percent of the votes.

The overwhelming support means Lewis will run for road commissioner in March. And unless there is some major gash in the space-time continuum, he will win.

Lewis is overwhelmingly liked and respected in Charlotte. Although there were a number of posts on social media criticizing the proposal to build a garage, almost all the critics took time to applaud Lewis’ dedication and hard work for the town.

With the prospect of having a place to work on his trucks inside, out of the snow and cold, Lewis said he’ll be keeping town roads in shape and free of snow for five, maybe 10 more years.

“It depends on my health and how things are going,” Lewis said.

When the garage he rented to house his snow plows and equipment burned in late December, Lewis said at his age he wasn’t going to build a garage he might only use for a few years, and he wouldn’t run for reelection if the town didn’t build its own.

He spent much of the remainder of last winter working on trucks outside under a tarp in the snow and freezing weather. With a new garage on the way, Lewis said he could put up with working on his trucks outside for another winter.

There is almost no chance of breaking ground on the project before this winter, but he is confident that construction will

start in the spring and a garage will be up before the next winter.

Lewis was pleased with how the voting turned out with much more than three times “yes” votes to “no” votes.

“I was glad to see that kind of a majority. It wasn’t really close,” he said, reiterating that the garage is not for him but for the town. He thinks that having the garage will make it much easier for Charlotte to recruit someone to replace him when he eventually does retire.

He is almost certain there isn’t an existing building that could house four snow plows. Having a town garage might be an incentive to get someone to go into debt to buy enough equipment to take care of the roads when Lewis does retire.

That’s what Lewis did when the town came to him in 1998 and persuaded him to become road commissioner when the previous commissioner decided not to run. He and his wife secured a loan, and now he’s going into his 25th year of being Charlotte’s roads scholar.

But he had a garage to rent, the one that Henry Lane used when he was road commissioner. Lane was Charlotte road commissioner for about 45 years.

When Lewis was 16 in 1976, he started working on the roads for Lane and found he really liked the work — his first and only job.

It’s hard to exaggerate the Lewis’ impact on the roads in Charlotte. He even eliminated a season here.

With most other Vermont towns experiencing five seasons, Lewis reduced the number of seasons in Charlotte to four.

In his early years of being road commissioner, he went to the selectboard with his idea. “I said that I would like to build up the dirt roads to get rid of mud season.”

The town had a contract with Bob Titus



Garage rendering by Centerline Architects. The town of Charlotte released this rendering of some of the design ideas that have been discussed for the new town garage on Route 7. Town administrator Dean Bloch said this proposed design is intended to be solar ready, but the solar panels will not be part of the initial building project. On August 11, voters approved financing of \$1.5 million of the total \$3 million cost of the garage. The rest of the \$1.5 million will be paid from a federal American Rescue Plan Act grant and \$500,000 of the town’s highway reserve and capital funds.

to get shale from his property, but not much had been used. Lewis started getting shale in a big way to build up the roads. At first some people were against it.

“Then come the next spring after we were done, they had a totally different perspective,” he said.

In fact, attitudes about building up the dirt roads changed so much that someone

proposed adding \$110,000 to the budget at Town Meeting Day for road upgrading. And it passed.

What probably seemed like a lot of money more than two decades ago seems like a pittance today, especially when Charlotte’s not stuck with mud season.

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Food Shelf News

Charlotte Food Shelf begins drive for kids winter clothes

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

The Charlotte Food Shelf, with our all-volunteer staff, continues to support families in Charlotte who are in need of food and assistance.

This month, the drive to outfit kids with winter clothes and boots begins. Tai Dinnan is spearheading this effort, which is a partnership between the Charlotte Grange and the Charlotte Food Shelf. Registration for those seeking clothes and boots began Aug. 24.

Looking ahead towards those cold winter months, the food shelf will gratefully accept gently used winter jackets for girls, boys and some adults from those willing and able to donate.

Outpouring of support from the community enables continued support of

townspeople. The Charlotte Food Shelf thanks the anonymous donors from the Grange on the Green concert, as well as Deborah (Raven) Davis, Robert Lampton III, Carmel Lampton-Lopez, Meg Berlin and the Charlotte Congregational Church for their generosity. The food shelf is also grateful to Frances Foster, Anne Castle, Ruth Uphold and Mary Provencher for their donations. The food shelf was the grateful beneficiary of proceeds from the annual Cedar Beach Association picnic and thanks president Barbara Benedict and the association for their generosity. The Charlotte Food Shelf has been receiving bread donated by Stewart’s Bakery of Williston and delivered by Katie Moses of Charlotte and appreciates the delicious varieties they have been supplying. To those who grow, and who have planted an extra row, please know that

your donations of fresh produce have been gratefully received and devoured. The food shelf continues to encourage masking indoors or in crowded environments and will continue distributing food by curbside pickup to keep families and volunteers safe. If you cannot come to food shelf distribution due to COVID symptoms or seek further information about the Charlotte Food Shelf, call 802-425-3252. Monetary donations are appreciated and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445. The food shelf is a 501c entity, and contributions remain tax deductible. The Charlotte Food Shelf is open for food distribution from 4-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130.



Around Town

Congratulations

Family-run grocery Healthy Living received the Deane C. Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine on Aug. 17. Healthy Living, with stores in South Burlington, Williston and Saratoga, N.Y., is co-owned by Katy Lesser and her children Nina Lesser-Goldsmith and Eli Lesser-Goldsmith, both of Charlotte. The award honors sustained growth and “an acute awareness of what makes Vermont unique,” according to a release. Katy Lesser opened the South

Burlington store in 1986, as a source for healthy, natural foods. Healthy Living has created 350 jobs in Vermont and New York. The company gives back to nonprofits quarterly and just this year became one of the first retailers to join the Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership, encouraging shoppers to buy local. “Deane C. Davis became governor at age 68, which shows that you really can switch careers and make an impact,” Lesser said. “That’s what I did as a young mom in the 1980s, and I’m still learning every day.”

Red Cross: Make a plan because more climate disasters in U.S. than anywhere else

Jennifer Costa
American Red Cross

People everywhere are feeling the impacts of climate change with more frequent and intense weather events threatening our communities. September is National Preparedness Month and the American Red Cross, Northern New England Region, urges everyone to get ready for these emergencies now. Just last year, more than 40 percent of Americans — some 130 million people — were living in a county struck by a climate-related disaster, according to analysis from the Washington Post. Disasters can happen anywhere, anytime. You can be ready by visiting redcross.org/prepare. “More powerful climate-driven occurrences are happening across the U.S. than ever before,” said Stephanie Couturier of the American Red Cross Northern New England Region. “In fact, there have been more climate-related disasters in the nation over the past two decades than in any other country. It’s vital that everyone take steps to be prepared.” Three simple steps can help to keep your family safe during disasters — 1) Get a kit. 2) Make a plan. 3) Be informed.

- Build your emergency kit with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight and a battery-powered radio. Also include a first aid kit, medications, supplies for infants or pets, a multi-purpose tool and personal hygiene items. And don’t forget to add copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, blankets, maps of the area and emergency contact information.
- Plan what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and what to do if you have to evacuate. Make sure to coordinate your plan with your child’s school, your work and your community’s emergency plans.
- Stay informed by finding out what emergency situations may occur where you live, work and go to school, how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.

Include your pets in your emergency plans. Remember, if you and your family need to evacuate, so does your pet. It’s



important to plan in advance to know which pet-friendly hotels are in your area, and where your pets can stay in an emergency situation. Take any special considerations into account as part of your emergency planning. Older adults or people with mobility, hearing, learning or seeing disabilities may need to create a support network of people that can help during an emergency. Create a plan that takes into account your capabilities, any help you may need and who can provide it, especially if you need to evacuate or if the power goes out for several days. Red Cross volunteers play critical roles in their local communities by making sure families don’t have to face tough times alone. “Be ready to not only help your loved ones, but your neighbors too,” said Couturier. “Join us as a Disaster Action Team volunteer, learn lifesaving skills by signing up for first aid or CPR classes, or make an appointment to give blood or platelets.” A strong blood supply is key to preparedness for disasters and medical emergencies, and donors can ensure blood is on the shelves the moment it’s needed. As a thank-you, all who come to give Sept. 1-18 will get a limited-edition Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. Plus, those who race to give Sept. 1-30 will automatically be entered for a chance to win a VIP NASCAR experience, including two tickets to a 2023 race, and will also receive by email a coupon for a free haircut, all thanks to Sport Clips Haircuts. Donors can schedule an appointment to donate using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Upcoming September blood donation opportunities in Chittenden County are:

- Hinesburg, Sept. 1, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Jude’s Parish Hall, 10759 Rte. 116
- South Burlington, Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Temple Sinai South Burlington, 500 Swift St.
- Colchester, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Colchester Meeting House, 830 Main Street
- Shelburne, Sept. 15, noon- 5 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena, 72 Church St.

Hi Neighbor!

Measuring the day in fulfillment rather than seconds



Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Some of Rich Aherns’ earliest memories are of watching his maternal grandfather in his wood shop.

“I associate woodworking with some of the happiest times of my life,” he said.

That happiness continues through Aherns’ business, Building Character Vermont, which he opened in 2016.

Aherns’ grandfather was a lumber salesman, so woodworking was just a hobby. “He was more of a tinkerer,” Aherns said. “He liked to fix things, so I learned some basic skills, but later I realized that there was much more than that. The great thing about woodworking is that it’s a lifetime learning experience.”

Although Aherns continued to work with wood, his life had a few twists and turns first. Born and raised in Baltimore, he majored in fine arts and then got his master’s degree in theology.

“I’ve done a lot of church work,” he said, “but that’s really a past life.”

Needing a practical career, Aherns spent almost three decades as a commodities trader.

“I did some house building and renovations in my spare time to keep my sanity,” he said. “I disliked my day job immensely, but I did it as long as I could stand because I had a family.”

After building a house for himself and his wife in Charlotte, Aherns decided to pursue woodworking as a profession.

“I started my business to see what would evolve and come my way,” he said. “I’m not a big fan of production work and doing the same thing all the time. With my business I get to do something different every day of the week.”

Aherns does no advertising, with the exception of the occasional social media post, but he has been incredibly busy since he opened his doors.

“I would work seven days a week if my wife allowed it,” he said.

The business runs the gamut from traditional New England carved signs and dimensional signs to kitchen and bathroom cabinets and custom work for mudrooms and wine cellars.

“I do a lot of mud rooms because most are pretty ill-conceived and don’t meet the needs of a family,” Aherns said. “People don’t

really know why they don’t like their mud rooms, but it’s because they’re a cluttered mess. I try to tailor it to the individual family rather than build something generic.”

For the last five years Aherns has been a member of the Charlotte Recreation Commission and he is proud that his colleagues have been tackling larger projects.

“We’re not just a commission that maintains things,” he said. “We are envisioning and executing things for the future for a changing community. That’s what I find most enjoyable. We’re far more dynamic than when I joined; we’re not static.”

In addition to his work in people’s homes, Aherns does some furniture commissions, although those are less frequent.

“I’m busier than I’d like to be,” he said. “I’m trying to wrangle things back to have time for myself.”

Aherns’ son has been working with him for the last several years, but he’ll be moving shortly, so Aherns will return to being a solo operation.

“I love my shop,” he said. “It’s my sanctuary and where I long to be all the time.”

One of Aherns’ favorite parts of on-site work is when a client wants to maintain the history of their home but hasn’t been able to reproduce an existing element.

“I’m currently making some intricate brackets from a stash of old-growth mahogany I had been saving,” he said. “I’m adding acorns to their adornment at the owner’s request. That kind of work makes my brain engage more than doing the usual. The freedom to unleash my artistry is always something that brings me joy.”

While he may have learned traditional methods from his grandfather, Aherns takes advantage of modern technology, including robotic equipment that can cut with a high level of precision.

“I probably have one of the best equipped shops in the region,” he said, “and I do things for other shops. The opportunity to do something that other people can’t figure out is something I relish. I really enjoy unique challenges.”

“When I was in seminary,” Aherns said, “I learned the difference between an occupation and a vocation. It was when I left the occupational world of commodities and started making wood shavings each day that I truly realized my long-held suspicions of my calling to fine woodworking. Time stands still and I go deeply into my zone. I find an entire day has passed but I measure it in fulfillment rather than second hands.”



Rich Aherns

Courtesy photo

Music of ‘Bright Star’ to light up Shelburne Town Hall

Brad Coolidge
Contributor

Enjoy a Broadway-style concert of the musical “Bright Star” in the historic Shelburne Town Hall on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. or Sunday, Aug. 28, at 3 p.m.

New Charlotte residents, Brad and Melissa Coolidge, are joined by professionals from Vermont, New York City and the Berkshires to share this bluegrass musical written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell with live accompaniment on fiddle, banjo and piano.

The musical is based on true events. In a release, the Coolidges said the story will leave you filled with hope and a belief, in the words of one of the musical’s songs, that the “Sun’s Gonna Shine” again.

The Shelburne Town Hall is adjacent to the Pierson Library. Tickets are free but organizers hope people will donate to the Shelburne Food Shelf.

The doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

Tickets can be reserved online at [eventbrite.com/e/bright-star-in-concert-tickets-387559379537?aff=ebdssbdestsear%20h](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bright-star-in-concert-tickets-387559379537?aff=ebdssbdestsear%20h).

The Coolidges met in New York 15 years ago as cast members opposite one another in



Courtesy photo
Brad and Melissa Coolidge

“Much Ado About Nothing.”

Together they have produced seven feature films with stars, including Nicholas Cage, Al Pacino, Julianne Moore, Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy and Paul Rudd. Their films have played Sundance, Toronto Film Festival, Berlin and Cannes Film Festivals.



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Education

In-person communication may be key to getting in the door

Margo Bartsch
Contributor

There is so much excitement in being admitted to a dream college or getting the ideal job; however, this is just the initial step to begin building networking opportunities. Having an effective communication style makes a memorable first impression and builds an ongoing relationship.

Students are always meeting with teachers, and workers are constantly interacting with colleagues. Mixing-and-matching communication options is a balancing act that includes in-person conversations, email updates and social media posts.

During the past two years of communicating by Zoom for school and work, many people have forgotten the impact of face-to-face conversations. The Wall Street Journal recently published “The People Who Apply for Jobs by Showing Up,” examining a trend toward in-person interviews replacing online screening.

The article emphasizes, “Human connection. A foot in the door, a shake of the hand” as strategies to get noticed. Meeting with a professor or talking with a supervisor can form a relationship with immediate and long-term benefits.

In-person conversations could identify soft skills of personal characteristics like



eye contact, body language and note taking. Being an active listener and maintaining an engaging discussion helps the meeting evolve beyond the basic question-and-answer exchange.

To introduce yourself, prepare an icebreaker, which is a memorable point about yourself and relevant to the person you are having a conversation with. Also known as an elevator pitch, the purpose is to talk concisely about an idea that relates to the purpose for the meeting.

For example, if you are meeting with someone interested in the environment, a conversation could begin: “I’ve experienced how climate change impacts the ski seasons in my state of Vermont.”

This statement helps the teacher or boss form a distinctive impression and kicks off the conversation as a collaborative dialogue.

Scheduling a face-to-face meeting or telephone call could help in getting to know your professors or colleagues outside of the usual setting. Typically, at the end of class, teachers ask students if they have any

questions and encourage them to stop by during office hours.

In starting the conversation, be sure to bring materials that reference your work effort. This shows an effort to solve the problem and research information. For example, if there is a roadblock on how to respond to a homework question or work assignment, bring books or newspaper articles relating to the subject. Prepare a list of questions to answer. Being organized helps to guide a productive conversation and highlight your commitment to succeed.

Remember to keep in touch with email updates or handwritten notes to professors and bosses, even after completing the class or leaving the firm. Ongoing communications can enhance valuable references for future opportunities. Recommendations typically emphasize interpersonal skills like leadership and teamwork. Ongoing communication fosters stronger social relationships.

An example of a short note can read: Dear Professor, I hope your classes are

going well. Since I graduated, I have been working at (name of company), where I am responsible for (list specific tasks). Your class projects (elaborate) prepared me for my job. I will keep in touch with updates. Thanks again for influencing my future. Sincerely, Happy Student.

In addition, email exchanges with supervisors and professors could be an efficient way to communicate. This allows a more immediate back-and-forth conversation to respond to a group email discussion or clarify an assignment.

To start an email, the greeting should professionally address the boss or teacher, similar to how they present themselves at work or in class. For example, if they are known by their first name, then start the note with their name. It is inappropriate to begin a more formal email with “Hey” before their name or use texting shorthand style like “u” instead of “you.” This slang could be misinterpreted as being disrespectful.

Social media is also a popular part of everyday interactions to share updates and information. Be mindful that your photos and comments on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook help to create your personal brand. Remember that postings are usually available for everyone to see and form opinions.

Communicating directly with people and through technology is not mutually exclusive. Email a professor, boss or colleague to schedule a coffee break. Afterwards, text a thank-you note.

Natural conversations can develop relationships outside of the classroom or work environment. Be sure to add an actual smile that is not fully captured in an emoji.

(Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.)

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Sports

Wind blows strong for Diamond Island Regatta, then disappears



Photo by Joe Gannon

Diamond Island Yacht Club

The winds were kind on Lake Champlain this year — as they usually have been over the past decade during the Diamond Island Regatta.

On Saturday Aug. 13, the 10th annual 12.5-mile sailboat race from Point Bay Marina to Town Farm Bay took place in a steady breeze of 12-15 knots that kept the boats moving and their crews busy.

This year the race attracted 32 boats, a new record for the event benefiting the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and sponsored by the Diamond Island Yacht Club.

Alas, the next day, about 20 boats waited for more than two hours for wind — any wind — to fill in on Town Farm Bay, before the second annual edition of Diamond Island Yacht Club’s Split Rock Race had to be cancelled.

But the weekend, which in addition to being all about sailboat racing and camaraderie on the lake, is also a fundraiser and that had already been a success. With a record turnout for both of the races, a lot of money was raised for the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Boats came from up and down the lake with sailors from places including the Diamond Island Yacht Club in Charlotte, the Lake Champlain Yacht Club in Shelburne and the Mallets Bay Boat Club in Colchester.

Both races are part of the Lake Champlain Championship Series, a season-long competition that determines annual bragging rights in five classes: three spinnaker classes and two jib-and-main classes. The races are scored using the performance handicap racing fleet system, so boats with different speed potentials can compete against each other.

The steady wind for this year’s Diamond Island Regatta made for close competition in nearly all of the classes.

The first boat to finish was Kjell Dahlen’s Odinn, a J/111 from Lake Champlain Yacht Club, taking 1 hour, 39 minutes and 52 seconds to complete the course, which took the sailors from the start in Town Farm Bay north to a mark just south of Sloop Island off Charlotte, south to Diamond Island and back north to the start/finish line.

The race is scored on corrected time, and by that measure the win among the fastest boats in Spinnaker Class A went to Stratos, a J/105 sailed by Tom Moody and Tris Coffin from Lake Champlain Yacht Club, with a corrected time of 1:44:45, just 15 seconds ahead of Foxy Lady, also a J/105, sailed by Lake Champlain Yacht Club’s Jeff Hill.

In Spinnaker Class B, Robin and Bob Turnau’s Unity, a C&C 99 from Lake Champlain Yacht Club, had the best corrected time of 1:47:08, with Tom Glynn’s Pearson 37 Sundance, also from Lake Champlain Yacht Club, 45 seconds behind.

In Spinnaker Class C, Benedek Erdos sailed his Lil’ Bot, a Santana 2023R, to the only blow-out of the day, winning his

class by nearly 12 minutes in a corrected time of 1:48:15. One of the smallest boats in the race, Lil’ Bot beat all but four of the Spinnaker A & B boats on corrected time.

In the jib-and-main classes, Slingshot, a J/30 sailed by Fritz Martin from Diamond Island Yacht Club, captured the jib-and-main A Class, with a corrected time of 1:53:57, less than a minute ahead of Diamond Island Yacht Club’s Jim Lampman, sailing Hot Chocolate, a J/9.

In the jib-and-main B Class, Morning Star ... Again, a Catalina 320 sailed by Stephen Unsworth of Lake Champlain Yacht Club, came out on top with a corrected time of 1:56:45, just a minute and a half ahead of Mackinac, a Pearson 32, sailed by Diamond Island Yacht Club’s Tim and Betsy Etchells.

Perhaps the biggest winner again this year was the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The money raised by the benefit events — the pre-race breakfast, the Lobster Fest dinner, T-shirt sales and a fundraising raffle — is still being tallied, but it appeared all the events would set fundraising records. And added to that will be the post-race sale of action photos of the boats from photographers Joe Gannon and Ramsey Hazbun.

While the wind didn’t cooperate on Sunday, it was a beautiful weekend to be on Lake Champlain.

After a day of racing, participants were treated to a presentation by Susan Evans McClure, executive director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. She focused on the lake’s history and the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

On Sunday, the race committee tried in vain to find enough wind to run the Split Rock Race. The start was scheduled for 10:30 a.m., but while the wind wouldn’t cooperate, about 20 competitors waited. During the long postponement, race committee members shared some trivia questions over the radio, and a member of the crew of Salsa from Diamond Island Yacht Club showed off his waterskiing skill, slaloming between the becalmed boats for about half an hour.

Eventually, around 12:30 p.m., the committee was forced to abandon the race.

In addition to the club and Point Bay Marina, other sponsors contributing to a successful two days of racing, socializing and fundraising for the museum included Helly Hansen’s Church Street store in Burlington; the Hinesburgh Public House; The Old Dock in Essex, N.Y.; FastSigns in South Burlington; the Basin Harbor Club in Ferrisburgh; Shelburne Dunkin’ Donuts; The Moorings-Colchester; Lu-lu Farm-to-Spoon Ice Cream in Vergennes; Safe Harbor Shelburne Shipyard; Bibens Ace Hardware & Marine in Shelburne; Amalgamated Culture Works in Burlington; and The Treehouse Hardwoods & Mill Shop in South Burlington.

(Full results can be found on the Diamond Island Yacht Club’s website: diamondislandyc.org/dir-results-for-2022.)



Photo by Ramsey Hazbun



Photo by Ramsey Hazbun

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Stronger Together

Yes, you can put by a bit of summer to enjoy in winter



Linda Hamilton,
Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox
Contributors

Summer is the time when many of us stash away part of the abundant local harvest for eating later. We freeze or can fruits and vegetables, dehydrate and ferment them, set up a cool spot to extend the life of root crops and squash, make sweet or savory condiments, and lots and lots of tomato sauce.

If you think of these practices as quaint hobbies, now outdated because supermarkets stock processed food year-round, along with fresh products shipped in from somewhere far away from our Vermont winter, you might want to reconsider the value of “putting food by.”

It saves time and money. Yes, you invest time preparing and preserving things in the summer, but then you have them immediately at hand the rest of the year to facilitate meal preparation. This easy access reduces trips to the supermarket, since you are already stocked up on many of the things you like to eat. And starting with in-season produce in bulk from your own or other local gardens and farms is less expensive.

It makes you more able to take care of yourself during times when weather or other disruptions keep you housebound. It also allows you to eat local beyond the summer growing season.

And if you ask anyone who preserves food, they will tell you it is a deeply satisfying practice. The raspberry jam they make is the best, their pickles are classic, their pasta sauce is better than anything commercially made and those peaches taste like summer in a jar. They are proud of their work because it is done with intention and care.

It does take an understanding of the process you are using, and some special equipment may be needed. But equipment can often be borrowed or purchased used, and once you have a supply of canning jars for example, these can be reused many times.

If you are new to preserving food, or need a refresher, here are some basic guidelines:

- Start simple, with foods you like, and learn from other people. Ask experienced friends for tips or do a project together.
- Use reliable references. The “Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving” is a classic, or choose from several others in Charlotte Library; follow both their general guidelines for tasty results and specific instructions for food safety.
- Understand what you are working with. For example, high-acid foods like tomatoes and fruits are the easiest and safest to can; all that’s needed is a water-bath canner. But low-acid foods like corn and beets require canning at a higher temperature, in a pressure-cooker.

Popular methods of preserving food:

- Freezing is simple, convenient and holds the most flavor in fresh fruits and vegetables. Most things need blanching first but some can be frozen directly.

Don’t forget to label packages.

- And include the date so you can be sure to use them within 12 months.
- Root cellaring or cold storage is a simple way to hold sturdy vegetables (and some fruit like apples) for weeks or months. It works well for things that like approximately 40 degrees and somewhat moist air. Root vegetables like carrots and beets hold up well in layers of lightly moistened wood shavings.
- Potatoes, onions and garlic can be spread out on trays. Bags of apples will keep well for many weeks if checked regularly for bruises. Consult guides like “Root Cellaring” by Mike and Nancy Bubel for ways to hold a variety of vegetables and fruits in cold storage.
- Dehydration is a very old method which concentrates flavor, with the advantage that the end product stores easily and takes up less space. (Think sun-dried tomatoes.) Drying requires a steady temperature above 90 degrees. Electric dehydrators are popular, but several hours in a low-temperature oven or racks by the wood stove work. Preparation includes thin slicing everything and sometimes blanching.
- Fermentation and pickling are familiar ways to put food by. Fermenting requires natural or cultivated yeast, and a little time for it to ... well ... ferment. A good resource is “Fermenting: A Beginner’s Guide to Fermentation.”
- Kimchi or sauerkraut are easy ones to start with. For pickling cucumbers, green beans or beets, for example, all you need is a recipe for a mix of vinegar and spices, which you heat and pour over the vegetables in the jars and then water-bath can them.
- Canning is very versatile and popular. It does, however require attention to details related to long-term food safety and caution around hot water. Canning jars with special lids are needed, as well as a hot water canning pot or in some cases a pressure cooker.

The “Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving” and other reliable references indicate how to judge acidity and choose appropriately either hot water bath or pressure cooker processing. They also guide you step by step through the process.

The key is to have fun, and enjoy eating and sharing the food you have preserved. Tell yourself, “Yes, I can.”

(The authors enjoy eating throughout the year from the stock of local fruits and vegetables they have put by in their pantries, freezers and root cellars. They are also members of Charlotte Grange charlottegrange.org and Sustainable Charlotte sustainablecharlottetv.org.)

Outdoors

Town beach caught between a rock and an art place

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

What’s a beach without inspiration wrapped in whimsy?
That rhetorical question will be left unanswered by visitors to the Charlotte Town Beach where creativity and flights of fancy rule, memorialized in rock sculptures by often anonymous artists.
The rock art really took off during the pandemic, said recreation director Nicole Conley, and they saw it as a great way for folks to get outside and get ... well, recreative.
In the fall of 2020, the recreation commission and the recreation department were so inspired by beach visitors creating artistic expressions in the rock medium that they decided to hold a beach sculpture challenge.
Initially intended to be a competition, the recreation department ended up giving everyone who expressed themselves in rocks a free beach pass.
It was “a great way for kids and adults

alike to be creative in a safe, open air and community fun-based pastime,” said recreation commission chair Bill Fraser-Harris. “The low lake level gave us a perfect working palette and residents stepped up, kids and adults alike.”
But beach passes or no, the rock sculptures have continued to appear and we’ve put out requests for people to let us know who the artists are so we can give them credit when we run photos of their masterpieces.
We know that one of the rock artists is Evan Webster, but he doesn’t know who the others are.
Webster said he picked up a rock on a whim and it looked like the head of a sea monster, so that’s what it became.
He is an artist whose usual media are drawing, photography and screen printing, which is appropriate since he owns Webster Ink, a screen-printing company in Shelburne.
Webster just started creating rock tableaux at town beach this summer. He is the son-in-law of the late Terry Dinnan, who was a stonemason. Webster said Dinnan is an inspiration, just from being around him and absorbing what he was doing on his projects.
If you are one of the rock artists or know who some of the others are, please take a picture of their creation and send it to us along with the artist’s name to news@thecharlottenews.org.



Left: Courtesy photo
One of the rock creations in the recreation department’s 2020 beach sculpture challenge includes leaves.

Top right: Photo by Evan Webster
Screen printer and artist Evan Webster built this rock arch, but doesn’t know who the other rock artists at the Charlotte Town Beach are.

Bottom right: Courtesy photo
An almost round rock completes and arch by an anonymous rock sculptor.

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Outdoors

16 summers of taking a bite out of European frogbit

By Kate Kelly and Portia Butrym
Lewis Creek Association

During June and July, volunteers ranging from nurses to ornithophiles (bird lovers) paddled throughout the lively wetlands of Lake Champlain to remove European frogbit, a non-native invasive plant species, for the 16th consecutive summer.

In 2007, Lewis Creek Association initiated the water quality stewardship program and has since worked annually to manage the invasive plants and water quality of the rivers and streams that drain directly into Lake Champlain.

The volunteer-driven frogbit project is the result of cooperation between many individuals and groups, including the Lewis Creek Association; the towns of Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg; Shelburne Bay Boat Club; and an anonymous Charlotte property owner.

European frogbit, a common aquarium plant, spread to the United States via the St. Lawrence River after it was introduced to botanical garden ponds in Ottawa in 1932. It is now considered an aquatic invasive species because it dominates native species in the competition for sunlight, nutrients and surface area.

Lewis Creek Association’s efforts have proven highly successful since discovering frogbit covering 50 percent of Town Farm Bay. Annual paddling and weeding trips, with a side of bird- and turtle-watching, have reduced the coverage of frogbit to around 4 percent cover.

In contrast, when frogbit was discovered in the wetlands of the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area, it had a much lower percentage cover. In Town Farm Bay, Lewis Creek Association’s program and volunteers had the opportunity for “early detection, rapid response.”

Though the invasive plant will never be eradicated in either location, maintaining this low population allows native plants and animals to thrive.

This summer, volunteers spent 172 hours removing 1,057 pounds of frogbit from Town Farm Bay and 30 pounds from the

LaPlatte River wetlands.

Lewis Creek Association’s water quality stewardship program also includes the annual monitoring of water quality in the LaPlatte River, Patrick Brook, McCabe’s Brook, Thorp Brook, Kimball Brook and, this year, Lewis Creek, by volunteers for South Chittenden River Watch. Volunteers collect water samples, which are then analyzed by the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory and interpreted by Lewis Creek Association technical consultants.

The sampling season has recently wrapped up and included sampling for nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen) and chloride in order to understand sources of nutrient loading to Lake Champlain while informing water quality improvement project plans.

The 2022 results will be available on Lewis Creek Association’s website (lewiscreek.org) in the spring of 2023; to see last years’ results, visit bit.ly/LCA-WQ-2021. Check out more information on water quality and what you can do to improve it on Lewis Creek Association’s YouTube channel at bit.ly/3iS2z4b.

This water quality stewardship program is important for maintaining productive, functioning and scenic waters and also allows residents of Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg to become advocates for water quality. Volunteers in each town help share this information with neighbors and friends, helping improve water quality in the future.

Having this program funded through your town budget is crucial, since it allows the whole community to take ownership of local water quality and natural resources that are extremely important to protect and give everyone healthier ecosystems to enjoy.

If you are interested in assisting with water quality monitoring or invasive plant removal in 2023, reach out to Kate Kelly, Lewis Creek Association program manager, at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com or 802-488-5203.

(Kelly is Lewis Creek Association program manager and Butrym is an intern with the organization.)



Photos by Portia Butrym

Above: Volunteers removed 1,057 pounds of European frogbit plants from Town Farm Bay this summer.

Below: Seven northern map turtles bask on a log at the LaPlatte River wetlands.



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Calendar of Events

Calendar by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to calendar@thecharlottenews.org at least three weeks in advance.

Fall garden chores
Thursday, Aug. 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Meet with other gardeners in the display gardens at Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg. Discuss steps to put your garden to bed in the fall, while learning from a Master Gardener and horticulturalist. Free; pre-register at tinyurl.com/mr33rhdb.

Access CVU classes
Registration Thursday, Aug. 25
Find a wide selection of classes for many age groups taking place through December at Champlain Valley Union High School. Craft fair dates to prepare for: Oct. 15 and Nov. 26. For more info, see cvsdvt.ce.eleyo.com or call 802-482-7194.

Mellow Yellow in the vineyard
Friday, Aug. 26, 6-8 p.m.
The music and spirit of the 60s and 70s comes alive with Mellow Yellow, a tribute band known for truly authentic costumes, renditions and video visuals. They play at Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven; bring picnics or get food from Creed's Food Truck. For more info or to buy tickets, see lincolnpkpeakvineyard.com/concerts.

Celebrate Vergennes
Friday-Saturday, Aug. 26-27
A program of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Vergennes Day is a time to enjoy Vermont's littlest city. Friday, 7-10 p.m., hear The Hitmen at the downtown street dance. Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., enjoy running races, a pancake breakfast, music, craft vendors and exhibitors, food trucks, horse and wagon rides, a chicken barbecue and more. For complete schedule, see addisoncounty.com/vergennes-day.

Sheepskin tanning
Friday, Aug. 26- Sun., Aug. 28, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
In this three-day workshop at Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne, participants transform a sheepskin into a soft rug. Learn the physically intensive skills involved in the tanning process with teacher Coleen Butler. Leave with a completed sheepskin. For more info or to register, email closetotheshin@gmail.com or see Close to The Skin on Instagram.

Family bike ride
Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m.
The bike and pedestrian paths committee of Shelburne invites the public to a 10-mile bike loop on local roads and paths, including tar and gravel. Meet at the Parade Grounds on Church St. in Shelburne, rain or shine. For more info, see tinyurl.com/23vmupj2. The committee has put together a guidebook to Shelburne paths and trails at tinyurl.com/dbpmt3d.

Virtuoso showcase
Saturday, Aug. 27, noon-1 p.m.
Members of the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival present a program of works chosen for all ages, highlighting the musical possibilities of their various instruments. Free concert at Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester. For more info, see tinyurl.com/5e7bdna9.

Summer's last Grange on the Green

Thursday Sept. 8, 5.30 p.m.

The Will Patton Trio will perform on the Charlotte Town Green on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 5.30 p.m. Combine a jazz and Brazilian choro mandolinist with a symphony violinist who also plays bluegrass and hot swing and throw in a lifelong guitarist equally at home with flatpicking fiddle tunes and fiery Gypsy jazz solos and you get some idea of the music of the Will Patton Trio. This concert is sponsored by Charlotte-based Cumbancha record label, booking agency and music publisher. Bring friends, family and a picnic for the final Grange on the Green of the summer.



Under the hump
Saturday, Aug. 27, 3-10 p.m.
In support of Camel's Hump Nordic Ski Area in Huntington, bring your picnics, blankets and families to listen to a great line-up of musical performers. Tickets and donations at the door go directly toward supporting trail maintenance and improvements at the ski area. All activities require cash only: entry tickets, raffle and food vendors. There is no Wi-Fi or cell service at the location on Bert White Road. No dogs. For more info or to purchase tickets ahead, see tinyurl.com/2zj4pv4v.

Bright Star musical
Saturday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 28, 3 p.m.
A Broadway-style concert of the bluegrass musical, Bright Star, will be presented at the Shelburne Town Hall. The cast brings to life the story written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, which is based on true events. Tickets are free and may be reserved at tinyurl.com/54u4syza. Donations to the Shelburne Food Shelf encouraged at the door.

Barn dance show
Saturday, Aug. 27, 7-10 p.m.
Vermont folksinger Rik Palieri hosts the Great Vermont Barn Dance Show at Isham Family Farm in Williston. In the style of radio shows of the 1940s, performers gather around a single microphone for songs, dancing and storytelling. Rik is joined by Jon Gailmor and other musical icons for this seated show. For more info or tickets, see tinyurl.com/24fdz7js.

Open-air circus
Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 27-28, 4-7 p.m.
Stars Above is an outdoor show, with a full cast of circus performers and musicians, about a day in the life of a traveling family troupe. Performed on a circular stage with original music, the circus comes to Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne and is appropriate for all ages. For more info and tickets, see starsabovetcircus.com.

CHARLOTTE
Cycle 4 CMT
Sunday, Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cycle or walk for Cycle 4 CMT, a fundraising event to help find a cure for a progressive neurological disease called Charcot-Marie-Tooth. The live event, with a choice of course lengths, begins at 8 a.m. at The Old Lantern Inn and Barn in Charlotte. The cycling may also be completed virtually before Sept. 30. To

learn more, see a detailed schedule, or register, see cycle4cmt.com.

Old Round Church concert
Sunday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.
The Burlington-based chorus Social Band performs a cappella choral works in their summer concert at Richmond's Old Round Church. The program is a mix of contemporary pieces, early music, shape-note tunes and folk tunes, along with occasional seasonal poetry. Suggested \$18 donation at door. Audience required to wear masks. For more info, see socialband.org.

Hunter education training
Tuesday, Aug. 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Be trained as a volunteer hunter education instructor with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. Topics include techniques, teaching methods, safety, policies, rules and more. Class held in Waterbury. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/mtvzmhsp.

Ukeleles unite
Tuesday, Aug. 30, 6-8:30 p.m.
The ukulele shenanigan at Shelburne Vineyard is a monthly gathering for ukulele musicians to play together for fun and community. Participants pay a small fee to join; free for listeners. Tickets and song packet for players is at tinyurl.com/48uvxpuv. More info at shelburnevineyard.com.

Blueberry lavender pie
Thursday, Sept. 1, 5:30-7 p.m.
Gary Stuard, The Pie Guy, demos his recipe for blueberry lavender pie in this virtual class through City Market in Burlington. Gary, a Texan transplant to Vermont, learned to love baking from his mother and grandmother. Class is free; pre-register to hold a spot. For more info, or to register, see tinyurl.com/3svje5ck.

Music at the vineyard
Thursday, Sept. 1, 6-8:30 p.m.
Burlington-based singer-songwriter Joe Adler plays his mix of folk and blues at the Shelburne Vineyard. Picnics welcome, or enjoy food from The New Deal food cart, with selections for most diners. Free outside concert; bring blankets or chairs. No tickets required. Concert moves inside if raining. For more info, see shelburnevineyard.com.

Free First Friday Eve
Friday, Sept. 2, 5-7:30 p.m.
Shelburne Museum welcomes all ages to another evening of musical entertainment and local food truck offerings. From 5-6 p.m., meet sculptor David Stromeyer to learn about his newest addition to the Museum's outdoor sculptures. Reggae-funk music with The Reflexions starts at 6. Visit museum collections buildings or enjoy lawn games. Bring blankets or chairs; no dogs. More info at shelburnemuseum.org.

Mad River Valley Craft Fair
Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
The Mad River Valley Craft Fair takes place in Waitsfield. In addition to local artisans and producers, activities include live music, food and games. No pets. For more info, see madrivercraftfair.com.

Music in Richmond
Sunday, Sept. 4, 4 p.m.
The Black Feathers appear at the Richmond Congregational Church as part of the P.M. Sundays series of concerts by Valley Stage Productions. This duo from England sings and writes in the folk/Americana style. Tickets available for live show or streaming option. For tickets or more info, see valleystage.net or email don@valleystage.net.

World of mythic creatures
Through Monday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Burlington's ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain features stories, art and exhibits related to legendary giants, dragons, sea monsters, and unicorns. For more info, see echovermont.org.

Eclectica quartet
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7:30- 9 p.m.
Vermont-based string quartet Eclectica plays in Richmond at the West Monitor Barn. Show is indoors; cash bar available. More info or tickets at musicinthebarn.com or call 802-434-3969.

Coming Up:
KeruBo
Friday, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m.
Kenyan singer-songwriter KeruBo, now based in Burlington, brings her blend of Afro jazz and African traditional music to Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven. She has sung on worldwide stages, and this evening is accompanied by a nine-piece band. Bring chairs or blankets and picnics; food available from Rollin' Rooster. Doors open 5 p.m. For more info or tickets, see lincolnpkpeakvineyard.com/concerts.

International boat show
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 9-10
Burlington's waterfront hosts the Antique and Classic Boat Society's International Show, with boats on display at the marinas. The park will have boat building demonstrations, food trucks, craft vendors and display tents. For complete schedule, see acbs.org.

CHARLOTTE
Charlotte running races
Saturday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m.-noon
RaceVermont hosts its Covered Bridge 5K, 10K and half marathon, with all racers starting and ending at Shelburne Beach. Out-and-back routes on local paved and

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Calendar of Events

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

dirt roads with views and a covered bridge. Sign up at tinyurl.com/pbamj6ps.

Kelly Brush ride
Saturday, Sept. 10, morning start times
There is still time to register for a fundraising ride in support of the Kelly Brush Foundation, which inspires people with spinal cord injuries to lead active lives. Cycling options from 10 to 100 miles in the Champlain Valley, leaving from Middlebury College start. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/7wfeefpv.

Bee and Butterfly BioBlitz
Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-noon
Farm Craft VT hosts a bioblitz where participants record as many species as possible within a certain location and time frame. Free event is appropriate for naturalists, citizen scientists and all nature lovers. Data collected is important to global biodiversity organizations. Pre-registration is encouraged to receive preparatory information and a list of what to bring. For more info or to register, see farmcraftvt.com/events.

Olmsted walk
Monday, Sept. 12, 4-6 p.m.
This walk at Shelburne Farms focuses on design concepts and landscape heritage of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and his input into the design of the Webb

farm landscape and National Historic Landmark. The 4-mile walk is led by two landscape architects, Patricia O'Donnell and Greg DeVries, of Charlotte's Heritage Landscapes. For years, the firm has overseen projects that preserve the Farm's historic landscape features. Free event requires registration at tinyurl.com/43eyck94.

Tunes in Richmond
Saturday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Limited tickets are available to see Americana/folk/traditional music duo Dirk Powell and Rainy Eyes. Songs from near and far are on the program in this concert made possible by Young Tradition Vermont. Held at the Richmond Free Library. For more info or tickets, see tinyurl.com/2xn8m784.

Trail Around Middlebury trek
Sunday, Sept. 18, various start times
The Trail Around Middlebury is a 19-mile footpath encircling the village. The trek event is a trail race and fun run with multiple lengths for all athletes, and raises money for the maintenance of the trail by the Middlebury Area Land Trust. Register now at maltvt.org/tam-trek.

CHARLOTTE
Write in the garden
Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-noon
Project Write Now leads a free writing workshop to unearth participants' creative spirits at Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte. Bring your imagination; no writing experience necessary, and sharing

is optional. To register, see tinyurl.com/yw38rk5w.

Farther Afield:
Women's outdoor skills
Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26 and 27
This overnight event for women features classes on fishing, firearms handling and shooting, self defense and water safety. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife sponsors the event, with overnight accommodations at a Conservation Camp in Woodbury. Contact Ron LaFreniere to register or ask questions. Email ronlafreniere@outdrs.net or call him at 802-730-7660.

Vaccination clinic
Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
On the Statehouse lawn in Montpelier, this free clinic is geared toward preparing families and students for back-to-school. Open to all children aged 6 months or older, as well as adults, including first, second or booster shots. Available under the tent or in the convenience of your own vehicle. Registration helpful, but not required. Organized by All Brains Belong VT; more info or register at allbrainsbelong.org/protect-kids.

Music in the islands
Thursday, Sept. 1, 6-8 p.m.
Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero brings the Phil Abair Band with Keeghan Nolan to the stage. They are known to be an outstanding Vermont band specializing in all styles of dance music to keep the crowd moving. This concert is free and open to

all; well-behaved dogs welcome if they are cleaned up after. Bring chairs or blankets, picnics, but no outside alcohol. Wine and beer available to purchase. See snowfarm.com for more info. No tickets needed for this event.

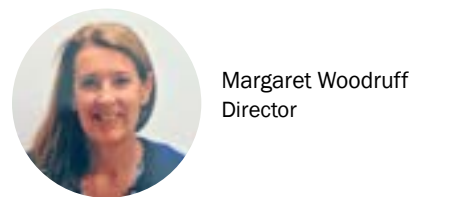
Sport of Kings day
Saturday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee invites families for a day of falconry, archery, trebuchet, crown making, fairy hunts, and live music. Bring a picnic and blankets. Costumes encouraged. All activities included in a day pass. For a schedule or more info, see vinsweb.org/special-events/.

Words in the woods
Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.
Dominican-born poet and short story writer Keiselim Montas reads from his works at Lake Shaftsbury State Park in Shaftsbury. A program of Vermont Humanities and Vermont State Parks, this is a free live event. Pre-register at tinyurl.com/3f4shzja.

Mountain running
Saturday, Sept. 24, 5:30 a.m. check-in
One day, five mountains, 26 miles, or choose a shorter challenge. This endurance running race, the Westmore Mountain Challenge, supports the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Route begins in East Charleston and includes mountains Moose, Hor, Pisgah, Haystack and Bald. For registration info, see tinyurl.com/4p8jurf2.

Library News

Looking forward to a bountiful book harvest in September



Margaret Woodruff
Director

This September promises to be a bonanza book month. Here are a few that folks at the Charlotte Library are looking forward to:

- Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson
- The Winners by Frederik Backman
- The Mosquito Bowl: A Game of Life & Death in World War II by Buzz Bissinger
- The Rising Tide by Ann Cleeves
- Fairy Tale by Stephen King
- The Fall Guy by Archer Mayor

- Lessons by Ian McEwan
- Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks
- Lucy By the Sea by Elizabeth Stroud

For all of our new book information, visit the library website: charlottepubliclibrary.org or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter: eepurl.com/c5YJur.

Book bingo
It's not too late to participate in book bingo. Stop by and pick up a bingo card. Fill a line to be eligible for prizes from The Flying Pig and Cookie Love. Prize drawing on Aug. 31.

Short story selections
Thursday, Sept. 1, 1 p.m.
Join library director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories are featured each session. Copies

of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Meetings are the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Grange on the Green
Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m.
Brazilian sambas and folk waltzes, gentle choros and hot Gypsy jazz, a musical journey from a Parisian bistro to a plaza in the heart of Rio. Grange on the Green sponsors: Cumbancha, Teachers Tree Service, Philo Ridge Farm.

Hands-on Rokeby
Monday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.
Take a step back in time with a hands-on introduction to the Rokeby Museum. Tucker Foltz shares some of the artifacts that tell the story of this historic house, from the Underground Railroad to the contemporary role today. For all ages.

Free Little Art Gallery
Come by the circulation desk for a visit to the smallest art gallery in Charlotte.



Feel free to take a piece that you like, add a piece of your own artwork, or both. All media is welcome as long as it fits inside. Use your own materials or pick up the April Take & Make for supplies to make your own masterpiece.

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 usually meets the first Thursday of each month, but the September meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. For information about agenda and Zoom access, please contact the library director.




The Town of Charlotte
MEETINGS
Visit charlottevt.org for more information.

Planning Commission: Special meeting
Thursday, Aug. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, Sept. 1, 7-8:30 p.m.

Trails Committee: Monthly meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6:30-8 p.m.

Energy Committee meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.



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Senior Center News

Singing, painting, music, kayaking or chilling out at senior center



Lori York
DIRECTOR

With September upon us and the arrival of autumn rapidly approaching, now is the time to squeeze in those final summer experiences. There are several senior center activities that provide opportunities to spend time outside and enjoy the sun, whether it be kayaking, bird watching or spending the afternoon playing croquet on the side lawn.

The September newsletter is now available with the return of some favorite programs that took a sabbatical for the summer months. Stop by in September to view the Senior Art Show, learn about the Ethan Allen Homestead, hear more about Will Raap’s vision for Earthkeep Farmcommon, or get a booster vaccine at the walk-in clinic.

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening at the senior center? Sign up for the email newsletters at charlotteseniorcentervt.org. The “Week Ahead” email is sent out on Friday mornings with activities, lunch menus and special programming for the upcoming week.

Activities

Senior Art Show

The September senior art show includes a wide range of artwork produced by local artists of all skill levels, ages 50 and older. An artist reception will be held on Thursday, Sept. 29, from 1-2 p.m.

Shape note singing Sunday, Sept. 4, 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, it’s free. No performances, no auditions and a good voice is not required. Songbooks are provided. Stop by to listen or sing, and leave whenever you wish. Questions? Email Kerry Cullinan at kclynxvt@gmail.com.

Let’s paint autumn Tuesdays, Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 9 a.m.-noon & Thursday, Sept. 29, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Lynn Cummings will provide instruction

in this four-week, fall-themed watercolor workshop. All levels are welcome. The supply list will be emailed to you upon registration. The class costs \$165 and registration is required by Friday, Sept. 2.

Guitar for beginners Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m., starting Sept. 7

Interested in learning guitar? John Creech will teach this beginner guitar class, which is open to adults of all ages. Space is limited. Register by Friday, Sept. 2. It costs \$75 for the six-week session.

Kayak trip for women Sept. 9

Kayak the Lower Otter Creek via the Fort Cassin access with other active women who share a love for exploring lakes, ponds and rivers. To register, email Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com to be placed on a list of paddlers. An email will be sent to regarding the details of the specific kayak trips. The trip is free but registration is needed.

Ethan Allen Homestead Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m.

The Ethan Allen Homestead is one of the oldest sites of both Native American and European occupation known in Vermont, but what makes it truly special is how the site is still being used as a center of community today. Join Angie Grove, director of the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, to explore the history of the homestead and its current offerings for the community involving historic and ecological preservation, community gardens, lectures, workshops and programs. It’s free but registration needed by Monday, Sept. 12.

Earthkeep Farmcommon Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Join Will Raap as he presents his vision for Earthkeep Farmcommon on Route 7. He will share his goal of advancing a new era of regenerative, diversified farming that balances Vermont’s 150 years of dependence on commodity dairy farms. Earthkeep Regenerative Agriculture Center is a non-profit research, innovation and education hub. Earthkeep Farmers Collective offers a new legal and operational structure created to incubate farm businesses more effectively.



Photo by Lori York

From left, Cheryl Sloan, Sean Moran and Roberta Whitmore help with Age Well Grab & Go meal distribution.

The structure will model how many farming operations can succeed together using regenerative practices by cooperatively sharing land, facilities, equipment, as well as market access on a large, conserved ex-dairy while fulfilling Vermont’s definition of a farm. Together these organizations aim to help rebuild the health of Vermont’s working landscape and rural economy and continue to relocalize our food supply. The presentation is free, but registration is needed by Monday, Sept. 19.

Community health

COVID-19 vaccine clinic Tuesday, Sept. 13, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Free Garnet Healthcare walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinic – no appointments necessary. Vaccines and boosters are available for Moderna (18+); Pediatric Pfizer (ages 5-11); and Adult Pfizer (12+). The Moderna child vaccine is also available for children ages 6 months-5years.

Exercise classes

The senior center offers daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activity levels. A complete list of exercise programs and class descriptions is on the

website charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Volunteer opportunities

The Charlotte Senior Center is able to provide a wide variety of programming because of the support of dedicated volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the senior center ranging from welcoming and registering visitors as a reception desk host to helping out with the weekly lunch teams.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kerrie Pughe at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org or call 802-425-6345.

Senior center contact info:

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

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.

Write Ingredients

Charlotte Senior Center is cool both literally and figuratively

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Reminder: The Charlotte Senior Center is an official cooling center for the town. You are welcome any time. On Mondays, come in and enjoy good food and good conversation in cheerful coolness.

Also note: The Senior Center is looking for volunteers for a variety of functions. Volunteers do their good deeds in an atmosphere of cheerful coolness.

Monday, Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food is gone

Monday Munch

Assorted sandwiches, potato salad, chips and brownies.

Thursday, Sept. 1 Grab-&-Go Meal, pick up 10-11 a.m.

Pork loin with sauce, mashed potatoes, spinach, biscuit and pears. Remember to register by the previous Monday for these meals.

Monday, Sept. 5 Labor Day.

The senior center is closed. Enjoy this day with family and friends.

Thursday, Sept. 8 Grab-&-Go Meal, pick up 10-11 a.m.

Chicken marsala with mushroom sauce, diced potatoes, peas and onions, potato roll and fruit cocktail.

Age Well doesn’t charge for these meals but always welcomes donations.

The potato, now considered a staple food in most parts of the world, has ancient roots starting around 11,000 B. C. The first small, knobby tubers grew in the mountains of Bolivia and Peru.

A popular tale for the origin of the potato chip is located closer to home. According to legend, a disgruntled diner in a restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York, kept sending back his French-fried potatoes with various complaints: too thick, too soggy, not enough salt. Finally, the chef sliced several potatoes very thinly, fried them to a crisp and added a lot of salt.

The customer loved the result, which became known as “Saratoga Chips.” A version of this story was popularized in a 1973 advertising campaign by a paper company that manufactured the packaging for chips, claiming that the customer was Cornelius Vanderbilt.

In reality, a cookbook appeared in both Great Britain and the U.S. in 1819 containing a recipe for a quite similar food.

Various performers have done “Solid



Photo by Lori York

From left, senior center volunteer dishwashers Gail Bock, Laurie Hartman Moser, Brian Bock and Susan McDonald take time for a photo.

Potato Salad.” Here’s Lena Horne (1943): youtube.com/watch?v=VYRm0qVnViM.

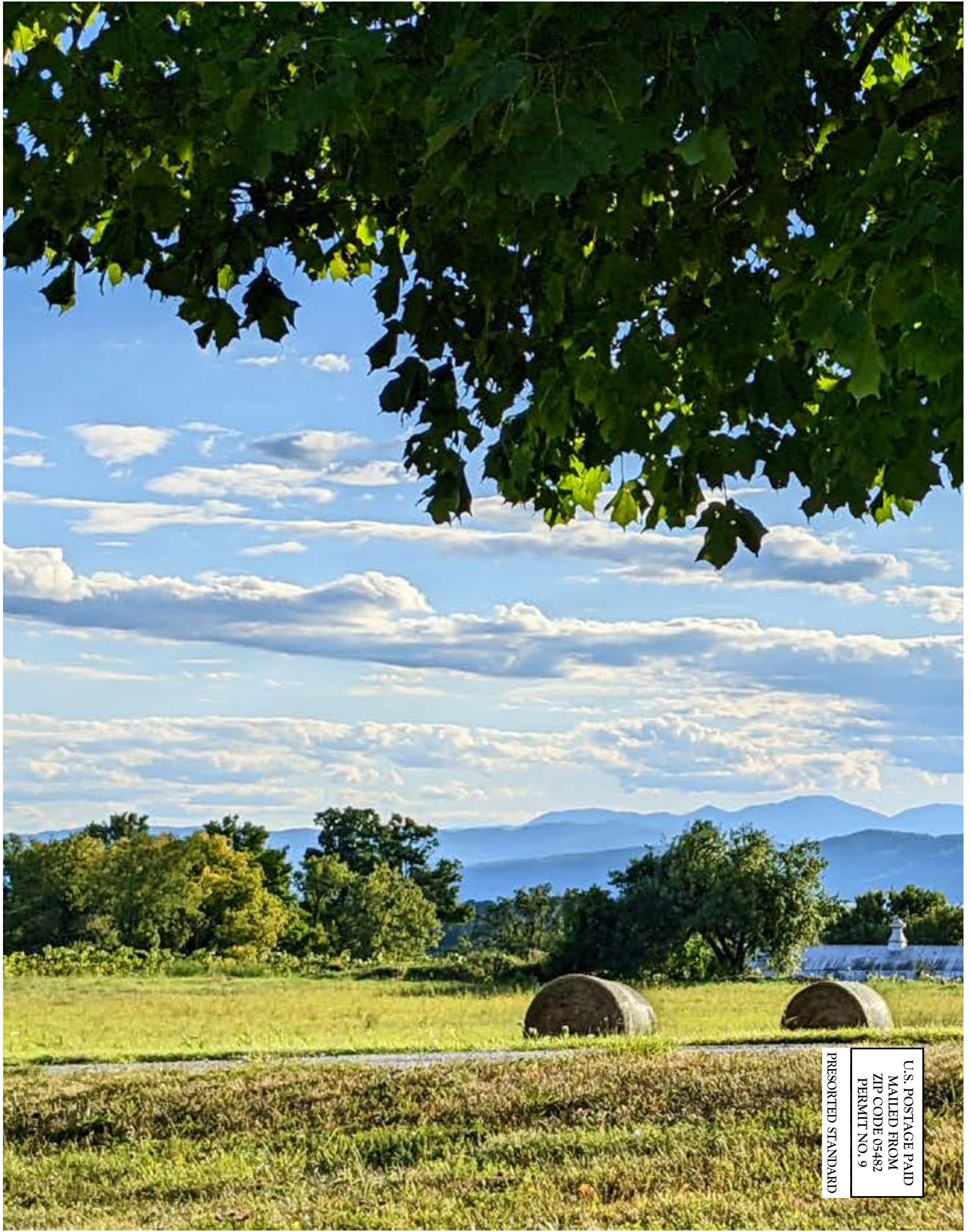
King Cole Trio: youtube.com/watch?v=o4wrjiJ3Q4M.

The Ross Sisters performed “Solid Potato Salad” in a grand acrobatic dance in the 1944 MGM film “Broadway Rhythm”: youtube.com/watch?v=d1J3NLNWAPU.

com/watch?v=d1J3NLNWAPU.

At the time, a reviewer noted: “Girls are weak in the voice department but go over on the contortion stuff.”

The “contortion stuff” is indeed amazing. As a more recent viewer observed, “It’s Hee-Haw meets Cirque du Soleil.”



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