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The Charlotte News

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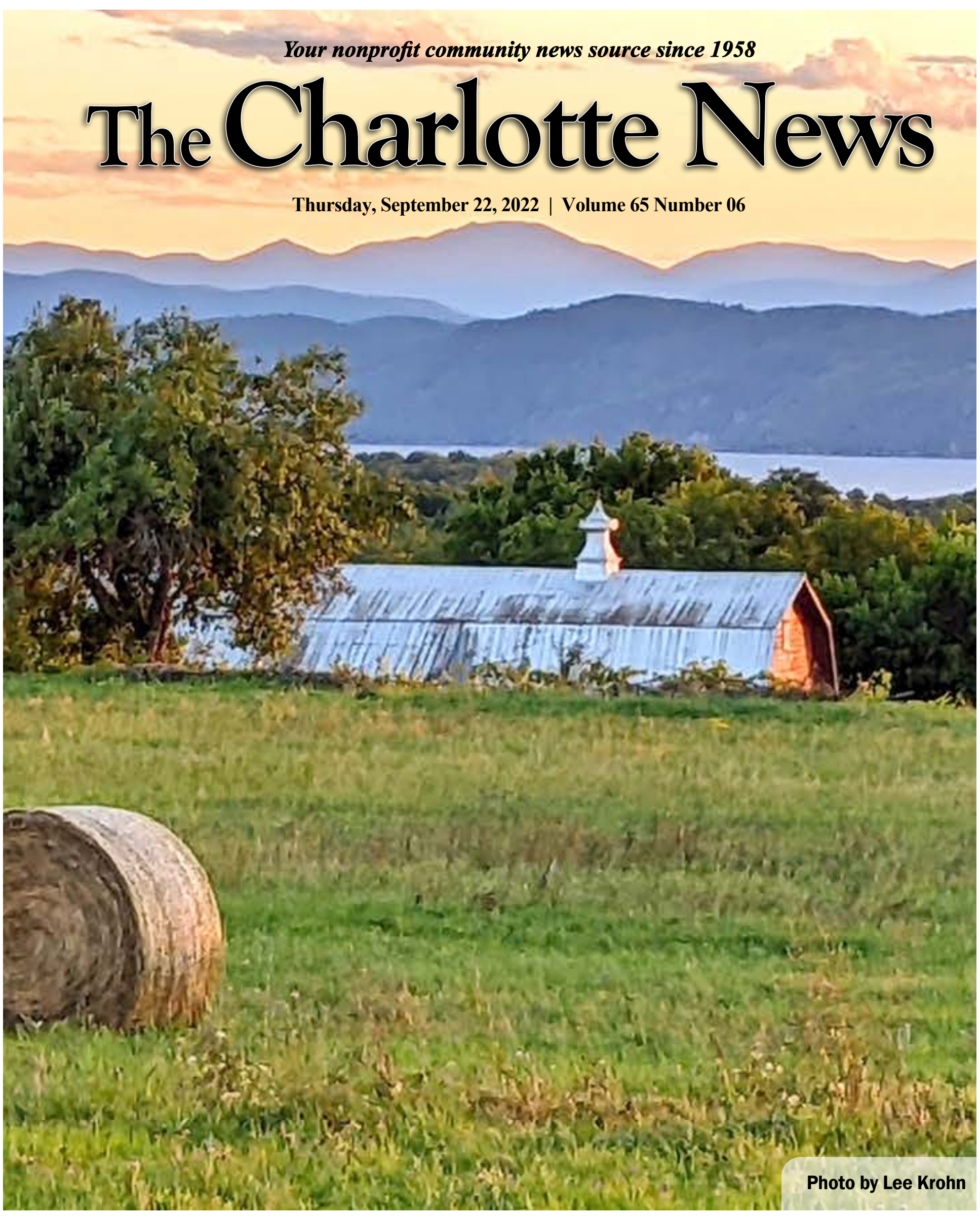


Photo by Lee Krohn

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THE ISLAND THAT TIME FORGOT



Photo by Steve Goldstein

The view of Garden Island from the Deer Point dock promises a dream that is realized upon arrival.

Steve Goldstein
Contributor

The pontoon boat-ferry takes about 11 minutes to make the quarter-mile crossing from the cement dock at the foot of Deer Point Road in Charlotte to the island in Converse Bay. Stepping ashore on Garden Island, however, you'd swear you've traveled back in time, a half-century or more.

"Yep, it's always 1950 here," says a beaming James (Jim) Brown. And that's the way he likes it.

Standing in the gazebo a short walk from the island dock, Brown sweeps a long arm across the vista. "Hit me right away — it's special," he exclaims.

With his brother and another partner he has owned the island since 1975. Their friends and families have joined the Browns here every summer since — as have other folks who've rented one of the six cottages open to the public.

Though privately owned this is no luxury hideaway such as those Xanadus acquired by Richard Branson or Sting. Strip away the billion-dollar views, move the cottages inland and Garden Island registers as genteel rustic. But Lake Champlain confers a sense of isolation and singularity, so the place feels authentic and a kind of throwback to Eisenhower-era innocence, of TV shows like *Leave it to Beaver* and *Father Knows Best*. A simpler time, emphasized by the absence of television. And that, too, is the way Jim Brown likes it.

For such an itty-bitty isle — 32 acres, soaking wet — Garden Island punches way above its weight in colorful history. It has hosted U.S. presidents, the rich and famous and the Vermont-famous. Ownership has changed hands more often than a blackjack dealer and its market value has grown exponentially.

Garden Island has even produced a landmark legal case that is required study at law

schools everywhere. And by its very nature of being privately owned but publicly accessible, beloved and sometimes begrudged, a part of Charlotte but prized for its separation, it carries an outsized mystique.

So ... you make a call. A boat comes to fetch you and, to hear Brown say it, you're truly away from it all.

"The adventure of coming here, it starts when you step on the boat," says Brown. "These are 1950s-style camps. No television, no video games. I call it back to a better time. People who come here know what to expect. If you don't like water this is probably not the place for you."

Charlotte residents Elizabeth Bassett and husband John Pane first rented a cottage for a week about a decade ago. They doubled their length of stay the next year and now spend five weeks of their summer on Garden Island. Bassett calls it "our summer camp

SEE **GARDEN ISLAND** PAGE 2

Debate over land-use updates begins

Brett Yates
Contributor

Amid technical difficulties on Zoom, the Charlotte Planning Commission's proposed changes to the town's land-use regulations kept the selectboard up late on Sept. 19. Though the meeting ended past 10 p.m., the board still hasn't decided whether to send the amendments to the voters.

The planning commission's two-phased project to modernize the 136-page document that governs development in Charlotte began last year with the help of town planner Larry Lewack. The first set of revisions, which the selectboard must approve or reject one-by-one for the November ballot, intend largely to clean up that rulebook's ambiguities and anachronisms in anticipation of a second round of potentially more substantive changes next year, expected to arrive in time for Town Meeting Day.

Several of these preliminary edits simply mirror new state statutes, but they come packaged with a handful of discretionary modifications. Some pack more of a punch than others. One, for instance, would loosen restrictions upon additions to grandfathered structures that violate property line setbacks; another would free owners of adjacent nonconforming lots from a prior obligation to merge them before a sale in order to meet minimum lot size requirements.

Charlotters have had plenty to say about the amendments, and a public hearing held by the planning commission last month lasted more than two hours. This time, selectboard member Matthew Krasnow cautioned against attempts to rewrite the planning commission's proposals, given the review that had already taken place.

"I think the selectboard's job, as the gatekeeper to the ballot, is to decide if something is ready for voters to vote on," he said. "If we don't think it's ready, based on what we're hearing in the room, we should cease discussion and take that one off the table. It's not our job to come up with the language for the voters; that's the planning

SEE **LAND USE** PAGE 2

LaBerge and Leary: Volunteers with a grave commitment

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Diane Leary thinks it may be genetic. That may be why she spends so much of her free time in cemeteries.

For her husband Jim LaBerge, it may be a fascination with working in stone. It's also part of his responsibility as two of three Charlotte cemetery commissioners.

That's right; he's two of three. It's better than being all three, which is how it was when his wife decided to run LaBerge for the office.

LaBerge maintains, although Leary disputes this, that she got him elected without him even knowing it.

"When you know how to do something, and your wife knows you know how to do it, and she's already got an interest in it ...," he doesn't finish that sentence.

But we glance across the cemetery where Leary is up to her elbows, digging out a hole to receive a fallen headstone.



Photo by Alan Lathrop/findagrave.com
James Squier died Nov. 12, 1785, while visiting his sons in Charlotte. He was the first colonial settler to be buried in the town.

As a write-in candidate, he won all three of the seats. Local historian Dan Cole agreed to take one of the cemetery commission seats, but he's so involved with historical research, he doesn't have time for historical repair work.

LaBerge and Leary both say that it's just coincidence that they spend so many weekends in graveyards and that Leary's grandfather started the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association in 1958.

Leon Dean was an English professor at the University of Vermont whose love of Vermont history led him to write 11 books on the subject and to found the organization popularly known as VOCA.

On the morning of Sept. 3, the couple was already hard at work putting gravestones back together and in place at the Barber Cemetery on Greenbush Road. LaBerge said he suspects he's repaired 40 broken gravestones at the cemetery.

"I love working in the cemetery. One of the reasons is we've got the best view in town. A lot of people think it's Mt. Philo, but I don't know," Leary said. She paused from tamping down dirt at the bottom of a hole to make a solid base to evaluate the view of Mt. Pease to the east, but after the merest of moments, she's back at work.

A study the cemetery commission did with ground-penetrating radar several years ago found all the graves in Barber Cemetery are on the east side of the headstones. Even in the late 1700s, the first colonist settlers appear to have wanted their loved ones to enjoy the view from their repose.

LaBerge worked in stone for at least 16 years. Prior to that he was a dairy farmer, but when he got hurt farming, he hooked up with Peter Demick of Vermont Walkways and Stones of Charlotte where he learned the craft and worked for about 11 years.

These days he works at Harbour Industries in Shelburne. When the ovens there are fired up, the temperature is 10-15 degrees hotter than the outside temperature, so he doesn't move, lift and repair gravestones in the summer heat after work — or on weekends. This sunshiny but comfortably coolish day was the first in a while since he has been outside, tackling his volunteer job.

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GARDEN ISLAND

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without ownership.”

“We bring our kayaks and paddle whenever the mood strikes,” Bassett explains. “Our little grands love the beach and are graduating to kayaks and paddle boards. We love hosting our local friends who arrive by personal craft or ferry for potluck gatherings.”

Brown recalls a family —kids, parents, grandparents—who came one summer and seemed to relish the experience. When they were leaving, the grandparents said something like, “that was very nice; maybe next summer we’ll go to Disneyworld.” The kids looked at each other, Brown says, “and then they said, no, we’d rather come back here, to the island.”

Thanks to the ignorance of 18th century cartographers, Garden Island literally popped up out of nowhere. Charlotte was incorporated in 1762, but the island is not visible on a map drawn the following year. Almost a century later, in 1857, it appears, nameless, like Atlantis rising from the sea. Two years later it is marked as “Birch Island” and deeded to a Mr. J. Holmes.

The island’s profile changed dramatically in 1887 when a well-heeled yachtsman named Henry W. Putnam Jr. paid \$2,000 for a place to go ashore when he wasn’t racing his sloops around Lake Champlain. Putnam made some serious improvements to the heavily wooded island, building the elegant Maple House so he could entertain his fellow sailors and famous landlubbers. In 1897, during a visit to the region, President William McKinley took a cruise on Putnam’s pride, his 103-foot-long steam yacht Washita. “The party was taken to Mr. Putnam’s Island, opposite the village of Essex, where an elaborate luncheon was served,” according to a local newspaper account.

President William Howard Taft is also said to have visited Putnam but the documentation is elusive. True believers cite the presence of an oversized bathtub in Maple but a recent visitor surmised the tub might have accommodated the 27th president’s 6-foot, 340-pound bulk—but not enough water to make him damp.

It was during Putnam’s stewardship that Garden Island rose to immortality—at least for law school students. The case was triggered by a family called Ploof, a group of landless vagrants eking out a living on the water through trade and theft, according to various accounts. In 1904, Sylvester Ploof was piloting his family in a heavily laden sloop across the lake when a storm blew up. Ploof sought refuge and tied up to Putnam’s dock. Seeing the interlopers as trespassers, a caretaker freed the vessel, leaving it to be dashed against the rocks and causing damage to the sloop and its contents, human and mercantile.



Photo courtesy of the Brown family

Presidents William McKinley and possibly William Howard Taft visited the island when it was known as Mr. Putnam’s Island.

When the litigation smoke cleared, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that Ploof should have been allowed temporary refuge out of necessity. Thanks to a freak storm, law students are well-versed in the tort law implications of Ploof v. Putnam. The case is also well-known among Vermont’s lakeshore communities.

In the early 1920s, Putnam sold Garden Island to a group from Bennington led by Adelbert Braisted, Putnam’s personal secretary. In 1944, John H. Patrick, owner of Deer Point—then and now the embarkation point for island visitors—assumed ownership.

Three years later, Patrick sold the island to Dr. David M Bosworth, an orthopedic surgeon. Neglect had caused Garden Island to wilt; the Bosworths made it bloom again. They installed water, electric and sewage systems and other conveniences in the six cottages and the island soon became favored as a family resort.

In 1973, a two-line New York Times ad for the sale of the island caught the eye of businessman James R. Brown. He drove up to Charlotte in early spring, borrowed a rowboat and made his way through the ice-pocked bay to the island. Within a very short time he used the island’s single landline to call his brother, Robert. “Bob, you should come up here.” The Browns paid Bosworth \$150,000 and took possession in 1975.

Many visitors to the island are hooked once they visit, so demand is high and supply is six cottages: Maple, Birch, Pine, Cedar, Willow, Oak. Rents range from approximately \$400 a night to \$1,100 for Maple, which has six bedrooms and is available when the Brown family is not in residence. Wi-Fi, a relatively recent

amenity, is available in all cabins.

The no-frills, no thrills vibe can soothe even Type A+ personalities, says Brown. He often tells visitors about the week a surgeon and an airline pilot were guests. They didn’t know each other but after three days of pacing the beach, the pair bonded and just sat for hours at the edge of the lake.

In 2010, surprisingly, the Browns put the island up for sale at \$7.9 million. Jim says it resulted from an inquiry from an interested buyer and the listing just happened.

“It took on a life of its own,” Brown maintains, as if it was spontaneous combustion. “Somebody made us an offer, we put it up for sale and then we took it off.” At the time, real estate agents reported inquiries from at least eight parties but no firm offers.

Perhaps some would-be buyers were not fans of the 1950s, or yearned to have their Teslas handy—despite the lack of roads. “We provide a launch service that we call a ferry,” says Brown. “We’ve had a number of people who go to the ferry dock in Charlotte and they call me to complain—‘The captain won’t take me to the island.’ I say, ‘Are you at the ferry with the cars?’”

A phone call summons Carl, who is piloting the pontoon boat for the trip back to the mainland. He’s been doing this for seven summers; in the winters he works at the Killington Ski Resort. He likes this gig—small talk for a short sail.

Garden Island is a 32-acre swatch of dry land in the vast watery expanse of Lake Champlain—sitting within swimming distance of the shoreline and yet—admit it—how many of you didn’t know it existed? And then consider that folks who’ve made the brief crossing to the island say they will never forget it.

LAND USE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commission’s.”

Even so, several amendments prompted lengthy debate among both town officials and members of the public. The most significant fight addressed the question of accessory dwelling units.

In 2020, Act 179 by the Vermont General Assembly (“An act relating to promoting affordable housing”) simplified permitting for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) across the state. The legislation overrode Charlotte’s two-bedroom limit for these structures.

Up to a point, however, Act 179 still allows municipalities to restrict the square footage of their accessory dwelling units. Currently, Charlotte allows accessory dwelling units that don’t exceed 30 percent of the habitable space of the property’s primary dwelling or 1,000 square feet, whichever is greater. The planning commission wishes, voluntarily, to replace the number 1,000 with 1,500, based on the rationale that the existing standard penalizes owners of smaller houses when



they decide to build accessory dwelling units.

On Sept. 18, the Charlotte Conservation Commission announced its opposition to the ADU plan in a letter to the selectboard: “Expanding the size limit for ADUs has several conservation impacts that will occur town-wide in every district, which include: increasing the total number of acres and percentage of land that could be developed and turned into impervious surface; increasing the amount of habitat fragmentation; increasing the intensity of human development and activity (lighting, noise, pets, pollution, etc.) which negatively impacts wildlife.”

Comments at the selectboard meeting reflected similar worries over new density

in town.

“I find 1,500 square feet excessive,” a resident opined. “And I’ve talked to a lot of people in town, and they don’t support this either.”

Other attendees expressed enthusiasm. “I’m completely in favor of this because the town needs more available homes for people,” one man said.

Board chair Jim Faulkner proposed a pause on the discussion at 10:15 p.m. The selectboard will take up the land-use regulations again on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.



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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Fire destroys boat at Point Bay Marina, no one hurt

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Around 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services were called to a boat burning in Lake Champlain off Point Bay Marina in Town Farm Bay.

After searching the water with Charlotte’s Marine 3 boat to make sure there weren’t any victims in the water, the department managed to snag the burning boat with a rope and tow it away from the docks and other boats.

When the fire broke out, the owner was on board. When he was unsuccessful in extinguishing the fire, he jumped into the water and was brought to shore by a passing boat.

Shelburne Fire Department arrived and was able to extinguish the blaze with its fire boat, one of the few such boats in the area with this capability. Once the fire was out the boat was towed to the shore so it could be removed from the lake.

Chief Justin Bliss said no one was hurt during the fire. Firefighters believe the fire started in the boat’s electrical system, but damage was too extensive to verify this. The boat was a total loss.

Glen Findholt, who lives next door to the marina, was one of several people who sent in photos of the fire. He said the fire was so



Photo by Jim Fitzpatrick

intense he could feel the heat from aboard his boat.

Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the fire with a tanker truck and a zodiac-style boat.



Courtesy photo
Firefighters’ view of a burning boat on the night of Sept. 10 at Point Bay Marina.

Around Town

Condolences

Lisa Sheryl Boyle

Lisa Sheryl Boyle, 67, died on Sept. 17, 2022, in the presence of family at the McClure Miller Respite House, after a 25-year struggle with the challenges of spinal cord injury.

She was born Oct. 8, 1954, in Newport, Rhode Island, but the first 10 years of her life were nomadic, moving through several states while her father established a career in landscape architecture. After he was awarded a Harvard Eliot Traveling Fellowship, from 1961-63 the family migrated throughout Europe living in a VW camper and settled for a time in a small German village. Unsurprisingly, in a short time 8-year old Lisa had learned to speak German and became the family translator.

The family later settled at Duck Pond Corners in Charlotte where Lisa attended Charlotte Central School and cared for her first horse, though as a young girl before she rode a horse she rode dairy cows at her grandparent’s farm in Herkimer, N.Y.

Next the family moved to Burlington where she played violin with the Vermont Youth Orchestra, studied with Gladys Colburn and graduated a year early from Burlington High School. At the University of Vermont she earned a degree in clinical microbiology as a stepping stone to a possible career in medicine. Living in the Hollow in North Ferrisburgh in the late 70s and early 80s she worked at the Charlotte Family Health Center and volunteered her skills as an EMT and crew chief with Charlotte Rescue.

Along with her partner Jim Dickerson she helped run a successful antique and art auction business, which allowed her to move on and fund becoming a competitive dressage rider and trainer.

After remarrying in 1988, Lisa opened Wingwalker Farm in Shelburne, a horse-boarding facility where she was resident trainer. In 1996, she sold the farm to focus on competing in the Northeast U.S. and Florida dressage show circuits. All was going well until 1998, when on a sunny August afternoon in North Ferrisburgh a backfiring silage truck caused the young horse she had just mounted to bolt, trip and



Lisa Sheryl Boyle

roll, leaving her permanently paralyzed from the chest down.

Lisa had a curious and probing intellect, never met a stranger, was an inveterate flirt and could stop the show with her gorgeous smile. She loved cats, corgis, any athletic endeavor, gardening, birding, baking and Red Sox baseball. She never tired of listening to Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen and Marc Knopfler. The only thing she really didn’t like was being cold.

Through the many setbacks associated with spinal cord injury, Lisa bravely regained and maintained physical independence and for many years continued to teach dressage. However, this past summer intractable medical complications led her to conclude the struggle as she saw fit.

Lisa is survived by her father Terry Boyle and his wife Robin Worn, her mother Marilyn Wheeler, aunt Louise Abeling, sister Martha McHugh and husband Tim, brother Matt Boyle and wife Kerry Bechloff, brother Dan Boyle, nieces Alex and Kyra McHugh, Sara Boyle, and nephew Aiden Boyle. Also, brother-in-law Stefan Kulski and sister-in-law Helena Landis. As she flies west Lisa also leaves her husband of 35 years, Julian Kulski, for whom the concept of a broken heart is no longer academic. Rest in peace, my sweetheart.

Lisa wished to thank Dr. Halle Sobel and the staff of UVM Medical for years of extraordinary care, and Visiting Nurse Association nurse Sierra Gepka. Her family thanks the remarkable McClure Miller Respite House.

In accordance with Lisa’s wishes, there will be no visiting hours or services.

Arrangements are in care of Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home, 9 Pleasant Street, Essex Junction, VT.

Patricia DeMarco

Patricia DeMarco (aka “Pat,” “Patsy,” “Grandma,” “Gigi” and “The Contessa”), born May 12, 1935, died on Aug. 22, 2022, while living at The Residences at Shelburne Bay in Shelburne, Vt.

While she was famous for her striking beauty and fabulous sense of style, Pat was most known for her fierce devotion to her family



Patricia DeMarco

and her great generosity. She was the touchstone who nurtured the connection between the family and friends throughout the world and the generations.

Born in Brooklyn, she enjoyed traveling with her husband around the world and spending time with her children and grandchildren at the Jersey Shore and Vermont. She enjoyed all the music, art, theater, and food that New York City could offer.

She was predeceased by her husband Paul and is survived by her sister, Barbara (Paul), her children: Patrice DeMarco (Peter), Anthony DeMarco, Paul DeMarco Jr (Patty), her grandchildren: Brooke (J.R.), Paul III, Lauren (Joe), Morgan (Lou) and Patrick, Matthew (Kasey) and Oliver (Dana), seven great grandchildren: James, Ryan, Victoria, Emmett, Henry, Lydia, and Alexandria. She was very close to her half-sister, Maria, as well as many friends and family.

She was a woman of strong faith whose life will be celebrated at a Mass on Saturday, Sept. 24, at St. Catherine of Siena church in Shelburne at 11 a.m. A reception will follow at her daughter Patrice’s house in Charlotte, Vt. Donations in Pat’s name can be made to the Vermont Donor Milk Center in Essex Junction, Vermont.

Arrangements are in care of the Cremation Society of Chittenden County. To send online condolences to her family

please visit cremationsocietycc.com.

Susan Krasnow

Susan Krasnow, 73, died Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the Vermont Respite House in Colchester. She fought hard against the disease of ovarian cancer, treating each day as another day to live with her family and friends.

Susan was born on April 22, 1949, to Howard and Frankie Lass in New York. She grew up in Long Beach, N.Y., attending Long Beach High School, and then college at Cornell University. Susan was never one to stop learning, earning multiple master’s degrees from the University of Vermont. Susan spent over 40 years dedicated to the field of special education and disability services at the elementary, high school and college level, positively impacting the lives of thousands of children and tens of thousands of people in their lives. Her commitment to ensure that all students can learn and achieve was

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 4



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Board of Tax Abatement Hearing
Thursday, September 22, 6 - 7 p.m.

Selectboard
Monday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.

Development Review Board Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 7 - 9 p.m.

Monthly Meeting of the Trails Committee
Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

CEC Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular mtg.
Thursday, October 6, p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Town

Volunteers wanted for emergency operations center

Brett Yates
Contributor

Charlotte Emergency Management wants to turn a section of the town hall into a ready-to-go disaster response headquarters. That’ll require supplies, a plan, and most importantly, a team of prepared volunteers.

The technical term used on Sept. 19, when the Charlotte Selectboard hosted emergency management director Christopher Davis and emergency management coordinator Karina Warshaw for a public meeting, was “emergency operations center,” which refers both to a physical location and to an organizational structure for staging municipal activities in the event of a hurricane or an ice storm.

In order to receive state and federal grants, each Vermont town must annually produce a local emergency management plan. Charlotte’s lists phone numbers for nearby companies and nonprofits that might be able to help out in a pinch. But activating an emergency operations center — which exists in the most recent

local emergency management plan only as a theoretical entity — would require significantly more groundwork.

If an extreme weather event hit Charlotte, the emergency operations center would immediately play second fiddle — or third or fourth — to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, Vermont Emergency Management, and FEMA.

“We’re not telling them what to do,” Davis clarified. “We’re asking them what we can do to help people.”

In the aftermath, however, the emergency operations center would organize the town’s first recovery efforts, potentially with power still down and roads still blocked.

“The emergency operations center brings the calm,” said Vermont Emergency Management regional program coordinator Max Kennedy, who sat in on the meeting digitally. “Ultimately, they’re alleviating stress by leaning forward and being proactive by supporting whatever is going on outside those walls.”

The emergency operations center manager — likely Davis or Warshaw —



would lead a team of five other officers, specializing in public information, administration, situational awareness, logistics support and finance, respectively.

“The positions can be one person or two people or more. We also want to cross-train everyone,” Warshaw explained.

Davis and Kennedy placed particular significance upon public information and administration. The public information officer would write press releases and VT-ALERT messages and put up signs around town.

“We have to ensure that the information

we have is as accurate as it can be,” Davis said. “We need people in our group checking on social media and other channels, maybe even watching the news and listening to the radio, to hear what might be out there so we can hopefully get ahead of it.”

The emergency operations center administrator would document activities, take notes at meetings and track volunteer hours. Kennedy emphasized the importance of good record-keeping when seeking FEMA reimbursements.

“All the photos, the sign-in sheets — it pays for itself in multitudes down the road,” he said.

According to Davis, some Charlotters have already expressed interest in these positions, though more will be needed. Kennedy promised to share online training resources in advance of an in-person “facilitated dialogue,” where volunteers will discuss and begin to practice their potential roles during an imaginary disaster, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 14.

AROUND TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a testament to her belief in that we should all work toward a fair and just world.

In 1970, Susan married Gerry Krasnow and moved to Vermont to raise their family: daughter Alysia, son Aaron, and daughter Emilie. Family was the most important thing to both of them. That ethic led to two sisters (Susan and her sister Jane Krasnow, née Levitzky) marrying two brothers (Edward and Gerry Krasnow) and buying land together in Charlotte, VT so their children could grow up together. They were soon joined on “the hill” by Gerry’s brother Michael Krasnow and his wife Sumru Tekin. This piece of land, cleared from the side of Mt Philo, became the place where nine children in the three families would grow up together, just as Susan, Gerry, Jane, Eddie, Sumru, and Michael envisioned. For decades they supported each other through life’s triumphs and sadness, including the death of Gerry in 1998.

Susan found love again and married Edward Cafferty in 2010, and true to their

vows, he was by her side in sickness and in health. When Susan was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2018, Ed was with her for doctor appointments and chemotherapy treatments with steadfast love and companionship. Ed was Susan’s primary caregiver for over four years and was holding her hand when she passed away. Susan was very lucky to have found such deep loves in her life as with Gerry and with Ed.

Susan loved many things: her family, her work, traveling all over the world, rescuing old dogs, the music of Elton John, Joni Mitchell and Weezer, going to concerts with Emilie, and visiting and FaceTiming with her grandsons Griffin, Henry and Leo Butler, and Jacob Krasnow. She was incredibly proud of her children, each one who has followed in her and Gerry’s footsteps to make their life work focused on family and the welfare of others. An incredible source of pride for Susan was to watch Emilie’s run for the Vermont State House this year, knowing that in public service Emilie would be the change she wished to see in the world.

Susan is survived by her daughter

Alysia Krasnow Butler and her husband Tim, son Aaron Krasnow and his wife Jennifer, daughter Emilie Krasnow, husband Ed Cafferty and his children, brother Peter Lass and his wife Gail Lass, sister Jane Krasnow and brother-in-law Edward Krasnow, sister Elly Shafranek, brother-in-law Michael Krasnow and sister-in-law Sumru Tekin, brother-in-law Robert Krasnow and his wife Lourdes, sister-in-law Dianne Krasnow, and grandsons Griffin, Henry, and Leo Butler and Jacob Krasnow. Susan is also survived by 19 nieces and nephews and their children. She was predeceased by her father Howard Lass, her mother Frances Lass Levitzky, her stepfather Leo Levitzky, her husband Gerald Krasnow, her sister and brother-in-law Carol and Peter Seligmann, and her brother-in-law Lawrence Krasnow.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Vermont Respite House for making Susan’s last week a calm and peaceful one. Additionally, the family would like to thank Lisa Vanacek for her care and support for Susan this summer, allowing Susan to remain at home as long as possible.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests support for the South Burlington Food Shelf. Donations can be made online at southburlingtonfoodshelf.org or by mail at South Burlington Food Shelf, PO Box 9417, South Burlington, VT, 05407.

A graveside service will occur on Friday, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Hebrew Holy Society Cemetery in South Burlington, Vermont. A celebration of life will occur at a later date.

May her memory be a blessing to us all.

Gregg Catherine McCornack
Gregg Catherine McCornack, age 83, died on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Catherine was born on August 30, 1938, in Boston, Massachusetts, to the late Willard and Catherine (Kelly) McCornack. For 35 years, Catherine worked on both

sides of the aisle with the United States House of Representatives.

Catherine would eventually move to California where she performed many volunteer hours with the American Red Cross and Betty Ford Clinic.

Upon moving to Toledo, Ohio, she was a member at the Fairgreen Presbyterian Church where she also served as an ordained deacon.

Catherine ‘s family owned a cottage on Lake Champlain on Thompson’s Point. The McCornack family would vacation there in the summer months, and she always enjoyed spending time here.

For those who knew Catherine well, you knew of her love of dogs. She never met one she didn’t like and spent both her time and her treasures in support of their care.

In addition to her parents, Catherine is predeceased by her siblings: Richard K., Margaret F. and Sara B. McCornack.

Catherine is survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A graveside service is being planned in November at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Frederick, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the Fairgreen Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (3220 W Laskey Rd, Toledo, OH 43613) or to Lollypop Farm (lollypop.org).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Walter E. Baird & Sons Funeral Home in Wayland, New York. To leave an online condolence, please visit bairdfuneralhomes.com.



Catherine McCornack



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Northern Forest Center talk, Philo Ridge Farm delectables wow group

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The taste of fall was in the air at Philo Ridge Farm, but it was just the merest flavor of autumn, as the day was still summery enough for meeting outside on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 15.

There was a bounty of taste in all sorts of appetizers that came in a steady parade as the farm’s kitchen strutted its gourmet game, with products grown on the farm or nearby, for a group of about 25 as they discussed projects to help the region transition from an agricultural economy to an economy that will hold and attract younger people.

The occasion was an event sponsored by the Northern Forest Center, a 25-year-old nonprofit based in Concord, N.H., working to revitalize communities in the region designated as the Northern Forest, 30 million acres stretching across northern Vermont, New York, Maine and New Hampshire.

It was formally recognized as a region by Congress in 1988 and is the largest forested region in the eastern United States.

The Northern Forest Center has identified 10 communities — Tupper Lake, Keene and Elizabethtown, N.Y.; St. Johnsbury and Newport, Vt.; Lancaster, Gorham and Bethel, N.H.; and Greenville and Millinocket, Maine — to concentrate on projects generating “investment capital and philanthropic funding to accelerate positive change to attract and retain the next generation of families and entrepreneurs,” according to materials from the organization.

Tim Volk of Charlotte, a board member of the Northern Forest Center, discussed how the work of Diana McCargo and Peter Swift at Philo Ridge Farm exemplifies the ethos of the Northern Forest Center.

Rob Riley, president of the organization,

said one of their main questions is: “How do we really incentivize and create and help communities be more competitive for young people?”

As McCargo and Swift have done with their farm, Riley said the Northern Forest Center looks to invest and engage with places in ways that have “a ripple effect and a leverage opportunity.”

“There’s community that results from risk-tolerant capital that’s come in to invest in a place,” Riley said.

He complimented Philo Ridge Farm and its store for offering a gathering place where people interact with other farms in the area: “That’s what makes the Northern Forest community home, that we have a vibrant community, not just a nice building.”

One of the projects Riley and the organization have been working on is a renovation of an 11,000 square-foot building from the 1860s in Lancaster, N.H. The building required a lot of work and basically had to be gutted. It was not only uninhabited; it was uninhabitable.

“Let’s just say ‘eyesore’ is a generous statement,” he said. “It was a weird purple color.”

It did have historic significance as the place where cough syrup and the sugar-coated pill were developed.

The project was four years of struggle for the organization, but in June, the building officially opened with six two-bedroom apartments and spaces rented to a doctor, a nurse and the superintendent of the school system. A food marketplace and a commercial kitchen are on the verge of moving in.

Lots of reclaimed wood from the original building was used in the renovation, and 80 different contractors worked on it, which served as economic stimulus.



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Rob Riley of the Northern Forest Center shares his organization’s mission and vision with a group at Philo Ridge Farm.

One of the investors in the project was a man who pulled his money out of his retirement funds.

“I’m inspired by people and the idea that other people are also willing to be risk tolerant,” Riley said. “The day and age of someone else doing it for us is done in my opinion. It’s about digging in, and I think that’s how we broaden that table to let other people be part of that.”

Lila Thorne, director of development, said when she started with the Northern Forest Center four years ago, it had a \$2 million operating budget. The organization found on many projects it needed capital in hand to compete in the real estate market.

The problem with relying on grants is it often takes months after an application is submitted before money is dispersed.

“So, we started asking individuals and foundations and businesses for basically super-low interest loans we could call impact investments that were like five years at 1 percent interest,” Thorne said.

A year ago, the board set the fundraising team a goal of raising \$30 million. In a year, they have raised half of that, Volk said.

About \$20 million of that \$30 million is going to be investment capital, which we’re going to return,” Volk said. “About \$10 million of it is philanthropic.”

Finding ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Ainaka Luna
Contributor

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage month. This celebration started in 1968 when President Lyndon Johnson approved a law to recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the history of the United States. In 1988, President George H. W. Bush expanded the celebration to one month.

Hispanic is not a race. The term was first introduced in the U.S. Census in 1970 as a broad category to include all the communities whose origins are from the 21 Spanish-speaking countries. The United States is the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world after Mexico. There are more Spanish speakers in the United States than in Spain. According to the 2019 census, 18.5 percent of the total of the U.S. population is of Hispanic or Latino origin.

Among the many Hispanics who are famous in the United States are associate justice of the Supreme Court Sonia Sotomayor; baseball players Roberto Clemente and Sammy Sosa; musicians Jennifer Lopez, Selena Gomez, Shakira, Bruno Diaz and Carlos Santana; actors Rita Moreno, Salma Hayek, Cameron Diaz, Andy Garcia, George Lopez and John Leguizamo; and labor and civil rights leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. There are also thousands of Hispanic people who will never be



famous but whose hard work quietly contributes to the economy of this country and Vermont.

Hispanic culture is part of our daily life. Can you imagine life without chocolate, avocados, tomatoes, tacos, potatoes, corn, beans, vanilla, peanuts, quinoa, pineapple, jerky or kids’ parties without piñatas?

Some ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month are cooking a new recipe, watching some films from Hispanic countries or listening to some Latin music. Let the Hispanic spirit come to your house and viva la fiesta!

(Ainaka Luna is the Champlain Valley School District’s new director of diversity, equity and inclusion.)

Community

Name change, saving energy, a café with all the fixings

Ruah Swennerfelt
Contributor

As the reality of the pandemic hit, Sustainable Charlotte (formerly Transition Town Charlotte) members began a journey of change.

Temporarily prevented from hosting video documentaries, repair cafes, reskilling workshops or providing affordable window inserts, members could have said, “Let’s take a rest.”

Instead, the membership responded: “Let’s see how we can be better at the other end of this pandemic.”

Concerned that the name didn’t clearly communicate what the organization is, many Zoom meetings were spent pondering a name that would tell the mission of helping the transition from a fossil fuel-based life and economy to one of resilience and regeneration and care.

Finally, the members hit upon the name “Sustainable Charlotte.”

Under this name the members applied for and received designation for the organization as a federal 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, allowing it to apply for and receive grants and tax-deductible contributions.

Sustainable Charlotte then updated its website and now has the capability of emailing announcements about coming events. Check out the website at sustainablecharlottetv.org.

Drafty windows? High heating bills?

If you would like to have a warmer home and save money, the nonprofit WindowDressers can help.

This organization has insulating window inserts that fit inside of existing windows, letting in sunlight and views while keeping more heat inside.

Sustainable Charlotte’s WindowDressers volunteer team is limited to about 30 homes, so applying right away at windowdressers.org or 207-596-3073 is a good idea.

Everyone who orders inserts also participates with installations because part of the cost of getting inserts is your participation in helping to install window inserts for others.

The inserts are built of pine frames, wrapped drum-tight with two layers of durable plastic film. These two layers of plastic create an insulating air space while still being transparent. Foam weather stripping around the outer edges stops drafts and ensures the insert’s tight, custom fit. Depending on the efficiency of your windows and home, you could see fuel savings of up to 20 percent with inserts.

Once you sign up, trained volunteers will schedule a time to measure your windows for the custom-built inserts. Then, in the fall, you and other community volunteers will gather to build the inserts at a community build session near you.

Pricing is based on the size of the insert. A medium-sized 30-by-52-inch pine insert costs \$44 plus tax. WindowDressers offers low-income households up to 10 pine inserts at no charge.

Sustainable Charlotte’s WindowDressers volunteer team is accepting orders and volunteers are measuring windows now in Charlotte.

Contact Sustainable Charlotte at wd@sustainablecharlotte.org with questions.

Get your broken stuff ready

Sustainable Charlotte, the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Grange will be hosting the next Repair Café on Saturday Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Charlotte Congregational Church.

Registration is necessary at tinyurl.com/mvap73wk. Residents of all nearby towns are welcome.

So what exactly is a Repair Café?

It’s a four-hour community party of talented local folks who will volunteer their handy skills, or help you learn, to repair your broken stuff. Just bring your broken things to the Repair Café and watch and learn as the handy folks do their magic.

In addition to fixing, the organizers hope to:

- Promote and teach the lost art of repair to all ages
- Keep perfectly good stuff out of the landfill



Courtesy photo

Wolfger Schneider repairs a lamp at a Repair Café.

- Build the town’s sense of community by working together to meet each other’s needs.
Email repaircafe@sustainablecharlottetv.org with questions.

Braver Angels hopes to inspire talk across the political spectrum

Susan Crockenberg
Contributor

Braver Angels has ignited a flare of hope in the country. Might its programs for helping citizens on opposite sides of the political spectrum talk with each other bridge the divide that separates us Americans one from the other? It’s a heady thought.

Formed in the turbulent times following the 2016 election of Donald Trump, Braver Angels grew amidst an undercurrent of ill-will punctuated by a series of more dramatic events among them a load of manure dumped outside Democratic headquarters in Lebanon, Ohio.

A year later, the nearby village of South Lebanon, about the size of our Charlotte, hosted Bill Doherty, a Minneapolis family therapist and a leader of what would become Braver Angels, who arrived in town, a modern day: “Have skills, will travel.”

Doherty’s goal in introducing a set of listening and speaking skills is not to change people’s minds, he is adamant on that point, but rather to know others as individuals with their own narratives, stories that allow us to understand

why they hold the views they do and to express our own views without antagonizing them in return.

To do this he brings together strangers who pointedly disagree about political figures and the myriad issues that distinguish those across the political divide: gun regulation, abortion, police treatment of different racial groups, among others.

People gravitate to Doherty’s workshops in hopes of allowing family members to carry on political conversations with an opinionated uncle they might otherwise avoid, a son or daughter prone to stomping from the room, squelching the possibility of greater understanding through continuing communication.

Anecdotal evidence and eventually more systematic research demonstrate that through these experiences participants in Braver Angels skills workshops develop respect and empathy for the other that diminish hostility and allows people with sharp political differences to work together toward shared goals. More than 80 percent of participants in the Depolarizing Within workshops said they were able to express criticism of the other side without

increasing polarization.

Locally, friends share stories of toxic family gatherings and a wish to better understand their neighbors, kept at arm’s length to avoid clashes around starkly different political views. No surprise ... we tend to talk with people whose views are similar to our own and to wonder how others could possibly view the world so differently.

Could Braver Angels offer us something in Charlotte? Margaret Woodruff, director of the Charlotte Library agreed it just might, and together with Sandi Detwiler and Maria Wicker we hatched a plan for the library to offer a Braver Angels skills workshop this fall.

The Oct. 16 workshop Depolarizing Within is timely in light of the issues that have recently stirred up dissension in town ... think health center, community center, affordable housing in East Charlotte, a proposed multi-lot subdivision on the west side of town. It is useful in view of the critical issues we face right now as a town: How much development do we want, of what type, where should it be located? What regulations are appropriate to accommodate development and also protect sensitive areas?

To these questions we add another: “How do we want to feel as friends and neighbors when all is said and done?”

Will we be able to greet each other warmly, or at least civilly in passing? Will we be able to work together across the divide on whatever comes next?

That depends on how we get to where we’re going ... the process we use, whether we’ve had opportunities to express ourselves, to be heard and to listen to those with different views. In

short, will we believe that the decision-making was fair, even if the outcome was personally disappointing?

We know process is important. We’ve been talking about it in Charlotte. The planning commission and the selectboard are exploring the Community Heart and Soul participatory planning process as a structured way for Charlotters to come together to talk about issues facing the town outside of official town board meetings where citizens are meant only to address the board rather than talking with each other. Heart and Soul is a great start. How do we make the best use of it?

Enter Braver Angels. Talking openly with others requires us to hone the skills we need when we strongly disagree ... to keep the conversation going when it’s easier to just blow up or simply hang up ... to acknowledge what the other person has said, to clarify what that person really means, to agree if that’s possible, to disagree respectfully when it is not, to express one’s own perspective in a way that does not diminish the other.

Wouldn’t it be something if we could accomplish this in Charlotte?

Charlotte Grange joins the Charlotte Library in encouraging all who can to participate in the Oct. 16 Braver Angels workshop so together we can strengthen our skills for civil discourse. Watch for more information soon from the library about the workshop and how to register.

(Susan Crockenberg is a long-time Charlotte resident and retired professor of psychology at the University of Vermont and formerly professor of human development at the University of California, Davis.)

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Hi Neighbor!

Jamey Gerlaugh: Fostering sustainability in Charlotte and beyond



Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

For Jamey Gerlaugh, the move to Charlotte with his wife Mavis in 2017 was a blessing, after what he described as the craziness of their previous home in the Washington, D.C., area.

Looking to be part of his new community, he saw a Front Porch Forum post from Sustainable Charlotte (then called Transition Charlotte) about their upcoming Repair Café.

“I thought that looked cool,” he said. “I like fixing things and consider myself fairly handy.”

And he had always been curious about ways to make communities work more smoothly and efficiently.

Gerlaugh joined Sustainable Charlotte, and after taking part in the Repair Café, he was asked to take charge. He’s been running it ever since. The next event will be 10-11 a.m. Oct. 8 at the Charlotte Congregational Church.

Looking for more ways to help his community, Gerlaugh contacted WindowDressers, a regional organization which brings people together to produce low-cost insulating window inserts. He called the director who said that they had been thinking about expanding into Vermont. In 2019, Charlotte became one of four new WindowDressers communities.

The first two “community builds” were at the Grange but the next one will be held in late October at Earthkeep Farmcommon.

“It’s a grass-roots attack on global warming issues right here in our communities,” Gerlaugh said. “It provides a great benefit for people to save money and stay comfortable.”

Grants are available to subsidize the window work for people with low to moderate incomes.

Gerlaugh started his career as an electrical design engineer in the aircraft industry.

After obtaining a master’s in environmental management at Duke, he joined a fellow alumnus in working to find economic opportunities for rainforest

communities so the residents could make money while keeping the forests intact. The pair collaborated with settlers and farmers to make educational kits of rainforest seeds for teachers.

“We wrote the educational materials for the classrooms,” Gerlaugh said, “and did the packaging and marketing at trade shows.” Other exports included natural chewing gum and artisan products.

After five years, Gerlaugh left to become a consultant and subsequently founded Roanoke River Partners in eastern North Carolina.

“It was a non-profit that worked on eco-tourism in five counties,” he said. “Our biggest project was 150 miles of canoeing and kayaking camping trails through swamp forests using camping platforms. You can see otter, beaver, bear, deer and owls.” The trail was recently taken over by the state and is now called the Roanoke River State Trail.

From North Carolina, Gerlaugh traveled to Maryland and a start-up called Verdant Power which worked on underwater tidal turbines. After 13 years, he and his wife began to worry about her parents who lived in Vermont and decided it made more sense to move closer to them than vice versa.

When he first moved to Charlotte, Gerlaugh worked as the sustainability director for the Ceres Farm. “It was a great submersion and education in local farming and what it takes to maintain a farm infrastructure,” he said. “You could say I was the farm repairman, which was actually a very satisfying respite from the screen and desk jobs of engineering.”

These days, Gerlaugh is an engineering consultant for Efficiency Vermont. Initially, he worked on residential projects, helping builders and homeowners. He visited homes, took part in Zoom calls and provided information for people calling the organization’s hotline.

Recently, he has begun working on lighting programs for commercial establishments and schools. He helped Charlotte Central School convert old fluorescent lights to LEDs and put in smarter control systems.

Lately, Gerlaugh’s efforts have moved to a new area. “Cannabis legalization is coming in October,” he said, “and indoor grow operations are proving to be some of the largest energy consumers in the state.”



Courtesy photo

From left, Wolfger Schneider and Jamey Gerlaugh collect e-waste during Green Up Day for Sustainable Charlotte, which sends the electronic waste to be recycled by a company in Middlebury.

Gerlaugh explained that indoor cannabis growers use heavy, intensive lights which generate a lot of heat. Windows can’t be opened because of fear of contaminants so the growers use air conditioning, even in winter. The plants need at least a gallon of water every day and when they transpire, the moisture in the air requires dehumidification.

“We want to make them as efficient as possible,” Gerlaugh said. “So, we offer consultation and will do whatever we can

to make them more energy efficient.” Gerlaugh has lived in nine different states, but he is pleased to be making his home in Charlotte.

“My wife and I pinch ourselves each morning,” he said. “We knew it was the right place when we found ourselves starting up conversations with strangers at gas stations and grocery stores. That kind of friendliness is rare these days.”

Film festival for high school students includes cash prizes

Jennifer Kowalczyk
Contributor

Mountain Lake PBS is holding the fourth Beyond the Peaks student film festival during the 2022-23 school year.

Beyond the Peaks is a unique opportunity to elevate area youth voices through filmmaking and digital storytelling. Open to high school students in Vermont, New York and Quebec, the festival invites students to create their own video stories, while offering educational opportunities to help them learn the ins and outs of filmmaking and storytelling.

It is free to participate in the program, and the top three winners will receive a cash prize and video supplies. Video submissions will be due in April, and a culminating red-carpet showcase will take place in May 2023.

The Beyond the Peaks student film festival began in 2019, launched by AdkAction and the Tupper Lake Central School District, aiming to expand opportunities for local youth interested in digital storytelling. The festival was named for the Adirondack area students reaching beyond the peaks.

AdkAction sought out Mountain Lake PBS to take on the festival and help it grow in 2022.



“When AdkAction first launched the student film festival, the goal was to create a platform for creative expression and amplify the voices of area youth,” says Sawyer Cresap, executive director of AdkAction. “We’re thrilled to see Mountain Lake PBS take this project to the next level by providing more hands-on learning opportunities in filmmaking and television production and greater exposure for films made by local students.”

Find more information at mountainlake.org/beyondthepeaks or by calling 518-324-0127.



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CEMETERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LaBerge is meticulous as he chips off a dried, inferior epoxy to get a clean surface on a headstone that’s broken in two. Someone has tried to repair this headstone with a poor epoxy. He wants to make sure when he glues it together, it stays together.

“I learned from a high-end stonemason. A lot of guys that come in throw epoxy down, throw this back up,” LaBerge said. “It’s all these little things that make a big difference.”

Although there are several graves in the Barber Cemetery from the 1790s, they were not sure what the oldest grave was.

Cole knew. The oldest grave is James Squier’s. He died in 1785 at the age of 55 and was the first person of European descent buried in Charlotte.

Squier, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, was from Connecticut. He had come to visit his offspring. He had at least two sons, Solomon and Abner, who were among the earliest settlers in Charlotte. The first settle-ment here was established in 1784, so they were likely still building their homes.

Squier became ill during his visit, died and was buried in what was then known as the West Burying Ground.

As the years passed, cemeteries came to be known by the names of prominent people in the vicinity.

The Barber farm still surrounds this ceme-tery on three sides.

If LaBerge and Leary did work during the summer heat, they could be gone to ceme-teries around Vermont every weekend from April Fools’ Day to Halloween.

“If somebody in the community’s got the interest, I love to go in and teach them how to do it. I don’t want to do everything for them. But I will show you how to do it and I will work,” LaBerge said.

The weekend before, Leary had been in Rutland. The weekend after this, on Satur-day, Sept. 10, Leary and LaBerge were both in Burlington’s Lakeview Cemetery. The weather was an almost exact replica of

the previous Saturday in Charlotte, except this time as the temperature climbed it was abated by a wind blowing off Lake Cham-plain. And the view was to the west with sailboats frolicking and the Adirondacks pro-viding the backdrop

And this time it was a much larger group. LaBerge and Leary joined more than 40 vol-unteers working on about 50 gravestones of children from the Home for Destitute Chil-dren, who had died from the 1870s into the early 1900s.

Up and down a line of simple but askew headstones, people were working to set them plumb and symmetrical, digging holes to reset them and stringing twine to see that they formed a solemn, respectful procession of memorials.

Once again Leary was clearing out holes where gravestones had stood, squaring up and tamping the fill to make a firm founda-tion, but this time she was one of several working at the same task.

Likewise, LaBerge was repairing stones and showing other volunteers what he was doing and how.

The group of volunteers appeared to be an almost balanced mix of novice and experi-enced. Tom Giffin, president of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, said there were volunteers this day from all over Vermont and even one from New Hampshire.

“Basically, every weekend, we’re some-where around the state doing this,” Giffin said.

Most weekends, the Vermont Old Ceme-tery Association is working in abandoned or neglected cemeteries. The Lakeview Ceme-tery is certainly neither abandoned nor ne-glected, but the section of destitute children’s graves needed some work. And there aren’t any family members, if there ever were, who could or would, tend to them.

Giffin had come up from his home in Rutland at 6:30 a.m. to work on these head-stones. The next weekend he would be closer to home in Clarendon.

Just like LaBerge and Leary, Giffin is mo-tivated by the desire to preserve history and concern about cemeteries that have fallen



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Diane Leary levels and plumbs gravestones in Charlotte’s Barber Cemetery.

into disrepair.

Giffin gets calls all the time from places like Maine and even Texas. “We’re the first cemetery association in the nation and people copy us,” he said.

Denise Vignoe, director of development and communication with the Howard Center, said the Home for Destitute Children was originally formed in 1865 to care for orphans from the Civil War.

Originally housed at 447 Main Street in Burlington, it soon moved to a former military hospital on Shelburne Road on the southwest corner with Home Avenue, which takes its name from the Home for Destitute Children. A shopping center anchored by the Market 32 grocery store is where the home was located with its “spacious verandah, high ceilings, marble mantels and a view of the lake,” according to a historical overview from the Howard Center.

The home became a place for more than only orphans, including children from fami-lies that were too poor to care for them, vic-tims of abuse or neglect, or from parents who

struggled with mental illness or addiction.

“Some left as adults while many were adopted by families both in and beyond Ver-mont,” according to the overview.

Meghan Cope, a professor in the depart-ment of geography at the University of Ver-mont, has done an intensive study of hand-written logbooks from the home. She didn’t find many children from Charlotte who lived at the Home for Destitute Children, but there were several Charlotte families who adopted or fostered children from the home.

After volunteering so much time working on the graves of others, LaBerge and Leary don’t want to be buried. Both of them plan to be cremated.

“I told my kids, ‘When I die, have me cremated. Wait until spring. When you see somebody out planting corn, sneak over and help fertilize it,’” LaBerge said.

(If you would like more information about the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, want to volunteer or to donate, email jsladd@shore-ham.net. The website is voca58.org.)

Education

Stop by after class with questions, thoughts and updates

Margo Bartsch
Contributor

“Stop by after class,” is my phrase at the end of class, “with questions, thoughts and updates.”

This statement is easier said than done. In my 16 years of teaching college courses, rarely do students take the initiative to meet with professors after class. Office-hour visits can help to clarify assignments and build long-term relationships between students and teachers.

Needing to schedule a meeting with a professor is usually a reactionary panic to complain about group project dysfunction or express concern about grades. These potential issues could be identified earlier when proactively meeting with teachers to discuss issues and brainstorm suggestions.

Professors usually include their office hours in the course syllabus. This is an invitation to stop by, have a conversation and get help on an assignment. Before scheduling a meeting, it is helpful to write an email detailing some areas to cover.

In asking for help on a homework assignment, prepare a list of specific items to review. The teacher and student can discuss this outline together. The professor can recommend additional reading materials and clarify concepts with further examples.

After the meeting, email a quick thank you and summarize the topics discussed. The student can include questions that were not covered. Documenting the meeting helps the teacher and student refer to the points reviewed in the meeting to track progress.

Professors often refer to office hour meetings as “teaching moments,” where the

conversation can evolve into talking about related academic topics and professional interests. Meetings can help a teacher get to know the student’s background and plans beyond the classroom discussion and projects.

During office hour meetings, students can ask the teacher for advice on future career opportunities. Teachers can suggest ideas to boost qualifications such as additional classes to take, research projects to participate in and academic clubs to join.

In forging an ongoing relationship with a professor, the student can ask about potential internships and job opportunities that could be a good fit for their future goals. For example, if a student enjoys snowboarding and is talented with social media, the professor might encourage the student to consider sports marketing internships.

Colleges have career placement centers that coordinate job fairs, graduate school speakers and alumni presentations. In meeting with professors before these events, they may have suggestions for the student to optimize these professional discussions.

Many colleges and graduate school applications require professors to complete a chart that rates the student across various academic, teamwork and leadership categories compared to other students they have taught. When the teacher knows the student’s abilities both in the classroom and around campus, this broader exposure sheds insight into the student’s personal qualities that can gauge future success.

Teacher recommendations are required for college, graduate school and abroad programs. Some job postings and internships also ask for professor references. When requesting a letter, it is important to meet with the teacher in person, if possible. Scheduling a face-to-face conversation shows professional respect and a personal

relationship with the professor. Be sure to provide a resume with a LinkedIn address as context to the student’s background and achievements.

When emailing a teacher for a reference, the note typically includes two paragraphs of information. The introduction should describe the future opportunity and the deadline to submit the reference. The second paragraph should include a personal reflection of why the student enjoyed the class and how the course material is relevant to the future job or academic program. A memorable reference should include detailed paragraphs, instead of brief sentences.

After requesting the reference, the student needs to ensure that the letter is submitted on time and according to the requirements. It is helpful to email a follow-up asking if additional information is needed to make the deadline.

Once the letter is submitted, write a thank you-note as both an email and send an actual card as an extra touch. The note should reflect on the professor’s impact that helped the student pursue their professional interests.

College is the starting point to practice networking opportunities. Getting to know professors can build lifelong connections. Students and alumni should keep in touch with professors even after completing the class.

With the busy back-to-school schedule, remember to include meetings with professors. Office hour visits are a natural conduit to develop impactful relationships.

Stop by after class to open doors.

(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.)

Sports

Robotics team looks to repeat as state champions

Champlain Valley Union High RoboHawks
Contributed

Coming off of a successful season last year, the RoboHawks, Champlain Valley Union High School’s robotics team, are preparing for the upcoming season. Last year the team won the Vermont FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge state championship and received the prestigious Inspire Award for being an exemplary team and ambassador to FIRST. These results qualified the RoboHawks for the world championships. Support from community members and local businesses enabled the team to travel to Houston in April for the competition. “While we didn’t receive any awards, we learned a lot and can’t wait to put that knowledge to work this season,” team members Crawford Phillips, Joseph Jacobs and Violet Fennern of Charlotte said in a release. The RoboHawks are working to expand access to the robotics program and offering lots of opportunities for students at CVU to participate. The team is even encouraging middle school students to get involved. The FIRST robotics programs are

perhaps the best real-world STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning students can experience, the release said. The program is lauded for helping students learn science, engineering and technology skills, while inspiring innovation and fostering self-confidence, teamwork, communication and leadership. CVU is adding a JV team this year. The RoboHawks meet after school every Tuesday 3:15-5 p.m. For middle school students, the RoboHawks are working to create a FIRST Lego League robotics team in every school. FIRST Lego League is an international competition hosted by FIRST, which is similar to FIRST Tech Challenge except using Lego robots. The team is hosting a workshop on FIRST Lego League robotics and robotics coding on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 3:45 p.m. in the CVU robotics room 154. Please reach out to cvu-robohawks@cvsdvt.org with any questions. The team is looking for volunteers and mentors. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm. There are stipends for coaching a team available due to a state grant awarded to the school district.



The Champlain Valley Union High RoboHawks robotics team. Courtesy photo

After three games, Redhawks appear to be clicking on all cylinders

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

After a season that ended in the closing moments of the D-1 state championship game last year, this year has dawned brightly for the Champlain Valley Union High football team. The RedHawks are 2-1, but its lone loss was a nonconference, out-of-state game that may ultimately prove a very positive experience for the team, coach Rahn Fleming said.

CVU 56, Middlebury Union 19

CVU started the season with a 56-19 win at Middlebury. This was a very satisfying start to the season for Fleming for two reasons. First, the team played very well against “a perennially well-coached, good performing team. We just had a little bit more than they did on this night,” the Redhawks coach said. But Fleming was also more than a little bit pleased because this was the first time in his 16 years as a coach at CVU that he has defeated a football team at Middlebury Union High School — at either the varsity or junior varsity level.

He confessed that over the years not winning at Middlebury has contributed “to a little, quiet undertone of personal frustration and we got to put that one to bed.”

Exeter High (N.H.) 35, CVU 21

The second game of the season technically was a loss, but Fleming doesn’t see it as truly a loss. He had been worried because the Redhawks were scheduled for a bye week after just one game. Bye weeks can be very troublesome for a high school team. The coach was worried about his team losing its rhythm, so he managed to schedule a non-conference game at Exeter High in Exeter, N.H. “It didn’t count in the standings and it was a very good day for us to get better,” Fleming said. The matchup came with a fun little twist. In this game the CVU Redhawks were pitted against the Exeter High Blue Hawks. If the teams play hard enough, he said, “everybody goes home a purple hawk.” The Redhawks gave up three 60-yard plays, but other than that “we went toe to toe with them,” Fleming said, pointing out that it just takes one player to miss assignment for a play to go a long distance. Other than those three plays, the coach

was pleased with his team and convinced they’d come away from the game as purple Redhawks because of their tough play — particularly in the second half. At the halfway point, CVU was down 28-14, so the team played the Blue Hawks to a 7-7 tie in the second half. He felt like his players got a very important lesson in humility that will stand them in good stead for the rest of the season. Not only were the Redhawks playing a tough team in the 85-degree heat, their opponents were deep, with 73 guys on their roster. CVU has 35 players.

CVU 42, South Burlington/ Burlington 20

This past Friday, Sept. 16, the Redhawks defeated the South Burlington-Burlington SeaWolves 42-20 at Munson Field in South Burlington. “It was literally a tale of two halves. The first half we couldn’t quite find our feet offensively our defense felt real sound,” Fleming said. Late in the second quarter, the SeaWolves started the scoring with a touchdown off a punt return but missed the extra point. The Redhawks came right back to score a touchdown and take the lead 7-6. And that was where the score stood at halftime. At halftime, Fleming said the team had a good conversation about how the game was going and really took stock of themselves. After acknowledging the penalties and missed plays, the team seemed to get committed to doing better. “The running backs and wide receivers came out on fire the second half,” he said. The SeaWolves were also well prepared and seemed to be aware of what the Redhawks’ tendencies on offense were, so in the second half CVU began to change its offensive strategy and it worked. South Burlington-Burlington managed to score two touchdowns late in the game that didn’t concern Fleming too much. His team was far enough ahead on the scoreboard that he took advantage of the opportunity to give some more players game experience he expects will pay dividends later in the season. Jack Sumner ran for two touchdowns; Ollie Cheer and Aidan Miller each ran for a touchdown; but the coach took particular delight that fullback Asher Vaughn scored his first touchdown. Vaughn is new to football this year, had gotten close to scoring a couple of times and finally punched over against the

SeaWolves. “He’s gotten better every week,” Fleming said. The coach is pleased at how well the scoring has been distributed during the first three games. “We’ve had 11 different guys run the ball for us which I’m super happy about,” he said, “As we rotate plays in and out, a lot of guys get a lot of opportunities.” Seven different players have caught passes as the Redhawks are doing well at distributing the ball to a variety of players. Leading rusher Sumner “lit the place up” against the SeaWolves, Fleming said. “He ran his heart out.” Sumner ran eight times for 104 yards, notching two touchdowns.

The coach was also pleased with the way that senior Kieran Jurgenson showed up at defensive end. Because the Redhawks have a number of big, physical, capable lineman, Jurgenson has not had lots of game time. “For that senior to have laid low, paid his dues, engage in the grind and when he gets his chance to start and do so well, I was very happy,” Fleming said. Besides shining at quarterback, Max Destito caused a fumble playing linebacker. Other significant contributors to the Redhawks’ offensive productivity this season have been Alex Provost at wide receiver with 17 catches, 254 yards, four touchdowns on the year, and Aidan Miller, who has carried the ball 10 times for 148 yards and a touchdown.

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Education

School getting back in the groove of routines

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Charlotte Central School took time last Friday afternoon to reflect on how far students have come to reacclimate or orient to school routines.

There has been a lot of teaching and reteaching of what it looks like to be a learner and friend.

The K-8 classrooms have been creating agreements that align with the three precepts of take care of ourselves, take care of others and take care of this place.

Teachers are modeling language for students to use to advocate for themselves and to share compassion. The ultimate goal is to create a school where all staff, students and community members feel belonging and appreciation.

ACCESS back in action

ACCESS at Champlain Valley Union High has started another semester of enrichment options for both in-person and online learners.

The fall and winter season runs from



The Charlotte News file photo September to January, and the majority of classes take place at the high school with the exception of online classes offered through Zoom.

Class descriptions and details are listed on the website at cvsdvt.ce.eleyo.com and can be sorted by category, month, week or online. With over 200 class options and 89 fabulous instructors, there is something for everyone at ACCESS.

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For questions about classes or to enroll via email or phone, contact at access@cvsdvt.org or 802-482-7194.

Rapt audience on library porch



Photo by Cindi Robinson
Jonah Hutchin of Charlotte shares the beauty of the cello on the porch of the Charlotte Library on Sept. 16 with an audience that included a number of younger musical aficionados. Hutchin is in his third year at New England Conservatory Prep.



School work

Photo by Meg Berlin

Above: Jenny Cole, Christa Duthie-Fox and Alice Trageser are part of a group of volunteers that includes Barbara Jetton, Bill Roberts and Guy and Katie Franko, who have been cleaning and painting the Quinlan schoolhouse this summer, the old one-room schoolhouse between the town offices and the Charlotte Library.

Photo by Alice Trageser

Right: During the last Grange on the Green performance, a group of youngsters played school in the old schoolhouse.



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Sacred Hunter

Sights, sounds, reflections as summer shifts to fall

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

The anticipation builds through the waning days of September. It is summer’s last gasp of warm southern breeze. The occasional north wind portends the inevitable shift toward the cool nights of October as the earth begins to tilt on its axis away from the sun. Reluctant to relinquish the lush green leaves on the oaks, the staghorn sumac submits to the autumnal rhythm and wears the robe of rainbow colors from a deep purple to crimson red and golden yellows. Acorns have begun to drop on the musty forest floor and hickory nuts blend into the autumn air with the fragrance of sweet woody decay.

I spend as much time as I can afford to sit in my treestand 15 feet above a trail that the wily whitetail frequently uses with a north wind. Occasionally, I will close my eyes and concentrate on the sounds around me. I hear a chittering of a gray squirrel as he chews the hard shell off a white acorn, and then the chips hitting the ground with a sound that imitates arrhythmic raindrops. I concentrate on the breeze blowing gently from behind me and notice the slight chill as it caresses my right cheek. Breathing in deeply, I catch a whiff of the lake turning over the detritus of dying weeds from under the shallow waters of the bay. My ears are piqued to hear the sound of a twig snapping, a wheeze or a snort of a buck as he lifts his majestic head to catch the scent of whatever might be in front of him further down the trail. I open my eyes and scan the terrain.

The peripheral vision of my left eye catches movement in the canopy above. I watch a squirrel make a bold leap from his launching branch intending to land on his new target branch. He misses and drops 30 feet to the ground. I think to myself, “That has really got to hurt!” As I jump to the erroneous conclusion that this will be the end of this little bugger’s life, he stands up and shakes his sinewy body as if to say, “Oops! No big deal. I’m a squirrel and thank the Great Spirit that no one was witness to this embarrassing moment. I will just go on about my business like it never happened. Besides, no one saw that, right? Well, maybe that guy in the tree over there.” I reassure him that I won’t tell anyone. But here I am sharing this poignant moment with you, my reader. Why? Because it emphasizes that in nature, there are no judgements. No animal complains about the challenge of living in the outdoors. They accept what life offers them and proceed to follow their instincts.

Minutes later, the pileated woodpecker announces his intention to pass through this little “channel in the woods.” Every day that I sit in this stand, he passes through at about the same time. He flits from tree to tree, checking the tender cambium beneath the bark for the miniscule vibrations of insects feeding. He taps a few quick beats and pauses. Then, again. He flies from tree to tree no more than 20 yards apart until eventually the sound of his pecking fades into the natural rhythm of the woods.

I sit, content to watch these miraculous happenings, as silent and motionless as I can. I am pretending to be a part of the tree that supports me in my stand. Moments of silence pass and the strain of listening to



Photo by Bradley Carleton

The view from the treestand.

the resounding silence is causing my ears to feel like I am feeling the vibrations of the earth beneath when the snap of a distant twig awakens me from my meditation. My eyes pivot from side to side, surveying the trails that intersect in front of me. Double checking my arrow is properly knocked and my peep sight is aligned with my sight pins, I clamp the wrist release on to the bowstring and take a deep breath. Once again, my peripheral vision is activated. My right eye catches a patch of brown between a tree and some shrubbery about 40 yards away. Then an eye and the lower part of a leg.

It is clearly a deer, but I am not sure if it is a doe or a buck. Where I hunt, the landowner has requested that we harvest a doe before we take a buck, because the ratio is very unbalanced, and the herd is too large to sustain itself through a rough winter. Also, for this many deer to be on this property it requires sound scientific management. They are decimating the native species of trees, leaving only the invasives. The farm grows winter wheat and occasionally other grains, and the crops are getting eaten at a rate that the farmer loses thousands of dollars a year to predation. This is clearly an example of the need for humankind to remain a part of the circle of life. The earth needs both predators and prey to remain healthy. We sustain each other.

As the brown patch begins to add additional anatomical reference points, it is clear that this deer is headed down the trail toward me. I close my eyes and breathe deeply through my nose. When I open my eyes again, the deer lifts its head above a shrub and shows me its crown of bone, held high, in a stately manner befitting a king. It is a good-sized buck and as I count the points on the antlers, I realize that even if he walks directly under my stand, I will not shoot. Today, he gets a pass. I say a quick “thank you” to him as he marches proudly in front of me. He stops suddenly, directly below me and just 10 yards out front, and looks up at me with knowing eyes, as if to say, “Thank you for being a gentleman.”

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



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The **Charlotte News**

Kelly Brush Ride raises record-breaking \$1 million

Bruce Downes
Kelly Brush Foundation

The 17th annual Kelly Brush Ride raised more than \$1 million for the first time ever, and as a result the Kelly Brush Foundation will achieve another first — awarding \$1 million in adaptive sports equipment grants this year.

“It is amazing that after 17 years the Kelly Brush Ride has reached the \$1 million mark,” said executive director Edie Perkins.

He said the \$1 million is coupled with camps, scholarships and digital resource development, all geared towards helping tens of thousands of people with spinal cord injuries get back to active lives.

On Sept. 10, in Middlebury more than 900 riders on 77 teams along with 40 adaptive riders participated in the Kelly Brush Ride, raising \$1,024,043. Funds raised from the event provide direct support to people with spinal cord injuries to afford cost-prohibitive adaptive sports equipment like handcycles, mono-skis, sports

wheelchairs and more.
“Hitting the \$1 million mark for two key milestones — funds raised and grants awarded — really takes the foundation to the next level. This level of fundraising puts the Kelly Brush Ride among the top charity rides in the country,” said Kelly Brush of Charlotte, whose family started the foundation following a ski racing accident that left her paralyzed in 2006. “I can’t thank enough the thousands of donors, sponsors and volunteers who have supported us over the years and with whom we could not have reached these major milestones.”
To date, the foundation has awarded more than 1,400 adaptive equipment grants to people in 49 states for adaptive equipment. The ride also supports the foundation’s ski racing safety program. Each year grants are awarded to non-profit ski clubs and racing programs for improving race course safety. In 2022, the foundation awarded a record \$120,000 in course improvement grants.



Courtesy photo
Handcyclists at the start of the Kelly Brush Ride on Saturday, Sept. 10, in Middlebury.

Red sky at night

In an area where spectacular sunsets are the norm, they have been particularly breathtaking lately. This was what the close of day looked like on recent evenings on Roscoe Road in East Charlotte and on Lake Champlain.



Photo by Claudia Pfaff



Photo by Stuart Bennett

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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.

A capella at Stine Orchard
Thursday, Sept. 22, 5-7 p.m.

Stine Orchard in Monkton (formerly Boyer’s Orchard) welcomes Root 7, a modern a cappella group, for free entertainment. Food available from Bushel Market and beverages from Bevo catering. Bring the family and blankets. More info at stineorchard.com.

Pickin’ and grinnin’
Friday, Sept. 23, 6-8:15 p.m.

Self-described as folk-rocking cow pokes, Ryan Ober and the Romans entertain at Shelburne Vineyard. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. for picnics; blankets and chairs encouraged. For more info or tickets, see tinyurl.com/32ek3r6k.

Vergennes block party
Friday, Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.

Groovin’ on the Green is a free community event for the whole family with music, food and drinks, and an appreciation of all that Vergennes offers. For more info, see vergennesdowntown.org/groovin-on-the-green.

Green Mountain Book Festival
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23-25

Three days of literary celebration in downtown Burlington features numerous readings by local authors, used and new books, and social gatherings. For a full schedule, see greenmountainbookfestival.org.

eBird workshop
Saturday, Sept. 24, 9-10 a.m.

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh and Green Mountain Audubon of Huntington host a free workshop on successful use of the eBird app. The app enables citizen scientists to contribute valuable data on bird identification and location over time. eBird is a project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Bring binoculars, if possible, as well as a well-charged electronic device. Register at tinyurl.com/yxhdcc65.

Walk to defeat ALS
Sat., Sept. 24, 10 a.m.

The Vermont Walk to Defeat ALS 5K takes place at Oakledge Park in Burlington. It’s not too late to sign up to walk and raise funds for the cause. Questions may be emailed to karrie.boskee@als.org. More info at tinyurl.com/4rryu58f.

Stream clean-up
Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-noon

The Rethink Runoff team of Chittenden County welcomes volunteers to a stream clean-up effort of the Morehouse Brook in Winooski. Group meets at Landry Park in Winooski; dress appropriately for stream conditions with boots. Gloves and bags provided. Sign up by emailing Adelaide at rethinkrunoff@gmail.com or see tinyurl.com/mr4y3y9a.

Thoughts into words
Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-noon

Write in the Garden is a free workshop held at Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte. All levels of writing experience are welcome; registration required. Organized by Project Write Now. Register at tinyurl.com/49hsh8ya.

Harvest festival
Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bristol celebrates fall beauty and harvest abundance in a town-wide community gathering based on the town green. Crafters, vendors, food and music as well as merchant sales on Main St. For more info, see addisoncounty.com/bristol-harvest-festival.

Follow the yellow signs

Sat., Oct. 1 and
Sun., Oct. 2,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Several Charlotte and Hinesburg artist neighbors will be participating in Vermont Crafts Council’s Open Studio weekend. Artists and makers all over the state are opening their studios to sell and talk about their wares. To plan your tour, or see a map of locations, see tinyurl.com/5662satn and look for the yellow signs.



Abenaki Land Link Festival
Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

This growing season, volunteers around Vermont grew crops from traditionally saved Abenaki seeds. Those crops are used in the Abenaki Helping Abenaki food security program. The festival in Richmond celebrates this year’s crop and offers tastings, demonstrations, corn and bean processing, and tours of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps farm in Richmond. Preregister for free event at tinyurl.com/yc8h7j4m.

But Why: Live!
Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Jane Lindholm and Melody Bodette present a stage show based on the popular Vermont Public (VP) podcast But Why? Kids get in free for this barnyard romp, held at Vermont Public headquarters in Colchester. A craft session follows and time with live animals. For more info and to register for a performance, see tinyurl.com/4t5wuham.

Orchard pickin’ party
Saturday, Sept. 24, noon-3 p.m.

Pick fruit at the Stine Orchard in Monkton (formerly Boyer’s Orchard) while listening to local singer-songwriter John Daly. Food and beverages available for purchase. Bring blankets if desired. For more info, see tinyurl.com/yynby53e.

Teen science cafe
Saturday, Sept. 24, 5-7 p.m.

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to a free interactive workshop with pathologists from the University of Vermont Medical Center. Learn all about autopsies, meet scientists and learn about their careers in this specialized field. The event includes free food. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/5tzz7fks. Sign up as soon as possible. Related events may be seen at tinyurl.com/4my4nxz8.

Forest walk
Sunday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-noon

Part of the Ferrisburgh Day celebration is a guided walk in the Ferrisburgh Town Forest. The walk is 3 miles roundtrip and involves some steep and uneven or wet terrain. No dogs please. To participate, email cirillo.jen@gmail.com or call her at 802-318-7197.

Music and movement
Sunday, Sept. 25, 10-11 a.m.

Emma treats young people to a morning of song and dance at Shelburne Orchard. Geared to ages birth to 5, the free event is fun for all ages. For more info, see tinyurl.com/2p93u7bj.

Music in Monkton
Sunday, Sept. 25, 1-4 p.m.

At the Yates Family Orchard in Monkton, listen to the jazz sounds of the George Petit Quintet while you pick apples or relax under the apple trees. For more info about this free event, see yatesfamilyorchard.com.

Music while you pick
Wednesdays, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, 12:30-2 p.m.

Free music by local group The Meatpackers will wend its way through the trees at Shelburne Orchards, while visitors pick fruit and relax for a spell. The group has played bluegrass and gospel together for decades. The orchard is on the Shelburne-Charlotte line off Greenbush Road.

Film about Olmsted
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m.

Shelburne Farms screens the film Olmsted and America’s Urban Parks at the Coach Barn. The free movie is an exploration of the urban planner and landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. To attend, please email vtasla@gmail.com.

Music of Steve Hartmann
Thursday, Sept. 29, 5-7 p.m.

Listen to original music from Vermont-based Steve Hartmann while you pick apples or purchase food from Bushel Market and 802 Wagyu. Beverages from bevo catering. Free event is at Stine Orchard in Monkton (formerly Boyer’s Orchard). More info at tinyurl.com/5n73crsb.

For One Day of Freedom
Thursday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh presents a free lecture, via Zoom, on the book For One Day of Freedom by Blyden Jackson. Jackson’s novel is the tale of a young man’s attempt to escape slavery. The discussion is led by Jackson’s widow and others. Register here for the lecture: tinyurl.com/arcehe4.

Day of racial equity
Friday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network presents a day of workshops, speakers, music, and conversations with legislators in the spirit of youth activism to fight racism. Local food trucks on site at the State House lawn in Montpelier. Register or find out more at vsarn.org.

Taiko drumming
Friday, Sept. 30, 4:30 or 5:30 p.m.

Burlington’s Taiko performs two half-hour sets on the back lawn of the Mahaney Arts Center at Middlebury College. Free and open to all ages, rain or shine; come to one or both shows. Be thrilled by the powerful sounds of Taiko drums. If you get there by

3:30, you can join in a Japanese Lion Dance parade from central campus and walking to Mahaney for the performances. For more info, see tinyurl.com/mr2x7t83. Event repeats **Sat., Oct. 1**, drumming at 2 or 3 p.m.

Fingerstyle guitar
Friday, Sept. 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg presents award-winning English guitar player Richard Smith in an acoustic performance in the school theater. Smith is adept in bluegrass, blues, ragtime and jazz. Doors open 6:30. Tickets may be purchased at the door (cash or personal check only) or in advance at tinyurl.com/4349wvwc.

Writing with voice
Saturday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte welcomes writers of any experience level to partake in a two-part writing workshop at the farm. Event is outdoors or indoors, weather-depending. Journals for writing are provided or bring your own; bring a pen or pencil and drinking water. Optional lunch is available to purchase when buying tickets. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/2z9s5kvf.

Traditional music with Rowan
Saturday, Oct. 1, noon-2 p.m.

Celtic and traditional folk songs, plus original tunes, serenade apple pickers at Shelburne Orchards with Rowan, a group of six musicians who enjoy carrying forward the old tunes. Free concert for a fall day. For more info, see tinyurl.com/2t8wdmxw.

Science spark workshop
Saturday, Oct. 1, 1-3 p.m.

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to a free event at the University of Vermont on human brain anatomy. This hands-on laboratory experience introduces students to neuroanatomy and health science studies. Limited registration for this event, led by university professors and graduate students. Learn more at tinyurl.com/3hfsr3pf or register at tinyurl.com/8r5w3h.

Book talk on Olmsted
Monday, Oct. 3, 5:30-7 p.m.

Author, landscape architect and historian Rolf Diamant discusses his book Olmsted and Yosemite. Diamant writes about the history of the national park system, of which landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was a great supporter. Held at the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms, the talk is free and registration is at tinyurl.com/bd8pp38k.

Concert for turbulent times
Monday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Nights of Grief and Mystery is described as “an improbable, impossible night of words and music, involving a singer, a storyteller, and a band.” The evening is a collaboration between recording artist Gregory Hoskins and band, and stories from Stephen Jenkinson. Learn more and buy tickets at tinyurl.com/32b3yukc. This event is at the Vergennes Opera House; doors open 7 p.m.

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Library News

Lots of things to do, discuss or meditate upon this fall



Margaret Woodruff
Director

From fall gardening to short stories, from collage to meditation, the Charlotte Library is hoping you will hope that you'll find something to enjoy.

Book chat on the porch
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet on the library porch to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, library director Margaret Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Please check library calendar for dates.

Short story selections
First and third Fridays, 1 p.m.

Join Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email.

Book chat
Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

Discuss new books, old books and books you might have missed on Zoom. Friday is a recap of the Wednesday porch session. Please check library calendar for dates and register in advance for Zoom link at bit.ly/3BtebDj.

Children and family programs

Preschool story time
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Join us at the Charlotte Library for preschool stories, crafts and activities. No registration required. Age 2 and over.

Kindergarten-first grade story time
Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Please call the Charlotte Library to register for this event.

Preschool free play
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks, play dough — these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Monday morning play-based learning on the Charlotte Library porch. Ages 3 and 4.

Adult programs
Tech help sessions
Thursday, Sept. 22, 1-2:30 p.m.

Email enigma? Kindle conundrum? Computer question? App apprehension? Or maybe you want to learn how to use your library card to read or listen to books on a device. Sign up for a 40-minute, one-on-one session with Susanna, Charlotte Library's technology librarian, to get some tech support. Make sure to bring your device and any necessary login information. Registration required, please call 802-425-6345.

"March" by Geraldine Brooks
Thursday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Join a discussion via Zoom of Geraldine Brooks' March. From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic "Little Women," Brooks has animated the character of the absent father of the March family, crafting a story "filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man," according to Sue Monk Kidd. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Register in advance at tinyurl.com/4zf5enc4.

Library Garden Circle
Wednesday, Sept. 28

New members are welcome. Join Karen Tuininga, Linda Hamilton and the jolly Garden Circle volunteers who work together to maintain the library's gardens, including the large Rain Garden on the east side, and the Welcome Garden on the south end. Come every time or as your schedule allows. No experience necessary, just an interest in gardens and willingness to get down and dirty sometimes. Learn about the plants in these gardens and some pesky weeds, too. Connect with friends and make some new ones. To join the Garden Circle, contact Karen and Linda at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org. Thank you!

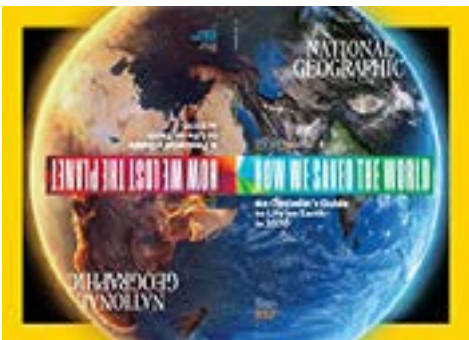
"Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm" discussion
Tuesdays, Sept. 27-Nov. 1, 7-8:30 p.m.

A six-week discussion series based on "Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm" will take place via Zoom on Tuesdays. Register at tinyurl.com/2wuyzd67. This is a story about what happens when 3,500 acres of land, farmed for centuries, is left to return to the wild, and about the wilder, richer future a natural landscape can bring. Copies to check out or purchase at the library circulation desk.

Climate Prep Week workshop
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m.

Saving the World/Losing the Planet is a creative response workshop to look at the multiple possibilities for our planet. During conversation and collage crafting, participants will share stories and create pieces for a community mobile

reflecting varying sides of the climate change challenge. You will have the option to include your collages in the "40 x 2030: Sustainable Charlotte" exhibit at the library in October. Presented as part of the Communities Responding to Extreme Weather Climate Prep Week. No registration necessary.



Stillwater Meditation
Saturdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19, 9 a.m.

Gathering together for eight weeks this fall is an exploration of poetry and meditation as sacred community. Respect for all beings and faiths is a foundational quality of this time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one or all meetings. Free. This meditation is offered by Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.

Back by popular demand. You will not want to miss this presentation if you or someone you love is experiencing vision loss. Join Dan Norris, director of adult services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, for this hour-long interactive presentation. Dan will share the variety of large-print, digital and audio resources available to help you to access print and how you can access these resources through smart devices like an iPad or smartphone. Less high-tech solutions include large-print books and audiobooks that can be obtained through the ABLE (audio, braille, large print and electronic books), branch of the state library system by way of your local library.

Nature walk and book talk
Saturday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m.

Join the librarians from Hinesburg's Carpenter-Carse Library, Charlotte Library and Shelburne's Pierson Library for a recurring outdoor perambulation and discussion of books on the subject of our big, beautiful world. This group aims to pair a local hike with a book discussion



fairly regularly. We'll start with Rebecca Solnit's book "A Field Guide to Getting Lost." Meet in the parking lot at Shelburne Farms to walk to the farm barn and gather to discuss. Please contact your home library to pick up a copy of the book.

Braver Angels Workshop
Sunday, Oct. 16, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Do you find that communication breaks down over political disagreements with friends, family or neighbors? Do you wonder if it's even fruitful to engage in potentially divisive subjects anymore? Increasingly, we are siloed within communities that overwhelmingly share our own perspectives and lose the dynamism that diverse perspectives offer, a reality that drives today's polarization. Braver Angels is committed to helping people to address these tendencies and to cultivate skills that foster constructive engagement across differences. Participate in a three-hour, in-person, workshop called Depolarizing Within. Our trained workshop leaders will introduce communication skills that allow productive conversations with those you strongly disagree with, and will provide guided opportunities to practice these skills. Register at tinyurl.com/27nsk49k.

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

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For information about agenda and Zoom access, please contact the library director.

Classifieds

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The Charlotte News

Senior Center News

In spite of signs of fall, plenty of outdoor senior center opportunities



Lori York
DIRECTOR

The mornings are cooler and the colors of autumn are beginning to show, but there are still plenty of opportunities to be outside during this invigorating time of year, whether it is hiking, visiting the Ethan Allen Homestead or participating in a birding trip. Check out the fall programming in the October newsletter and consider attending an AARP safe drivers program, participating in a Friday morning meditation, learning a new language or attending a watercolor class. Some upcoming presentations include learning about scam prevention strategies and a walk down memory lane with the showing of a video about the senior center as told by Shirley Bean.

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.

Senior center at the Shelburne Farmers Market

The Charlotte Senior Center will be at the Community Tent at the Shelburne Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A special thank you to the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary for sponsoring the Community Corner tent that is shared with nonprofits throughout the summer at the Shelburne Farmers Market.

Presentations and trips

Latest scams and prevention strategies Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1 p.m.

The Vermont Attorney General’s Consumer Assistance Program is offering a presentation that will include information on consumer complaint trends, review the top 10 scams reported to their office in 2021 and take a deeper dive into imposter, free money and phishing scams. The presentation will also cover how robocalls make their way to you, how to reduce these calls and how to protect yourself. No cost but register by Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Reflections on the Charlotte Senior Center Wednesday, Oct. 5, 1 p.m.

Join us for the story of the Charlotte

Senior Center as told by Shirley Bean. An unexpected bequest from the estate of Charlotte resident Walter Irish and his wife, Gertrude, Bean led a group of community members in fulfilling the requirements of the will, which would provide the funds for a senior center. This video (45 minutes) was taped on Sept. 11, 2008, at the senior center with Bob Chutter and Don and Betty Ann Lockhart.

Ethan Allen Homestead tour Friday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.

Visit the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum with a guided tour of the 235-year-old Allen House, visit Negöni Alnöbaakik, a reconstructed Abenaki village, view the exhibits and explore the reconstructed 18th century colonial garden. See ethanallenhomestead.org. To register, drop by the senior center or call 802-425-6345. The tour costs \$10. Registration is required.

Sucker Brook Hollow Trail Wednesday, Oct. 5

Join Mike Yantachka for this fall hike off Route 116 in Williston and enjoy all the vibrant colors of autumn. Participants should bring a walking stick, water and a snack. Meet at the senior center at 8:45 a.m. This trail leads to an overlook, 2.4 miles out and back and is a moderately challenging trail with an elevation gain of 500 feet. For questions, contact Yantachka at myantachka.dfa@gmail.com or 802-233-5238. No cost but registration is required. The rain date is Thursday, Oct. 6.

Birding expedition Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. departure.

Please meet at the center 10 minutes prior to the 9 a.m. departure to carpool to the location for birdwatching with Hank Kaestner. Group size is limited. To register for the birding trip, email cscbirding@gmail.com and include your name and phone number. No cost but registration is required.

New classes and programs

AARP Smart Driver course Wednesday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The AARP Smart Driver course is designed especially for drivers age 50 and older. It will help you refresh your driving skills and may even help you save on your auto insurance. Members can take the course at a discounted rate. Please plan to bring lunch. Register early as class size is limited to 15. Checks should be made out to AARP. The cost is \$25 / \$20 for AARP members. Register by Monday, Oct. 17.



Photo by Lori York

From left, Karina Warshaw, Carol Geske, Andy Hodgkin, Carol Strobeck and Sue Foley are the Monday lunch team that provides lunch on the first Monday of the month.

**Meditation
Fridays, 8-9 a.m.**
Charlie Nardoizzi is back, offering meditation classes at a new time. Meditation is an easy-to-learn practice that reduces anxiety, stress, pain and depression. In each class you will quiet the body and mind by doing simple breathing exercises and a seated, eyes-closed guided meditation. All are welcome, no experience necessary. The cost is \$10 a class. No registration required.

**Let’s paint autumn
Tuesdays, Oct. 4-Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-noon**
Lynn Cummings is offering a fall-themed watercolor workshop. Explore techniques, color choices and blending, as well as painting the negative space and design. All levels are welcome. The supply list will be emailed to you upon registration. The cost of this five-week workshop is \$200. Register by Monday, Sept. 26.

**Italian for Total Beginners
Fridays, 10-11 a.m., Oct. 21-Nov. 18**
Do you dream of traveling to Italy and ordering your morning cappuccino in a sun-drenched piazza? Are you interested in learning Italian but have never tried? Then this class is for you! Now is the time to begin your study of Italian with instructor Nicole Librandi. The cost for the five-week class is \$50. Register by Friday, Oct. 14.

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.

Meals
Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday Lunches
Served weekly. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. No registration required. Suggested lunch donation \$5.

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals
Pick up on Thursdays 10–11a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. October menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org. The meals are free but registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Kerrie Pughe at 802-425-6345 at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

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.org.

Write Ingredients

Don’t ‘myth’ the pretzels on the center’s Octoberfest menu

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

From apple pie à la mode to an Octoberfest of food delight, you don’t want to miss upcoming Monday Munches at the Charlotte Senior Center. Tales of the religious origins of the pretzel in France, Italy and Germany seem to involve a good deal of culinary myth. But it’s no myth that pretzels were an early item in the American diet, brought to the Colonies by German and Dutch settlers. And pretzels will be on the menu for an Octoberfest-themed lunch at the center.

A 1951 The New York Times article celebrating the 90th anniversary of the pretzel called it “small, intellectual, sophisticated.”

The first commercial pretzel bakery was built in Philadelphia in 1861. There, pretzels are so popular, with street vendors offering them with mustard, that the city acquired the nickname the “Big Pretzel.” Some 80 percent of the nation’s pretzel supply is made

in Philadelphia, and people there are reputed to eat 12 times as many pretzels as people anywhere else.

Here’s a bit of pretzel renown: In 1996, pretzels from Philadelphia Soft Pretzels, Inc., were on the Columbia space shuttle.

In 2018, a team of student researchers in the U.S. sent broccoli seeds to the International Space Station to test whether microbes can help the vegetable grow better in the challenging conditions in space.

We don’t know about sauerkraut in space, but here’s the Sauerkraut Polka (in German): youtube.com/watch?v=stpo-Jc5538.

Monday Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Monday Munch
Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, broccoli salad and apple pie à la mode.

**Thursday, Sept. 29
Grab & Go Meal, Pickup: 10-11 a.m.**
Roast pork with gravy, boiled potatoes

with butternut squash, wheat bread with butter, apple cake with icing and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday: 802-425-6345 or kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Thursday meals are provided by Age Well at no cost but they appreciate donations.

Monday, Oct. 3, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Monday Munch
Octoberfest: Bratwurst with bun, sauerkraut, and mustard, German potato salad, homemade soft pretzels, root beer and German-style dessert

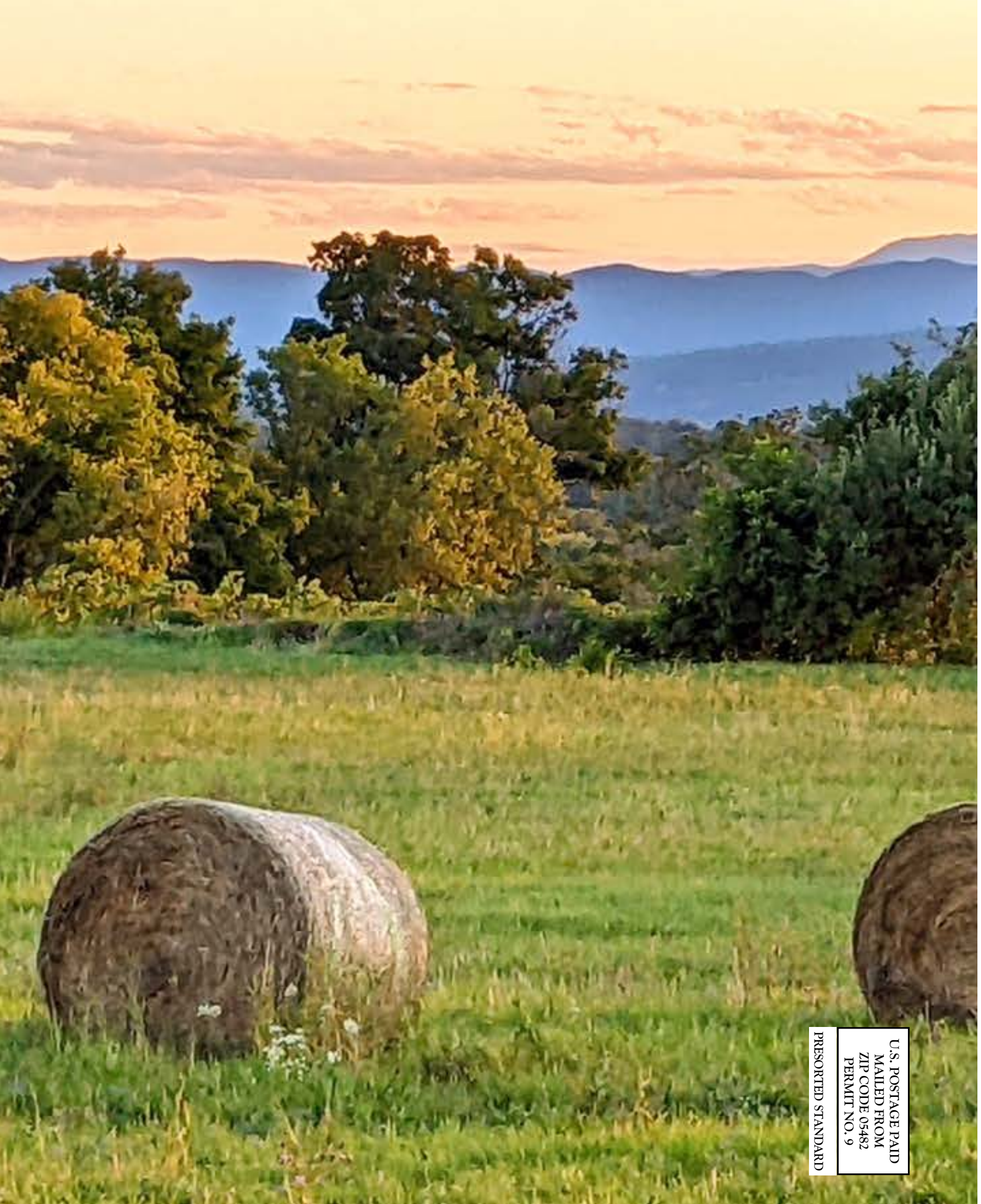
Thursday, Oct. 6 Grab & Go Meal, pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Check the Charlotte Senior Center for the menu at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/ meals. Registration required by the prior Monday.

Please remember that from baking pies to washing dishes to handing out all those Grab



& Go meals, a lot of volunteer work goes into providing food at the Charlotte Senior Center. Please share your time and talents with others in a place filled with laughter and good cheer.



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