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The Charlotte News

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Photo by Emily Silman

A rainbow shines its munificence upon Nitty
Gritty Grain Company on Lake Road.

Sex discrimination alleged in fire and rescue service

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

In 2016, there were an equal number of men and women in leadership positions in the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Department.

By April of this year, when Rob Mullin was terminated as deputy chief, the department only had one female in a leadership position, according to a source close to the department.

A number of current and former members of the department, who only agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation, said the drop in females was due to sexual discrimination by Mullin and that he promoted men to leadership positions with the department, passing over women who had more tenure and equal or superior training during those six years.

As the selectboard started discussions about the possibility of changing to a municipal-run fire and rescue service, it has held at least two executive sessions that only included members of the board and Mullin.

The Charlotte News has run stories where it was speculated the board

might be considering hiring Mullin as a consultant to oversee a potential transition. But selectboard member Matt Krasnow said the board has not been talking to Mullin about that role.

Instead, Krasnow said, Mullin has been lending his experience running a fire and rescue department to help the board develop a request for proposal to seek candidates for a temporary position as a transition consultant.

Mullin might apply for that position, Krasnow said, but he doesn't know. He also said he didn't know about allegations against Mullin of sexual harassment and bias.

Allegations about him and sexual discrimination or harassment are "lies," Mullin said. He didn't know if he would



apply to be the transition consultant.

Mullin said he didn't know how many women were in leadership positions with the department when he left, but that he had hired and trained many women.

Some board members didn't return calls. Others who did return calls and spoke off the record said they were unaware of sexual discrimination allegations against Mullin.

One person who did speak on the record was Thomas Gates, a volunteer firefighter with the fire department.

Gates said Mullin was terminated "for very good cause. In fact, he could have, should have and would have been fired from anywhere else."

Mullin was terminated for "blatant sexual harassment and gender bias with regards to hiring, promotion, and

therefore, pay equity," Gates said.

"Those are false accusations," said Mullin, adding he was terminated because he was unable to perform his duties because his emergency medical services license was restricted. The fire and rescue department was unhappy with his job performance and assigned him a "performance improvement plan" that the department said he didn't fulfill in a timely manner.

Mullin said his termination was a unanimous decision by the fire and rescue department's board of directors.

Firefighter Gates said the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service has recently reached an out-of-court settlement with a female employee who is no longer working for the department.

According to Gates, the employee's suit was based in large part on the fact she was trained and certified as an advanced emergency technician, is a crew chief on two other rescue departments and is a training crew chief with at least one other department, yet at least three males with less seniority, training or experience were promoted to leadership positions over her.

SEE **DISCRIMINATION** PAGE 2

A history of the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service



Courtesy photo
On the left is the second fire truck the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service ever owned. On the right is a truck Dave Schermerhorn thinks was restored by the Shriners.

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

With the very real possibility that the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service may change from a private, nonprofit organization to a municipal organization, this seems an appropriate time to look back at the history of fire and rescue service in the town.

The fire and rescue service began as an organization of volunteers in 1950.

Before then, medical emergencies in Charlotte were taken to the hospital by a Burlington undertaker. In Burlington, this continued to be the primary way medical emergencies were transported into the 1960s, Chris Davis said.

Charlotte had to rely on firefighting to come from departments in Shelburne, Hinesburg and Burlington. There was no South Burlington nor Ferrisburgh fire departments in those days.

"A group of concerned citizens — some of them had experience from having served in various branches of the military or were just concerned local farmers and folks — chartered the original fire department," said Davis, who over the years has been Charlotte Fire and Rescue's chief and is now a member of the board of directors. "Within just a year or two, they had trained themselves up

and started offering a very early version of an ambulance service."

Many of the early volunteers were prominent farming families.

"Basically, it was a who's who of early Charlotte families who were involved as the nucleus of that department," Davis said.

The fledgling fire department bought its first pumper fire truck in the 1950s with money donated by Harry Webb. A member of the family that founded Shelburne Museum and Shelburne Farms, Webb owned two farms in Charlotte, said Dave Schermerhorn, who joined in 1964, when he was 18 years old.

When that first truck broke down, the department bought a second truck in the 1960s. Schermerhorn isn't sure, but thinks that truck may have been purchased with funds from the town.

A couple of years after buying its first fire truck, the department bought a 1950s hearse and painted it orange. That became Charlotte's first ambulance, said Davis, who joined rescue in 1982 and a year later joined the fire department.

The property where the fire and rescue building is located was donated by the Williams family on the condition it would be used for fire services.

"The members built the first station, which is basically located where the

living quarters and office section of the building is today," Davis said.

That building was a two-bay garage. In the original fire and rescue station, members would empty one of the bays of vehicles to hold meetings or training there.

The department began raising money to build the current fire and rescue building in the late 1990s. Operations moved into the new building 20 years ago, in 2002.

In the early days, the department raised most of the money needed to run a fire and rescue service from local donations. They didn't get much in funding from the selectboard, because the town didn't have a lot of money in the 1950s, Davis said.

In the 1970s, the department began offering its first emergency medical service classes. A few years later in the 1980s, the department was incorporated as a private nonprofit organization with two divisions — a fire division and a rescue division. Before that it had been just one department covering both types of emergencies.

In the early 1980s, the fire and rescue service worked out an agreement with WIZN radio station to build a new tower,

SEE **CVFRS HISTORY** PAGE 3

Forecast for sunny year at Charlotte Central School



Photos by Scooter MacMillan
It was all smiles as students arrived for the first day of school at Charlotte Central School.

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The morning was a bit cloudy but the front entrance to Charlotte Central School was bright, lit by hundreds of smiling faces.

Both teachers and students were buzzing with excitement on the first day of school on Wednesday.

Although at least one younger student was crying a little bit, overcome by what might have been her first day of school ever, even she was smiling through her tears.

One of the most excited and happy was principal Jennifer Roth.

"This is one of my favorite times, the morning of the first day of school," she said as she walked the halls while

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SCHOOL

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students were in small advisory groups in classrooms around the building, each group with a teacher talking about how things were going.

Every day at the school begins with advisory groups, and on the first day advisories were filled with lots of summer stories to share.

Roth stopped at the door of one classroom to see how some sixth graders were doing.

“Tired,” answered a student.

“Excited,” said another, and the rest of the group immediately murmured in agreement.

Roth explained that the theme this year across the Champlain Valley School District is making sure everyone is included.

A line of third graders was waiting to enter the art room. Kittens could learn a lot about being cute from these eager students.

Another very excited person at the school was Courtney Krahn, who joins the school as assistant principal this year.

Krahn is returning to the school she attended as a child.

She held up a clipping from a 1993 issue of the Burlington Free Press. Almost 20 years ago, as a fifth grader, Krahn was part of a group of students who went to Montpelier to lobby state lawmakers to declare the whale fossil dug up in Charlotte in 1849 as the state fossil.

The newspaper story recounted how Krahn, who at that time was Courtney Giknis, said, “Charlotte, Vermont, is a very special place and a very special beluga whale fossil has many years ago been found and should be a piece of a very special state like Vermont.”

She must have been persuasive because that year then-Governor Howard Dean signed a bill at Charlotte Central School declaring the whale the state fossil.

And let’s now officially declare it here: It’s going to be a whale of a year at Charlotte Central School.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan
Charlotte Central School’s new assistant principal Courtney Krahn holds a newspaper story about a trip she made to Montpelier with her class when she was a fifth grader at the school.



Charlotte Central School principal Jennifer Roth is all smiles as she directs traffic on the first day of school.

DISCRIMINATION

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It is in part a pay equity disparity issue because crew chiefs are paid \$3 an hour more, Gates said.

“Mullin was the one sole person who decided whether or not these young female employees got promoted from driver to crew chief,” he said.

Mullin contends that both he and the assistant fire chief, who is also no longer with the department, made decisions together about whether a person would be promoted. He said it was just one female employee who objected to not being promoted and that he had heard from other departments that she should not be promoted.

Gates said he went to the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service board of director’s meetings during the winter of 2020 and told them about allegations of potential gender bias with regards to hiring, promotion and pay equity. Gates alleges that Mullins told a female employee “if she didn’t wear leggings in the station, guys wouldn’t stare at her ass.”

Mullin told a different version of this

incident and said he just told a female member of the department: “You should be wearing your uniform in the station.”

A number of former and current employees of the fire and rescue service have talked with the newspaper about an out-of-court settlement, but none of them knew, or at least didn’t reveal, how much it was for. Some have said this is not the only out-of-court settlement the fire and rescue service has reached.

Krasnow said he is unaware of out-of-court settlements the fire and rescue service has reached, but this is exactly why the selectboard is considering a transition to a municipal department. Having a municipal service would give the selectboard more oversight and control, he said.

The fire and rescue service budget is almost a third of the town’s budget, Krasnow said.

At Town Meeting Day this year, voters approved an appropriation of more than \$890,000 for the fire and rescue department. Added to that figure is about \$100,000 the town typically allocates annually to the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service’s reserve fund each year.

“It’s much closer to \$1 million coming

from the town,” Krasnow said.

The selectboard doesn’t have any oversight over how this money is spent, he said.

The fire and rescue department budget is different than the budgets for other town departments, boards, commissions and committees because those other town entities have to get approval from at least three selectboard members before large expenses are paid.

The fire and rescue department gets a check each month for one twelfth of the fire department budget’s annual budget that town voters have approved. The selectboard doesn’t have any oversight process for reviewing or questioning how the fire and rescue funds are spent.

Selectboard members who agreed to only talk off the record said this is one of the reasons they would like to switch to a municipal department, so they have more control over the fire and rescue budget and expenses they have heard about, but can’t confirm, such as fines for expired drugs, for violations of safety protocols or for out-of-court settlements.



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.

Editorial Staff

Editor: Scooter MacMillan (scooter@thecharlottenews.org)
Production Manager: Anna Cyr (anna@thecharlottenews.org)
Proofreaders: Mike & Janet Yantachka, Katherine Arthaud

Business Staff

Ad manager: Christy Hagios (ads@thecharlottenews.org)
Bookkeeper: Susan Jones (billing@thecharlottenews.org)

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A photo of the fire and rescue service equipment from the 1990s. Courtesy photos

CVFRS HISTORY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

replacing the department’s much shorter, dilapidated tower on Pease Mountain. In return, the radio station used the tower for its transmitter, while the department used it for emergency calls.

For a few years, because WIZN’s signal was so strong, people who built homes in the vicinity of the tower on Churchill Road had trouble with the radio station broadcast interfering with their home radios.

Selectboard member Matt Krasnow said he had friends who would pick up the station with their radios turned off. He even heard of people whose teeth fillings sometimes played WIZN.

“In the end, the radio station did pay for various equipment on people’s houses that was more resistant to the radio waves,” Davis said.

Schermerhorn was a member of the department for at least 30 years until he stepped down in 1995. He rejoined as a community member of the board of directors a year and half ago. He said the relationship between the fire and rescue

service and the selectboard hasn’t always been contentious but there naturally will be contention periodically between a town government and any organization asking for financial support.

“Getting budgets addressed was always a chore, but it was supposed to be that way,” Schermerhorn said. “That’s their job, and our job is to provide the service the best way we can and convince the selectboard what it costs.”

He is optimistic that moving to a municipal fire and rescue service would be a change for a better future.

**News from
The News**

**Thank you
Erika and
Jonathan
Bearman**

John Quinney
Publisher And President
Claudia Marshall
Fundraising Committee Chair

On Aug. 29, The Charlotte News sent out a last-minute email to supporters and friends of the newspaper, asking for the gifts needed to reach the summer fundraising campaign goal, which included this offer:

“If you’re the amazing and generous person whose gift gets us to the \$1,000 we need to reach our goal, we’ll publish your name, and our thanks, in the next issue of The Charlotte News.”

The Charlotte News is delighted to report that Erika and Jonathan Bearman’s gift put the newspaper over the finish line. Thanks to them and another 100 generous readers, Charlotte’s community newspaper exceeded its goal.

The Charlotte News is so grateful for this support and for what it means for your paper — more stories of community life and history, more coverage of town government, plus a few surprises still in the planning stages.

Our thanks come with best wishes for a long, beautiful end to summer and for a colorful fall.

Happy new school year!

Photos by Laura Howard

The mysterious, Birdmen, a street theater exhibition, helped celebrate the new school year at Playing Fields at Champlain Valley Union High on Tuesday night. The multi-media event was a joint celebration with CVU and the Flynn Theater, also featuring the band Red Baraat.



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Around Town

Congratulations

- Genevie Anna Lemieux of Charlotte received her bachelor’s in public relations, graduating cum laude from the University of Rhode Island at the end of May. Lemieux was one of 3,600 undergraduates at the university’s 136th commencement ceremonies.
- Holden Batchelder of Charlotte is headed to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., for the fall semester. Batchelder plans to study business management.

Internship success

Vermont Parks Forever has completed its eighth season of funding a student internship at Mt. Philo State Park, the oldest state park in Vermont. This internship program memorializes Will Hagedorn of Charlotte, who grew up hiking and sledding on Mt. Philo. During college he worked at Mt. Philo State Park as an intern, a job he loved. Hagedorn died unexpectedly in 2013, at the age of 24. In his memory, his family created the William Cameron Hagedorn



Will Hagedorn



Jonan Story

Mt. Philo Forever Fund at Vermont Parks Forever, which raises grants and donations for Vermont State Parks. This year’s intern, Jonan Story, also grew up hiking and sledding on the mountain before joining park staff to learn public service and land management this summer. “Jonan has been a huge asset,” said park manager Nathanael Hancock. “This internship is imperative to our work here at Mt. Philo State Park.” Each year, former interns return as staff, which indicates the success of this annual internship. “The unique opportunities that interns receive goes beyond fostering independence and a love for serving our community,” said Colleen Metzler, Mt. Philo’s assistant park manager. “They learn leadership skills from previous interns that return each year. The internship program instills pride and hard work in our interns that translates to long-term success as park attendants year after year.” To make a contribution to support the fund for the program’s next intern, visit vermontparksforever.org/mt-philofund.

Air Force success

Brig. Gen. Jocelyn J. Schermerhorn, daughter of David Schermerhorn of Charlotte and Joan Johnson of Oxbow, Maine, recently relinquished command of the 1st Special Operations Wing on July 21, during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and took over as director of special operations command for the Air Force Special Operations Command. As the director of operations, she is responsible for implementing and directing operational command policy for Air Force Special Operations Command’s worldwide special operations units including 20,800 personnel, approximately 300 aircraft and \$17 billion in assets. In April, Schermerhorn was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for appointment to the grade of brigadier general, United States Air Force. She will be promoted to brigadier general in late winter or early spring.



Brig. Gen. Jocelyn J. Schermerhorn

A native of Charlotte, Schermerhorn graduated from Charlotte Central School in 1986 and Champlain Valley Union High School in 1990. As a 27-year Air Force officer, Schermerhorn became the first woman to take command of the 1st Special Operations Wing when she took command in June 2020. The 1st Special Operations Wing is the most-deployed wing in the Air Force, and as commander of the wing, Schermerhorn also served as the installation commander at Hurlburt Field. While in command of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Schermerhorn was responsible for preparing Air Force special operations forces for worldwide missions in support of joint and coalition special operations. The wing’s mission includes planning, posturing and executing precision strike, specialized mobility, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The wing employs more than 80 aircraft, supporting a variety of special operations missions including direct action, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance, counterterrorism, personnel recovery, psychological operations and information operations. As installation commander, Schermerhorn oversaw Hurlburt Field’s base support for the wing’s four groups and 26 squadrons, as well as over 40 tenant units, including Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command. Schermerhorn entered the Air Force in 1995 as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Colorado State University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. She earned her wings as a distinguished graduate of navigator training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and also holds a master’s of business administration and a master’s of strategic studies. She has served as an evaluator navigator and a combat systems officer, has commanded at various levels, has participated in a number of worldwide contingency operations and is a veteran of operations Joint Guard, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Resolute Support. At a media event shortly after taking command in 2020, Schermerhorn said her gender is “a fact, but not one that defines who I am as a leader. I want to make sure that women throughout Air Force Special Operations Command recognize that there are no barriers. And if that’s something I can do in this role, that’s a win.” In May, she was honored by the national Daughters of the American Revolution with its Women in American History Medal and in August was inducted into the Okaloosa County Women’s Hall of Fame in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Children’s center celebration



Photo by Erin Dunn

The Charlotte Children’s Center held a party at the town beach on Aug. 18 to celebrate Kristy Sargent (center) and her 20 years as a teacher, assistant director and director of the center for the last three years and to send off Sargent in her pursuit of other interests.

Opinion - Where do we go from here?

Change ADU regs to help meet housing need

Peter Joslin
Contributor

A recent search on the web of accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, was surprising and revealing.

Did you know that you can buy a 410-square-foot guest house building kit from Home Depot for \$33,994? Or, how about \$800 for the plans for a 750-square-foot “accessory dwelling unit friendly” country cottage?

Home Depot also offers the “Bungalow Loft” building kit for \$46,997 and says there are “free returns for most items.” Huh? Does that mean one can return the house if one doesn’t like it?

The American Planning Association states: “An accessory dwelling unit is a smaller, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a stand-alone (i.e., detached) single-family home. Accessory dwelling units go by many different names throughout the U.S., including accessory apartments, secondary suites and granny flats. Accessory dwelling units can be converted portions of existing homes (i.e., internal accessory dwelling units), additions to new or existing homes (i.e., attached accessory dwelling units), new stand-alone accessory structures, or converted portions of existing stand-alone accessory structures (i.e., detached accessory dwelling units).”

Vermont Act 179, passed in 2020, is related to promoting affordable housing in the state and includes changes to the definition of accessory dwelling units. It also “prohibits a municipality from denying a four-unit dwelling based solely on the character of the area when conducting a conditional use review in a district that allows multi-unit dwellings.”

On Aug. 9, the Charlotte Planning Commission held a hearing on 27 proposed amendments to the Charlotte land-use regulations. Some changes regarding accessory dwelling units are necessary for compliance with the state statute (see above), including eliminating the need for development review board review for accessory dwelling units and eliminating the restriction of the number of bedrooms.

The planning commission is also proposing to change the size restriction of



an accessory dwelling unit. It is currently 1,000 square feet or 30 percent of habitable space of the primary dwelling, whichever is larger. The proposal is to increase the square footage to 1,500 square feet or 30 percent of habitable space of the primary dwelling, whichever is larger. This is a welcome change, providing opportunities for small apartments or homes on existing lots. (This change would also apply to an accessory dwelling unit that is built prior to the primary dwelling.)

Accessory dwelling units have many benefits including housing for family members, such as adult children, older relatives or grandparents. It also enables a homeowner to build a smaller home on their land to retire to, in which case the primary residence can generate additional income. This is especially valuable for older retirees on fixed incomes. It also is a great way to attract young people and families to Charlotte.

Accessory dwelling units built on property with existing wastewater and water capacity is less expensive than purchasing a new or preexisting home. I have spoken in previous articles about the eventual need of community wastewater and water systems to spur growth in the east and west villages, but plans for these systems take a great deal of time and effort, far more than approval of accessory dwelling units. These changes create opportunity to meet housing needs now.

Now that the planning commission has completed its hearings and review, the selectboard is required to hold public hearings for input and review, then decide whether or not to put the amendments on the ballot in November. The amendments are segregated into five buckets: legislatively mandated changes; clarifying existing

standards; two sections of proposed new or revised policy standards; and updates to reflect change to the development review board model. As with the proposed land-use regulation amendments in 2021 (articles 6,7,8,9), the planning commission is recommending to the selectboard that the amendments be presented as separate articles to voters, consistent with prior deliberations and public hearings.

“Now if a six turned out to be nine, I don’t mind.” (from the song “If Six Were Nine” by Jimi Hendrix).

How about if nine turned out to be three, do you mind or do you care?

The saga of the O’Donnell-Donovan subdivision project at 125 Lake Road continues. The project was originally planned and submitted in September 2020 as a nine-lot, major planned residential development that has now been drastically reduced to a three-lot minor subdivision, no planned residential development.

The 124.3 acres are now proposed to be split up into lots of 44.54 acres, 16.79 acres and 62.97 acres.

I was chair of the planning commission at the initial sketch plan review, site visit and balloon test. It was my opinion then, and remains so today, that what was proposed was appropriate and consistent with the land-use regulations and town plan.

The O’Donnell-Donovan project was carefully thought out and took into consideration the areas of high public value at the site. The nine lots were tightly clustered and left the overwhelming majority of farm land open and the woodlands and wetlands free of development.

I have been clear regarding my position on development. I’m in favor of more in the village districts and reduced sprawl in the rural district. Having said that, what was first proposed and what is now proposed both fall well within the town plan and land-use regulations. What was initially proposed that would have been smaller, tightly clustered lots and smaller houses has now morphed to larger lots on larger parcels.

So, what do you prefer — nine or three?

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

Know someone interesting in Charlotte?

We want to interview them and share their story.

Email news@thecharlottenews.org

The Charlotte News



CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS JULY 2022

July 6 David & Diane Nichols to Green Mountain Hay LLC, 138 Morningside Drive, 229.50 acres +/- Farm land \$750,000

July 6 Priscilla Callos & Colby Phillips to Sherri Browdy 7740 Spear Street w dwl 3.31 acres +/- \$465,000

July 6 Galen & Jennifer Roquist to Cicalo Carolina Hautle 970 Church Hill Rd. 3.83 acres +/- land only \$255,000

July 7 Chad & Kim Clark to Samuel & Molly Paskin 1429 Mount Philo Rd. 25.98 acres +/- Farm w dwl \$950,000

July 11 Michael Krasnow to Eleven Acre Farm LLC 2044 Prindle Rd. 11.11 acres +/- Farm w dwl \$760,000

July 11 Eva & William Fraser Harris to John & Kristin Hamilton 3087 Spear Street 5.31 acres +/- w dwl \$750,000

July 18 First United Methodist Church to Charlotte Village Partners LLC 251 Ferry Rd. 53.6 acres +/- Glebe land \$5,000

July 22 Hans Glowischig & Victoria Clarke to Ruth Samuel Pincus Trust 22 Common Way .11 acres +/- w dwl \$565,000

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



Three virtual webinars on dairy management coming this fall

Kelsie Meehan
University of Vermont Extension

The University of Vermont Extension and the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center are offering three virtual dairy herd management webinars this fall.

The sessions will be presented by Dayna Locitzer, a large animal veterinarian at the Green Mountain Bovine Clinic in Chesterfield, N.H., with more than 10 years of experience working with pasture-based dairies in the Northeast. Although there is no fee to participate, advance registration is required.

For details or to register, go to go.uvm.edu/herdhealth. To request a disability-related accommodation to attend, contact Kelsie Meehan at 518-810-6431 or kelsie.meehan@uvm.edu at least two weeks before the workshop.

Each webinar will run from noon to 1 p.m. Dates and topics are:

- Oct. 6: All about vaccines: What you need to know for your herd — Locitzer will discuss the basics of how vaccines work, what diseases these prevent and how farmers can make the right vaccine choices for their cows.
- Oct. 20: Calving: What’s normal, what’s not normal and when to intervene — Farmers will gain a better understanding of how to manage their cows during calving through this



webinar, which will focus on the three stages of calving and appropriate care for each stage. The discussion also will cover how to tell when it’s time to intervene, the equipment needed and when to call the vet.

Nov. 3: Using fluid therapy to treat sick cows — This webinar will explore common diseases on dairy farms, such as coliform mastitis and pneumonia, and how fluid therapy can be used to treat these diseases. Participants will learn how to administer fluids, what supplies are needed and the fluids appropriate to use in different situations. Both organic and conventional treatment methods for common diseases will be discussed.

Opinion

Chittenden Solid Waste needs new materials recovery facility

Paul Ruess
Chittenden Solid Waste District

We are a state full of committed citizens who care about the future of our planet and the preservation of our natural world. Every day, we make individual decisions that, when taken collectively, really make a difference. Especially when it comes to recycling.

While recycling is second nature to many of us, there's a lot more that happens once your blue bin is picked up or taken to a drop-off center. All that material — upwards of 50,000 tons per year — is taken to the materials recovery facility in Williston where your blue bin materials are sorted and prepared for market. Vermonters make individual decisions to recycle, and the materials recovery facility captures these recycled items to create a collective system that diverts tons of materials from the landfill.

As I enter my second year as Chair of the Chittenden Solid Waste District board of commissioners representing Underhill, I've been able to peek behind the curtain and learn a lot about how recycling works in Vermont, and how impactful it really is. I've also been well acquainted with the issues that our current materials recovery facility is facing.

This facility is nearly 30 years old and suffers many of the inefficiencies that come with something that age. Believe it or not, much of the material is sorted by hand — hardly necessary in today's world where much more efficient technology exists.

Plus, the materials recovery facility is at maximum capacity, bursting at the seams with materials you so carefully divert from the landfill. Bales that should be stored

under cover are left outside in all kinds of weather, degrading their value while waiting to be sold to companies that turn the material into new products.

And the lack of innovation at the current materials recovery facility limits the type of materials that Chittenden Solid Waste District can accept. Vermonters want to recycle, and they want to recycle as much as possible. They would be able to do more with a new facility.

This November, the voters of Chittenden County can solve the capacity issues and the lack of innovation at the materials recovery facility. Chittenden Solid Waste District is requesting a bond of no more than \$22 million to build a new, innovative materials recovery facility that will have the technology and space to handle our recyclables for decades to come.

And while Chittenden Solid Waste District is a municipality and the materials recovery facility is publicly owned, the cost of the new materials recovery facility will be paid back through Chittenden Solid Waste District operational revenue — with no charge to taxpayers.

Let me repeat: there will be no property tax increase to build the new materials recovery facility.

The new and improved materials recovery facility will be more efficient and equipped with the kind of modern technology that not only separates recyclables more effectively but expands the list of materials we can accept for recycling.

And it will also pave the way for better, highly skilled jobs for Chittenden Solid Waste District's employees. The current lack of space that leaves bales piling up

outside will not only be solved with a 40 percent increase in capacity, the new materials recovery facility will allow for growth over the next 30 years.

The state-of-the-art technology will not only do a better job with the materials and packaging that are recycled now, but it will also allow Vermonters to recycle more and allow the materials recovery facility to adapt and recycle new materials and types of packaging that don't even exist yet. This is truly forward-thinking and necessary if we are to keep up with what Vermonters expect when they put recyclables in their blue bins.

Efficiency, innovation and flexibility are all critical components in the fight against climate change. The new materials recovery facility will allow us to recycle more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping reduce Vermonters' carbon footprint. The new materials recovery facility will be able to process up to 70,000 tons (140 million pounds) of

recyclables every year. That's huge. It is equivalent to removing 52,500 passenger vehicles from the road. Recycling all these materials saves 634,000 trees from being cut down every year.

Every day we're faced with choices that impact our state and our world. Vermont is community minded. We think carefully about how our actions affect the greater good. Now is the time to build a new materials recovery facility that can process more and more recyclable materials and keep them out of the rapidly-filling landfill in Coventry.

You can make a real, tangible difference in our state and for our planet. This November, please vote "yes" on the bond issue for the new materials recovery facility.

(Paul Ruess lives in Underhill and is chair of the Chittenden Solid Waste District board of commissioners.)

Charlotte Cental School

School starts year rousinglly

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Charlotte Central School had a rousing start to the school year. The entire school has been transformed by having staff and students present.

The beginning of school has been a true celebration of community care. The staff motto is “All hands on deck,” so students would feel supported everywhere. The intentions shared from the district were to slow down and get to know the humans we will be learning and growing with this year.

Led by behavior systems coordinator Tim Holcomb and planning room director Meghan Powell, all classes and teams took a “cafeteria roadshow” tour, in order to reacclimate themselves to the lunchroom procedures and expectations. Students did a great job as they came together to share the meals prepared by the food service staff.

A few kindergartners could be overheard making connections with new classmates: "You like cheese pizza, too? I love cheese pizza."

Last Friday, Charlotte Central School had its first school-wide assembly which brought K-8 students together. This gathering followed the structure of a morning meeting: greeting, share, activity and message.

Share: The story “The Magical Yet,” an inspirational picture book for every child who is frustrated by what they can’t do yet, was read by principal Jen Roth and assistant principal Courtney Krahn.

Activity: Next, some middle schoolers, recess supervisor Robert Caldwell and

superintendent Rene Sanchez, led our collaborative effort to create a community “rain” (a group activity using finger snaps, thigh slaps, stomping feet, etcetera to create the sound of a rainstorm). It sounded spectacular.

Message: As a positive behavioral interventions and supports school, the school believes in the three tenets of:

- We take care of ourselves
- We take care of others
- We take care of this place.

Tokens of acknowledgement are given to students for modeling these behaviors.

Charlotte Central School has a number of new staff:

- Ainaka Luna — Champlain Valley School District diversity, equity and inclusion coach
- Christy Sharp — K-8 art educator
- Kari Cuneo — instructional support and recess
- Nancy McGill — long -erm sub in kindergarten
- Conor Emerson — sixth grade english and language arts
- Julia Beerworth — 7/8 humanities
- Kate Rooney — connecting youth mentor coordinator
- Steve Flint — digital learning leader and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teacher
- Powell — planning room coordinator
- Gabrielle Clow — school service clinician
- Caldwell — recess supervisor
- Laurie Maichel — 5-8 interventionist.

Folks returning in new roles:

- Mary Tierney — math coach and coordinator
- Rachael Miller — 7/8 math instructor.



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Travel

Don’t miss the ferry by trusting your GPS too much

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Maybe the slogan on U.S. paper money should be changed from: “In God we trust.”

Maybe our money slogan and our country’s motto should be changed to: “In GPS we trust.”

Our faith in GPS has become so strong that it sometimes leads us into bad situations.

For example, it doesn’t matter what your GPS says — there is not a ferry at the end of Cedar Beach Road. Or Turtle Moon Road.

There is even a professional, official, highway department-type sign at the beginning of Cedar Beach Road, right when you turn off Converse Bay Road, saying, “No ferry.”

How do you make it clearer than that?

But still some drivers ignore the sign and follow their GPS, like cultists waiting in line for a drink made from an artificially flavored mix served by an anthropomorphic pitcher, because their global positioning system tells them there’s a ferry that way.

Drivers who are really GPS brainwashed sometimes turn onto Turtle Moon Road near the end of Cedar Beach Road, ignoring the signs that identify Turtle Moon Road as private and not to be trespassed upon — even by vehicles.

Sometimes they even actually ignore the handmade sign some kids put up on clearly private property on Turtle Moon Road that says: “No ferry. Your GPS is wrong. Please turn around here.”

“It’s pretty clear once you’re on it, it doesn’t lead to anything. But people still do it,” said Dave Finney, who owns a

home on Turtle Moon Road. “And they always say the same thing: ‘Well, we were just following our GPS.’”

Turtle Moon Road is a sort of rough, unpaved road, not for the faint of heart. The kind of road that makes aficionados of four-wheeling salivate.

It’s hard to understand, even if there were not signs, how anyone could think it was a road to a ferry. Even with the GPS woman screaming at you to keep going.

This reporter had to try it for himself. Sure enough, once I got on Converse Bay Road in the vicinity of Cedar Beach Road with “Charlotte Ferry” plugged into the Google Maps function on my cell phone, it wanted me to head down the road to the ferry that was not there.

I forgot to check out “Here be dragons” to see where it sent me.

It was a dark and foggy day or night — a 2018 Burlington Free Press story didn’t report which — when three visitors from Connecticut ended up driving their borrowed car to the bottom of Lake Champlain.

They all managed to get out safely, if not dryly.

The driver said he was following GPS on the Waze app, which directed him to turn onto the boat launch near the Coast Guard station in Burlington. He and his passengers had slid 100 feet into the lake before they realized what was happening.

The Burlington resident who loaned them her car was skeptical about their story, but she found her GPS directing her into the lake when she tried it.

The police, who suspected alcohol might have been a factor in the mishap, said the driver willingly consented to a sobriety test, which indicated he was not inebriated.



Courtesy photo

Some area kids have even taken matters into their own hands and paint brushes to make a homemade sign that is still sometimes defeated by drivers with severe cases of GPS disorder.

In 2017, Vermont Public, which used to be Vermont Public Radio (a branding change that must have been made by a nonprofit staff paying too much attention to GPS), reported how GPS was directing people searching for some businesses in Bennington, the largest town in southwest Vermont, to the little town of Woodford nearby.

It was even sending people to Woodford who were looking for the Bennington Battle Monument.

It took four months and lots of messages, but finally the GPS Bennington-Woodford problem was fixed.

Finney said neither he nor his neighbors have called Google to see about getting it fixed because they don’t have any idea who they should call.

“People at this point are a little annoyed when people find their whole way down here because we know that they go by some signs. And we just say, ‘You gotta turn around and go back out,’” he said.

Coincidentally, at the end of the road named Ferry Road you will find the Charlotte Fairy ... oops, damn autocorrect.

Hi Neighbor!

Caitlin and Jason Elberson: Fermenting in Charlotte



Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Caitlin and Jason Elberson knew they weren’t happy working desk jobs in Pennsylvania. They realized they needed a change.

The Elbersons were drawn to regenerative and sustainable agriculture before they even knew those terms.

“We had dreams of homesteading and finding something that could develop into a sustainable business model,” Jason said.

“We wanted a lifestyle more in line with our values,” Caitlin said. “We had only two days a week for what we were interested in doing.”

A friend suggested they would be happier in Vermont, and they enrolled in the University of Vermont farmer training program in 2014.

After weighing their options and talking to a variety of farmers, the pair decided to specialize in fermentation. Today, they operate Sobremesa at Wool Folk Homestead, their farm in Charlotte. Sobremesa is Spanish for relaxing at the table after a good meal.

“We’ve always been very passionate about local agriculture and supporting local farms,” Caitlin said. “We wanted to find a way to eat local food year-round.”

The couple experimented with canning, freezing and dehydrating but eventually decided that fermentation was the best way to keep the nutrients in food that needed the least amount of infrastructure.

“You don’t need much equipment,” Caitlin said. “You do need time, but it’s

passive time.”

Jason explained that fermenting requires food to sit at approximately 70 degrees for three weeks after which it can be moved to a refrigerator or root cellar.

For Jason, one of the benefits of fermentation is the fact that it is used by various cultures across the globe. The couple’s products have roots from around the world including things like kimchi and sauerkraut.

During their first year, they grew all their produce themselves but later decided to purchase raw materials elsewhere, starting with Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg.

“It’s always been just us,” Jason said, “and we wanted to focus on our kitchen, doing added-value work and supporting other businesses by using their produce. We are their consumers, rather than competitors.”

The couple had a farm in Marshfield, but in 2019, they moved to 8 acres in Charlotte, in part because their business was mostly in Chittenden County but also because Caitlin, then a new mother, was feeling a little isolated. Jason loves that the family can bike to the local schools and attractions like Shelburne Museum and Shelburne Farms with their two children who are 1 ½ and 5 years old.

As one might expect from the name of their farm, the Elbersons do more than fermentation. They raise Icelandic sheep and chickens and grow perennials. They are happy their children can play outdoors, dig up beets, and watch lambs being born.

“We were very interested in sheep because I think wool is the best fiber to keep you warm,” Caitlin said. “It’s an incredible sustainable product and we felt called by the history of sheep in

Vermont.”

The couple has 14 sheep which they use for fiber and meat and which could be milked if they decide to go that route. They share their knowledge by teaching fermentation classes and will be holding an upcoming class at the Middlebury Co-op on Oct. 19 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Before they moved to Vermont, Caitlin worked as director of development at a Waldorf School and Jason was a mechanical engineer.

“We have different backgrounds and skill sets,” Caitlin said. “Jason’s background in math and science is helpful for fermentation and building things, and I’m a lover of learning so we make a great team. I also like doing the marketing. It’s been a joy and pleasure to see who can play which roles on the farm.”

In 2015, the couple began to sell their products at Healthy Living and have since expanded to City Market, Hunger Mountain Co-op and a number of local farmstands. The couple also has a booth at the Burlington and Shelburne farmers markets and sell their products online.

“Every year we add one or two new accounts,” Jason said.

“I’m so grateful to be in this place with so much local support,” Caitlin said. “We truly have landed in the perfect spot and are part of a special community.”

Jason noted that the couple, who have been together for 15 years, probably



Courtesy photo

Jason and Caitlin Elberson ferment vegetables as Sobremesa at their farm in Charlotte.

moved 10 times in their attempt to find a place where they could raise children. They’re thrilled to have found their home in Charlotte.

“I feel very much at peace,” Caitlin said. “This is where we are meant to be.”

History

Memories of a Vermont train journey in 1953

Bill Schubart
Contributor

Traces of opalescent light emblazon the western horizon as we drive south along Route 100 with the car radio tuned to WDEV. The evening edition of the Trading Post, a kind of radio lawn sale, absorbs us. A jovial announcer details the items offered: a freshened Guernsey—a PTO pulp saw, “needs a new drive belt”—an International Cub tractor with belly mower “runs good”—a Maytag wringer-washer with stainless tub “like new”—an Emerson floor model radio ... “needs a rectifier tube”—an American Flyer sled ... “faster ‘n a Ford—a 450-pound sow ... “good mother, good breeder, eatcha outta house and barn, best offer, will trade.”

As we arrive in Waterbury, Dad drives through the well-lit downtown and parks next to the pale red-brick station, where I will leave soon for my first trip to New York City to visit my grandmother. I am 8.

We step out into the cold night air and climb the freshly painted wooden steps into the cavernous warmth of the station where a pot-bellied Prussian General woodstove, topped with a chromed oak leaf cluster, sits in a corner on the track-side of the station radiating heat from the coal fire inside.

Dad chats with the stationmaster, whom he’s known since he first drove the Couture jitney between Morrisville, Stowe, and Waterbury. A Dutch door separates the stationmaster’s office from the waiting room. The narrow shelf on the lower door functions as a ticket counter when the upper half is open. Inside the stationmaster’s office a bay window juts out from the station onto the platform so that he can see either way down the express tracks and the siding without going outdoors. Several telegraph keys and sounding boxes sit on the tidy oak desk along with a black Bakelite phone. The far wall is covered with brass hooks from which a dozen oak clipboards hang, clutching sheaves of schedules and freight manifests.

The waiting room has recently been repainted off-white, its peeling plaster

simply painted over, leaving the impression of frozen whitecaps on the walls. Four varnished hardwood slat benches with concave seats on both sides dominate the center of the waiting room.

The silence is interrupted by a burst of telegraphic clicks. The stationmaster sticks his head out to say that the train’s just passed the Jonesville grade crossing and will arrive in 14 minutes.

Dad beckons me to follow him, winking at the stationmaster, who shakes his head in a gesture of disapproval. I follow Dad outside towards the grade crossing at the far end of the platform. This crossing connects the town proper to warehouses, a grain depot and a rambling carpentry shop that makes the new steel-edged skis that are all the rage in Stowe.

At the end of the platform, Dad jumps down, ignoring the stairs, and signals me to jump into his arms, one of my favorite things. He glances at his watch and then pulls a worn silver half-dollar, a Lincoln penny and a roll of adhesive tape from his pocket. He positions the penny in the center of the half-dollar and tapes the whole to a steel rail.

“When you get back,” Dad smiles, “I’ll have your own 51-cent coin for you. You won’t find many in town except the ones I made.”

Then, to my surprise, Dad takes my head firmly in his hands and gently forces my left ear onto the cold steel rail.

“Hear the train yet?” he asks. I wait with my ear uncomfortably pressed to the cold rail for several minutes and then blurt out. “I hear it! I hear it!”

I hear the faintly rhythmic clickety-clack radiating from within the rail. Dad releases his grip but I keep listening to the mesmerizing rhythm as it slows and grows louder.

Suddenly, in the far distance, a deep-throated train whistle roars through the night. “It’s coming into town now,” Dad says. “That’s the Bolton Road crossing at the far end of town. C’mon, let’s go.” I follow Dad back to the platform.

Inside, the stationmaster shakes his head and smiles, “I never should ‘a taught-cha that as a young’un. Mind, the Missus don’t find out. Don’t want him losin’ his head to the Washingtonian!”



Courtesy photo
The Montreal-New York Ambassador at the train station in White River Junction on Aug. 27, 1951.

We go back out onto the cold platform in time to hear the slow, deep chuffing of a steam engine, but see nothing. My eyes drill into the dark.

Suddenly, a blaze of vibrating white light sweeps out along the gentle curve of the tracks and the deep, toiling sound of the engine increases. Then, as the rhythmic chuff slows, a whistle blast again rips through the night as the train nears the grade crossing where Dad taped the two coins to the rail.

A conductor in a dark blue uniform steps off the still-moving train carrying an iron footstool, drops it on the platform and hustles into the station.

I stare into the moving undercarriage of the massive steam engine. A last stygian blast of escaping steam obliterates my view as the engineer applies the brakes and the massive engine stops, the steam condensing in the cold air and enveloping everyone on the platform.

The conductor returns with a sheaf of papers under his arm, aligns the footstool with the car’s iron steps, and invites people to board. As I’m about to step onto the stool, Dad lifts me up and hands me up to the porter.

“My name is Mr. J. Wha’s yer name?” “Billy,” I answer, staring at his face. The porter understands that I’ve never seen a Black person before.

Dad hands Mr. J. my ticket, which he pockets without a glance. Mr. J leads us into the sleeper car along a corridor lined with heavy blue drapes. Brass number plates are riveted to the curtains near the

top and bottom. At the end of the car, he pulls back the curtains to reveal a turned-down bed and lifts me onto the edge of the lower berth.

Dad and Mr. J. converse in whispers and Dad hands him a neatly folded piece of white paper and a dollar bill.

“This’ll be fun. Do what Mr. J. tells you and tomorrow you’ll see your grandmother.” That said, Dad kisses me on the forehead and leaves.

I hear two furious whistle blasts and a loud chuff. Our sleeping car lurches forward as the engine takes up the slack in the couplers. Tears well up.

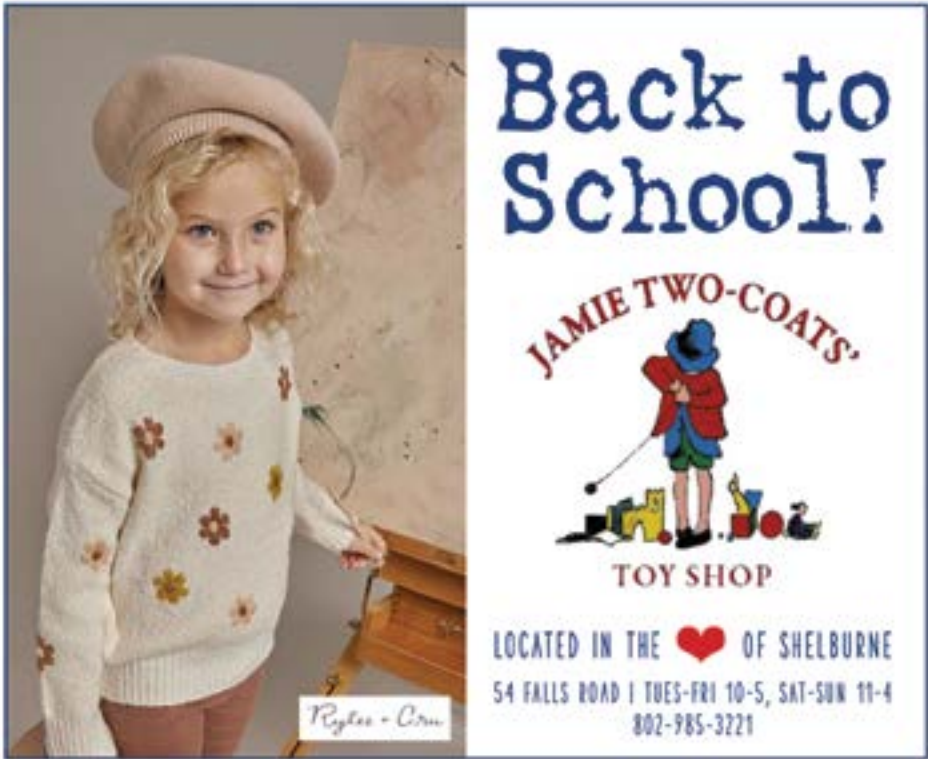
The train gradually picks up speed, accelerating along the moonlit Winooski River Valley. My fear soon gives way to curiosity and I roll over onto my stomach to look out the window.

The scone light in my berth is off and my eyes adjust quickly to the moonlit countryside. The night is lit by a fingernail moon, emerging periodically from backlit banks of dark clouds to flood the landscape with a nacreous light. The train picks up speed along the straight railbed that follows the river.

In the meadows that border the river, Holstein cows stand like cemetery statuary, their black and white patchwork evident in the moonlight. Here and there, the pale lights of a farmhouse glow in the distance. The familiar landscape and the heartbeat rhythm of the rails allay my fear.

SEE **TRAIN** PAGE 10





Dan Cole
Charlotte Historical Society

In Vermont, Johnson State Teachers College was well known. Following the two-year course, the prospective teacher could search for a position. The issues facing education in past times read like

The Charlotte Library is a good source for Quinlan School material such as the books referenced, as well as a video of reminiscences of former students (also by Don and Betty Ann Lockhart) recorded in 2005. In the library's collection are historic photos of students of bygone days. For the best primary resource for the rescue of the school, check out The Charlotte News digital archives online.



Quinlan School in 1979: Charlotte Historical Society



Quinlan Graduating Class 1934: Charlotte Library digital collection



Quinlan Graduating Class 1928: Charlotte Library digital collection

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TRAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

“Time ta get ‘cher PJs on and tuck in,” I hear.
Mr. J.’s warm, smiling face appears between the curtains as he holds out a waxed paper cup of ginger ale. “Drink this. It’ll settle yer up. Then put on your PJs.”

He reaches in and flips a small toggle switch that floods the berth with a pale yellow light filtered through an etched, amber-colored glass sconce.

“Put your clothes in the net up there and be sure to fold ’em nice so you look good for your grandmamma. I’m gonna close your curtains for you. Just stick your head out when yer done with your ginger-ale.”

I get into my pajamas, hearing the faint sound of snoring somewhere in the sleeper car and roll over again to look out the window.

“Time for you to tuck in, boy, and rest up for your grandmamma tomorrow.”

I tuck into the crisply ironed sheets and Mr. J, humming to himself, pulls the sheet and wool blanket up to my chin, then reaches over and clicks off the yellowish light.

Alone in the berth, I roll over to watch the moonlit panorama scroll by. The persistent rhythm of the rails brings to mind my mother and I see her face with its sadness and hurt as I kiss her goodbye. I suddenly realize I’m alone on a train snaking through the dark countryside toward New York.

* * *

“We’re comin’ in. Time to get dressed. Don’t wanna keep grandmamma waiting! Be there in ’bout 30 minutes. Get yourself dressed.”

I blink and sit up. My window is flooded with daylight and there are buildings as far as I can see. Cabs nose their way through littered streets as the train slows down through Queens. I pull off my pajamas and put on my pants, shirt and socks.

Opening the curtain, I look anxiously for Mr. J, but he’s nowhere in sight. I walk down to the bathroom only to find it occupied by a large man shaving at the sink. I edge by him into the toilet and, on leaving, am too shy to ask him to let me wash my hands.

At my berth, the drapes are pulled back out of sight, the bed’s gone, replaced by two large, upholstered bench seats facing each other where my bed had been.

A young woman sits on one seat and, somewhat confused, I take a seat across from her. Mr. J appears with my suitcase and sets it down next to me.

“Stay here and keep this lady company. I got lots to do. We’re comin’ into Penn Station in ’bout 15 minutes. I’ll be back for you when we get there.”

Taught by Dad to greet everyone I meet, I venture a “hello” to the woman across from me. She looks puzzled as if I asked her for something she doesn’t have, nods and then looks out the window.

The train approaches from high on a rail trestle and I can see down into the streets below: people, cars and a few dogs. There are many more people like Mr. J.

Suddenly, the street scene disappears in darkness, interrupted periodically by the appearance of a pallid light bulb burning against a stone wall, lighting small sections of the dark tunnel through which the train slowly moves. Under one light bulb, an old man sits in a shabby suit with oversize shoes fumbling in a paper bag for something he seems to have misplaced. The man doesn’t seem to notice as the train rumbles by but keeps fumbling in the bag. The intermittent lights flash slowly by for several more minutes and then, with a burst of bright light, the train emerges into the maze of tracks and platforms that signals our arrival in Penn Station.

“We’re here,” Mr. J. announces, grabbing my suitcase with one hand and me with the other. I say good-bye to the woman on the opposite bench as Mr. J leads me out to the passageway between cars as the train slows. Suddenly, with a loud burst of steam and a shriek of iron brake shoes, the train comes to a stop and people carrying their luggage jostle one another in the small passageway.

Mr. J, who is being questioned now by several people, holds my hand firmly. “Mind you don’t slip down the crack,” he says with a smile as I step carefully over the space between the train and the concrete platform.

A German woman stands waiting, and Mr. J, sensing that she is there to meet me, hands me to her, pats me on the head and says, “See you on the Montrealer.”

(This story first appeared in VTDigger. Bill Schubart is an advisor to The Charlotte News.)

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Into the Woods

Trembling aspen may be the most enigmatic of aspens

Ethan Tapper
Contributor

Aspens, also known as poplars or “popple,” are trees in the *Populus* genus. Vermont is home to four species of poplar: bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) and trembling or “quaking” aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

While all the aspen species are unique, trembling aspen is perhaps the most enigmatic of the bunch. It is the most widely distributed tree in North America, with a range that stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland and south into Mexico. It is the only upland deciduous tree in parts of western North America and defines aspen and aspen-birch forests — some of the most common forest types in the lake states and some western states.

All the poplar species’ leaves “tremble” or “quake”— shimmering in the wind. They do so because the petiole — the stem that attaches leaf to twig — is flat. This trembling appears to be an adaptive quality: reducing leaf herbivory, lowering leaf temperature, lowering transpiration (the loss of water from leaves) and helping light reach lower parts of aspen crowns.

Trembling aspen is shade-intolerant, requiring nearly complete sunlight to establish. Aspen seeds are small, wind-borne and abundant, spreading far and wide across the landscape. While most of the seeds produced in a given year don’t land on an appropriate site, their mobility increases the chance that a lucky few will — usually the aftermath of a large disturbance.

Once established, aspens grow at a dizzying rate (for a tree) easily out-competing other, slower-growing species before declining and dying young (for a tree) — usually at around 60-80 years of age. Like white birch, trembling aspen is so intolerant of shade that its presence in your forest is almost certainly an indicator of a large natural or human-caused disturbance in the past. If you were to count the rings on one of your aspens, it would tell you about how many years ago that disturbance occurred.

Due to its short lifespan, trembling aspen is often considered a relatively ephemeral species in our forests. However, one of trembling aspen’s most interesting qualities is its resilience. Cutting an aspen tree often results in an abundance of fast-growing root sprouts, clones which may grow 4 or 5 feet tall in a single growing season. Especially in the western United States, this quality means that the life span of an aspen can be indefinite — it can continue to clone itself for generations. An aspen clone in Utah called Pando, or “the Trembling Giant,”



Populus grandidentata

is considered by some to be the oldest and most massive organism on Earth, covering more than 100 acres and estimated to be between 14,000 and 80,000 years old.

In Vermont, trembling aspen provides important habitat for many wildlife species, including several bird species in decline. It is important habitat for ruffed grouse, which use aspen stands of several different ages to complete different parts of their life cycle. Trembling aspen is also important for pileated woodpeckers, which forage for grubs and insect larvae in its soft wood, often creating cavities (holes) used by a huge variety of wildlife species for dens and nests.

While not commonly used in lumber, aspen wood is light, soft and pretty, often becoming purple-ish as it ages. It is a poor firewood, although sometimes used by maple sugarmakers for boiling sap. Throughout its range, aspen’s most common use is as pulp for paper. At present in Vermont, demand and prices for aspen timber and pulp are generally poor.

Due to its low market value, aspen is a species that I manage nearly entirely for wildlife. Creating some larger (at least 2-acre) canopy gaps where all or nearly all of the trees are cut creates potential habitat for the species, as well as a variety of other early-successional trees, plants and shrubs, and for the pollinators, birds and mammals that depend on them.

Cutting some larger aspen within these gaps will inspire them to produce clones, creating a vibrant young aspen forest relatively quickly. Outside of canopy gaps, I leave most aspen trees as legacy trees. These trees live out their natural lives, eventually declining, becoming riddled with cavities, dying and becoming dead wood on the forest floor. In life and in death, trembling aspen provides so many benefits to our forests.

(Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his e-newsletter and read articles he’s written at linktree.chittendencountyforester.com.)



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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.

Correction: The bee and butterfly bioblitz listed in the last issue at Farm Craft VT in Shelburne on Sept. 10 has been cancelled.

**Country rock in the vineyard
Thursday, Sept. 8, 6-8 p.m.**

Enjoy the classic and country rock of the cover band Sticks and Stones, entertaining at the Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero. Bring picnics starting at 5 p.m., or purchase food from various food trucks. No outside alcohol allowed; wine available for purchase onsite. Concert is free and open to all. For more info, see snowfarm.com/event-calendar.

**Tick talk
Friday, Sept. 9, noon-1 p.m.**

Learn from a biology professor about the ecology of ticks and tick-borne diseases at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury. This free talk has limited seating and is first-come, first-served. Bring a lunch if desired. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org or 802-388-2117.

**Songs of New Orleans
Friday, Sept. 9, 7-10 p.m.**

An evening of blues is coming to the historic Isham Family Farm Barn in Williston. Chip Wilson and friends provide the soulful southern sounds. Chairs provided. Tickets may be purchased in advance by emailing westonforte@gmail.com or at the door. More info at ishamfamilyfarm.com.

**South End Art Hop
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 9-11**

Burlington's South End arts district celebrates a growing number of small businesses and artistic ventures at this event. Centered around Pine Street, the Art Hop features artists in their studios, open galleries, food, music and a vibrant community. Explore venues and support the many enthusiastic artists who present their wares; enjoy some of the many free events while you discover this creative corner of the city. For more info, see seaba.com/arthop.

Summer’s last Grange on the Green

Thursday Sept. 8, 5.30 p.m.

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



**New art exhibit
Friday, Sept. 9-Saturday, Oct 29**
Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery in Shelburne launches a new show with artist Jessica Sriver. Sriver's paintings investigate patterns of growth, adaptation and evolution. Opening reception on Friday, Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m. Find out more at fsgallery.com or call 802-985-3848.

**Migrating raptors
Saturday, Sept. 10, 8-11 a.m.**
Partake in a leisurely walk at Shelburne Farms, watching for migrating birds or looking for those that winter over at the farm. Meet a wild raptor ambassador from Outreach for Earth Stewardship. Recommended for ages 10 and older; amateurs to experts welcomed. Walk leaves promptly at 8 a.m.; arrive early in order to drive to the meeting place at the farm. Bring water, binoculars, and whatever else you want for being comfortable outside. Registration required at tinyurl.com/yckm4tsz.

**Natural history at the waterfront
Saturday, Sept. 10, 1-3 p.m.**
To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the Lake Champlain Basin Program offers a walk with a naturalist on the Burlington waterfront. Learn about the area's natural and human history, and about efforts to keep the lake clean. Free event meets in

front of Burlington's ECHO Center. Email questions to lhollowell@lcbp.org or call 802-372-3213.

**Forest management walk
Saturday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.**
Join the Chittenden County forester for a walk in the Catamount Community Forest in Williston. Forester Ethan Tapper will talk about managing forests in a changing climate, as well as specific plans for the Williston forest. Meet at Catamount Outdoor Family Center in Williston, prepared to walk a mile on gravel trails, rain or shine.

**Folk art scholars
Saturday, Sept. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**
A panel of folk art scholars discusses folk art today at Shelburne Museum. Time for questions and meeting the panelists follow the discussion. Free event with museum admission; preregistration required at tinyurl.com/2syj28t6. More info at shelburnemuseum.org.

**Church pilgrimage
Sunday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.**
All are welcome to the Old Round Church in Richmond for the annual pilgrimage worship service. Celebrate the church's heritage as Richmond's first community meeting hall. All are welcome. More info at oldroundchurch.com.

**Rockwell Kent exhibition
Tuesday, Sept. 13-Friday, Dec. 19**
The Fleming Museum of Art at the University of Vermont re-opens on Sept. 13 with three special exhibitions, including one with 49 prints by American author, painter and printmaker Rockwell Kent. Kent's recognizable, stylized woodcuts were featured in advertising, books, posters and bookplates during the early 20th century. This show features a portion of the largest collection of Kent prints in the world. Free but donations gladly accepted. More info at tinyurl.com/55cvxzf.

**Amish memoirs
Thursday, Sept. 15, 6:30- 8 p.m.**
Amish memoirist Saloma Miller Furlong speaks at a free event at Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. Furlong discusses her books, her life as part of the Amish community and her decision to leave the community. For more info, see tinyurl.com/3mfe3z66 or call 802-863-3403.

**The 39 Steps
Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 15-18**
In this spoof of, and homage to, cliched spy movies, the Middlebury Players present The 39 Steps, the comedy version of Alfred Hitchcock's spy masterpiece. Four actors take on multiple roles in this show at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. For more info on showtimes and tickets, see middleburycommunityplayers.org/shows.

**Bluegrass and barbecue
Friday, Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m.**
Shelburne Vineyard welcomes all to a bluegrass show featuring Hard Scrabble. Food is available from Southern Smoke. Bring chairs or blankets; doors open at 5 p.m. For tickets or food truck menu, see tinyurl.com/yc6bwhh3.

**Bobolink carving class
Saturday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**
Led by a member of Green Mountain Woodcarvers, this class at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington includes wood and paint. Bring your own carving tools, gloves, mask and lunch. Some tools available for purchase at the class. The end result, in one day, is a carved and painted bobolink. Suitable for all levels, best for adults and teens. Call 802-434-2167 to sign up.

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Calendar of Events

Living history expo

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 17-18

This family-friendly event at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction features vendors, reenactments, encampments and demos. More info and tickets available at tinyurl.com/2te7skx4.

Island Vines running race
Sunday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.

Departing from the Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero, this race offers a 5K or 10K option along scenic West Shore Road. Walkers welcome. To sign up, see tinyurl.com/y9mscvsj.

18th century women’s attire
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2-4 p.m.

Enjoy an outside, in-person lecture at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington. Skye Makaris discusses “Dressing the 18th century working woman.” This lecture is free and is followed by Q&A. For more info, see tinyurl.com/2tvdfzyf.

Hurdy-gurdy and accordion
Sunday, Sept. 18, 4 p.m.

The Swedish folk music duo Symbio takes the stage at Richmond Congregational Church as part of the P.M. Sundays performances. A hurdy-gurdy, also known as a wheel violin, produces sound with a rosined wheel rubbing against strings and is operated with a hand crank. Celtic music that defies genres. For details and tickets, see valleystage.net.

Abenaki skills
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 5-8 p.m.

Learn about Abenaki gardening practices, as well as ways of fish processing, at this workshop held at Burlington’s Intervale Center. A program of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, registration is required at tinyurl.com/42b34rd9.

Estate planning for women
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-noon

A free workshop for women of all ages hosted at Shelburne Farms, with an expert panel sharing information and answering questions. The Vermont Land Trust will participate. Presentation is comfortable, professional and not intimidating. Questions about the workshop may be emailed to maya@vlt.org. Preregister at tinyurl.com/uwtn4fkx.

CHARLOTTE
Planting for fall color
Thursday, Sept. 22, 9-11 a.m.

Think about your landscape plans with fall foliage in mind. Learn about the best trees and shrubs for color and textural interest, led by Horsford Gardens and Nursery staff. Free program at the nursery in Charlotte requires preregistration at tinyurl.com/39f8rkj4.

Cheese and wine pairing
Thursday, Sept. 22, 5:30-7 p.m.

This event at the Shelburne Vineyard fills up quickly. Learn about Vermont’s wine industry and sample cheese and wine. This event is for ages 21 and over and requires registration at tinyurl.com/4f79cps4.

Coming Up

Campfire with Abenaki chief
Friday, Sept. 23, 5:30-7 p.m.

Listen to stories and drumming songs from Chief Don Stevens around the campfire at Shelburne Farms. Look at

native artifacts and learn about Abenaki culture in Vermont. Best for ages 6 and older. Preregister at tinyurl.com/mrya5866.

Climbing festival
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23-25

The Climbing Access Resource Group of Vermont invites climbing enthusiasts to a weekend of clinics, camping, speakers, workshops and more at Cochran’s Ski Area in Richmond. More info and complete schedule at cragvt.org/festival.

Street rod nationals
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23-25

See specialty vehicles, street rods, pick-ups, muscle cars and lots more at the Northeast Street Rod Nationals at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction For details and times, see tinyurl.com/muz4d43y or call 802-878-5545.

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

The Vermont Walk to Defeat ALS 5K takes place at Oakledge Park in Burlington. 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.

CHARLOTTE
All about bulbs
Saturday, Oct. 1, 10-11 a.m.

Owner Charlie Proutt of Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte shares expert bulb-planting tips and variety recommendations. To have a colorful spring, think about planting bulbs this fall. Free class requires registration at tinyurl.com/4cah9zka.



Made in Vermont
Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 1 & 2

The Made in Vermont Marketplace is a showcase of unique Vermont products, ranging from furniture to food, from clothing to wine. Held at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction For more info, see tinyurl.com/yc3b9evs.

5K race in Shelburne
Sunday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.

Follow a route through the woods and trails at Shelburne Farms. Register now for this popular event. Check-in starts at 7:15 a.m. For more info and to register, see racevermont.com/events.

Weave a basket
Sunday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg offers the opportunity to create a two-handled harvest basket, tightly woven and built for use in the Shaker tradition. For more info, or to register, see tinyurl.com/2p9bs492.

Buddy Walk
Sunday, Oct. 2, 1-3 p.m.

The Champlain Valley Buddy Walk, which begins and ends at Battery Park in

Burlington, helps to raise awareness and funds for programs that benefit people with Down syndrome and their families. Walk a mile loop on the waterfront; on-site registration starts at noon. Online preregistration is open at tinyurl.com/bdz76vb3.

Music on the lawn
Sunday, Oct. 2, 4:30-7 p.m.

Live bluegrass is on the schedule for a community concert in Richmond. Gather on the lawn of the Old Round Church; bring picnics or purchase food and beverages there. Family-friendly event with \$10 suggested donation. Bring blankets or chairs; leave alcoholic drinks and pets at home. Proceeds benefit the Richmond Historical Society.

Congee workshop
Saturday, Oct 8, 5-6:30 p.m.

Congee is a rice or multi-grain porridge and a staple of Asian cuisine. In this class at Richmond Community Kitchen, Cameron Wong teaches about Chinese spices and herbs that can change a simple dish into a custom sweet or savory comfort dish for winter. Limited class size for these popular classes. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/cxyfz5sp.

Farther afield
Community and collage
Sept. 8- Jan. 7, 2023

On exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury is a collection of works in collage that reflect on the idea of community in this century. The artists incorporate historical material from the museum archives in their collages. For more info, see henrysheldonmuseum.org/exhibits or call 802-388-2117.

Long Trail Day
Saturday, Sept. 10

The Green Mountain Club’s annual fundraiser and hiking celebration. Money raised supports numerous efforts to maintain trails, huts, and support the Club’s projects. Though it’s late, hikers may still register to raise money-per-mile, or simply hike and send a gift to support this special trail. Activities across the state, including guided hikes; see tinyurl.com/3bwd9rc4 for info on hiking for a cause.

Why we collect
Wednesday, Sept. 14, noon-1 p.m.
Spend time with four collectors and hear about their experiences and passions that led to their specific collections. This free talk at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury has limited seating. Bring a bag lunch if desired. For more info, see henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.

Keeler Bay kayak
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m.-sunset
Meet at the Keeler Bay access area in South Hero to enjoy the bay in a kayak, as well as learn about the fish, plants and underwater ecosystem of Lake Champlain.

The event is led by a kayak guide with a presentation by Vermont Fish and Wildlife staff. Bring a kayak, or kayaks will be available for those who need one. Help will be on hand to assist with kayak adaptations if needed. The event is free and requires preregistration at tinyurl.com/dka2xvkv.

Slow birding
Friday, Sept. 16, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Early risers join birder Bridget Butler at North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier for a casual birding outing for all levels. Bring binoculars and whatever you need to be comfortable outside. Lightweight chairs and nature journals are encouraged. Some binoculars available. Free program. More info at tinyurl.com/5967htaj.





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

Selectboard meeting
Monday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Commission meeting
Tuesday, Sept, 13, 5:30-7 p.m.

Development Review Board: Regularly scheduled meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7-9 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, Sept. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

Emergency Management (with Selectboard)
Monday, Sept. 19, 6-7:30 p.m.

Selectboard hearing on amendments to land-use regulations
Monday, Sept. 19, 7:45 p.m.

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 5:30-7 p.m.
Location: Thorpe Barn entrance on Route 7 (will be open for parking).



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Library News

As summer winds down, porch book discussions at library



Margaret Woodruff
Director

Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. the Charlotte Library holds a chat on the porch with library director Margaret Woodruff. It's an opportunity to discuss new books, old books and books you might have missed. Each week, she selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection.

Short story selections First & Third Fridays

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. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. NOTE: No session on Sept. 15.

Book chat Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

Meet on Zoom to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Friday is a recap of the Wednesday porch session. Register in advance for Zoom link: bit.ly/3BtebDj.

Children & family programs

Hands-on Rokeby Monday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Take a step back in time with a hands-on introduction to the Rokeby Museum. Tucker Foltz shares some of the artifacts

that tell the story of this historic house, from the Underground Railroad to the contemporary role today. For all ages.

Preschool Story Time Tuesdays, 10 a.m., beginning Sept. 20

Come to 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. beginning Sept. 20

Please call the Charlotte Library to register for this event.

Preschool free play Wednesdays, 10 a.m., beginning Sept. 21

Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. This is an opportunity for them to explore the sensory table, sort, play 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

One-on-one tech help Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 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 technology librarian Susanna Kahn to get some tech support. Make sure to bring your device and any necessary login information. Registration required. Call 802-425-6345.

Grange on the Green: Will Patton Trio Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Brazilian sambas and folk waltzes, gentle choros and hot jazz, a musical journey from a Parisian bistro to a plaza in the heart of Rio. Sponsored by Cumbancha, Teachers Tree Service and Philo Ridge Farm.

Garden Chat Friday, Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m.

Join seed library coordinators Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton via Zoom to talk about late season gardens. Do you have success stories to share from your vegetable garden? Looking for tips on how to avoid some problems you don't want repeated next year? Were you able to save seeds? Have questions about finishing up and preparing the garden for winter? Garden Chat is a way to connect with fellow gardeners and share experience and first-hand knowledge. Register in advance for Zoom link: bit.ly/3cuVFEw.

Mystery book group Monday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.

Discuss the page-turner *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz on the library porch, weather permitting. Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist with a respectably published first book. Today, he's teaching in a third-rate master's program and struggling to maintain what's left of his self-respect; he hasn't written — let alone published — anything decent in years. When Evan Parker, his most arrogant student, announces he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book in progress is a sure thing, Jake is prepared to dismiss the boast as typical amateur narcissism. But then ... he hears the plot. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

Ahead of the Storm presentation Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m.

What causes our streams' and lake's poor water quality? What can you do as a landowner to help improve water quality? Learn about the improvements made at the Charlotte Library. After the presentation, you'll have an opportunity



to ask questions about how you can implement similar changes at home. Brought to you by Tactical Basin Planning fund from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Men's book group Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join the discussion at bit.ly/34m2Udk.

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.



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Senior Center News

September brings new offerings to the Charlotte Senior Center



Lori York
DIRECTOR

September at the Charlotte Senior Center is full of activities with new programming including Spanish conversation, a book discussion group, a personal writing group and a weekly current events discussion group. And there are the ever-popular offerings like art classes and kayaking and birding trips.

And don't forget game afternoons or the Monday lunches.

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

Activities

Senior art show

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

Spanish conversation Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.

A new Spanish conversation group begins Sept. 13. The objective of this class is to use the Spanish you know while conversing using a list of vocabulary words which will be distributed. No fee, but at times there will be a nominal cost for printed materials. Register by Friday, Sept. 9.

Kayak trip for women Chittenden Reservoir

Kayak trip on Sept. 23 for active women who share a love for exploring local lakes, ponds and rivers. To register, email Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com to be placed on a list of paddlers. An email will be sent to the list regarding the details of the kayak trip. The trip is free, but registration is required.

Birding expedition Wednesday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.

Please meet at the center 10 minutes prior to the 9 a.m. departure to carpool to the location for spectacular bird watching. Group size is limited. To register for the birding trip, email CSCbirding@gmavt.net and include your name and phone number.

No cost but registration is required.

Scenes that Inspire Painting & Drawing Thursdays, Sept. 15, 22, Oct. 6 and 13, 1-3 p.m.

Bring your favorite watercolor or pastel supplies and join Linda Reynolds for this plein air drawing and painting workshop at various inspirational locations: Mt Philo, Charlotte Beach, Shelburne Farms, Kingsland Bay State Park, or perhaps a favorite backyard. Cost: \$140. Register by Monday, Sept. 12.

Coffee & Canvas: Moonlight in Vermont Friday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Join Sherry Senior with this month's Coffee & Canvas. Unlike traditional paint and sips, this painting workshop will allow you to explore and create your own unique painting. But don't worry — there will be plenty of moonlight images for inspiration. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included. Cost: \$25. Register by Monday, Sept. 14.

Book discussion group: The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran Monday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

This group will meet every other week starting on Monday, Sept. 19. Cost: Free. Register by Friday, Sept. 16.

Personal writing group Tuesday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Interested in joining this writing group focused on memoirs, poetry or personal essays? Join this formative meeting where we will finalize the format. Register for the fall session by Friday, Sept. 23.

Current events

Thursday, Sept. 29, Noon-1 p.m.

Join this new group for an informal discussion about what is happening in the news. All are welcome as long as there is an openness to hearing different viewpoints. The first meeting on Sept. 29, will be an informational meeting and will discuss how the group will meet moving forward. The plan is to meet weekly starting in October. Feel free to bring your lunch and join us for a lively and open conversation. Please register for this first meeting.

Presentations

The Ethan Allen Homestead: A site of historic and community preservation Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m.

The Ethan Allen Homestead is one of the oldest sites of both Native American and



Photo by Lori York

From left, Judy Tuttle and Deb Peate setting up for the September senior art show at the Charlotte Senior Center, featuring work by local artists with a wide range of skill levels, age 50 and older.

European occupation known in Vermont, but what makes it truly special is how the site is still being used as a center of community today. Join Angie Grove, director of the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, to explore its history and its current offerings. The presentation is free. Register by Monday, Sept. 12.

Earthkeep Farmcommon: A new era of regenerative, diversified farming Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Join Will Raap as he presents his vision for Earthkeep Farmcommon on Route 7. He will share his goal of advancing a new era of regenerative, diversified farming that balances Vermont's 150 years of dependence on commodity dairy farms. The presentation is free. Register by Monday, Sept. 19.

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 at 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 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. September 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 Charlotte Senior Center on Facebook or Instagram at [charlotteseniorcentervt](https://www.facebook.com/charlotteseniorcentervt).

Write Ingredients

Enjoy salad like you're dining at Monticello at the senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

As you enjoy your Monday Munch salad (see menu below), think of dining with Thomas Jefferson.

Between 1809 and 1824, a variety of lettuces were planted an average of eight times every year at Monticello. In "Dining at Monticello," we learn that "salad oil was a perennial obsession for Jefferson. He referred to the olive as 'the richest gift of heaven' and 'the most interesting plant in existence.'"

Salad Niçoise has been called the classic French recipe to argue over.

Pierre Franey insisted, "I am convinced that had avocados been native to Provence, they would have been an inevitable ingredient; Julia Child's recipe incorporated a potato salad, green beans, tuna and anchovies and a vinaigrette dressing."

In an Uncle Ben's ad, James Beard added rice. And so on and so on. Every famous

chef seems to have a version.

However you tear your lettuce, there's no argument that salad Niçoise is a great way to end summer.

And "Ain't We Got Fun" is a great song to sing while eating at the Charlotte Senior Center.

From 1921 onwards, there are many versions. Here's one with Rosemary Clooney and Bing Crosby: [youtube.com/watch?v=5-F2OeVMg98](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-F2OeVMg98).

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

Monday Munch

Chicken salad Niçoise on a bed of lettuce (includes chicken, potato, egg, green beans, and more) and apple cake.

Thursday, Sept. 15

Grab & Go Meal, pick up: 10-11 a.m. Swedish steak with mushroom sauce, seasoned penne pasta, chopped broccoli, wheat bread with butter, fresh fruit salad

and milk. Meal provided by Age Well. Register for Thursday's Grab & Go Meal at 802-425-6345 or kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday, Sept. 19, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m., or until the food is gone.

Monday Munch
Menu to be announced. Check the Charlotte Senior Center website.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, noon, Special Wednesday lunch

Provided by Residence at Shelburne Bay. Chef Arnd and his team from the Residence at Shelburne Bay are returning to provide a monthly Wednesday lunch. Registration is required and will open on Monday, Sept. 12. To register, call 802-425-6345 or stop by the reception desk at the senior center.

Thursday, Sept. 22 Grab & Go Meal, pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Turkey tetrazini, Scandinavian vegeta-



bles, wheat dinner roll with butter, apple & berry crisp and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday. Meals provided by Age Well, a nonprofit organization and the largest Meals on Wheels provider in Vermont. Their mission is to provide the support and guidance that inspires our community to embrace aging with confidence. To learn more and donate, visit: agewellvt.org.



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