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

Photo by Emily Silman
Sex discrimination alleged in fire and rescue service

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 Mullin may not want the position.

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 may 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 “preliminary improvement plan.”

The department said he didn’t fulfill 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

Forecast for sunny year at Charlotte Central School

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

SEE CVFRS HISTORY PAGE 3

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 2
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 joined 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 newspaper story recounted how lawmakers to declare the whale fossil has many years ago because that year then-Governor Gates alleges that Mullins told a female employee got promoted from the department, made decisions with advisory groups, and on the first day of school.

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 members agreed to switch to a municipal department, so they have more oversight over how this money is spent, he said.

The fire and rescue service 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 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, as fines for expired drugs, for violations of safety protocols or for out-of-court settlements.

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

The fire and rescue service budget has reached, but this is exactly how 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, Krahn said.

At Town Meeting Day this year, voters approved an appropriation of more than $900,000 for the fire and rescue department. According 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,” Krahn said.

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

The fire and rescue service budget has reached, but this is exactly how the selectboard is considering a transition to a municipal department.

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The fire and rescue service budget is almost a third of the town’s budget, Krahn said.
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 a 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.
**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 Internship at Mt. Philo State Park, the oldest state park in Vermont. The internship program instills pride and hard work in our interns that returns each year. The internship program is imperative to our work here at Mt. Philo State Park. 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-philoo.fund.

**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.

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, posting 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 female presence as a leader 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**  
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.
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 that accessory dwelling units are 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 garage flats. Accessory dwelling units can be converted portions of existing homes (i.e., internal accessory dwelling units), new stand-alone accessory dwelling units that are constructed on separate lots or converted portions of existing stand-alone accessory structures (i.e., detached accessory dwelling units)." (Peter Joslin is former chair of the Charlotte Planning Commission.)

On Aug. 9, the Charlotte Planning Commission held a hearing on 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 apartment units 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, 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 is also 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 for 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, I strongly support 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 interest. This project’s capacity is less expensive than purchasing a new or preexisting home. 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.)

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 University of Vermont Extension, and the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center.

Day 1, 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.

Day 2, Oct. 10: 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 will also cover when to call the vet and when to intervene.

Day 3, Nov. 3: Using fluid therapy to treat sick cows — This webinar will explore common farm diseases, 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.

Our inventory has never been better!

We have a large assortment of beef and pork raised on our farm ready for your grill and smoker. Stop by the store to see what’s on “Special” for August.

Chicken specials are now available at $4.00 per lb. (in the seven pound range)

Beat rising food costs and inquire about whole and half beef at $4.50 per lb. and pork at $3.50.

We are now enjoying fast turnaround times on these orders!
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 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, conserve natural resources and help 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 Williston.

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 Central School

School starts year rousingly

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 will 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 “cafeeria 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 Krahm.

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, etc.) 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:

• Anika Luna — Champlain Valley School District diversity, equity and inclusion coach
• Katie Hung — instructional support and recess
• Nancy McGill — long-term sub in kindergarten
• Connor Emerson — sixth grade English and language arts
• Julia Bierwerth — 7th/8th humanities
• Kate Rooney — connecting youth mentor coordinator
• Steve Flint — digital learning leader and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) leader
• Powell — planning room coordinator
• Gabrielle Clow — school service clinician
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• Laurie Maichel — 5-8 interventionist.

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Folks returning in new roles:

• Mary Tiernan — math coach and coordinator
• Rachael Miller — 7th/8th math instructor.

New Jewelry & Clothing for Fall!

shelburne bay plaza
2989 shelburne rd
855.999.909
alittlething@gmail.com
Next to the Shelburne Meat Market

Free gift wrapping!
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.”

Caitlin and Jason Elberson: Fermenting in Charlotte

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 wondrous change that must have been made by a nonprofit staff paying too much attention to GPS, reported how GPS was directing searchers 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.

Caitlin and Jason Elberson: Fermenting in Charlotte

Hi Neighbor!

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.

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

“Caitlin and Jason Elberson: Fermenting in Charlotte”

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 wondrous change that must have been made by a nonprofit staff paying too much attention to GPS, reported how GPS was directing searchers 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.
Memories of a Vermont train journey in 1953

Bill Schubart
Contributor

Traces of opalescent light enthrall 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 refreshed 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 sedan... “fatter... in a Ford—450-pound sow... “good mother, good breeder, catcha 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 woodstove, sits in a corner on the trackside of the station radiating heat from the coal 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.

At the end of the platform, Dad jumps down, ignoring the stairs, and signals me to board. As I’m about to step onto the steel rail, Dad says, “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 it 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 click-clack-rattling 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 rip through the night as the train nears and hustles into the station.

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.

I hear two furious whistle blasts and a loud chuff. Our sleeping car hitches forward as the engine takes up the slack in the couplers. Tires will pull.

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 sconce light in my berth is off and my eyes adjust quickly to the night.

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

In the meadows that border the river, Holstein cows stand like cemetery statues, 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.

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History

Dan Cole
Charlotte Historical Society

William Wallace Higbee’s essays, collected in Around the Mountains, are often cited as a definitive source of town history. Soon to become another definitive source of Charlotte history will be the work of Don and Betty Ann Lockhart, who collaborated on interviews for Charlotte’s 250th anniversary, entitled That’s How the Story Goes.

Of specific interest is the July 9, 2012, interview with Susan Whalley Horsford called “Schools in Charlotte and Memories of Charlotte.” Horsford is a daughter of the late Donald P. Whalley and longtime Charlotte teacher Ruth (Spear) Whalley. Significant in her recollections are how teachers moved from school to school within a town, usually in search of better salary and working conditions, or even perhaps to be closer to relatives.

Early on, the schools were generally referred to by district number; but by the last century were often referred to by the name of the nearest landowner. Ruth taught in almost all of our early schools, beginning her career about 1942 in school No. 7, now known as the Quinlan School, and continued her teaching at the Charlotte Central School after the consolidation of districts.

In order to become a teacher, a person had to attend an academy (later called a high school), then a normal school. A normal school was a teachers’ college.

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 today’s headlines: cost of education, teacher shortages and fluctuating enrollments.

Well into the 20th century, teachers were expected to be “respectable,” single and not use alcohol, smoke or swear. It is unusual that Whalley was married with children. In a time with few options open for a career woman with children, she was forced to bring her young daughter to the classroom with her.

The Quinlan School, District No. 7, was named for John Quinlan, an Irish immigrant fleeting the great famine. He began working for pennies a day, and through his work ethic and frugality became one of our wealthiest farmers, as well as a philanthropist who caused the school to be built on his property while also being a benefactor to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church.

According to a history of the school at the Charlotte Library by Jerrie Vani, Quinlan’s daughter Mary was one of the first teachers. The school, a post-and-beam structure, was originally on the north side of the road on Spear Street, overlooking the covered bridge to Monkton Road and Lewis Creek Road. After being moved across the road and used as a farm laborer’s dwelling and then as a farm shed, residents of the town rescued it to place on our town green where it sits today.

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 Graduating Class 1934: Charlotte Library digital collection

Quinlan Graduating Class 1928: Charlotte Library digital collection

Quinlan School in 1979: Charlotte Historical Society

1869 map: Charlotte Historical Society
“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 about 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 about 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 railroad 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 a 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 “popples,” 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 60-80 years of age. Like white birch, trembling aspen is so intolerant of shade that its presence in your forest is 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,” 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 pilated woodpeckers, which forage for grubs and insect larvae in its soft wood, often creating cavities (holes) used by a 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 linktr.ee/chittendencountyforester.)
**Summer’s last Grange on the Green**

**Thursday Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m.**

The Will Potton Trio will perform on the Charlotte Town Green on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Combine a jazz and Brazilian choro marimbist 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 Potton 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.

**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 Shelburne. Meet at 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 and space is limited, so call the museum to reserve your space. The panelists are a mix of folk art scholars and folk art dealers. Meet with the artists and get your hands dirty by joining in the conversation. More info at shelburnemuseum.org.

**Welcome to the Old Round Church**

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the Lake Champlain basin is commemorating the occasion with a 50th anniversary worship service. Celebrate the church’s heritage as Richmond’s first community meeting hall. All are welcome. More info at oldroundchurch.com.

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**Necessary Equipment Sale**

Thursday, Sept. 15, 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/y181lw6h.

**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 Burlington 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.

**Fleming Museum 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/55cvxzfx.

**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/3mfe366 or call 802-863-3403.

**The 39 Steps**

**Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 15-18**

The story of a spy, of love, and to, cliché spy moves, 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 middleburycommunitytheateryplayers.org/shows.

**Bluegrass and barbecue**

**Friday, Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m.**

Shelburne Farm 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/y181lw6h.

**Folk art scholars**

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**Chittenden County forester**

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m.**

Join the Chittenden County forester for a walk in the Catamount Community Forest in Williston. Meet at Catamount Outdoor Family Center in Williston, prepared to walk a mile on gravel trails, rain or shine.

**Hitchcock’s spy masterpiece**

**Thursday, Sept. 8, 5.30 p.m.**

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 middleburycommunitytheateryplayers.org/shows.

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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, reenactors, encampments and demos. More info and tickets available at tinyurl.com/2z7e4x4.

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/3y5mcsqj.

18th century's women's attire
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2-4 p.m.
Enjoy an outdoor, in-person lecture at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington. Skye Makaris discusses “Dressing the 18th century woman.” This lecture is free and is followed by Q&A. For more info, see tinyurl.com/2vdtlyf.

Hurdy-gurdy and accordian
Sunday, Sept. 18, 4 p.m.
The Swedish folk music duo Symbio takes the stage at the Richmond Congregational Church as part of the PM. 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/4zsb4d6s.

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@vtlt.org. Preregister at tinyurl.com/u4h4k8a.

Weave a basket
Sunday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
The hand-woven basket is a staple of Vermont crafts. This workshop will help you learn the basics of weaving, as well as the basic building techniques to get you started. This is a hands-on workshop and you will be able to take your basket home with you. Pre-registration is required at tinyurl.com/4yru5k8.

Why we collect
Wednesday, Sept. 14, noon-1 p.m.
Owner Charlie Prouft of Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte shares expert bulb-planting tips and variety recommendations. To have a colorful spring, think about planting bulbs late in the fall. Free class requires registration at tinyurl.com/4cah5kq.

All about birds
Saturday, Oct. 1, 10-11 a.m.
Owner Charlie Prouft of Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte shares expert bulb-planting tips and variety recommendations. To have a colorful spring, think about planting bulbs late in the fall. Free class requires registration at tinyurl.com/4cah5kq.

Spend time with four collectors and hear that led to their specific collections. This scheduled meeting features four collectors who will share their knowledge and history of their collections, as well as provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the items they bring. For more info, see henrysheldonmuseum.org/events or call 802-388-2117.

Mouth to mouth
Saturday, Oct. 8, 5-6:30 p.m.
Congee is a rice or millet grain porridge and a staple of Asian cuisine. In this class at the Champlain Valley Community Kitchen, Cameron Wong takes Chinese 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/cvyfe5sp.

Further afield
Community and collage
Sept. 8 Jan. 7, 2023
In Middlebury is a collection of works that explore the idea of community in this century. The artists incorporate historical material from the museum archives in their collages. For more info, see hennysheldonmuseum.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 enjoy the gift to support this special trail. Activities across the state, including guided hikes; see tinyurl.com/muz4d43y or call 802-878-5545.

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The Town of Charlotte
Meeting dates and topics will be posted on tinyurl.com/2tvdfzyf.

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

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

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

Climbing Access Resource Group’s projects. Though it’s late, hikers may still register to raise money-per-mile, or simply hike and enjoy the 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, 10 a.m.-noon
Spend time with four collectors and hear that led to their specific collections. This scheduled meeting features four collectors who will share their knowledge and history of their collections, as well as provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the items they bring. For more info, see henrysheldonmuseum.org/events or call 802-388-2117.

Nurturing the Garden
This weekend’s event at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex will be one of several plant-related events during the month. The theme of the event is “Nurturing the Garden” and will feature lectures, workshops, and demonstrations related to growing and maintaining a garden. More information is available at tinyurl.com/4rryu58f.

Climbing Access Resource Group’s projects. Though it’s late, hikers may still register to raise money-per-mile, or simply hike and enjoy the 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, 10 a.m.-noon
Spend time with four collectors and hear that led to their specific collections. This scheduled meeting features four collectors who will share their knowledge and history of their collections, as well as provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the items they bring. For more info, see henrysheldonmuseum.org/events 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 enjoy the gift to support this special trail. Activities across the state, including guided hikes; see tinyurl.com/muz4d43y or call 802-878-5545.

Planning Commission: Regular meeting
Thursday, Sept. 15, 7:9 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: Thorne Barn entrance on Route 7 (will be open for parking).
As summer winds down, porch book discussions at library

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 session. Register in advance for Zoom link: bit.ly/3cuVFb.

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, 1:20 p.m.

Email enigmas? Kindle conundrum? Computer question? App appreciation? 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.

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.

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 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 ‘storms’ 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.

Library contact information

Margaret Woodruff, director
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian

Phone: 802-425-3364
Email: info@charlottenews.org

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

Classifieds

Reach your friends and neighbors for only $12 per issue. (Payment must be sent before issue date.) Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer and send it to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or email ads@thecharlottenews.org.

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September brings new offerings to the Charlotte Senior Center

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 sip, 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. 12.

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. 17.

Personal writing group
Thursday, Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Interested in writing this writing group focused on memoirs, poetry or personal essays? Join this formatative 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 world. All are welcome as long as there is an openness to hearing different view points. 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 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 Mon, Sept. 12.

Earthkeep FarmCommon:
A new era of regenerative, diversified farming
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.
Join Will Raup 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 farming. 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 for Monday by 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.org.
A rainbow shines its munificence upon Nitty Gritty Grain Company on Lake Road.