When planning late October meals at the Charlotte Senior Center, Monday Munch follows Cinderella's wisdom: "I'd say the first thing you need is a pumpkin." Linus, of course, shows similar pumpkin fervor: "The Great Pumpkin will appear and I'll be waiting for him! I'll be there! I'll be sitting there in that pumpkin patch ... and I'll see the Great Pumpkin. Just wait and see, Charlie Brown."

At Monday Munch, pumpkin pie is just the grand finale. You'll find plenty more on the menus.

Whether or not pumpkin is on the menu at the French Laundry in Yountville, California, we learn from The San Francisco Chronicle that this place is "so hot there's a black market in reservations." Read more here: sfchronicle.com/food/restaurants/article/french-laundry-17488932.php.

Admittedly, at the Charlotte Senior Center you won't get grilled Wagyu topped with fried barbajuan or sesame tuiles filled with red onion and crème fraîche crowned with salmon tartare and a fresh coat of sesame seeds — constructed to look like an ice cream cone.

But lunch seats are easy to come by and you'll pay $345 less for a meal at our place.

Monday Munch
Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone
Spaghetti with beef Bolognese sauce, Caesar salad, crusty garlic bread and pumpkin pie with whipped cream

Grab & Go Meal
Thursday, Oct. 27, pick up: 10-11 a.m.
Beef steak, BBQ sauce, Italian rice risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread with butter, berry crisp with cream and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday at 802-425-634 or kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Meals are provided by Age Well at no charge, but they appreciate donations.

Monday "Halloween" Munch
Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join us for a festive Halloween lunch — with treat bags. We invite you to wear your mask, hat or costume. This attire is optional but there will be a costume contest. Don't worry: No tricks. Festive food abounds: Assorted sandwiches, potato salad, pumpkin pie in a cup and Halloween surprise.

Grab & Go Meal
Thursday, Nov. 3, pick up: 10-11 a.m.
To be announced. Check the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

It's October, a time to relish the leaves. As it happens, Scott Jopin's "Maple Leaf Rag" was named after a club, not autumn leaves, but in every season it's ragtime to enjoy: songfacts.com/facts/scott-joplin/maple-leaf-rag.

Impresario of Baroque music, Antonio Vivaldi, gave us the famous "Four Seasons." Here's the Netherlands Bach Society with "Autumn": tinyurl.com/hzpbsfxd.

Here it is on the organ of St. Lamberti, Munster, Germany: tinyurl.com/3xk5j6bd.

You can also find it on solo guitar, by a rock band and in lots more variations.

Whatever you choose, we hope you also choose Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center.
Greenbush Road to be the Halloween treat place

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Greenbush Road has been a destination spot for trick-or-treating for some time, but this year the neighborhood is really bringing its haunting best. “This year, we’re making it safer, better and more fun,” said Greenbush Road resident Eli Lesser-Goldsmith, adding that safety is paramount.

After conversations with a number of people with long memories, it seems no one knows when Greenbush became the Halloween happening place in Charlotte. Many said it probably just happened organically.

“As any kid knows, the best place for trick-or-treating is somewhere with houses close together. You want to get the most treats with the least trekking. This is one holiday that is not well served organically.

“This year, the use of the parking lot at the Old Brick Store, two companies said they have ideas for the next step is.”

Historically, the fire and rescue station has been a happy Halloween hunting ground, and this year chief Justin Bliss said the station will be participating. They will be handing out candies — presumably not fireballs — at the station and helping to make sure the walk up to the senior center and the town hall will be safe.

Lesser-Goldsmith is encouraging people to park in this vicinity and walk up to Greenbush where the parking is limited. For those coming from the south headed north on Greenbush, there is parking at The Old Lantern.

“Think of it as organically. Besides denser, more treat-rich housing, this is one holiday that is not well served organically. This is one holiday that is not well served organically. It’s a great word for the Halloween experience,” said Lesser-Goldsmith.

The Charlotte Selectboard got upset over the speed limit in their Oct. 6 issue of The Charlotte News, here is some additional information for consideration as you decide how to vote.

Q: Why are these changes divided into two sets of hearings?
A: There are changes to 19 sections of the land-use regulations that the board members all live in Charlotte and serve as volunteers, developed these proposals over the course of the last several months. Every work session was announced in advance with posted notices on the town website. The proposed changes are organized into six articles for the next step is.”

As a follow-up to the background article on the proposed amendments to the land-use regulations in the Oct. 6 issue of The Charlotte News, here is some additional information for consideration as you decide how to vote.

Q: Why are these changes being proposed now?
A: The town plan and land-use regulations are living documents requiring regular review and updating to stay current with changes in state law and changes within our community. Changes in our community include some of the following examples: an aging population; evolving employment models; school enrollment; diversified housing options; a changing climate, etcetera. Without thoughtful periodic review, we risk the documents becoming outdated and no longer reflecting the values of our community.

Q: Do residents have a say in this process? Was the community involved in developing these proposed rules?
A: Absolutely. Residents have the ultimate say in approving these changes for the town. All of the changes proposed must be approved by voters during the November election.

The planning commission, whose members all live in Charlotte and serve as volunteers, developed these proposals over the course of the last several months. Every work session was announced in advance with posted notices on the town website. The board members all live in Charlotte and serve as volunteers, developed these proposals over the course of the last several months. Every work session was announced in advance with posted notices on the town website. The proposed changes are organized into six articles for the next step is.”

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Asquith, who is on the development review board, would like the planning commission to consider the necessity of accessory dwelling units on neighboring wells during its next stage of considering amendments to Charlotte’s land-use regulations, which will be developed during the winter for voters to approve in Town Meeting Day voting in March.

Asquith said she wasn’t sure how such an amendment might be crafted, but she would like to see the planning commission discuss it.

People don’t know how it feels until they turn that tap on and nothing comes out. It is a real heart-stopping moment,” Asquith said.

“It’s not a minor inconvenience,” she continued, saying you can’t give your kids a bath, the dishes and laundry pile up, and you can’t even wash your hands.

“You just start to go a little crazy as a mom with three kids because everything gets backed up,” Asquith said.

She worries because she suspects lots of people in Charlotte might not have the $500 needed to pay for refilling their well or a tank.

Selectboard member Matt Krasnow said he hadn’t heard from anyone besides Asquith who was having wells issues this year, but he thinks it’s a habitual Charlotte problem.

His family was on a well when he was growing up, and they periodically had to have water delivered until they put in a cistern. He feels that usually solves the problem because the well replenishes the cistern when people aren’t using water, meaning there’s water to use when there’s high demand and low flow.

Krasnow said his sister who lives in the Mt. Philo area had water problems with a well that produces less than a gallon a minute, but after her family put in 1,000 gallons worth of storage tanks, they hadn’t had a problem.

One of the solutions Owen suggested people might try is hydrofracking, which involves injecting water into a drilled well at high pressure in hopes of widening fractures in the bedrock to increase water flow.

A lot of people have chosen hydrofracking and it has worked, but Krasnow thinks adding storage is usually an easier and cheaper solution. Although he has heard of wells out west going dry and staying dry, Krasnow said he hasn’t heard of any wells going completely dry and not replenishing in Charlotte.

Kiecha Richardson with Vermont Well & Pump in Hinesburg said requests for hydrofracking have gone way up since the pandemic. She thinks a combination of people staying home more and lots of people moving into the area has increased the demand for water.

Hydrofracking is not a sure fix for the problem. She said, like other companies, Vermont Well & Pump looks at all sorts of data like the depth of the water table and the proximity and flow rate of other wells in the vicinity, but still it’s a gamble. You don’t know for sure until you try.

A drilled well is pulling water from a few hundred feet down, so it takes a while for surface water to get that far. Ground water tends to move about a foot a day — for surface water to get that far. Ground water tends to move about a foot a day — for surface water to get that far. Ground water tends to move about a foot a day — for surface water to get that far. When a meteorologic drought, or lack of precipitation, is severe enough it can become an agricultural drought, which is when the soil moisture drops alarmingly. When streamflow, surface water and groundwater are all reduced severely and long enough, then it’s considered a hydrologic drought.

The USGS has test wells around the state where it monitors groundwater levels. The closest to this area is a test well in Milton that has been monitored since 1956. Although it wasn’t a long enough period to be considered a drought, from December to February last winter, that well tested the lowest it has ever tested.

The Milton well recovered during the spring, but it is dropping again. However, Kiah was not willing to attribute the drop in test well flow to evidence of climate change. “Our most severe drought was in the 60s. Basically, that whole decade was in low condition,” Kiah said. “Historically, things are cyclical.”
Letter to the Editor

Over 100 church members for Reproductive Liberty Amendment

To the Editor: In early July 2022, more than 100 clergy and laypeople of the United Church of Christ in Vermont signed and publicly released a letter in response to the United States Supreme Court’s decision in the Dobbs case which overturned Roe v. Wade. This letter included: “We believe that all people have a right to determine what one does with one’s own body, recognizing the difficult and painful yet life-supporting and sustaining necessity in making the decision to have an abortion. This is a statement rooted in our Christian faith which opposes any policy, precedent, statement or law that limits a human being’s right to bodily autonomy determination, dignity and respect.”

Within Christianity there is a diversity of understandings about what our faith requires of us. Moved by our faith as clergy and in the United Church of Christ we affirm God’s gift of free will and proclaim our support for reproductive liberty. Not in spite of our Christian faith, but because of it, we encourage every Vermonter to vote in favor of Proposal 5/Article 22 “Reproductive Liberty Amendment” to the Vermont Constitution.

Sally Kerschner
Charlotte

LAND USE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
changes and allow each to be voted on separately.

Q: What are the core elements of an affirmative vote for each of the proposed articles?
A: Article 1 proposes several changes to the land-use regulations that would bring them into alignment with changes in state law enacted in recent years. Towns derive their authority from state law; Charlotte cannot enforce zoning rules which contradict state statute. These amendments would align the town’s role with state law in: permitting telecom facilities, permitting for renewable energy projects (such as solar panels) and removing non-compliant local restrictions on constructing multi-family housing and accessory dwellings.

Article 2 clarifies and coordinates language across several sections of the land-use regulations, providing better guidance for property owners and the development review board for what projects can and cannot be permitted. Among the proposed changes are technical updates and new (or revised) definitions to standards for projects that serve the public, consolidation of small lots, additions to buildings that are built partly within a required setback and adaptive re-use of historic structures.

Article 3 coordinates language that proposed accessory dwelling units in non-conforming structures have to follow the existing land-use regulations for approval. It also clarifies that temporary structures require a zoning permit.

Article 4 updates references in the land-use regulations to reflect the selectboard’s December 2021 decision to consolidate the permitting responsibilities previously shared by the planning commission and zoning board of appeals into one entity, the development review board.

Article 5 proposes to increase the allowed size of accessory dwelling units from 1,000 square feet or 30 percent of the home’s finished floor area, whichever is larger, to 1,500 square feet or 30 percent of the home’s finished floor area, whichever is larger. Currently, only homes with a footprint larger than 3,333 square feet can take advantage of the current larger allowance. The proposed change would allow homes up to 5,000 square feet to all build the same size accessory dwelling unit.

Article 6 clarifies the intent of the land-use regulations requiring all lots meet the dimensional requirements of the land-use regulations or be developed as planned residential developments.

Q: Who would benefit from these changes?
A: For additional information regarding the purpose, rationale and effect of these proposed changes, please see the Users Guide posted to the land-use regulations Working Drafts web page on the town website at Users Guide to draft LURs amendments_v4-DB1.pdf (charlottevt.org). Taken as a whole, the proposed changes would:

• Strengthen the land-use regulations by bringing them in closer alignment with state law, which reduces legal exposure of the town to successful appeals of granted permits based on a claim our bylaws don’t line up with state law.
• Clarify for residents, planning and zoning staff and the development review board how to interpret and apply key standards for permitting.
• Bring the land-use regulations into alignment with current permitting roles in Charlotte (via the development review board).
• Provide property owners with houses smaller than 5,000 square feet the opportunity to build a larger accessory dwelling unit on their property.
• Clarify that proposed subdivisions of properties not meeting the dimensional standards of the land-use regulations are required to file for subdivisions as planned residential developments.

Q: Where can I learn more? What key documents to review before voting?
A: The following page on the town website hosts all the key documents about the six proposed articles: bit.ly/PC_draft_2022_LURs_amendments. The planning commission hopes that residents will take the time to understand these proposed changes before they cast their votes. To obtain a hard copy of materials posted to the town website, or if you have other questions not addressed here, contact Larry Lewack, town planner at 802-425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS AND OF TOWN OFFICIAL POSITIONS
October 12, 2022

The following boards and positions currently have unfilled seats:
• Recreation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2023)
• Conservation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2024)
• Clean Water Advisory Committee of Chittenden Regional Planning Commission (1 seat; term ending June 30, 2023)
• Chittenden Solid Waste District, Alternate Representative (1 seat; term ending on May 31, 2024)

If you have interest in serving the Town by participating in any of these capacities please send a short statement explaining your interest and any relevant background information to Dean Bloch, Town Administrator at dean@townofcharlotte.com. If you have questions, please e-mail or call 412-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.

Acorn Painting

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Mike Dever
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www.Acornpainting.com

We also do handyman work and repairs!
Community Roundup

Rokeby Museum receives grant from the Trout Lily Foundation

Rokeby Museum has received a three-year $75,000 grant from the Trout Lily Foundation to support organizational work at the institution.

Beginning this year, the grant will be paid in $25,000 yearly installments and is intended to target the museum’s capacity-building and sustainability, including staff support, the preservation of the site, conservation/preservation and storage of the museum collections, and updates to the museum’s exhibitions.

The funding will support ongoing and expanded staff work, including much-needed updates to the site’s interpretive signage and storage updates for the museum’s collection of Robinson family artifacts.

“This work with us will be able to enhance the visitor experience to Rokeby by sharing more information on the nationally significant Robinson family,” said Lindsay Varner, Rokeby Museum director.

For more information on Rokeby Museum visit rokeby.org.

Hannaford donates $100,000 to Age Well meal delivery program

Hannaford Supermarkets and the Hannaford Charitable Foundation today announced a $100,000 donation to Age Well in support of its healthy meal delivery program, which provides nutritious and balanced prepared meals to homebound older adults throughout Vermont.

In addition to their meal, program participants will now receive a snack as part of their daily delivery. The participants are broken into two sectors: the first group receives a nutritious snack tailored to their health conditions; and a second group which receives a different snack. Individuals will be monitored for results over the course of a one-year period to assess the impact of the nutritious snack on their overall health and wellness. All participants also take part in monthly meetings with a registered dietician to help navigate best strategies to support the management of their chronic health condition.

Vermont 4-H seeks new members and volunteers

If you think that 4-H is just an agricultural program, think again. Although that is partly true, according to Sarah Kleinman, University of Vermont Extension 4-H state program director, 4-H offers much more for youths, ages 5-18.

“The Vermont 4-H program offers all kinds of opportunities for young people to explore a passion, try something new and connect with their peers in a fun, supportive environment,” Kleinman said. “They can learn about coding and robotics, health and fitness, photography and the arts, among many other projects.”

To learn more about joining a 4-H club or becoming an adult 4-H volunteer, contact Kleinman at 802-651-8343, ext. 521, or sarah.kleinman@uvm.edu.

Prizes for Vermont prose and poetry announced

Kristin Carlson
Green Mountain Power

Two Vermont writers can win $1,250 in the Vermont Writers’ Prize for Prose or Poetry and be published in Vermont Magazine. Entries are being accepted through Jan. 1, 2023. There will be a prize for prose and one for poetry.

The prize celebrates writing about all things Vermont and is a collaboration between Green Mountain Power and Vermont Magazine. The prize was established in 1989 to honor Vermont historian Ralph Nading Hill Jr., who also served on Green Mountain Power’s board of directors.

“The idea is to give writers a way to flex their creativity in showcasing what Vermont means to them through the written word, whether they pen a poem or craft a short story or essay,” said Kristin Carlson, a prize judge. “The Vermont experience can mean so many different things, and it is inspiring to see what writers share through their work.”

Works must be previously unpublished, and writers cannot be previous winners. Works of prose must be less than 1,500 words and poems must be less than 40 lines. You can be an amateur or professional writer and students are encouraged to enter. Prize details and how to enter are at vertmontwritersprize.submittable.com/

“We encourage everyone to get writing and enter,” said Kristin Carlson, a Writers’ Prize judge and Green Mountain Power vice president.

Entries are focused on “Vermont Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values.”

“Old Mill Read Media is thrilled to partner again with Green Mountain Power on the 34th Annual Vermont Writers’ Prize,” said publisher Joshua Sherman. “We look forward to receiving stories of Vermont and sharing them with the readers of Vermont Magazine.”

Entries are being accepted now and the deadline is January 1, 2023. Writers must live in Vermont. Green Mountain Power and Vermont Magazine employees are ineligible.
Nov. 11 is a federal holiday with powerful significance. Like Memorial Day in May, it recognizes and honors those who have served in the U.S. military during times of armed conflict and war. Memorial Day focuses on those who died in combat, while Veterans Day focuses on those who served in combat zones and survived to come home.

Veterans Day originated in the celebration of the signing of the World War I ceasefire or armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, in that “war to end all wars.” In several European countries, Nov. 11 is still commemorated as Armistice Day. President Woodrow Wilson recognized it here in 1919, saying: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both in peace and in justice in the councils of the nations.”

From a solemn acknowledgment of the horrors of war and a commitment to work for peace, that day has drifted somewhat from its original intent. World War I was not, in fact, “the war to end all wars” and the U.S. continues to engage in overseas military conflict on a disturbingly regular basis. After being designated a federal holiday by Congress in 1938, the name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor the veterans of all U.S. military conflicts. After Congress shifted the date between October and November for several years in an effort to create a three-day holiday weekend for workers, President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to Nov. 11 in 1975 to recapture at least some of the original intention of commemorating and celebrating peace as a universal principle.

Today, some typical Veterans Day activities do hearken back to the original intent, like the wearing of red paper poppies to symbolize the determination for life to regress after the ravages of war. Community parades and commemorations typically focus on patriotism, military pride and appreciation of the service and sacrifice of military personnel and their families. But occasionally, there will be a contingent from Veterans for Peace, whose symbol is the white dove of peace and whose discussion points throughout the year include an honest look at the true costs of war. A wreath will be placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and flags flown at half-mast. Communities and individuals often observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m., the hour the 1918 armistice was signed.

Charlotte does not hold a special Veterans Day event, although churches, some community groups and families create their own ways to remember. Shelburne welcomes participants from the area to a public remembrance at the Veterans Memorial on the parade ground, starting at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11. A less familiar opportunity is through the national group, Vets Town Hall. They offer a unique way to acknowledge the personal significance (both positive and negative) that military service carries and especially the impact that combat has on a person. Some war wounds are clearly visible, and some are not. Many are poorly understood by either the veteran or those in a position to help. But we know combat is traumatizing in complicated ways and can make adjusting to life back home extremely difficult.

Vet Town Hall is a model for organizing local public events which provide a safe opportunity for veterans to speak honestly about what their military service meant in their lives. Veteran and non-veteran audience members listen without comment. It is a powerful way to promote understanding of a veteran’s experience and how it has influenced their life. Being part of the audience to hear these stories is a uniquely supportive way to show your care and appreciation for fellow Americans who went to war on our country’s behalf.

The final Vermont Vets Town Hall this fall will be held Nov. 6 in Colchester at the McCarthy Arts Center of St. Michael’s College at 1 p.m. Veterans of any era who served in any active-duty capacity during military conflict are invited to speak for up to 10 minutes about that experience and its impact on them. Non-veterans are especially encouraged to attend and listen. This facilitated event is non-political and non-judgmental. There will be no debate on American foreign policy. We will simply listen and learn. You are encouraged to register in advance at vtvetstownhall.org to speak or attend.

Veterans are all somebody’s friends, neighbors, family members — fellow Americans whose military service sent them into war. Yes, they survived and came home. But who could go through war without being changed, and without wounds that need time and help to heal? Despite the U.S. Veterans Administration providing government-funded services, the current suicide rate for veterans is 1.5 times higher than that of the general population, and the rate among female veterans is 2.5 times higher than that of non-veteran women. Don’t we owe our veterans not only appreciation but all the support we can give to help them move forward with their civilian lives? Whether we know individual veterans or not, we are their grateful community, and our job seems clear: Both to work for peace and non-violent resolution of conflict and to listen to and honor their stories.

Only then perhaps as a country can find more effective ways to help heal the wounds that war inflicts.

(Linda Hamilton is a member of Charlotte Grange charlottegrange.org and associate member of the Will Miller Green Mountain Chapter of Vermont Veterans for Peace wmgmvfp.wixsite.com/vermont.)

Image by Robert Pender from Pexels
Scratch beneath the surface of college rankings

Margo Bartsch
College Essay Coach

If an athletic team dropped in rankings from number 2 to 18 in just a year, would alarm bells go off? This unprecedented decline is the case of Columbia University in New York City. It fell to 18 in the U.S. News Best College Rankings 2023 after being second last year and claiming a top spot for years. A Columbia math professor, Michael Thaddeus, asserted the college was self-reporting false data on class size, instruction spending and full-time faculty. Shortly thereafter, Provost Mary C. Boyce acknowledged that Columbia relied on “outdated and/or incorrect methodologies” and consequently overstated class size and faculty degrees. Thaddeus explained that submitting false data helped to increase Columbia’s rankings. His report published a detailed analysis exposing “inaccurate, dubious or highly misleading” statistics submitted to U.S. News. Thaddeus questioned how Columbia was able to catapult its ranking compared to other top universities; ranked 18 in 1988, top five in 2011 and second in 2021. In response to these false data revelations, U.S. News initially designated Columbia as being unranked; however, later it demoted it. Columbia dispute erupted. Forbes published a detailed analysis online on August 30, 2022, before the Columbia dispute erupted. Forbes published Columbia’s student-to-teacher ratio at 7 to 1, which was doubted by Thaddeus. The Forbes data primarily focuses on student outcomes. It collects information principally from two federal databases: the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and College Scorecard. Additional data is compiled from: PayScale; Third Way; the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; and Forbes’ own lists. Alumni Salary represents 20 percent of the Forbes calculation. Interestingly, U.S. News does not include salary as a measurement criterion. Forbes computes 15 percent each to: Debt; Graduation Rate; Forbes American Leaders List; and Return-on-Investment. Finally, Retention Rate and Academic Success each account for 10 percent. Families should have a frank conversation to identify the priorities for their student’s college experience. In some cases, the student’s goals may be different from their parents. For example, if a student wants to be recruited for a varsity sport, liberal arts colleges may be a better fit to compete on a team. Liberal arts colleges are typically Division-2 or Division-3, compared to many national universities as Division-I.

Making steps toward community at Charlotte Central School

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Early last year, as Charlotte Central School was preparing to ease out of the pandemic, the school and the town revealed in a survey that they hoped a priority would be the building of community at Charlotte Central School. Families and caregivers hoped for schoolwide experiences. They hoped students would find opportunities to experience community and learn about giving. Families and caregivers wanted all students to feel cared about and appreciated for being themselves and there was a hope that students could have time to help others within their community. Last week the students in fifth grade led a whole-school morning meeting. The greatness of these student-led activities is the modeling of leadership, empathy, caring and acceptance. The students shared a book called “I’m Here” by Peter H. Reynolds and talked about what “being here” means to those around us. The multi-purpose room was filled with smiles. Another example of boosting community comes from the Community Wellness class led by Matt Kent and Amy Sayre for seventh and eighth graders. They have spent a couple of hours talking about what it means to be a part of a community — what it looks, feels and sounds like. After that, groups of students began community action projects which can be school, town or statewide.

Digital Citizen Week Oct. 17-21

Students will continue learning about how to be safe consumers of technology and online resources with some special activities provided by the Champlain Valley School District digital learning leaders. The instruction will include the integration of digital tools in the delivery of curriculum to enrich teaching and learning, and strengthening the technology skills and knowledge of students.

Day of Racial Equity

On Friday, Sept. 9, a group of 24 Charlotte Central School students visited the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network’s Day of Racial Equity on the Statehouse lawn in Montpelier. The students got to hear from speakers, attend workshops, meet state-level policymakers and talk with other students committed to anti-racism from throughout the state. Diversity, equity and inclusion coach Atiaka Luna and educators Katie Fraser and Heidi Huensht coordinated an awesome day.

First LEGO League

Charlotte Central School is pleased to announce the start of an afterschool club for students from fifth-eighth grade that focuses on teamwork, robotics and coding. The mission of the Charlotte Central School First Legs League team is to foster a collaborative and diverse community of STEM-curious members that will build and compete in a mission-based robotics game using the LEGO Education SPIKE Essential platform. Tim Holcomb has offered to lead this club, and interested parents willing to help are always welcome.

Charlotte Central School Holiday Market

Calling all artisans. The Charlotte Central School Holiday Market will be back on Dec. 10. There will be two gyms filled with exhibitors, a children’s DV craft table, as well as several on-site food options. All proceeds from the holiday market will go directly to the Charlotte Central School PTO to support a variety of student enrichment programs including STEM, theater, athletics, as well as the community Emergency Care Fund. Community support is greatly appreciated. Contact cchsolidaymarket@gmail.com with any questions.
The Essex and Champlain Valley Union high schools have a long tradition of gridiron rivalry, and this Saturday, Oct. 15, was more of the same — although it wasn’t apparent at the start.

Junior Ollie Cheer returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown to put the Redhawks up 7-0 right out of the gate on the Hornets’ home field. At halftime there was 21-0 and those unfamiliar with this rivalry might have thought it was going to be smooth sailing for CVU.

But in the second half, the Hornets’ offense woke up and the Redhawks’ defense bent a bit. Essex scored once in the third quarter and twice in the fourth to pull within 7, but CVU hung on to come away with the 28-21 win and remain the only undefeated team in the division.

Besides his kickoff return, junior returner and backup quarterback Cheer passed for a touchdown and snagged two interceptions on defense, while senior starter Max Destito passed for two touchdowns.

“After that, the offense woke up and the Redhawks’ scoring attack, while Emma Kim had one, and Tess Everett had an assist. Each had two goals to lead the CVU team scoring until late in the game. Tucker Pierson said.

“Despite terrible field conditions, both teams played a good game,” said coach Rahn Fleming.

It was a defensive contest with neither team scoring until late in the game. Finally, with 2:31 left in the fourth quarter Carly Strobeck scored off a rebounded shot from a penalty corner. Goalie Grace Ferguson had two saves for the Redhawks, and Adowyn Byrne had three saves for Essex.

Champlain Valley 5, Rutland 0
The Redhawks downed the only other unbeaten team on Oct. 8 when the Burr and Burton Bulldogs came to Hinesburg.

A win will take the Redhawks into the postseason with a No. 1 seed.

Champlain Valley High 2-0 on Oct. 8 in a home game for the Redhawks. Emma Kim scored for CVU on a penalty stroke in the second quarter. That was all the scoring in this defensive contest until the game’s waning moments when Claire Marcroce scored with 49 seconds left in the fourth quarter with an assist from Emily Gay to make it 2-0. CVU goalie Rianne Nagelhout had five saves and Sasha Whithouse had five saves for Burlington.

Lauren T. Gareis

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Photos by Al Frey
manifest in the future, and so we need to know exactly how global change will be. The recognition of uncertainty. We don’t consider this expansive thinking — doing things like managing forests, controlling invasive plants, changing our behavior in many ways. Adaptability is a quality that we will need to cultivate going forward. Another important part of managing for adaptability includes helping all our native flora and fauna adapt to a changed and changing world. In addition to managing for diverse and complex forests, which will provide habitat and refugia for many species, we need to protect threatened species and unusual habitats and to take action to create important habitats that are underrepresented across our landscape. We also need to ensure that ecosystems are connected, so that species can move between them as they are faced with changes and challenges, and so that they can maintain the genetic diversity necessary to adapt.

Vermont’s forests tell a story of transformation but in much less time. Over just a few centuries, many wildlife species have been lost from our forests, some of which have returned or been reintroduced and some of which have not. Nearly all our forests have been cleared, many maintained as agricultural land for a century or more. Vermont has lost huge amounts of forestland and continues to lose thousands of acres each year. Our remaining forests are increasingly fragmented by deforestation, roads and development and degraded by a variety of introduced stressors, including non-native invasive plants and non-native pests and pathogens which have caused the loss or functional-loss of several important tree species. We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, species across the globe going extinct and racing towards extinction at an alarming rate. We are in the midst of a climate crisis, with a climate that has changed and is changing faster than ever.

When change occurs slowly and in small measures, ecosystems and species are able to adapt as they have for millennia. Today, this immense volume of changes and stressors — known collectively as global change — is occurring all at once and at an incredible rate. There is no going back, no returning to when Vermont was endless old growth forests, undammed streams and expansive networks of beaver wetlands. While mitigation — slowing these changes — is critical, the health and resilience of our forests will also depend on their adaptability.

Simply put, adaptability is the ability of a forest to adapt, to change. A key consideration in managing for adaptability is the recognition of uncertainty. We don’t know exactly how global change will manifest in the future, and so we need to ensure that our forests have the tools to adapt to a wide variety of potential future conditions. One of the key ingredients in adaptability is diversity. In a landscape in which forests are generally young and simple, managing for forests with lots of different tree species (“species diversity”) and different sizes and ages of trees (“structural diversity” or complexity), buffers forests from stressors which may affect a single species or a single size or age of tree, giving forests a range of potential adaptive pathways forward. Also critical is managing for diverse landscapes — with many different types of forests and other ecosystems.

Forests are more than trees. Managing for adaptability includes helping all our native flora and fauna adapt to a changed and changing world. In addition to managing for diverse and complex forests, which will provide habitat and refugia for many species, we need to protect threatened species and unusual habitats and to take action to create important habitats that are underrepresented across our landscape. We also need to ensure that ecosystems are connected, so that species can move between them as they are faced with changes and challenges, and so that they can maintain the genetic diversity necessary to adapt.

Another important part of managing for adaptability is addressing threats. Deforestation, forest fragmentation, non-native invasive plants, animals, pests and pathogens and deer overpopulation all undermine forests’ ability to regenerate, to change, to become diverse and complex, thus threatening their adaptability. All of these threats are human-caused, and only we have the power to address them.

How will we help forests adapt to an uncertain future? We are in uncharted waters, off the map and becoming more so each day. Responding to this moment will mean making uncomfortable decisions — doing things like managing forests, controlling invasive plants, changing our behavior in many ways. Adaptability is a quality that we will need to cultivate going forward. Both in our forests and in ourselves. The choices we make, the way we change, will dictate the world that we give to future generations.

(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 eNews and read articles he’s written at linktree/chittendencountyforester.)
Decorative gourds belong to the cucurbit family and can be classified into two types. Miniature pumpkins, warty varieties, winged and others with soft shells belong to the genus Cucurbita. These with hard shells, such as bottle, birdhouse and calabash gourds, are members of the genus Lagenaria. Both types are easy to grow at home and share some basic harvesting and curing strategies to extend their decorative life. Lagenaria gourds, however, require an additional step to fully utilize their unique characteristics.

Gourds can be harvested when the stem begins to turn brown. Clip the stem a few inches from the ground. Gourds can be left on the vine to dry completely but should be harvested before a frost.

Fully ripe gourds will have a tough skin that cannot be pierced with your fingernail. Underripe gourds can still be used but will begin to rot sooner.

To extend the life of your mature gourds, they also need to be dried to prevent decay. Wash the surface of harvested gourds and dry thoroughly.

Place gourds somewhere out of direct sunlight to continue drying. They can be set on a wire rack to increase air circulation. Attach string tied around their stems. Be sure to hang with string tied around their stems. Be sure to check regularly for moisture and prevent mold growth if you are drying the gourds on a solid surface.

The skin of Cucurbita gourds will be dry and hard in a couple of weeks. Now that your gourd is dry, it will last on display throughout the season. Gourds can be polished with vegetable oil for an attractive shine. You may also choose to wax, shellac or paint your gourd at this point. If you do, remember that some decorative treatments should not be composted.

Lagenaria gourds require additional drying time to dry out the interior flesh as well as the outer skin. This drying process can take several months. These varieties will be ready to use for displays or crafts when you can hear the seeds rattle inside. Historically, fully dried gourds of this type have been used for art or as musical instruments, utensils and containers.

Compost your gourds when they begin to show signs of deterioration or when you are done with them. You may find a surprise in your compost pile next spring. Gourds love the warm, nutrient-rich environment of the compost.

JoAnna Easton doesn’t believe people with learning disabilities should be defined by what they can’t do. Through her LittleWing Learning Center, she tries to ensure they won’t be.

She describes her practice as being the intersection of neurology, cognition and psychology. “I absolutely love my work,” Easton said. “I’m really lucky because I have loved all the work I’ve done.”

Easton provides educational services for adults and adolescents. “I love the questions adolescents ask,” she said. “The gifted learning disabled profile is where our diversity lives. I don’t work from a deficit model but by looking at what these brains can do.”

Easton noted that from a very early age, children are measured and graded and therefore painfully aware of what they can’t do.

“In many ways I think that there is a healing aspect to this work,” she said. “I am intent on trying to help students fill in their identity and not see themselves as wounded. I loan them my frontal lobe for a while and there is no end of joy in that.”

Easton’s career has taken a number of twists and turns on the way to writing a memoir. It’s the time of year when strangely shaped, oddly colored, making them an ideal choice for both autumnal displays and crafts.

It’s the time of year when strangely shaped, oddly colored, making them an ideal choice for both autumnal displays and crafts.

Lots of options for decorative or utilitarian gourds. It’s the time of year when strangely shaped, oddly colored, making them an ideal choice for both autumnal displays and crafts.
Fall in love with fall

Sunset on Ferry Road  Photo by linda williamson

Viewers at Mt Philo.  Photo by Vince Crockenberg

Photos by Lee Krohn
Deborah J. Benoit  
University of Vermont Extension

There’s an old saying, “Good things come in small packages.” That’s certainly true of the tiny flowers that bloom in the spring. And fall is the perfect time to plant these bulbs.

We’re all familiar with the drifts of daffodils and tulips that brighten the view at winter’s end, but have you considered the supporting players in that panorama? Crocus probably comes to mind, but there are many other options for spring flowers that grow a mere 3-6 inches tall.

Among the first to bloom in the spring, snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis) live up to their name. These tiny white flowers with their drooping heads push through frozen ground as ice and snow begin their retreat. Snowdrops make a lovely show, particularly if planted in drifts.

Glory-of-the-snow (Chionodoxa) can often be seen as a flash of blue among the dull post-winter landscape, but they also are available in white and pink. They may be small, but mass planting makes quite an impact.

If you’re partial to blue, Iris reticulata, a dwarf iris, sports petite blue flowers with white and yellow markings. Grape hyacinth (Muscari) offers clusters of cobalt blue flowers atop its stem. Either will create a vibrant contrast when planted among bright yellow daffodils or a peaceful mood when combined with white tulips.

Another interesting spring bloomer is winter aconite (Eranthis hyemalis). This relative of the common buttercup is low growing with bright yellow flowers and forms mounded clumps.

And, of course, there are crocuses (Crocus vernus). These ever-popular spring-blooming bulbs can be found not only at garden centers but in grocery stores and other local retailers throughout the fall season. They come in a variety of colors, including white, yellow and purple.

The method you choose for planting will depend on the result you’re looking for. For individual placement, dig a hole 3-4 inches deep (see package directions for the specific bulb), place the bulb pointed end up and cover with soil. If you plan to line a path or walkway, you may find it simpler to dig a shallow trench that deep, scatter the bulbs in the trench, cover with soil and water the area.

If you’re planning to plant a larger area or a combination of bulbs such as daffodils and glory-of-the-snow, dig out the area you intend to plant to the depth needed for the largest bulb. Place those bulbs either individually where you’d like them to grow or, easier still, scatter the bulbs for a more natural look. Next, cover the larger bulbs with soil to the depth of the next smaller bulb.

For example, if you planted your larger bulbs (such as tulips) at 6 inches deep, you would cover them with soil until the planting area is at the depth for planting the smaller bulbs (such as crocus), approximately 3 inches deep. Again, place the bulbs individually or scatter them across the area. Then cover the bulbs with soil to reach the level of the surrounding ground and water the area.

Where to plant? Choose an area that will provide adequate sun, such as under deciduous trees or bushes that may provide full sun before they have leafed out in the spring. Soil should be moist and drain well. If too wet, the bulbs may rot.

When to plant? Now is the time. Even though most plants in the garden are fading and the air is chilly, as long as you can dig in the soil, you can plant spring-blooming bulbs. So, go for it.

Select your favorites and get them in the garden. When spring arrives, you’ll be glad you did.

(Deborah J. Benoit is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of Vermont’s Bennington County Chapter.)

Photos by Deborah J. Benoit

Snowdrops with their tiny white drooping heads are among the first flowers to bloom in the spring, often pushing up through ice and snow to emerge in the sunlight.

Crocus and glory-of-the-snow (Chionodoxa) bulbs are among the many spring blooming miniature bulbs available for purchase at garden centers and other local retailers in the fall.
**Calendar of Events**

**Hinesburg Artists Series**

**Vermont Opera Company**

Monday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.

The Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra presents a program at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, featuring works representing the many forms of life in Vermont. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/29dh4d7t.

**Chamber Music Series**

Wednesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.

The Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra presents a program at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, featuring works representing the many forms of life in Vermont. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/29dh4d7t.

**Chamber Music Series**

Friday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.

The Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra presents a program at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, featuring works representing the many forms of life in Vermont. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/29dh4d7t.

**Spooktacular Series**

Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m.-noon

Stop by the Charlotte Library to carve a Jack-o-lantern and listen to a concert, and if you’re trick-or-treating on Monday, stop by 5 p.m. or after to get the library porch for some goodies. Wear costumes, of course!

**Halloween on the farm**

Saturday, October 29, 4-6 p.m.

Imagine your eyes closed, being surrounded by orchestral music and the sounds of singing bows and chimes. Choral Camellion presents a program at the Strong-Beer Arts Center, Middlebury College. The audience hears layered voices and sounds for a restorative, contemplative experience. Tickets and more info at tinyurl.com/bdfmcm4f.

**Hinesburg chicken BBQ**

Saturday, October 29, 5 or 6 p.m.

The United Church of Hinesburg hosts a free chicken BBQ dinner, with two seatings, and a fall fair for meat lovers and vegetarians. Donation jars will support relief efforts in Puerto Rico due to the hurricane. Two seatings of 50 people each, and reservations required. Call the church at 802-482-3352 and leave your name, number of guests, which seating, and reservations required. The church will follow up with you.

**Spooky Veggies**

Saturday, October 29, beginning 7 p.m.

Halloween festivities begin with a scary movie at the Veggies Open House, complete with a DJ dance party and, finally, a costume parade and contest. For more info and tickets see tinyurl.com/29h9uyd6.

**Nature illumination**

Sunday, October 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Artist Susan Sawyer leads participants in an art workshop focused on the falls of light and dark. Sharpen your observation and journaling skills. Meet at the North Branch Nature Center in Middlebury. All materials provided except your own sketch book. Drawing experience helpful but not required. For tickets and more info, see tinyurl.com/myteex23.

**Horse-drawn wagon rides**

Sunday, October 30, various times

Learn some fun dance steps are still open for these popular rides at Shuey Farms. Dress appropriately and bring the family. For more info and to reserve spots, see tinyurl.com/3p9jih6m.

**Emerald ash borer**

Wednesday, November 2, 6-9 p.m.

Pathways Vermon, an organization working to help end homelessness, presents a fund-raisin evening at HULA in Burlington. Music, live and silent auctions with works by local artists, books, a RoEke of owls and birds, and food by The Great Northern. Come support Pathways Vermont, and learn about their work around the state. More info and tickets at tinyurl.com/mrmyra1l.

**Race for the birds**

Saturday, November 5, 8 a.m.

Walkers and runners enjoy a 5k event on the challenging trails of the Birds of Vermont museum in Burlington. No fee to enter, but donations welcome to support trail work and post-run snacks. Option to run a virtual race at your convenience before Nov. 4. For all the info, and to register, see tinyurl.com/3jqaau2a.

**Snow and ride sale**

Saturday, November 5, 8 a.m.

Cochran’s sale and swap on snow equipment takes place at Camel’s Hump Middle School in Richmond. Online consignment open through Wed., Nov. 2. For all the necessary info, see cochranskisale.com. Sale continues Sunday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

**Awake, you sleeper**

Saturday, November 5, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

A children’s holiday concert takes place at the Lake Champlain Youth Choir in Burlington. All materials provided except your own sketch book. Drawing experience helpful but not required. For tickets and more info, see tinyurl.com/3r3f7s7f.

**Teen leadership**

Friday-Sunday, November 18-20

see tinyurl.com/22yg3l7n

**Workshop on oats**

October 22, 6-9 p.m.

If you enjoy teamwork and trail maintenance as much as outdoorsy folks like yourself, join others to manage emerald ash borer on your property. More info and to reserve spots, see tinyurl.com/3p9jih6m.
Spooky, but not too spooky, events to haunt library

Join us at the library for two special, not-too-spooky events. From 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 29, the library porch is home to our second annual Jack-o-lantern fest. Julie Holmes’ music students will entertain us with “The Ghost of Nicholas Greebe” to put us in the right spirit. Bring your creativity and a pumpkin to carve.

And, don’t forget trick-or-treat on the library porch, Halloween night from 5 to 8 p.m. Sweet treats and library treats for all!

Book chat on the porch
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.
Meet on the library porch to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Margaret selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. Please check library calendar for dates.

Short story selections
First and third Thursdays, 1 p.m.
Join library director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories 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.

Book chat via Zoom
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. Please check library calendar for dates. Register in advance for Zoom link: bit.ly/3BuHdj.

Children and family programs
Preschool story time
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
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.
Please call the Charlotte Library to register for this event.

Preschool free play
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks or play dough—these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning on the Charlotte Library porch. Ages 3 and 4.

Adult programs
Stillwater Meditation
Saturdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19, 9 a.m.
Gather together for eight weeks this fall as the light changes to explore poetry and meditation as sacred community. Respect for all beings and faiths is a foundational quality of our time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many or all meetings. Free. Stillwater Meditation is an offering of Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

One-on-one tech help sessions
Saturdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

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Saturdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

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.

Last year’s Jack-o-lantern fest brought a variety of talent. Exploded. With higher demand, many experienced difficulties in accessing seed, which illuminated the critical role that seeds hold in food systems and generated increased interest in seed systems. To respond to the increased interest in seed saving, your local seed library has connected with a team of University of Vermont researchers and seed-saving expert and Vermont resident, Sylvia Davits, to offer a seed-saving workshop. Registration required at bit.ly/seedsavingcharlotte.

Library News

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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Senior Center News

As seasonal chill sets in, activities blooming evenings at the senior center. This class is for those who have a basic understanding of beginner guitar and is a continuation of the fall beginner guitar six-week class. If you have questions about whether this class would be appropriate for your specific skill level, please reach out to John Creech at sonjohncreech@gmail.com. Registration required by Monday, Oct. 31. The cost is $75 for the six-week session.

Poetry about Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Thursday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m. Join Dan Close, poet and novelist and member of the Poetry Society of Vermont, Burlington Writers and Peace Corps Writers, as he presents his poetry about the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge. The reading will be accompanied by slides of the wildlife refuge.

Shape note singing Sunday, Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m. Traditional a capella, four-part harmony sung for the joy of singing ... not as a practice for performance. Search “sacred harp” on YouTube for examples, then come and sing with us. Introduction to shape notes and scales is recommended and offered 30 minutes before each first Sunday singing. Contact Kerry Cullinan at keclynvt@gmail.com to schedule. There is no cost.

Exercise classes Meditation Fridays, 8-9 a.m. Meditation is an easy-to-learn practice that reduces anxiety, stress, pain and depression. Charlie Nardozzi will lead the class in techniques to quiet the body and mind by doing simple breathing exercises and a seated, eyes-closed guided meditation. All are welcome, no experience necessary. The cost is $10 a class. No registration required.

Bone Builders Starting Nov. 3, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. RSVP Bone Builders, a program of United Way of Northwest Vermont, is a no-impact, weight-training program designed to prevent and even reverse the negative effects of osteoporosis in older adults. Bone Builders consists of a warmup, balance exercises, arm and leg exercises, and a cool down with stretching. No cost or paperwork to complete for the RSVP Bone Builders program.

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 charlotteseniortervt.org.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniortervt.org.

Monday Lunches Served weekly. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food runs out. 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. October menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniortervt.org. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Kerrie Pughe at 802-425-6345 at kpughe@charlotteseniortervt.org. Suggested meal donation is $5. *Please note, as of Oct. 1, all current participants will need to complete an Age Well Congregate Meal Registration Form for Age Well’s 2023 fiscal year. There will be copies available at the Senior Center and on the Age Well website at agewellvt.org.
Waiting for Great Pumpkin and spaghetti

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

When planning late October meals at the Charlotte Senior Center, Monday Munch follows Cinderella’s wisdom: “I’d say the first thing you need is a pumpkin.”

Linus, of course, shows similar pumpkin fervor: “The Great Pumpkin will appear and I’ll be waiting for him! I’ll be there! I’ll be sitting there in that pumpkin patch ... and I’ll see the Great Pumpkin. Just wait and see, Charlie Brown.”

At Monday Munch, pumpkin pie is just the grand finale. You’ll find plenty more on the menus.

Whether or not pumpkin is on the menu at the French Laundry in Yountville, California, we learn from The San Francisco Chronicle that this place is “so hot there’s a black market in reservations.”

Admittedly, at the Charlotte Senior Center you won’t get grilled Wagyu topped with fried barbajuan or sesame tuiles filled with red onion and crème fraiche crowned with salmon tartare and a fresh coat of sesame seeds — constructed to look like an ice cream cone.

But lunch seats are easy to come by and you’ll pay $345 less for a meal at our place.

Monday Munch
Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone
Spaghetti with beef Bolognese sauce, Caesar salad, crusty garlic bread and pumpkin pie with whipped cream

Grab & Go Meal
Thursday, Oct. 27, pick up: 10-11 a.m.
Beef steak, BBQ sauce, Italian rice risotto with diced tomatoes, Italian vegetables with black beans, wheat bread with butter, berry crisp with cream and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday at 802-425-634 or kpughc@charlotteseniormctervt.org. Meals are provided by Age Well at no charge, but they appreciate donations.

Monday “Halloween” Munch
Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join us for a festive Halloween lunch — with treat bags. We invite you to wear your mask, hat or costume. This attire is optional but there will be a costume contest. Don’t worry: No tricks. Festive food abounds: Assorted sandwiches, potato salad, pumpkin pie in a cup and Halloween surprise.

Grab & Go Meal
Thursday, Nov. 3, pick up: 10-11 a.m.
To be announced. Check the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniormctervt.org/lunch/meals.

It’s October, a time to relish the leaves. As it happens, Scott Jopin’s “Maple Leaf Rag” was named after a club, not autumn leaves, but in every season it’s ragtime to enjoy: songfacts.com/facts/scott-joplin/maple-leaf-rag.

Impresario of Baroque music, Antonio Vivaldi, gave us the famous “Four Seasons.” Here’s the Netherlands Bach Society with “Autumn”: tinyurl.com/hzpbsfxd.

Here it is on the organ of St. Lamberti, Munster, Germany: tinyurl.com/3xk5j6bd.

You can also find it on solo guitar, by a rock band and in lots more variations. Whatever you choose, we hope you also choose Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center.