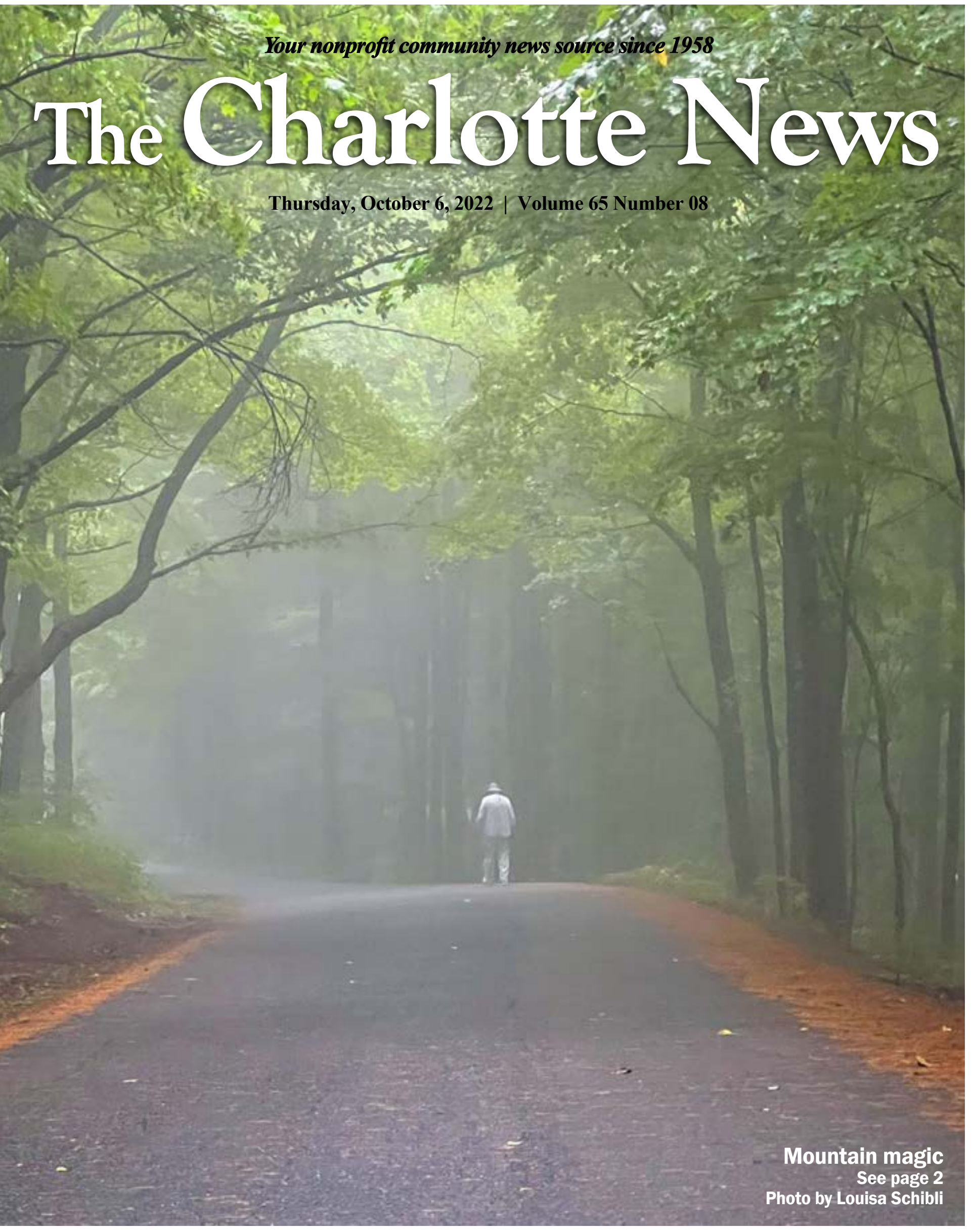


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The Charlotte News

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Mountain magic
See page 2
Photo by Louisa Schibli

Speeding dominates selectboard meeting

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Speeding — it’s a perennial topic at Charlotte Selectboard meetings. And just like perennial plants, this discussion may go dormant, but it will sprout up again.

The subject of speeding and dangerous roads surfaced at the Monday, Sept. 26, selectboard meeting. As the meeting started there were around 20 people attending, either in-person or online, but 30 minutes in, when the public comments portion began, attendance had almost doubled. The overwhelming majority had come to comment on speeding.

Eric Finley told the board the town has been talking for two years about getting flashing lights, radar, speed studies, speed bumps, signs or something to get cars to slow down on Greenbush Road. The number of children living in the area has grown, including his own four children under 5 years old.

“When I drive into Shelburne, I know that if I go over the speed limit, I’m going to get pulled over,” Finley said. “In Charlotte, no one really cares because there’s no one looking, there’s no one checking the speed of anybody.”

“I get passed four days a week going 25,” Finley said. “Getting passed on my own road going 25 sucks.”

Carla Hunter, who also lives on Greenbush, came with a petition signed by 36 residents who live within less than a mile of each other. The petitioners implored the selectboard to do something to enforce speed limits on their street to protect other drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

“Past efforts in the town to study and calm traffic have been solely symbolic in nature and have failed to lead to enforcement of the 25-mile-an-hour speed limit and adherence to stop signs,” Hunter said, reading the petition.

Cars, trucks, buses and delivery vehicles regularly speed on Greenbush Road, sometimes going twice the 25 mph speed limit, Jessie Wegman wrote in a letter his wife Kyra Wegman read because he was out of town.

“I’ve often felt like I live next to an airstrip and not a country road,” Wegman wrote. “The problem is that Charlotte spends no money on law enforcement.”

He suggested the money saved on a police force might be invested in radar speed signs, speed tables or something that would reduce speeding.

Ken Spencer walks Greenbush Road picking up litter to Shelburne and to Ferrisburgh almost weekly. With speed limits of 25, 35 and 45 mph on that road, it’s confusing where the speed limit changes.

“Perhaps we have a problem with all the varying speeds on the road,” Spencer said.

School buses won’t drop her children off at the Old Brick Store anymore, Damaris Herlihy said, because it’s too dangerous for them to cross the road to their home.

“That’s crazy. It should be safe for our kids to get off a bus there and expect people to stop and let kids get off safely,” she said.

The issue of pedestrian safety is particularly personal for King Milne, who

SEE **SPEEDING** PAGE 3



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

From left, Molly King and Dan Cole, both of the Charlotte Historical Society, look out over Lake Champlain at the spot where McNeil’s Ferry once operated.

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Ever wonder why Ferry Road takes such a sharp left turn as you are headed west shortly before you reach the ferry?

If you miss this turn and keep heading straight at more than 50 mph, you’ll likely be fishtailing because you’ve suddenly hit a gravel road named Wings Point Road.

Following the gravel road here west and then to the south will lead you to a small group of homes on what is now known as Wings Point. Years ago, it was known as McNeil’s Point.

Bob Witt says he hasn’t traveled much, and now that he’s retired, he’s even happier to stay at home in Indiana, but a vacation trip to Charlotte was a dream he’s had for years.

He and his wife Stephanie joined his childhood friend from South Bend, Rick Garnitz and his wife Signe for a trip to New England with the highlight being a visit to the old homesite and the ferry his ancestor Charles McNeil ran on the Lake Champlain peninsula that for some years bore the name of this branch of his family.

So, on the morning of Friday, Sept. 23, the two couples found themselves as part of a group of about 10 being shown around the point where Charles McNeil built his home in the early 1790s. The group was led by Charlotte historian Dan Cole and Tom Bates,

who owns a home a couple of doors down.

Witt said the trip to visit his family’s Charlotte roots has been on his bucket list for years, but during the past year or so he’s been communicating with Cole regularly, waiting to fly to Boston until COVID didn’t seem such a threat in the small, enclosed space of an airline.

“It was just a tremendous time. I’m so glad I made this trip,” Bob Witt said.

John McNeil, Charles’ father, purchased the land from Ethan Allen, leader of the Green Mountain Boys and one of the founders of Vermont.

Both Charles and his brother, who was also named John McNeil, started ferries. John McNeil’s ferry ran from the peninsula that’s now known as Cedar Beach on the south side of the cove that’s still known as McNeil Cove. Apparently, the competition between the two brothers was heated, but eventually Charles McNeil’s ferry won out.

Maybe John McNeil was distracted by his other duties. In 1787, he became Charlotte’s first town clerk.

Initially, the ferries were powered by sail, but these were replaced by horse ferries. There were two different kinds of horse ferry. On one, horses walked on a treadmill to supply power. The horse ferries on Lake Champlain had a horizontal wheel and six horses — three on each side — turned a large disc which transmitted power to a sidewheel



Dan Cole holds a cannon ball that was shot at members of the McNeil family and others who had taunted British boats going to south on Lake Champlain to fight in the War of 1812.

paddle. It was hard work for the horses and dangerous. Occasionally the planks would break which would mean a broken leg for a horse, William Wallace Higbee wrote in

SEE **HISTORY** PAGE 2

Changes to land-use regulations explained

Charlie Pughe
Chair of the Charlotte Planning Commission

On the Nov. 8 general election ballot, Charlotte residents are being asked to vote on a set of proposed updates to the Charlotte land-use regulations. These proposals were developed by the planning commission with input from residents, staff at the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission and the Charlotte Selectboard.

It’s important to understand the relationship between the town plan, land-use regulations and how these documents determine what can and cannot be built in Charlotte. The town plan is a policy document that sets forth a vision with goals and objectives for what residents want to see in Charlotte’s future in many dimensions, including land development, energy use,

facilities, services and conserving natural resources and the open landscapes which are core values for residents. The land-use regulations is the main rule book that implements the goals and policies contained in the town plan. They also guide day-to-day enforcement and the zoning administrator’s decisions in issuing administrative permits for building projects.

(Note if you’re just joining us: In December 2021, the selectboard combined the land-use permitting duties of the zoning board of adjustment and the planning commission into a single entity, the development review board. This change allowed the planning commission’s focus on planning work, including updates to the land-use regulations and town plan. Currently, all proposed changes to the land-use regulations have to be approved by a majority vote of

Charlotte residents.) Charlotte’s Town Plan was last updated in 2019. The plan and land-use regulations are living documents that need to be regularly reviewed and updated to stay current with modifications in state law, community values and changes in the community and environment: such as an aging population, reduced school enrollment, the need for more diverse housing options, a changing climate, etcetera. If we don’t update the land-use regulations, they risk becoming irrelevant — and they become more difficult to apply to projects reviewed by the development review board. On the warrant for your upcoming general election vote are four separate articles for proposed changes to Charlotte’s land-use

SEE **LAND USE** PAGE 4

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one of his essays collected in Around the Mountain.

“The fuel was the whip and an increased demand for speed meant more energetic application of rawhide,” Higbee said.

Between the northwest end of the Burlington breakwater and Lone Rock Point, the remains of an old horse ferry are submerged in Lake Champlain, according to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum’s website. The sunken ferry is 63 feet x 23 feet. The museum has a half-sized replica of a horse ferry.

Higbee said McNeil’s was a happening place for the time because, besides the back-and-forth crossings of the ferry, a steamboat stopped at least twice a day and sloop-rigged canal boats transporting all kinds of goods up and down the lake were constantly stopping.

The sloop-rigged canal boats sailed south to the Champlain Canal. At Whitehall, N.Y., where the canal begins, the sails were taken down to make it through the canal. At the end of the canal, the boats were towed by tugboats to New York and markets to the south. On their return trip, the sloop-rigged canal boats’ sails were re-rigged at Whitehall.

Because it was so critical in the early 1800s to commerce and travel to the “West,” which in those days was Ohio, Higbee said, “McNeil’s” was a household word, long to be remembered.”

Higbee waxes poetic about the flux of people who headed west towards the sunset via McNeil’s Ferry, pursuing the American dream of better opportunities: “Many a longing eye looked back over the three miles of blue water to catch a last glimpse of its rocky shore, for over there were the migrants’ parents and friends, old homes and tender memories.”

On the day of the Witts’ visit to the site of the old ferry, the wind was blowing and the lake was roiling with waves, but the day



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Tom Bates, who lives on Wings Point, leads a group back in time to when McNeil’s Ferry was a bustling center of travel and commerce in Charlotte.

before when the water had been calmer and the level lower because of drought, Libby Laino said she could see the old timbers of the ferry dock through the water at the lake’s edge. Laino and her family live in the home Charles McNeil built on the gently sloping hill above the ferry.

Next door a large tavern was built in the 1830s that is now a beautiful, spacious home.

The grassy but barely passable byway that runs in front of these homes is a remnant of what was once a bustling road, a major artery of commerce and travel for Charlotte. Down this road came the butter and cheese the town was known for in those days, destined for markets in other states.

Before leaving town, the group stopped by the Charlotte Museum where Cole showed them a cannon ball that had been fired at Witt’s ancestors.

During the War of 1812, the McNeils and their neighbors had gathered on the

banks at the ferry and hurled insults at the British sailing south for battle. After losing the battle, as the boats headed back north, the defeated yet infuriated sailors fired their cannons at their antagonists.

Probably before 1820 Charles McNeil was delivering lumber to Trois-Rivières, Quebec, when he got sick and died, Cole said. His wife and daughters were not able to keep the business running and the property was foreclosed on.

In 1850, the property was bought by Nicholas Wing. He owned it almost until the 1900s. When the property was sold, the Wing name stayed on.

In the 1830s or 40s, Champlain Transportation made the switch to steam-powered ferry boats and moved the business a short way south to a spit of land where the Charlotte Ferry operates now — a ferry you have to get to by slowing down, hopefully, and making a sharp left turn.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

At the regular board meeting in November of last school year, Christina Deeley read a letter that was critical of certain administrators within our district. The letter outlined specific causes for her resignation and that of the other diversity, equity and inclusion coaches. Among those specific causes, she cited the administrators’ failure to equitably post the open diversity, equity and inclusion coach position, consistent with the Champlain Valley School District equity policy.

Following that board meeting, Champlain Valley School District administrators caused public and workplace harm to Deeley and all of the diversity, equity and inclusion coaches.

At a grievance meeting that took place on March 8, 2022, members of the Champlain Valley School District board apologized for internal communications being provided to a reporter by a district employee and subsequently printed in The Charlotte News. The internal

communication between the coaches and the principals specifically named Deely and should have never been given to the press. The district has learned from these regrettable events and, going forward, will be better at preventing harm to students and employees.

The administration and the board are committed to ensuring that those who help the district identify equity policy violations will be protected from any forms of retaliation. With a new diversity, equity and inclusion director, campus-level diversity, equity and inclusion coaches, and a nearly completed equity audit, Champlain Valley School District stands poised to solidify district-level procedures that support the equity policy. These procedures will be collaboratively written to serve the needs of the students, staff and community.

Rene Sanchez
Superintendent Champlain Valley School District

NEXT PUBLICATION DATES
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From the cover



Mountain magic

Photo by Louisa Schibli

Rain or shine, Louisa Schibli said she sees this gentleman almost every morning walking on Mt. Philo and they chat a little. His smile and optimism make the mountain even more magical for her. She also said not to be surprised if you run up behind him and he says, ‘Good morning, Louisa,’ before he sees you. Such warmth and kindness are appropriate on a mountain whose name ‘philo’ comes from Greek meaning ‘love of.’

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- to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town affairs, and,
- to source stories of interest from our neighbors and friends.

The Charlotte News is a forum for the free exchange of the views of Charlotte residents and community volunteers on matters related to the town and the people who live here.

Editorial independence

The editor makes final decisions on stories that are published in The Charlotte News. While we are funded by advertising revenue and donor contributions, our news judgments are made in accordance with our mission and are independent of all sources of financial support.

Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

Consistent with our mission The Charlotte News publishes letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries submitted by our readers. All such materials are subject to review and approval by the editor in accordance with the following standards and requirements:

- The views expressed in letters or opinion pieces are those of the author, and are not endorsed by either the board or the editorial staff of the paper. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor will be clearly labeled as such.
- The Charlotte News strives to stay clear of conflicts of interest. If an actual or perceived conflict arises or becomes known at a later date, it will be fully disclosed.
- While letters or opinion pieces may endorse political positions or candidates for public office, the paper always remains objective and impartial in such matters.
- All submissions are strictly monitored for personal attacks, score settling, blatantly false information and inflammatory language. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission that is deemed contrary to the paper’s standards.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, factual accuracy, tone, length and consistency with our publishing style.
- Efforts will be made to publish submissions in their entirety and to preserve the original intent and wording, but minor editing may nonetheless be necessary. Contributors will be notified before publishing, if in the editor’s judgment, significant changes are required, or the submission is rejected.
- Submission requirements:
- Letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries should be emailed to news@thecharlottenews.org as attachments in .doc format and must contain the writer’s full name, town of residence and, for editing purposes only, contact phone number.
- Letters may not exceed 300 words, obituaries 500 words and opinion pieces 750 words.
- All published letters and opinion pieces will include the writer’s name and town of residence.
- Before publishing any obituary, we will need proper verification of death.

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Yikes



Photo by Elizabeth Bassett
Unfortunately, it was a paper wasp nest instead of a partridge in this pear tree.

SPEEDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was hit by a vehicle several years ago while jogging at the intersection. He was also concerned about the speed of emergency vehicles returning to the fire and rescue station after emergency calls.

Kendal Frost lives nearby on Ferry Road and said she had felt safer jogging when she lived in Burlington than she does in Charlotte.

Julianne Phelps said 10 years ago she had written a letter to the town about speeding. She also pointed out that, on every route entering Charlotte from a major road, the speed limit goes up 10 mph.

Board chair Jim Faulkner told the audience they had gotten the board’s attention. “We’re going to be hard pressed not to pay attention to this.”

The board agreed it would be on the agenda in two weeks. The next regularly scheduled selectboard meeting is Monday, Oct. 10.

Safety on Route 7

A request for a safety study of Route 7 had come before the selectboard at its previous meeting. Town administrator Dean Bloch said he planned to talk to the state to see about getting a study. He also plans to talk to the sheriff to see if they can provide more enforcement there.

Since it is a state highway, the town doesn’t have much authority and this is pretty much all it can do, Faulkner said.

Safety at Charlotte Central School

The board recently has been talking about what can be done to make Charlotte Central School safer from speeding vehicles.

Faulkner advocated for making the section of Hinesburg Road in front of the school into a school zone, which it is not now, and dropping the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 for the whole school day, instead of just during drop off and pick up times in the morning and afternoon.

“We are looking at the flashing lights. That’s something we have to coordinate with the neighbors as well,” he said.

Board member Lewis Mudge said all of the board members including himself have been saying that installing flashing lights is “tricky,” but when he’s been questioned about why, he doesn’t know the answer.

Some people don’t want a flashing light outside their house, board member Frank Tenney said.

Taking actions about the safety issues at the school were not on the agenda, board member Matt Krasnow said. He supports installing signs and dropping the speed limit, but pointed out the board is not supposed to vote on issues that aren’t on the agenda and which the public hasn’t been warned about. People are supposed to know when issues are going to be voted on, so they have the opportunity to voice their opinion.

“I don’t think we need to discuss it anymore. It seems like we’re ready to move forward. I just think we can’t because it hasn’t been warned,” he said.

The board agreed to put it on an upcoming agenda.

Safety on Wings Point Road

Denis Durling, who lives on McNeil Cove Road on Wings Point, spoke during the public comments about the many trucks that come speeding down Ferry Road headed to the ferry and miss the turn to the left shortly before the ferry.

She said often speeding trucks fishtail when they hit Wings Point Road and it changes from pavement to dirt road, so signs warning of the turn are needed.

Durling said her neighbor was almost killed by a truck while walking here.

She said it is ludicrous the speed limit here is 50 and more signs warning of the impending perpendicular turn are needed. The town did a study in 2020, and she brought this up at the selectboard two years ago. But nothing has been done.

Town

Frasier-Harris resigns from recreation commission

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Recreation in Charlotte got tossed a curveball when recreation commission chair Bill Frasier-Harris resigned on Sept. 22.

After 15 years on the commission, Frasier-Harris said he was tired of dealing with the minutiae the position requires.

In addition to stepping down as chair, he resigned from his position on the rec commission as well.

Frasier-Harris said he has always been more self-sufficient and “sort of a can-do kind of guy” and cited “the politics, the meetings, having to justify myself more and more” as reasons he was stepping away.

“It’s time to just sit back and smell the roses,” he said.

Although he’s stepping down, Frasier-Harris said he was willing to help with town events. During his tenure as chair, he’s been part of organizing at least 20 concerts, seven town parties, a new playground and yoga at the town beach, and the ice rink next to Charlotte Central School.

“I’m hoping to stay on, and I think I will stay on as a helper around town,” he said. “We’ll see what happens next summer with some of the events, the rink and that sort of thing.”

Bill Frasier-Harris moved to Charlotte in 1999, where his wife Eva Frasier-Harris lived. About six years after the move, he became a member of the rec commission. Within a few months of joining the commission, he had become chair.

The recreation commission was a good fit for Frasier-Harris, who was the

athletic director at his college, the University of Swansea in South Wales.

Squash, field hockey and rugby were his sports when he was younger.

He was born in Canada and moved to England because his father was in the Royal Navy.

Shortly after college he moved to the United States. He owned restaurants in Bolton Valley and Richmond.

As a sailor, an avid tennis and part-time pickleball player, Frasier describes himself as an outdoor person — and a community person.

“It’s been my heart and soul for the last few years, organizing beach music and the beach town parties, etcetera,” he said.

Greg Smith also resigned from the recreation commission but couldn’t be reached for comment.

At the Sept. 26 selectboard meeting chair Jim Faulkner brought up the idea of appointing a town special events coordinator to oversee things like the town party and the ice rink.

The board decided to wait on a decision about this until the recreation commission vacancies have been filled, and it has heard from the reconstituted commission and recreation director Nicole Conley.

Bill Frasier-Harris

LAND USE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

regulations:

- 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; thus Charlotte cannot enforce zoning rules which contradict state statute. These amendments would pare down the town’s role in permitting telecom facilities, eliminate local permitting for renewable energy projects (such as solar panels) and remove non-compliant local restrictions on building multi-family housing and accessory dwellings.
- Article 2 would clarify language across several sections of the land-use regulations, to create better guidance for property owners and the development review board for what projects can, and cannot, be permitted and built, and includes many proposed technical updates and new (or revised) definitions. Proposed changes include edits to standards for projects that serve the public, the ability to sell small pre-existing lots individually, additions to buildings that are built partly within a required setback and the adaptive re-use of historic structures.
- Article 3 clarifies policies that govern how the development review board reviews proposed subdivisions which don’t comply with the dimensional standards in the land-use regulations; and modifies the size standards for accessory dwelling units. For a proposed property subdivision which doesn’t comply with the dimensional standards, the proposed language clarification would continue the past practices of the planning commission to require these subdivisions be proposed as planned residential developments. As part of the planned residential developments approval process of allowing variances from the dimensional standards, 50 percent of the property must be set aside as “open space,” meaning that it can never be built on. This requirement provides flexibility for the landowner to develop their property while at the same time maintaining the character of Charlotte. The current requirements for accessory dwelling units cap the size at 1,000 square feet or 30 percent of a home’s finished floor area, whichever is larger. The proposed change increases the 1,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet. This change would provide an opportunity for property owners with smaller primary residences (less than 5,000 square feet) to build an ADU up to 1,500 square feet. Currently homes smaller than 3,333 square feet are capped at 1,000 square feet.



Property owners with homes larger than 5,000 square feet would still be able to build up to 30 percent of their total floor area as an accessory dwelling unit. We believe this change creates increased equity between property owners with very large homes and those with smaller residences.

- Article 4 would bring the land-use regulations fully into alignment with the selectboard’s December 2021 decision to create a development review board. This mostly required a “search and replace” operation in the entire land-use regulations document to change all its references to the zoning board and planning commission to the development review board, which now performs all key permitting roles which require a board decision. The resulting work was thoroughly proofread to make sure the resulting draft still makes sense. The proposed changes also lay out the assigned roles of the development review board.

Important: These articles will be printed on a separate ballot from the Vermont general election ballot which all registered voters in Charlotte will receive in the mail. So, you will need to obtain and vote this ballot separately from the one mailed to you via the Vermont Secretary of State’s office. This is similar to the separate vote that town clerk Mary Mead is managing on a proposed bond issue for the Chittenden Solid Waste district. Your supplemental land-use regulations ballot can be requested by phone or in person at town hall any time before Election Day (Nov. 8). If you’re voting in person on Election Day, the land-use regulations ballot will be available at town hall with the two other ballots.

The planning commission understands that these proposed changes are complex and wants to help residents fully understand what’s being proposed here. To that end, your town planner has prepared a “User’s Guide” that explains the purpose, rationale and effect of each amendment, if approved. It’s intended to be read side-by-side with the chart presenting these amendments. Both documents, along with a full-text “redline” version of the entire land-use regulations with these proposed changes embedded as markups, are posted to the town website at: bit.ly/PC_draft_2022_LURs_amendments.

Copies of the amendments chart and User’s Guide are available for inspection at town hall during business hours and upon request. Email town planner Larry Lewack at townplanner@townofcharlotte.com if you’d like to receive a copy in the mail or pick it up at the town office during business hours. If you have questions or comments for the selectboard, you may also participate in an informational session that will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. in-person at town hall and online via Zoom. (The agenda will be posted to the “meeting calendar and agendas” page of the town website.)

The planning commission urges everyone to learn more about these proposals before you cast your votes. The planning commission will be posting more information in the next couple of weeks, including a follow-up article in The Charlotte News with questions and answers, and posts to the Front Porch Forum. For more information, see the project page on the town website or contact the town planner Larry Lewack at 802-425-3533 ext. 206 or via email at townplanner@townofcharlotte.com.



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Opinion

Chances coming to share your vision for the school district

Bonnie Birdsall
Champlain Valley School District

What constitutes a “good” education? How important are athletics and extracurriculars to a child’s school experience? Who benefits from learning outdoors?

These and many more questions are on our mind as the Champlain Valley School District embarks on a seven-month journey to map out its mission and vision for the next five years.

The strategic planning process began last spring with the district’s administration and board of directors doing some preliminary work, then lifted off in September with the initial meeting of the steering committee. The goal is to present a final plan to the school board for adoption in March 2023.

As it says on the strategic planning page of the district website: “A strategic plan is the vehicle that allows an organization to look at its future. Through visioning, developing a mission, examining core values, and setting achievable goals, the district moves toward the attainment of school improvement.”

Champlain Valley School District values and invites all members of our community to participate in this process and to help identify our shared values and priorities. We hope to hear from folks who have students in our schools, as well as those who don’t. We also want to hear from students, employees, and local business and government leaders. Our plan for the next five years will be stronger and smarter with a diversity of voices working together on its creation.

In years past, Champlain Valley School District has invited you to engage in the budget development process. This year, we’re combining that work with the strategic planning process. Everything you share with us — whether through a survey or at a community forum — will inform both the budget and the strategic plan.

We invite you to join us at any of the Strategic Planning Community Forums:

- Oct. 13 – Champlain Valley Union High library, 6-8 p.m.
- Oct. 15 - Williston Central School community room, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 17 - Pierson Library, Shelburne, 9-11 a.m.

If you can’t attend any of the forums, or if you’d like to contribute your thoughts in another way, please use this survey: bit.ly/3dT5WuR. It takes about eight minutes to complete. The survey will be open through the month of October.

We look forward to incorporating your ideas and suggestions into this exciting work.



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The Charlotte News

Opinion

Will accessory dwelling units mean more entry-level homes?

Where Do We Go From Here?

Peter Joslin

For the last three weeks I have attended the planning commission and selectboard hearings on the proposed amendments to the land-use regulations.

Before the selectboard’s Sept. 20 hearing on the proposed amendments, I had a good conversation with a life-long Charlotter who knows the town like the back of his farming hand. We talked about accessory dwelling units and finding ways for development of more modest homes in town.

He said not everyone can live in Charlotte. I interpreted this to mean the town is not responsible to guarantee housing for anyone, per se. I agreed, but said there are ways to make modest housing less expensive, especially in the village.

Present at the selectboard hearing were some residents, some planning commission members and development review board members. The most spirited discussion was around the proposed change to increase the

square footage of accessory dwelling units. Currently, the size of an accessory dwelling unit is limited to 30 percent of the main structure or 1,000 square feet, whichever is larger. The proposed change is to increase from 1,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet. The majority of comments were not in favor of this proposed change.

This hearing was in stark contrast to the presentation by Taylor Newton, planning program manager at Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, to the planning commission on Sept.16. His presentation included a review of the proposed technical edits to the land-use regulations, an audit of existing village district regulations and recommendations to improve land-use regulations to allow for greater diversity of housing in the village and to “create a multi-year work program for the town of Charlotte to access grant funding to support a public engagement process and development of zoning regulation changes that will enable the creation of a dense, walkable village district in a manner that is supported by the community.” Taylor’s

presentation was filled with positive steps the town can take to encourage modest growth and protect the things we value most.

My takeaway from all the hearings on the proposed amendments to the land-use regulations is that changes intended to precipitate focused development — whether in the rural or village districts — will be a very hard road. The overriding question is: What does the town at large really want?

I thought of the proposed accessory dwelling unit change while reading another recent front-page article in The New York Times about the housing crisis: “Whatever Happened to the Starter Home?” by Emily Bader.

Bader said, “Nationwide, the small detached house has all but vanished from new construction. Only about 8 percent of new single-family homes today are 1,400 square feet or less. In the 1940s, according to COreLogic, nearly 70 percent of new houses were that small.” “Those starter homes came in all kinds over the years: mill workers’ cottages, shotgun homes, bungalows, ramblers, split-levels, two-bedroom tract

homes. American families also found their start in brick row houses, cozy duplexes and triple deckers.”

Some of us grew up in houses much smaller than what’s standard today. But things change, including the trend that bigger is better. The median house size has grown from under 1,400 square feet to over 2,000 in the last 60 years, yet households have shrunk in the same period from about 3.6 to 2 in 2020.

Bader concludes her article stating: “The simplest way to put entry-level housing on increasingly expensive land is to build a lot of it — to put two, three, four or more units on lots that for decades have been reserved for one home.”

How might this translate in Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS AUGUST 2022

Aug. 3 Amanda Blanchard to Peter Hyson & Kelley Collier, 54 Sutton Place 1.0 acres +/- w/dwelling \$591,000

Aug. 4 Kennedy Snow Revoc. Living Trust to Nicholas M. & Julia S. Stephens,139 Popple Dungeon Rd. 4.11 acres +/- w/dwelling \$700,000

Aug. 5 Janet Braggs to Canter King Revocable Trust, 6231 Mount Philo Rd. 5.81 acres +/- w/dwelling \$790,000

Aug. 6 Clark W. Hinsdale III to Tanya Bos, 1879 Hinesburg Rd. 153.57 acres +/- land only \$800,000

Aug. 9 Christopher Walsh & Sarah Hasazi to John & Maria Balczuk, 2374 Spear St. 1.00 acres +/- w/dwelling \$425,000

Aug. 10 TD Bank, N.A.to Jonathan Landry, 390 Sanctuary Lane 2.97 acres+/- w/dwelling \$1,300,000

Aug. 18 Abigail Foulk Revocable Trust to Andrew & Katherine See, 957 Orchard Rd. 5.30 acres +/- w/dwelling \$850,000

Aug. 19 Dale & Vanessa Knowles to Nathan Moreau & Krista Buckley, 104.46 acres +/- 1324 Ferry Rd. w/dwelling \$865,000

Aug. 19 Whit’s Beginnings LLC to B & L Williamson Family Trust, 3.0 acres +/- 2662 Greenbush Rd. \$50,000

Aug. 19 Alexander & Susan Sewell to Frederick Nelson & Regina Cocco, 7.10 acres 546 Spear Street w/dwelling \$605,000

Aug. 19 Michael & Carrie Spear to Mark & Molly Valade, 85.2 acres 3400 Lake Rd. land only \$1,000,000

Aug. 19 Ian Finseth & Stephanie Hawkins to Will Lenzner, 11.24 acres 912 Lake Rd. land only \$350,000

Aug. 30 John Berino to Charles Thomas III & Daniel Tempest, 5.01 acres 487 Guinea Rd. w/dwelling \$625,000

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



Condolences

Judith Haslam Cross

Judith Haslam Cross, 91, of Hanover, N.H., died peacefully at Kendal at Hanover, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022. Judy was born on Dec. 23, 1930, in Orange, N.J., to Marcella Dunn Haslam and John Edwin Cummings Haslam.

She attended schools in Westfield, N.J., where she grew up and graduated from William Smith College in 1952 with a B.A. in English. Judy was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2000. She was a widow of William John Cross who died in 2003. They were married for 49 years.

Judy was predeceased by her beloved companion John H. Hatheway and her son John C. Cross. She is survived by two other children, Alexandra C. Mitchell of Charlotte, Vt., Tiffany C. Daly, four grandchildren; Evelyn Mitchell, Elliott Mitchell, William Daly, and Katherine Daly and one great grandson; Cristian Paradis. She is also survived by John Hatheway, Jr. (Bethany), Geoffrey Hatheway (Mary Beth), Sara Merrill (Peter) and seven Hatheway/Merrill grandsons.

Judy served as trustee of Hobart and William Smith Colleges from 1984-1992, including terms as vice chairman of the board and as honorary trustee. Judy was active in the Episcopal Church in Westchester County, N.Y., serving as senior warden of St. Matthew’s Church in Bedford, N.Y. She also served as chairman of the Somers Library and was on the board of the Katonah Library as well as various other boards in Westchester County, N.Y. After moving to Orford, N.H. in 1993, Judy served on the boards of The Friends of the Hopkins Center, the Hood Museum of Art, ILEAD and the Orford Social Library.

A celebration of life service will be held on Nov. 12, 2022, at 3 p.m. in the Gathering Room at Kendal at Hanover in Hanover, N.H. A reception will be held at the Hanover Inn from 5-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Brent Scholarship Fund Judy endowed at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Office of Advancement, 20 Seneca Street, Geneva, N.Y., 14456.

Melvin Ira Kaplan

Melvin Ira Kaplan, 93, of Randolph Center, Vermont, died peacefully at home on Sept. 25, 2022.

He was born on August 29, 1929 to Barnet and Edna (Levine) Kaplan in New York City, N.Y.

He grew up in the Bronx and went to the New York High School of Music and Art followed by the Juilliard School of Music in New York City which he entered at the age of 16. He attended Juilliard from 1946 to 1951, earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music, playing the oboe. While at Juilliard, he became principal oboe and librarian of Dean Dixon’s American Youth Symphony.

Upon graduating from Juilliard, he became a member of the faculty where he taught oboe and chamber music from 1952-1982. His intense passion for contemporary music led to the formation of the New Art Wind Quintet followed by the formation of the New York Chamber Soloists in 1957. The New York Chamber Soloists remain as a professional classical music group and Melvin played with them until 2015.

In addition, he organized, contracted and performed with the Musica Aeterna Orchestra in a regular yearly series of concerts sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art between 1965 and 1982. Later efforts included the formation of the Mozart Orchestra of New York and dreaming up interesting and diverse programs for them to play.

Melvin was a consummate creator, with an unmatched mind for musical programming. His extensive musical contacts led him to form Melvin Kaplan Inc., a music management company, in 1961. He managed this business while continuing as a performing musician. He continued to develop ambitious ideas long after selling his management business in 2014. The business maintains an office in Burlington under a new name.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ynez Lynch Kaplan. They met while playing together in an orchestra in Connecticut and continued to play music together for the remainder of both of their careers.

In 1976, he moved his family from New York City to Charlotte, Vermont, where his musical ambitions continued. In 1974, he and a friend from Burlington came up with the idea for the Vermont Mozart Festival, which provided classical music to thousands over its 37-year run in and around Burlington. Melvin was the artistic director of the festival throughout its history. In all these endeavors Melvin’s encyclopedic knowledge of classical music and music history aided him in creating imaginative programs for the multitude of concerts he produced.

After spending most of his life in and around New York City, Melvin transitioned easily to country life in Vermont. He would readily go from wearing a black tuxedo

to grungy jeans, work shirt and worn LL Bean boots to go spend time pulling weeds in one of his vegetable gardens. He didn’t hesitate to drive tractors during haying or sugaring season and stacked hay in the barns along with the rest of his family. He had a passion for plants and had a year-round greenhouse where he took great pride in the tomatoes he could eat in the middle of the winter and the fresh cut flowers that adorned the table year-round.

He and Ynez traveled extensively and two of their favorite trips each year were to France and Hawaii. They both loved good food and good wine and maintained a well-stocked wine cellar at home. Melvin and Ynez hosted many dinner parties at their home in Charlotte with Melvin serving as the sommelier and Ynez as the chef.

He was an avid reader, with a focus on mysteries such as those authored by Dick Francis and Daniel Silva. One of his favorite books was Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland, from which he could quote long passages by memory. He could recite the entire poem “Jabberwocky” from Carroll’s Through the Looking Glass.

One of the hallmarks of his character was his passion for jokes which he could pull one after the other from memory. As in music, his timing was impeccable. He had an infectious laugh and a mischievous twinkle in his eye when he was reminded of a joke.

Melvin is predeceased by his brother Harvey.

He is survived by his wife, Ynez Lynch Kaplan of Randolph Center, Vt.; his brother Burton Kaplan and his wife Sally, of Morris, N.Y.; his son Jonathan Kaplan and his wife Anne, of Randolph, Vt.; his daughter Christina Kaplan Rohan of Montpelier, Vt.; his son Eric Kaplan and his wife Jerri, of Portland, Ore.; his daughter Karen Kaplan Chambers and her husband Ben, of Franklin Lakes, N.J.; and 11 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Congratulations

St. Lawrence University welcomed Madeline M. Haydock of Charlotte as a member of the class of 2026.

New hire

Charlotte public relations firm Junapr has hired its 13th full-time employee. Whitney Coombs Bowden of South Burlington is coming on board as associate director.

Bowden was the director of business development at Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. and marketing director for Kelly Brush Foundation.

She graduated from Dartmouth College with a bachelor’s in environmental studies.

Food Shelf News

Bold ideas and incremental actions needed to end hunger

Maj Eisinger
Charlotte Food Shelf

During Hunger Action Month in September, the White House hosted the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. The first such conference in 50 years, it established goals to end hunger in the United States by 2030, including expansion of SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), reinstatement of the child tax credit and provision of school meals for every child.

The need for these bold actions was underscored by a recent joint University of Vermont and University of Maine study of almost 1,000 people in the northeast that described a high prevalence of food insecurity. Two out of five Vermonter responders reported difficulty putting food on the table; this figure likely reflects inflationary pressures as well as slow recovery from the huge surge in food insecurity noted during the height of COVID.

Here in Charlotte, incremental actions help fuel the bold vision of ending hunger. The Charlotte Food Shelf continues to provide nourishing food and assistance for fuel and electricity to all community members in need.

We are grateful for donations from Michael and Janet Yantachka, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, E. Kiley, Arlene Marks, the Proutt Family Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation and the Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program.

Rich harvests have allowed vegetable donations from Alex Ford and Kim Shifrin, Arlene and Steve Marks, and Katie at Head over Fields Farm who gave

a generous donation of organic vegetables from their Grow a Row for Others initiative.

Suzanne Ferland harvested a friend's garden and brought a bushel of tomatoes, Swiss chard, peppers, cucumbers and squash. Stewart's Bakery has delivered a variety of rolls and delicious bread which are appreciated. Many thanks to all our community supporters.

The Kids Winter Clothes Project is helping to outfit 14 young people for the coming snow season. Special thanks to Tai Dinnan as well as all the parents and Grange members who dove into their closets to provide warm clothes for the winter ahead.

As we look forward to winter, we thank snowmobile club Shelburne Charlotte Association of Travelers and its parent organization, the Chittenden County Snowmobile Association, and the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers for its donation honoring Chittenden county landowners who provide access over their land for snowmobile enthusiasts. We appreciate their generosity.

Our wish list in preparation for winter includes creamed and other soup, crackers, instant mashed potatoes, canned corn, tuna, pasta. For all those with small flocks of hens, we would be happy to receive egg donations in any amount. Please call 802-425-3252 for drop-off information.

As we look forward to winter's joys, economic challenges are also anticipated. Please know that help is available to residents of Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh if you or someone you know is facing utility shut-off or an unexpected hardship. Simply call 802-425-3252 or fill out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf open hours or on the website at charlotteucc.org/copy-of-charlotte-food-shelf-1. All requests and



Photo by Karen Doris

Among the variety of vegetable donations to the Charlotte Food Shelf is this eggplant with a nose.

grants are kept private.

John Sayles, of the nonprofit Vermont Food Bank, cites donations, advocacy and volunteerism as critical to the fight against hunger. The food shelf has volunteer

openings in food distribution, tech support and recycling. Champlain Valley Union High School students can earn credits for graduation through volunteer participation in an upcoming food drive sponsored by Dermer Dreams. More information is available by calling Jari Chevalier, local Dermer Dreams coordinator at 802-557-1373.

The Charlotte Food Shelf is open for food distribution from 4-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Our address is 403 Church Hill Road, in back of the Congregational Church in Charlotte.

Curbside delivery continues and masking is encouraged during the ongoing pandemic. For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130. If you cannot come to the food shelf due to COVID symptoms or seek further information about the food shelf, please call 802-425-3252.

Monetary donations are appreciated, tax deductible, and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445.

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Charlotte Townwide Reappraisal Information

The Town of Charlotte has contracted with New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) to complete a town wide reappraisal for the 2023 Grand List. The purpose of the reappraisal is to update all property data and calculate new Fair Market Values reflected as of 4/1/2023.

Beginning in October, NEMRC staff will be doing a full Town-wide review of all properties. The review process will include an actual physical visit to each property. The review will be to verify and correct the physical data, new exterior photos and a driveway review of the information.

The properties will be reviewed road by road. Prior to the review, all property owners will receive a yellow postcard in the mail letting you know that the NEMRC staff will be working on certain roads within a few weeks of the mailing. Please call or email the Charlotte Assessor's office if you have any questions or concerns; please make contact either via email or voicemail at the following:

E-mail: assessor@townofcharlotte.com

Phone: (802)425-3533, Ext 210

Please leave a message and I will get back to you within a few days.

Thank you,
John D. Kerr, Charlotte Assessor

Hi Neighbor!

Hanging out with the bees and keeping them happy



Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Bob Haven spent most of his professional life in technology but when that career ended, he looked for another way to use his problem-solving skills. The result was Safe Haven Honey, a business that keeps his mind sharp while providing sweet sustenance for himself and others.

Haven launched the business 12 years ago when he purchased his first bees. He currently has 12 hives, the largest of which has over 100,000 bees. His wife Connie helps with the financial end of the business and some of the marketing, but Haven said she’s not overly comfortable around the apiary.

Beekeeping has a variety of challenges, but for Haven the biggest problem is the mites. “You have to evaluate the hives every four weeks or so,” he said. “Four days after the queen lays an egg it becomes larva and that’s when the mite attaches itself.”

Checking to see if there are mites is a process which requires the bees to be taken out of the hive, but Haven stresses that they are not injured during the testing. The bees can only be removed when the queen isn’t present, and testing should only be done if there is exposed larva. Haven shakes a few bees into a jar with a mesh cover and puts in a few spoonfuls of powdered sugar. He rolls the jar gently for a minute and lets it sit for another minute. The sugar is emptied into a pan and spritzed with water while the bees are returned to the hive. If there are more than three red dots, the hive has to be treated for mites.

Raising bees also means contending with issues much larger than mites. For several years, one or more bears pushed over some hives but didn’t cause much damage. This spring, however, a bear was significantly more destructive, leading Haven to install an electric fence which required moving the bees. “A hive can weigh more than 160 pounds,” Haven said, adding that the weight is the least of the problems.

“Bees don’t like too much attention,” he said, “and in their own way, they’ll let you know.”

“Bees have locked in their GPS on their current location,” Haven explained, “so you shouldn’t move the hive more than 3 feet every two or three days.”

Unfortunately, the bear threat was strong enough that in addition to the incremental moves while installing the fence, he temporarily moved half the hives to Williston.

Haven started his career in the manufacturing realm and then switched to becoming a manufacturing engineer and then a principal network engineer. He wrote manuals and helped set up training programs. Haven enjoyed the work but found it challenging to keep up with the technology while helping his wife raise their two children.

“I got up one morning,” he said, “and I told Connie I had to have bees.”

Haven said that there are roughly six different breeds of queens, and each has a different temperament. There is generally only one queen to each hive and her disposition is crucial to the wellbeing of the bees, as well as the beekeeper. He has been getting Sakatraz bees from a breeder friend in Iowa.

“Last summer I could go to my hives and spend time there without my suit and headgear because the queen was so calm,” Haven said. “I could even pull out a frame or two without getting them upset, but this year as soon as I get to the apiary, the Wicked Witch of the West gets upset, and I can’t even get under the electric fence in my suit before they’re looking for a place to sting me.”

Most of Haven’s sales are by word of mouth and he has many repeat customers who get discounts when they bring back the glass jars. He also sells to Philo Ridge Farm and Foam Brewery. In addition to honey, he markets what are basically beekeeper starter kits called nucleus colonies which he also uses to replenish his hives after winter die-offs.

“I think part of the reason I became a beekeeper is it keeps my mind going with problem solving,” Haven said. “You have to do inspections every couple of weeks and do tests and evaluate the progress.”

Haven has set up an old table and chair so he can watch the hives with a cup of tea or a cold brew in the summer. “I still enjoy watching the bees,” he said. “I still go up there and just hang out with them.”



Bob Haven hanging with his hives.
Photo by Connie Haven

Community

Travel support for rural Vermont cancer patients



Courtesy photo

From left, Sarah Lemnah, Cancer Patient Support Foundation executive director receives a check from Kathryn Lagerstedt of NorthCountry Federal Credit Union.

Cancer Patient Support Foundation

Each year hundreds of rural Vermont cancer patients struggle with the cost of transportation to access life-saving treatment. This year, with the rising cost of gas, many Vermonters delayed treatment simply due to their inability to afford the transportation to get to the hospital.

For the second year, NorthCountry Federal Credit Union stepped in to address this rising issue. In 2021, NorthCountry Federal Credit Union and the Cancer Patient Support Foundation partnered to create the NorthCountry Federal Credit Union Rural Transportation Fund. This year NorthCountry Federal Credit Union awarded \$15,000, double their donation from 2021, to support rural Vermont cancer patients.

“Part of bettering our communities is bettering the lives of those who live within them,” says Kathryn Lagerstedt, senior vice president of strategic engagement at NorthCountry Federal Credit Union. “This donation is an extension of the notion that no one fights alone, and we hope this fund can offer some relief to patients during

a difficult time.

“The most heartbreaking stories that I hear are patients saying they delayed treatment because the cost of traveling back and forth to the hospital was too great,” said Sarah Lemnah, executive director of Cancer Patient Support Foundation. “The NorthCountry Federal Credit Union Rural Transportation Fund allows the Cancer Patient Support Foundation to better support rural Vermonters, so transportation is not a hurdle for treatment.”

The Cancer Patient Support Foundation supports over 500 local cancer patients each year, removing barriers to treatment and helping them meet their basic needs. For 20 years, Cancer Patient Support Foundation has been the only local statewide fund supporting patients and their families. Nearly 11,000 families have received over \$2.8 million since the organization’s inception. Each year nearly \$160,000 is awarded.

For more information on how you can support Vermont cancer patients go to cpsvt.org.



Courtesy photo

From left, Charlotte Robinson, Marci Robinson, Tom Jaques and Aric Brown rehearse a scene from The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play, opening Oct. 7 at the Valley Players in Waitsfield.

Valley Players present radio play version of ‘The Great Gatsby’

Ruth Ann Pattee
Valley Players

The Valley Players will present The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play Oct. 7-23 at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street in Waitsfield at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

The show will be styled as a 1940s live radio broadcast, with an ensemble of six actors bringing to life more than two dozen characters from the novel. Sound effects will be created live on stage and the show will be punctuated by 40s-era commercials.

The show was adapted for the stage by Joe Landry and draws from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s beloved classic, telling the story of triumph and tragedy that reflects the decadence of the Jazz Age and the perils of the American Dream.

The cast includes Aric Brown (Middlesex) as Jay Gatsby; Sarah Debouter (Waterbury) as Daisy Buchanan and others; Tom Jaques (Barre) as Tom

Buchanan and others; David Rapp (Montpelier) as Nick Carraway; and Charlotte Robinson and Marci Robinson (both of Warren) playing multiple roles. Kohl Comtesse (Montpelier) is the foley artist for the show, using an arsenal of props to create the sounds needed to embellish the story. Ashley Hall (Warren) and Susan Loynd (Fayston) serve as stage managers. The set, which will reflect a 1940s radio studio, is constructed by Doug Bergstein (Warren); musical accompaniment is composed by Kevin Connors and is performed by Daniel Bruce (East Montpelier), and the production is directed by Shannon Sanborn (Barre).

“The audience can expect to be swept back into the golden age of radio,” said Sanborn. “Don’t miss your chance to experience what it was like to be in a 1940s studio audience.”

Tickets are available in advance with a credit card from valleyplayers.com or by reservation by calling 802-583-1674. For reservations, cash or check is preferred.

NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS AND OF TOWN OFFICIAL POSITIONS SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

The following boards and positions currently have unfilled seats:

- Recreation Commission (2 seats; terms ending April 30, 2024)
- Conservation Commission (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2024)
- Charlotte Park & Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee (1 seat; term ending April 30, 2025)
- 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 425-3071 ext. 5, or stop by Town Hall.



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Sports

Redhawks football and girls soccer teams keep winning

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Girls soccer
CVU 5, St. Johnsbury 0

The Champlain Valley Union girls soccer team’s winning ways continue. The Redhawks are undefeated so far this year. At 6-0-1, the 1-1 tie against Burr and Burton Academy in its second game of the season is the only game CVU didn’t win outright. With the 5-0 home shutout of the Hilltoppers, the Redhawks’ matchup at Colchester this Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. looms even larger with Champs undefeated with a 7-0 record unblemished by any ties. But before then, the Redhawks will need to get past Mount Mansfield (6-1-1) this coming Saturday, Oct. 8, at 12:30 p.m. at CVU. They already defeated Mount Mansfield in an away game to give the Cougars its loan loss of the season.

In Monday’s game, junior Chloe Pecor gashed St. Johnsbury Academy for an amazing four goals to effectively seal the win, but Lily O’Brien, also a junior, contributed as well with a goal of her own.

CVU 4, Burlington 1

By the second half, the Redhawks had gotten over any intimidation about playing on the road at Burlington High School on Saturday, Oct. 1, putting up a win 4-1. Saturday’s game was a nail-biter up until halftime, with the Redhawks and the Seahorses knotted at 1-1 at the break. The second half was another story with the Redhawks knocking in three goals to Burlington’s none to take a 4-1 win. “It was a great game by Zoe Klein,” coach Stan Williams said. “Great game” is a bit of an understatement to describe Klein’s performance. The junior scored three goals to notch a hat trick. Junior Pecor scored the Redhawks’ other goal. Senior goalie Emma Allaire had eight saves for the Redhawks.

CVU 2, Essex 0

On Wednesday, Sept. 28, the Redhawks played a strong defensive game to defeat Essex High School 2-0. After scoring two first goals in the first half, it was all defense for the rest of the game. “We defended well all over the field,” Williams said. “In the second half, we were

able to use our defensive pressure and control of the ball to see out the game.” Although Williams was pleased with his players’ performances all over the field, he singled out Lauren Knudsen, Stella Dooley and Norah Munn for their strong defensive play in the backfield.

CVU 2, South Burlington 1

Champlain Valley took an extremely close game at South Burlington High on Sept. 23. Williams called the win over the Wolves “a tremendous high school soccer game.” He had high praise for this team’s play, especially in the second half and the overtime. “I’m so impressed with their relentless play and resilience. I have never seen a game tied at the final second like this one,” Williams said. As the final seconds of regulation ticked down, Klein made a huge hustle to keep the ball in the Redhawks’ possession and fed it to Pecor. Pecor drove hard to 18 yards out where she was dragged down with 2 seconds remaining.

This resulted in a CVU penalty kick, which Pecor drove home to force overtime. The Redhawks continued to press in overtime. Stella Dooley was awarded a free kick which she passed to Klein, who knocked it home for the win. “It was a great team win, and the kind of game that you will never forget,” the coach said.

Football
CVU 31, Hartford 19

For three quarters, the Redhawks’ football game against Hartford High was a great gridiron contest — for a viewer who didn’t have strong loyalty for either team. For most of the game, it was an exciting back-and-forth affair with Champlain Valley getting ahead and then Hartford storming back to keep it close. It wasn’t until the fourth quarter that the Redhawks took a decisive lead. Coach Rahn Fleming said it was the kind of game that will age a football coach. “I started the game at 63. I’m pretty sure I finished it at 70 or so,” Fleming said. “But a win, even a close win, is like the Fountain of Youth. It brought me right back.” The game started slowly with the Redhawks getting a touchdown to take the lead, but Hartford responded with a TD of its own. CVU retained a 7-6 lead off the Hurricanes’ missed extra point. This is where the score stood when the first quarter ended and for



Photo by Al Frey

Wide receiver Alex Provost sheds a defender on his way to the goal line in Champlain Valley Union’s 31-19 victory over Hartford.

most of the second quarter. The second quarter was another defensive struggle, until just before the half, when backup junior quarterback Ollie Cheer connected with Alex Provost, who worked his special brand of magic to make two defenders miss and find the endzone. Provost’s performance on that play is typical of how he plays, Fleming said, “He runs precise routes. He would battle anybody for the ball and come down with it.” Whatever sense of confidence CVU might have felt, coming out of the break with a 14-6 lead, was immediately challenged as the Hurricanes started the third quarter with an opening kickoff return to pull back within a point. “Our guys showed a terrific amount of character in the face of the kind of letdown and disappointment that giving away an opening touchdown on the kickoff can bring,” the coach said. “That was a backbreaking play that did not break their backs.” The CVU squad’s numbers are so few that many of the team play on both the offensive and defensive lines, which can be very tiring, particularly late in a game. However, the Redhawks battled strong against an excellent Hartford line. “We were everything we needed to be in the trenches,” Fleming said.

Critical interceptions by sophomore Chase Leonard and junior Jack Sumner and defensive coverage by sophomore Dylan Frere of Charlotte helped CVU keep its tenuous lead. Wide receiver Billy Bates, who turned 15 just days before the contest, gave himself a belated birthday present, scoring on an option play. Fleming said it might be the sophomore’s first TD at the varsity level. In the fourth quarter senior starting quarterback Max Destito found Provost, his favorite target, to finally put the game away. Fleming compared the two players’ instinctive knowledge of what the other is going to do to Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. “You can’t teach it,” said Fleming. “Max always knows almost exactly where Alex is going to be, and Alex knows within a yard or two where Max is going to throw the ball.” So, in two plays the two longtime teammates, both seniors, had gone 70 yards to the end zone. Shortly after, CVU was marching to the goal, but was stopped by a penalty. The extra 5 yards made it too long to go for it on fourth down, so junior kicker Aidan Morris came on for a field goal attempt. Morris’ kick was true, giving the Redhawks a 12-point lead and the coach a chance to breathe a little easier in the contest’s closing minutes.

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Education

Charlotte Central School: ‘The heart of the community’

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Charlotte Central School recently held its 2022-2023 school year Open House for the community. Many families and caregivers participated in the event and were able to connect with the various educational teams.

One guest said the school “feels like the heart of our community and the children are our hope for the future.” That sentiment will be a mantra to sustain the school community this year.

Throughout the school there have been many displays of learning, from cursive to concept maps; perception scales to graphing and reading strategies; from identifying examples of direct and indirect characterization in a novel to identifying cell parts and function — and even a unit on failure and success. In addition to the learning, Charlotte Central School students dressed up and smiled brightly for picture day, and families began to trickle in for parent conferences.

Earlier in September the school practiced a fire drill, and the entire school was masterful at listening to directions and learning what to do if a fire alarm goes off in school.

October is Fire Safety Month and Charlotte Central School will be working with the local fire department to provide additional learning for staying safe at school and home.

Additional routines, such as bus safety and securing the building in a lockdown will be practiced in the coming weeks. Whenever possible, the practices are announced ahead

of time to teachers, and instruction is given to students in a manner that is developmentally appropriate.

Students have recently participated in bus evacuation drills. Dianna Fletcher, Charlotte Central School lead bus driver, led each class through the drill and discussed overall bus safety with them. Students will also review universal expectations for behavior on buses, including the ways in which they take care of themselves, others and place while on the bus.

The first lockdown drill of the year was also held recently. During the drill, teachers led students through developmentally appropriate conversations about what it means to stay safe during one of these drills. The intention was for the experience to be a low-pressure learning opportunity, and every classroom did an excellent job following directions.

Basketball coaches needed

Charlotte Central School has open positions for the upcoming basketball season. The Girls B team (6th-8th grade) and the Boys B Team (6th-8th grade) have coaching vacancies. The season officially begins Nov. 14 and runs through the middle of February. There are no practices during the school vacations. Charlotte Central School hopes to find enthusiastic coaches who are willing to teach and guide middle schoolers into becoming better basketball players, as well as teaching life skills of being part of a team. Anyone interested in learning more about the position can contact athletic director Nicky Elderton Nelderton@cvsdvt.org.

Environment

Free weatherization supplies to keep Charlotters warm this winter

Marissa Green
Charlotte Weatherization Project

The Charlotte Energy Committee is continuing the Charlotte Weatherization Project this year to connect low-to-moderate income Charlotters with no-cost weatherization materials and energy efficiency programs designed to help reduce their home’s energy consumption.

High energy bills make life more difficult. For some families, heating bills make it harder to meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and child care; that is why access to weatherization can make a big difference for some of Charlotte’s families. Did you know weatherization reduces energy consumption by 15 to 30 percent on average?

It is good for your wallet and good for the planet. It’s a win-win! Sealing up your home for the winter saves you money, conserves energy, improves your indoor environment and supports community resilience.

The Charlotte Weatherization Project is offering the following materials at no charge: plastic window insulation, rubber window seals, door sweeps, threshold rubber seals, pipe insulation, outlet and light switch cover gaskets, foam, caulk and low-flow shower heads. It also has application guns for caulk and foam available to borrow. More materials are available, just ask for what you need.

Supplies are easy to order by emailing Marissa at

CharlotteWeatherization@gmail.com. Due to the pandemic, we are offering free contact-less drop off of materials right to your door.

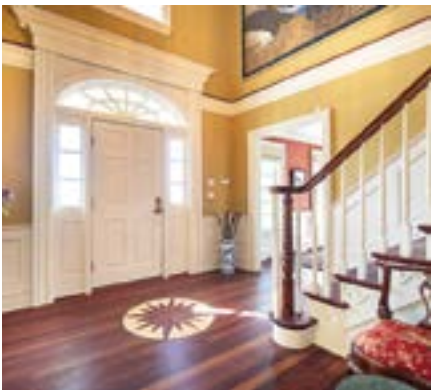
If you are interested in taking your home’s energy efficiency even further, check out these resources:

- The Charlotte Library has a thermal camera you can borrow to visualize where your home has air or water leaks.
- Button Up Vermont offers free home energy consultations to identify areas where your home is losing energy and learn how you can seal up and save money. Sign up at buttonupvermont.org/visit or by calling 888-921-5990.
- Finally, Efficiency Vermont (efficiencyvermont.com) offers a multitude of home energy efficiency programs, rebates and instructional videos.

The Charlotte Weatherization Project is supported by a grant to the Charlotte Energy Committee from the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund to supply local families in need with materials to button up this winter.



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This Charlotte estate is nestled on 20 acres of sprawling countryside. Upon entering, the wood-inlaid compass rose in the formal front hall points you to true north and guides you to multiple living areas. Exquisite details can be found throughout with beautiful Brazilian cherry flooring, Cavendish Marble, Sapele wood, beautiful millwork, and numerous built-ins just to name a few. Whether enjoying sun-filled days in the sunroom boasting three walls of European style windows or enjoying sunset views off the back deck this home is one not to miss. The kitchen is perfect for the chef in your household with custom center island and high-end appliances with cozy breakfast nook that leads out to expansive deck with outdoor fireplace, pizza oven and grill. The pièce de resistance is without a doubt the 1000 s.f. den that is distinguished by the large trusses and Sapele-trimmed ceiling. This room also includes a gorgeous stone topped wet bar, private bath, and hidden cupola (just look up). A heated three car garage is perfect in the winter. In addition to the main house, there is also a separate carriage barn with two heated bays and finished living space above with bathroom. A gazebo with views of Camel’s Hump, extensive gardens and granite cobblestones lines the driveway. No detail has been overlooked in this stunning property.

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Environment

Lake Champlain Basin Program seeks pre-proposals for clean water research

Lake Champlain Basin Program

The Lake Champlain Basin Program is seeking pre-proposals for research projects that will improve understanding of water and ecosystem resources in the Lake Champlain Basin and guide effective management.

Proposed projects should be planned to begin in early 2024. The total request for each project may range from \$25,000 to \$300,000.

Research pre-proposals should support the clean water or healthy ecosystems goals outlined in Opportunities for Action, the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s management plan. The Lake Champlain Basin Program is particularly interested in funding projects that address any of the following priorities:

- Research to understand the root causes of environmental trends in the Lake Champlain Basin, including in-lake trends and tributary loading trends
- Research to increase understanding of groundwater transport of nutrients and contaminants in the Lake Champlain

Basin through monitoring and modeling efforts

- Research to develop innovative watershed or in-lake management approaches likely to improve water quality, including engineering solutions, socio-economic studies, and/or cost-benefit analyses for proposed approaches
- Research to develop new and innovative aquatic invasive species spread prevention programs and control technologies capable of addressing real and potential aquatic invasive species impacts, including sea lamprey, to the Lake Champlain ecosystem and fishery, human health and the regional economy.
- Research to improve understanding of aquatic invasive species impacts to Lake Champlain’s ecosystem and economy under climate change predictions.
- Applicants must submit pre-proposals no later than noon on Nov. 11.

Outdoors

True natives to the rescue

In The Outdoors

Elizabeth Bassett
Contributor

I consider myself fairly tuned in to the natural world and its vulnerabilities. So, I was surprised recently when I learned some disconcerting facts from Heather McCargo, founder of the Wild Seed Project, when she spoke about native plants at Philo Ridge Farm.

Consider the many pollinator gardens in our community, both public and private. Thoughtful gardeners have installed native gardens to support species diversity and pollinators. But it’s possible that some of these projects may not be supporting the birds, bees, butterflies and native plants they are intended to help. Here’s the story.

Native plants and animals have co-evolved over time to provide for one another’s needs: plants feed insects and birds in exchange for pollination and seed distribution. With wind, bird or insects at work, plants are cross-fertilized. Their offspring can develop new characteristics including responses to stresses like heat, drought, excessive rain, cold or pollution. As native plants evolve, this genetic diversity is an asset and is a species’ best strategy for dealing with a changing climate.

Cloned or engineered plants lack this

resiliency. The nursery industry has developed its stock, some derived from natives, for consistency and reliability. Garden plants are better behaved than their wild cousins; they flower longer, may have bigger and more colorful blooms, and generally don’t spread uncontrollably. Yet, swaths of identical plants lack resiliency and may not be feeding our pollinators.

McCargo cited a researcher who measured the nectar produced by two native plants, great blue lobelia and cardinal flower. Each day the PhD student used a syringe to extract and weigh this nutritious food for hummingbirds, whose long, thin beaks are a perfect match for the shape of these blossoms. She also measured nectar from a hybrid cross of the two plants. The hybrid produced only 10 percent of the nectar of the native species.

“The well-intentioned flowers are literally starving the hummingbirds,” McCargo said, “since the birds are having to work just as hard or harder to find a fraction of the nectar in the hybrids.”

How do we know what we are putting in our gardens? Start by reading labels. Cultivars are human-manipulated species, generally identified by single quotations after the species name, such as Echinacea purpurea ‘Magnus,’ ‘Magnus’ being a cultivar of the native purple coneflower.

SEE **OUTDOORS** PAGE 12

Agriculture

Field day for farmers in Franklin

Susan Brouillette
University of Vermont Extension

A field day will be held on Oct. 20 at the Roll Land Farm in Franklin for farmers interested in hearing the latest about soil health, cover crops and related topics.

The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program is hosting the 2022 fall farm meeting in collaboration with the Franklin Grand Isle Farmer’s Watershed Association and Friends of Northern Lake Champlain. It will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a free lunch and tour of Due North Vineyards, also in Franklin.

The agenda includes project updates

from the three host organizations along with discussions on corn harvesting, planting cover crops, grassland manure injection, precision sustainable agriculture and the state of soil health in Vermont. Farmers also will receive an update on Lake Carmi and hear from several state agencies about their programs.

Registration and lunch are free but preregistration is required by Oct. 18 at 2022fallfarmmeeting.eventbrite.com. Certified crop adviser, water quality and custom applicator credits will be available.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501, ext. 432, no later than today, Oct. 6.

On Books

Hooooooooooooooooo, carpe diem, fun and games

Katherine Arthaud
Contributor

The rain is dripping on the picnic table and the air is misty. I can always see Mt. Philo in the distance from my window here, but today, not even a little bit. The dogs are leaving footprints all over the kitchen and tennis is not happening. But I love these rainy days.

I have read a stack of good books lately — perhaps a bit fewer than I might have had I not gotten myself immersed in the Netflix series “Ozark.” It is (though dark and frequently brutal) outstanding. I have been telling people who have not yet seen it (most have, it’s been out for a while) that it takes a few episodes to get into, to get to know the characters enough to become invested and engaged in their stories and willing to wade with them through their complicated and increasingly danger-riddled lives. I know this is not a book, but it’s so good I had to mention it. I just finished the last season and am trolling for a new series. So far, there’s nothing close to filling its shoes. I’m kind of in mourning.

But anyway ... on a more literary

note, Miriam Toews’ Fight Night is a masterpiece. It was a book club pick — I’m not sure I would have discovered it otherwise. The frontispiece by John Steinbeck reads, “An odd thing is that sadness does not necessarily become greater with age.” — a perfect mini-intro to this very unusual story, wherein we meet the character of Grandma (Elvira) who, though old as the hills, is one of the most lively, colorful, inventive, big-hearted, unpredictable, delightful older people ever to grace the pages of any book ever.

The book is written as a letter to Swiv’s father, who is absent as absent can be from the novel and her young life, but “Dear Dad,” she begins, “How are you? I was expelled.”

The main characters are three females — three generations — who “stand alone, together, against the universe, so closely molded against one another’s jagged edges that their individual outlines blur” (Nadja Speigelman, The New York Times, Oct. 3, 2021). There’s Swiv. And then there’s Swiv’s pregnant and probably bipolar mother (diagnosis: mine), an actress, who frequently “goes scorched earth,” rocking the household and the lives of all within her erratic orbit with her moods. And then there’s Grandma.

“Grandma says fragments are the only

truth. Fragments of what? I asked her. Exactly she said.”

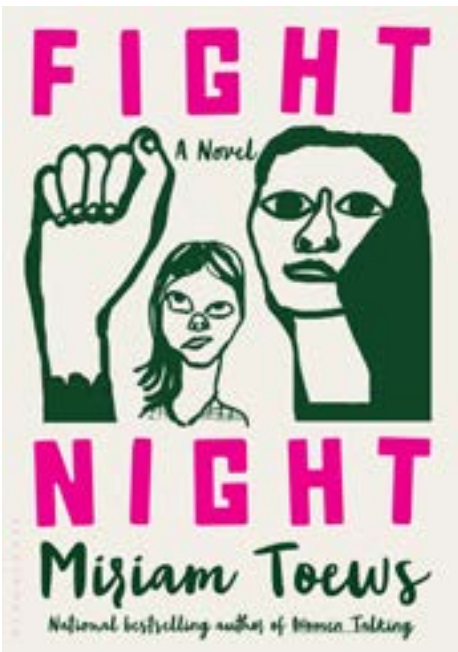
“Grandma skips over pertinent details because she’s got five minutes left to live and doesn’t want to waste it on the small picture.”

Why is the book called Fight Night? Good question.

Swiv writes, towards the end of the book, “Fighting means different things for different people. You’ll know for yourself what to fight. Grandma told me fighting can be making peace. She said sometimes we move forward by looking back and sometimes the onward can be knowing when to stop.”

On a pre-flight tarmac ramble, Grandma says, “They took our life force. And so we fight to reclaim it ... we fight and we fight and we fight ... we fight to love ... we fight to love ourselves ... we fight for access to our feelings ... for access to our fires ... we fight for access to God ... they stole God from us! We fight for our lives ... some of us lose the fight ... oh, it can bring a person to her knees. It can.”

I think if you read this book, you will agree with me that Elvira steals the show (as does Ruth Langmore in “Ozark” by the way), in her velour track suit, with her cannabis oil and compression socks, ramblings and exclamations (“Ball game!”



“Fun and games!” “Hooooooooooooooooo”), giving writing assignments to her family, singing, memorizing trucker lingo, charming cab drivers, befriending airport security, playing online Scrabble, spraying passing police cars with a garden hose. Some of my favorite parts of the book

SEE **ON BOOKS** PAGE 13



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OUTDOORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

These hybrids or clones are readily available to gardeners.

Is it enough to shop at a local, reputable and perhaps organic nursery or plant store? Not always. Gardeners must understand labels and thus the characteristics of their purchases. Where can one source true native plants or seeds for our region?

Both Wild Seed Project, a non-profit based in Maine, and Northeast Pollinator in Fairfax, Vt., encourage us to re-wild, introducing true natives to our landscapes. Both websites, northeastpollinator.com and wildseedproject.net, are excellent sources of instruction, research articles, staff writings and links to publications. Wild Seed sells ethically sourced seeds and Northeast

Pollinator sells plants both by mail and at their garden in Fairfax. Two Wild Seed Project booklets inform and encourage home gardeners: Native Groundcovers for Northeast Landscape and Native Trees for Northeast Landscape, both for sale on the website.

Given that lawn mowing using gasoline power is polluting and prevents existing native plants from setting seed, transitioning even a small patch of lawn to native plants is a win-win. Natives don’t need or like rich soil so planting on former lawn — there are instructions on the websites for how best to get rid of same — will likely make for happier natives than converting a garden that has been nurtured and enriched over the years. As with any planting endeavor, the better the soil preparation, the more successful the planting will be.

Begin planning now for next spring. Reading both of these websites is a great indoor activity on cold grey days. Sowing seeds at home is a late-fall project. Small plastic or clay pots will remain outdoors all winter subject to the same freeze and thaw cycles that will pertain once the natives are planted in the earth. The seeds will germinate in spring and should spend the summer being watered regularly but not transplanted nor fertilized. Only in the cooler days of next fall, when rain is more likely, are individual plants put into suitable ground.

Each and every one of us, even those with only a window box or container garden, can make a difference to pollinators, whose labors are necessary for everything we eat. Start by reading and getting inspired. Both websites are rich and generous resources for home gardens. Happy planning!

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ON BOOKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

take place in airports during Elvira and Swiv’s trip to visit relatives Lou and Ken in California. On the way out, Grandma makes fast friends with the cab driver, commandeers a wheelchair, uses the men’s washroom: “She sat back down and put the suitcases back on her and we went into the men’s washroom past confused males washing their hands and right into the giant handicapped stall. The airport guy is gonna follow us in here! I said. Grandma was already sitting on the toilet saying hoooooooooooo. No problem! said Grandma.”

A bit later, the airport security woman discovers farmer sausage in Grandma’s suitcase and tells her she will have to check it. Sausage can’t fly internationally. Grandma resists. The sausage is Lou and Ken’s favorite food. Finally, Grandma agrees to hand over the sausage, and then the security woman admires Grandma’s nail polish, and then they have a long conversation about vegetarianism and carnivores, and in the end, Swiv writes, “The woman told Grandma and me to have an awesome time in the raisin capital and to bring home the sunshine. She waved her scanner at us and Grandma saluted her.”

At one point, on the way home, Swiv loses control of Grandma’s wheelchair “and Grandma went shooting off down the ramp. Wow! she was shouting. She said things in her secret language. Na oba heat ex sigh! She was picking up speed. I ran to catch up with her but that stupid red purse strap got tangled around my waist and then Grandma hit a f&*&ing Body Shop stand with her wheelchair. The stand fell over and cream and soap bombs flew everywhere. A man tried to grab the handles on the wheelchair but he missed and she went flying past him. It looked like she might tip over onto two wheels. I was running. I heard Mom calling my cellphone. I knew it was Mom from the ring tone. It was a song called ‘Fever.’ Finally Grandma stopped beside a water fountain that was just the right height for a person in a wheelchair to have a drink. Grandma leaned over and had a long drink of water, then she sat there smiling calmly as if this had been her final destination all along.”

I want so badly to give you a taste of how excellent and engaging and rollickingly good this book is. It makes you ponder, it warms every atrium and ventricle of your heart, it tickles your funny bone, and the next thing you know, tears are streaming down your face and you’re aching with the terrible poignance of it all. Without a doubt, Grandma is a force of nature — bigger than life and fear and death that has a weird way of coming for us all in the end.

In the fight of life, Grandma gives her all. She gives us her all. I miss her.

Poignant, original, expertly moving, I highly recommend this unusual, extraordinary novel.

Weed’s in the Garden

Enjoy autumn’s bounty with seasonal recipes

Joan Weed
Contributor

My gardening friends always comment at this time of year: “Have you noticed the light has changed?”

And indeed it has, heralding the close of one season and the opening of another. The sun rises a bit farther south and sets earlier all of a sudden.

This means there will be new chores and discoveries if we’re aware. The garden brings a new set of blooms — cardinal lobelia, wood asters, Cimicifuga (now Actaea), monkshood and the amazing dahlias.

The vegetable garden and farmsteads also provide the abundance we have planned for since spring. With the plenty comes preservation, and the nesting instinct kicks in as we dare to think of snow coming.

Tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers galore. It’s the time of crucifers — cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, chicories. After frost it’s time to dig carrots, parsnips, beets. Onions and potatoes should be stored by now. The garlic is pulled earlier in late July. Alliums need curing in a dark dry place before storage. Relishes, jams, pickles, kimchi, dried herbs and on and on. I love it.

This is when garden clean-up begins but also planting. It’s time for garlic and spring bulbs to go in the ground and get established before hard frost.

The aforementioned dahlias must be lifted and stored with a comforting cover of organic material in a frost-free spot. The browning perennials we enjoyed for the past months now must be selectively trimmed.

I like to save trimming of rudbeckias and ornamental grasses till spring. The birds will enjoy their seeds all winter long. Speaking of birds, the winterberry fruits have colored up and will remain till nearly spring when one day a host of robins will swoop in and clean off the branches.

This is the first year my cornelian cherry

tree has produced enough fruits to taste. They are perfectly ripe jewels right now and delicious. They are not round like ordinary cherries but oval and produce much later in the season. I noticed the chipmunks devouring any that I don’t find first.

Apples, pears and plums are plentiful now, and I have a few special sweets to make with their arrival. Marian Burros’ famous plum torte is not to be missed and apple crisp, French apple cake and of course apple sauce.

I freeze apple sauce and am happy to find a container ready to thaw. Using my Foley apple peeler, I don’t have to peel the apples by hand. Cutting into chunks and keeping the skins on adds to the rosy color of the sauce which is pureed after cooking. A touch of cinnamon is nice.

Julia Child’s baked pears is a favorite all winter long as pears are available till spring. I’ll offer a few recipes to get you started.

Baked Pears (after Julia’s recipe)

6 ripe but firm pears (Anjou, Bosc or Bartlett)
1/4 cup unsalted butter
1/2 cup white wine
1/4 cup apricot or peach preserves (strained if preferred, I don’t)
About 10 crushed simple cookies such as Bordeaux, ginger snaps, macaron

Peel and core pears. Slice into eighths and place in a decorative pattern in a greased, flat, oven-proof baking dish. Dot with butter. Warm the preserves and mix with wine. Pour over pears. Top with crumbled cookies of choice. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve warm or chilled with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Makes great breakfast too.

French Apple Cake (from 177 Milk Street)

Edited for space

8 Tbsp. salted butter (plus more for pan)
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
1 1/2 pounds Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, cut into 1/4” slices
1 pound Braeburn or golden delicious apples peeled, cored and cut into 1/4” slices
3/4 cup sugar, divided
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
2 tablespoons apple brandy or Calvados (I used Nick’s Dead Bird Brandy)
2/3 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for pan
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Coat a 9-inch baking pan with butter; dust with flour.

In 12-inch skillet, brown butter by swirling for 1-3 minutes. Pour into small bowl and add allspice. In same skillet, add apples, sugar and salt. Cook stirring till moisture has evaporated (12-15 minutes). Add brandy, cook for 30-60 seconds. Transfer to plate to cool and refrigerate 15-20 minutes.

In large bowl whisk eggs, vanilla, 9 tablespoons sugar. Gradually whisk in browned butter. Combine all with flour and baking powder. Add the cooled apples and fold until evenly coated. Transfer to prepared pan. After spreading sprinkle with remaining sugar.

Bake until deeply browned. 35-40 minutes. Let cool completely before slicing, about 2 hours.

Enjoy Vermont’s famous autumn colors and abundance.



Calendar of Events

Calendar by Mary Landon.		Maine is at the Shelburne Town Center with evening and matinee shows. For tickets, times, and more info, see shelburneplayers.com.
Please send event listings to calendar@thecharlottenews.org at least three weeks in advance.		
The Pitmen Painters Through Sunday, Oct. 16 Vermont Stage theater company presents true story of a group of miners in the 1930s who learn how to paint. Shows are at Main Street Landing in Burlington. Info and tickets available at vermontstage.org.	Brass and reeds in Vergennes Friday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. The Champlain Brass Quintet, the Dead Creek Reeds and the Calamellus Trio perform at the Vergennes Opera House. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with cash bar. Tickets and info at tinyurl.com/y6dmue3s.	and musical performances takes place at Mayo Fields in Stowe at the Stowe Cineplex. The movie “The Wind and the Reckoning” will premiere at 5:30 p.m., and the day ends with a rock concert. Rain date is Oct. 9. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/3nzyrffn.
Live auction in Middlebury Friday, Oct. 7, 5-7:30 p.m. Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury is holding Bop by the Barn, which includes live music, barbecue buffet and an auction in the outdoor sculpture garden. Tickets and info at tinyurl.com/y49zncub.	Press your own cider Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Get into the spirit of fall at Charlotte’s Horsford Gardens and Nursery with some cider pressing. Bring one bushel of apples per family, plus clean containers for the cider. One free ticket issued per family, so all may participate. Registration and info at tinyurl.com/5b97ybw.	Story, song and puppetry Saturday, Oct. 8, 15 and 22, 1-4 p.m. Borderlands is a theatrical event happening at Shelburne Farms. Follow a 1-mile woodland trail and experience performances along the way, beginning and ending at the Coach Barn. Limited tickets available for staggered time slots. For all ages; no dogs please. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/mr3n2c7x.
Almost, Maine on stage Oct. 7-15, 7 p.m. The Shelburne Players production of Almost,	Celebrate indigenous peoples Saturday, Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. A full day of Native American culture, education	Homecoming concert Saturday, Oct. 8, 3-4 p.m. The University of Vermont music program presents a free program during Homecoming weekend. The symphony orchestra, concert

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Library News

Join the post-pandemic library re-opening celebration



Margaret Woodruff
Director

Due to pandemic concerns, our library re-opening dedication was put on hold. Two and a half years after we opened our new library space, we can finally celebrate. Please join us Saturday, Oct. 8, from 2-4 p.m. for library tours and seasonal refreshments. All ages welcome.

We are also delighted to join in Charlotte Halloween festivities yet again. Stop by the library porch to admire the pumpkin display on the town green and to pick up a treat or two on Monday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 p.m.

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. *Co-sponsored by the Charlotte Senior Center.*

Book chat Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Check library calendar for dates.

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 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 and play dough 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

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 this time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many, or all meetings. Free.

Repair Cafe at the Charlotte Congregational Church Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Get your broken stuff ready. Sustainable Charlotte, the Charlotte Library and the Grange will be hosting the next Repair Cafe at the Charlotte Congregational Church Vestry. Register at sustainablecharlottetv.org/events/repair-cafe.

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

Back by popular demand. You will not want to miss this presentation if you or someone you love is experiencing vision loss. Join Dan Norris, director of adult



services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, for this hour-long interactive presentation. Dan will share the variety of large-print, digital and audio resources that are available to help you to access print and how you can access these resources through smart devices like an iPad or smartphone. Less high-tech solutions include large-print books and audiobooks that can be

obtained through a branch of the state library system by way of your local library. This nonprofit organization that can also help you to get magnifiers or teach you how to use smart devices to access print.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Film showing and director discussion: "Migration"

Experience the arduous journey Dukha reindeer herders embark on each year traveling through Mongolia's pristine wilderness to reach their summer encampment. Join director Sas Carey for a conversation about her filmmaking after the showing. "To the Dukhas of Mongolia, reindeer are the core of their existence. They are ridden, packed with goods, milked and, when needed, honored and sacrificed for food," said Ruah Swennerfelt of Sustainable Charlotte, which is co-sponsor of this event. Registration is required and here it is: bit.ly/3RysUVA.

One-on-one tech help sessions Thursdays, Oct. 13, 20, 1-2:30 p.m.

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

Walk and talk book discussion: "A Field Guide to Getting Lost" Saturday, Oct. 15, 2-4 p.m.

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

a book discussion fairly regularly, starting with Rebecca Solnit's book "A Field Guide to Getting Lost." Meet in the parking lot at Shelburne Farms as a loose group, walk to the farm barn and gather to discuss. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

Braver Angels Depolarizing Within workshop Sunday, Oct. 16, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Do you find that communication breaks down over political disagreements with friends, family or neighbors? Do you wonder if it's even fruitful to engage in potentially divisive subjects anymore? Increasingly, we are siloed within communities that overwhelmingly share our own perspectives and lose the dynamism that diverse perspectives offer, a reality that drives today's polarization. Braver Angels is committed to helping people to address these tendencies and to cultivate skills that foster constructive engagement across our differences. You are invited to participate in a three-hour, in-person, skills-training workshop called "Depolarizing Within." Register here: bit.ly/3SxE6TP.

Mystery book group: "An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good" Monday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.

Maud is an irascible 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends and ... no qualms about a little murder. Join us in person to discuss "this funny, irreverent story collection by Helene Tursten, author of the Irene Huss investigations." Copies available at the library circulation desk.

Men's book group: "An Immense World" Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

The Earth teems with sights and textures, sounds and vibrations, smells and tastes, electric and magnetic fields. But every animal is enclosed within its own unique sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of an immense world. This book by Ed Young welcomes us into a previously unfathomable dimension — the world as it is truly perceived by other animals. Join the discussion via Zoom.

Library contact information:

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

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



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Senior Center News

Fall into autumn activities with the senior center



Lori York
DIRECTOR

October is a full month with hikes scheduled, a birding trip and the return of the AARP Safe Drivers program. There are several language, exercise and painting classes along with a new ukulele class. There will also be an interactive presentation by the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and a presentation about Dragonheart Vermont and the Lake Champlain Dragon Boat festival that benefits local cancer survivors.

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

Presentations & Trips

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

Back by popular demand. You will not want to miss this presentation if you or someone you love is experiencing vision loss. Join Dan Norris, director of adult services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, for this hour-long interactive presentation. Dan will share the variety of large-print, digital and audio resources that are available to help access print and how to access these resources through smart devices like an iPad or smartphone. No cost but register by Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Niquette Bay State Park Wednesday, Oct. 12

Join Mike Yantachka for this fall hike and enjoy all the vibrant colors of autumn. Participants should bring a walking stick, water and a snack. Meet at the senior center at 8:45 a.m. This trail is a 2.4-mile loop, generally considered easy with an elevation gain of 320 feet. For questions, contact Mike at myantachka.dfa@gmail.com or 802-233-5238. No cost but registration is required by Monday, Oct. 10. The rain date is Thursday, Oct. 13

Dragonheart Vermont Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness

month, join Dragonheart Vermont’s executive director Nina Atkinson and board chair Pat King for an overview of the Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival, benefitting local cancer survivors. They will share stories from the Club Crew World Championships, and what it is like to compete representing Dragonheart Vermont and the United States. No cost but register by Tuesday, Oct. 18.

Birding expedition Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9:00 a.m. departure.

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

New Classes and Programs

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

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

Coffee & Canvas — autumn inspiration Friday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Unlike traditional paint and sips, Coffee & Canvas will allow for exploring and creating a unique painting. But don’t worry — there will be plenty of autumn inspiration from landscapes to still life objects from nature. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included. The cost is \$25. Register by Wednesday, Oct. 19.

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/class. No registration required.

Italian for Total Beginners Fridays, 10-11 a.m., Oct. 21-Nov. 18

Dreaming of traveling to Italy and ordering a morning cappuccino in a sun-



Photo by Lori York

Katie Franko participates in a Coffee & Canvas painting workshop.

drenched piazza? Interested in learning Italian but have never tried? Then this class is for you. Now is the time to begin your study of Italian with instructor Nicole Librandi. The cost for the five-week class is \$50. Register by Friday, Oct. 14.

Ukulele Fridays, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, Dec. 2 and 9, 1-2 p.m.

Interested in learning to play the ukulele? Ukuleles are easy to learn, even if you have no musical background. This group is for anyone who already plays and just wants to play in a group, as well as beginners interested in learning. Join John Creech for this fun and easy-going ukulele class on Friday afternoons at the senior center. Bring a ukulele, along with an electronic clip-on tuner, and the curiosity for learning something new. If there is interest, there will be a performance at the end of this 6-week class. The cost for the six-week class is \$75. Register by Friday, Oct. 14.

Exercise classes

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

Meals

Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday Lunches

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

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

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

Senior Center contact info

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

Follow the Senior Center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Write Ingredients

October and pumpkins inspire the poet and chef in us

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. — Anne of Green Gables, L. M. Montgomery

If you’re a fan of Sandra Boynton’s calendars, you’ll know that October is filled with remarkable days, starting with National Homemade Cookies Day and ending with Magic Day (also known as Halloween).

Monday, Oct. 17, happens to be “Wear Something Gaudy Day,” but you are welcome to the Charlotte Senior Center wearing whatever you like.

On Monday, Oct. 31, children from the Charlotte Children’s Center will show off their Halloween finery, and we suspect some adults will, too.

October is, of course, pumpkin month, and from John Greenleaf Whittier to David McCord, poets love pumpkins.

Cooks love pumpkins, too. From Julia Child’s Aunt Helen’s fluffy pumpkin pie to



Gordon Ramsay’s pumpkin risotto to Chef John’s pumpkin pancakes to the Charlotte Senior Center’s frosted pumpkin squares, pumpkin offers great variety.

Nutritionists are also fans of pumpkin. The orange color tells us that pumpkins are filled with the antioxidant beta-carotene, which converts in our bodies to Vitamin A. Pumpkins are also high in fiber, potassium and Vitamin C.

There isn’t room to list all the famous singers who have offered a memorable version of “Autumn Leaves,” but none can top Nat King Cole. Enjoy the song here: youtube.com/watch?v=Gnp58oepHUQ and come enjoy a meal at the Charlotte Senior Center.

Monday Munch Oct. 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Fall harvest soup, green salad, oatmeal carmelitas.

Register for Thursday Grab-&-Go Meal: Call or email: 802-425-6345 or kerriepugh@charlotteseniorcenter.org.

Thursday, Oct. 13 7-9 a.m. Men’s breakfast

Check the Charlotte Senior Center website for the program at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

Grab & Go Meal, Pickup: 10-11 a.m.

Chicken cacciatore, wheat rotini, peas and

carrots, wheat bread with butter, strawberry shortcake with cream and milk. Registration required by the prior Monday. Thursday meals are provided by Age Well at no cost but they appreciate donations.

Monday Munch Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Mexican feast with frosted pumpkin squares.

Thursday, Oct. 20 Grab & Go Meal, pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Pork cutlet, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, diced beets, mini wheat hamburger roll with butter, watermelon and milk.

Registration required by the prior Monday. Please remember that from baking pies to washing dishes to handing out all those Grab & Go meals, a lot of volunteer work goes into providing food at the Charlotte Senior Center. Please share your time and talents with others in a place filled with laughter and good cheer.

Calendar of Events

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

band and concert choir will all be featured at the university's Recital Hall on South Prospect Street in Burlington. Info at tinyurl.com/mr2xc7sf.

Bluegrass and apples

Sunday, Oct. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Shelburne Orchards provides the apples, the donuts and the bluegrass trio The Big Pick for family enjoyment. Stop in to enjoy the orchard's products and views while listening to this local quartet's feel-good music. Free event. See shelburneorchards.com for more info.

Tour the McClure

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The schooner Lois McClure is a full-size replica of an 1862-class sailing canal boat. It is docked at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, and visitors may board the schooner and tour with an interpretive guide. Some stairs involved between decks. Free event. For more info, call 802-475-2022.

Make fire cider

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 4:30-6 p.m.

Get your tickets early for this popular event held at the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms. Participants will use ingredients grown at the Farm to make a vinegar infusion of herbs and vegetables. After steeping, the resulting liquid, called fire cider, is beneficial for the immune system through the winter. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/3dc7fety.

CHARLOTTE

Earthkeep Farmcommon finale

Thursday, Oct. 13, 4:15-6:45 p.m.

Earthkeep Farmcommon in Charlotte welcomes you to its free harvest festival and final outside gathering of 2022. There will be food, live music, pumpkin carving, and local farm vendors in a mid-fall celebration with fire pit and great views. For more info, see earthkeep.farm/events.

Senior apple specials

Thursday and Friday, Oct 13 and 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shelburne Orchards is pleased to welcome seniors to the orchard where they will receive a great discount on a half-bushel bag of apples. For more info, see shelburneorchards.com/events.

Comics festival

Saturday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Non-fiction comics festival at Burlington's Fletcher Free Library features panel discussions, workshops and exhibits by cartoonists. The event is part of the Vermont Humanities programs and is free to attend. For more info, see tinyurl.com/4hcrzuwx.

Abenaki campfire gathering

Saturday, Oct. 15, 5:30-7 p.m.

Join Abenaki Chief Don Stevens at a campfire event about woodland wildlife. This family event at Shelburne Farms features stories, music,

Open house at Charlotte fire station

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2-4 p.m.

The Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service opens its doors to the community. There will be discussions on home safety, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, and activities for kids. Meet the members, see the trucks and equipment, and visit the table of baked goods.



artifacts and culture. Recommended for ages six and up. For more info or to register, see tinyurl.com/5n9ac7vt.

Spooky tales

Saturday, Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m.

Bridgeside Books in Waterbury welcomes two actors as they bring scary stories to life for Vermont's Scariest Original Stories. Stories are by several local authors, including a true-to-life tale by Charlotte Kathleen McKinley Harris. Event is best for adults and children old enough to sit still. More info and tickets at tinyurl.com/5un8snff.

Tractors and machines

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 15-16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Get up close to tractors, trucks and other farm machinery at Shelburne Farms. Pretend you're a farmer as you climb behind the wheel. No registration required; event is free with farm admission. Family program is at the Farm Barn. More info at tinyurl.com/ycy66dcm.

Sweet orchard music

Sunday, Oct. 16, noon-2 p.m.

At the height of fall, swing by Shelburne Orchards for apples and cider, and also to hear the new acoustic band, Queen City Cut Ups. Free concert; no dogs please. More info at shelburneorchards.com.

Overlooked in history

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2-4 p.m.

Speaker Dan O'Neil gives a lecture at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington called What About the Overlooked: Injustices in Public History. Free event. For more info, see ethanallenhomestead.org.

Musical trio E.T.E.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 4 p.m.

The trio E.T.E. honors traditional Quebecois and Acadian musical genres. They perform at the Richmond Congregational Church as part of the P.M. Sundays series; doors open 3 p.m. More info and tickets at tinyurl.com/wspf5hzm.

Sourdough bread science

Monday, Oct. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

Heike Meyer, baker of Brot Bakehouse School and Kitchen, leads free Zoom classes on sourdough baking topics. This is the second class of four through City Market; third class is Oct. 24, fourth class is Nov. 7. Take one or all three. Pre-registration required at tinyurl.com/2r5pcntr for Oct 17 class; to register for

future classes, see citymarket.coop/calendar.

Olmsted and America's urban parks

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Eight-part series, exploring the roles of design and beauty. This film is about landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted may also be screened from home on the same day at adfilmseries.org. Movie is free, and is introduced by Greg De Vries of Charlotte's Heritage Landscapes. For more info, see adfilmseries.org.

Find more events on our website
charlottenewsvt.org/category/local-events

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