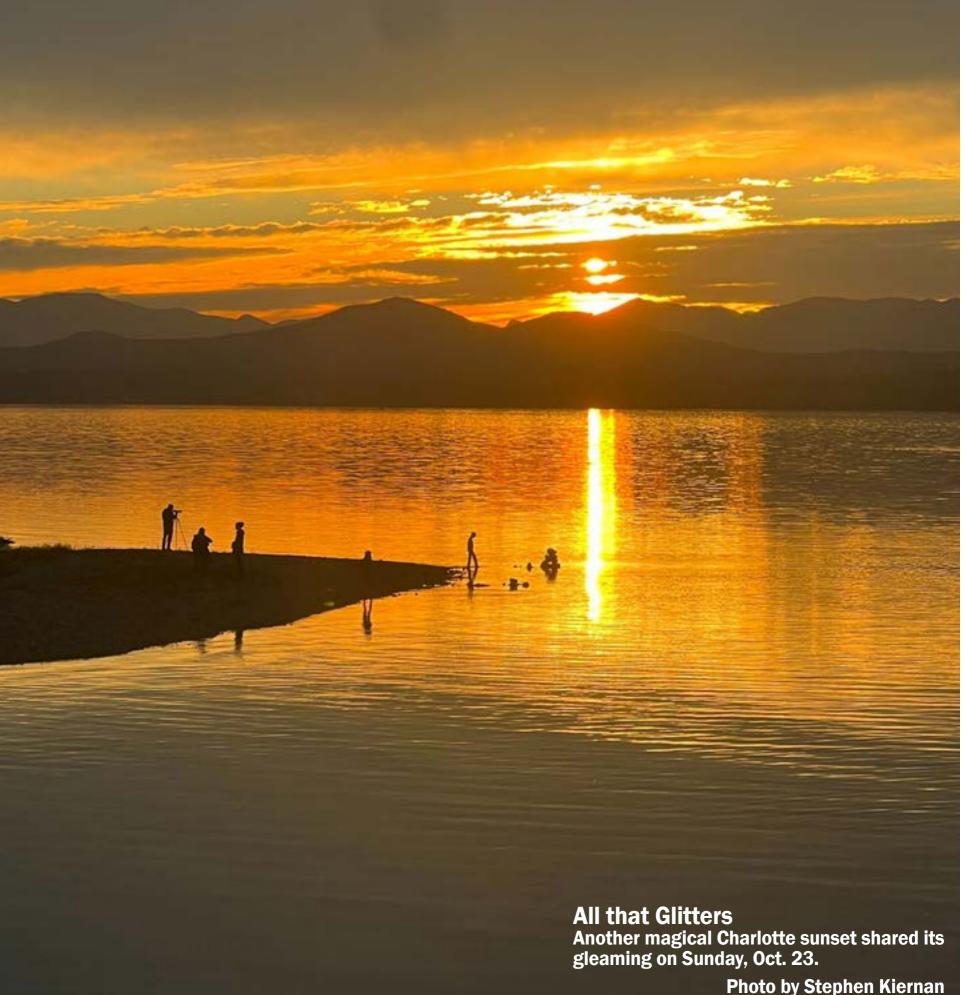
The Charlotte News

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The Charlotte News

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

Vol. 65, No.10

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November 3, 2022

Claudia Marshall Chair Fundraising Committee John Quinney Publisher and President

Your local, nonprofit newspaper is asking for your financial support today.

We need your participation to continue to expand the business of publishing the paper you rely on. After all, it's the eve of the 65th anniversary of The Charlotte News, the state's longest-running community newspaper. And we have big plans for the future.

If you read Front Porch Forum or attended a few selectboard meetings, you might think Charlotte is facing any number of problems that just don't have a solution. Speeding in our villages! Lack of affordable housing! Ineffective town government! Low voter turnout! Dwindling volunteerism! And on and on.

But ... Charlotte is not the only place where these issues have been faced ... and addressed. An enterprising newspaper would do some research and find out how other small towns have tackled and solved these intractable problems. Now, this paper wouldn't presume to present the answer to any of Charlotte's issues. That's just not our job. But we can do some digging to see what works in other towns.

For a specific example of this kind of reporting, see "Speeding: What have other towns done?" a story by Brett Yates in this edition of the paper. We hope that this story will inform both conversations among neighbors and also decision making at selectboard meetings ... and lead to action.

But here's the thing: This type of reporting takes time and money, both of which are in short supply at any small, nonprofit community newspaper. But we think Charlotte deserves some answers. Don't you?

We are asking you to donate not only to finance the regular business of reporting on the news of Charlotte, but also to expand that reporting to be even more enterprising and useful.

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Tricks, treats and little feet



Charlotte Halloweened in grand style. See more photos on page 3.

Photo by Robert Nickelsberg

Selectboard rejects bids on town garage

Scooter MacMillan Editor

Bids Charlotte received for building a town garage were fewer and higher than expected, so the town decided to punt.

Members of the selectboard voted to reject the only two bids received and kick them back to the companies that submitted them

At the meeting on Monday, Oct. 24, the board members voted 4-0 to reject both bids. By the time the votes were taken after a closed executive session at the end of the regular meeting, it was after 10 p.m. Board member Louise McCarren, who had been attending remotely earlier, had left and was absent for the vote.

Before the two bids were opened at a previous selectboard meeting on Oct. 10, chair Jim Faulkner expressed surprise that there were so few. He had expected a good

many more bids because of the number of construction companies he and town administrator Dean Bloch had talked to about the construction project.

After the bids were opened, the selectboard was even more surprised at how high they were. The two bids that were from Naylor and Breen Builders of Brandon for \$3,795,222 and from Farrington Construction of Shelburne for \$3,796,754—both almost \$800,000 more than budgeted.

Faulkner also remarked at the Oct. 10 meeting about how unusually close the bids were with just over \$1,500 separating Farrington's high bid from Naylor and Breen's bid.

The board appeared to be in consensus on rejecting the bids because both bids were so much more than what voters had approved.

The town budgeted \$3 million to build a garage on Route 7 just south of Ferry Road

and that was the amount of money more than 78 percent of ballots approved in a special election on Aug. 9.

The selectboard's plan called for the town to apply for a bond or a bank note to borrow \$1.5 million of the construction cost. The remainder would come from \$500,000 that road commissioner Junior Lewis has saved from his budget over the years added to \$1 million in town funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA.

After the vote to reject the bids, board members passed a motion for Faulkner and town administrator Dean Bloch to contact the bidders for "value engineering" of their bids.

That motion passed 3-0, with Faulkner abstaining, presumably because the motion concerned him.

The selectboard planned to have a specially called meeting about the cost of the garage this Wednesday, Nov. 2, but it was held after press time.

Speeding: What have other towns done?

Brett Yates Contributor

There's no proof that drivers in Charlotte have recently fallen into a habit of traveling at higher speeds than they used to.

In 2013 and 2017, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission placed automated traffic recorders in Charlotte, first on Hinesburg Road and Spear Street, and then on Ferry Road and Greenbush Road. Publicly available data collected at the same spots in 2021 showed little to no change in speeds.

Speeding often plays a role in car accidents, and according to figures from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (or VTrans), Charlotte has averaged 41.3 crashes annually over the last decade, with a high of 57 in 2016. Forty-one crashes occurred within town limits last year and 44 the year before that. In 2022, Charlotte is on



Photo by Brett Yates

Signs, including in the median, and painted crosswalks are strategies Shelburne has used to try to reduce speeding.

SEE **SPEEDING** PAGE 5

Despite the holiday, it's budget season again

Scooter MacMillan Editor

As much as we may talk about keeping the spirit of Christmas all year long, it seems like budget season always lasts longer.

Yes, it's that seemingly eternal infernal time of year again.

At the selectboard meeting on Oct. 24, five Charlotte departments kicked off the perennial process of making a list of expenses and revenues that will be checked much more than twice.

Town assessor John Kerr came with tidings of a rise in his budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year because of the town-wide reappraisal that is coming next year.

Kerr said the assessor budget is generally consistent from year to year, but during the reappraisal year he will need extra manpower "working on adjusting sketches and things like that, that we normally don't do in a calendar year" that should cost about \$10,000 more.

The department has the money for this increase in an accrual fund of about \$70,000 which can be moved in the budget so the town won't need to look for more money, he

Town clerk and treasurer Mary Mead suggested some adjustments to his budget and Kerr agreed to making those changes and resubmitting it.

Kate Kelly of the Lewis Creek Association came with a request for her organization to get the same \$3,300 next year it had received this year. Of that amount, \$600 is an unrestricted donation from the town. The remaining \$2,700 funds work the

Article 22 proponents naively say

something 'will never' happen

If outspoken proponents of Prop 5/

actually take away Vermonter's individual

Article 22 are right, it will be the first

rights by removing the opportunity for

the legislature to represent the will of

the people and instead give all power

to unelected medical organizations and

State Rep. Dr. George Till, division

University of Vermont Medical Center,

chief of general OB/GYN at the

wrote in an op-ed, "Perhaps the

most common and disturbing piece

of misinformation being circulated

that it will remove all restrictions on

termination up to the time of birth."

abortion and enshrine elective pregnancy

Yet, in 2019, Till joined his allies in

defeating every proposed amendment to

to prevent late-term abortions, including

exceptions related to the viability of the

Act 47 that might have imposed guardrails

surrounding Article 22 is the idea

constitutional amendment that will

To the Editor:



organization does to fight invasive species like frogbit in Town Farm Bay and its water quality sampling program.

Likewise, Bill Regan from the Charlotte Trail Committee presented a level budget for the same \$1,500 it received this year. The trail committee uses that money to do smallscale work and maintenance on town trails, pay for tools, print maps, provide dog waste bags at trailheads and send out a year-end donations letter.

"Our year-end donation letter last year brought in over \$3,100, so it's a good return on investment," he said.

Regan thinks the trail committee has not asked for an increase in its budget for more than five years.

Jonathan Silverman, chair of the library board, said their budget request includes a slight increase for such things as energy, computer and tech support and custodial service.

Library director Margaret Woodruff said energy costs are anticipated to go up because the building is designated as a cooling center in summer and a warming center in winter, so maintaining a good temperature is

But the iteration of the library budget the library brought to the selectboard meeting did not include wages for staff. Selectboard chair Jim Faulkner asked to move the library budget to a meeting on Nov. 14, so that part of the budget can be included in the

Jon Snow, president of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, presented a preliminary budget formulated by its board, but a more formal budget discussion will come after a November meeting when all of the members will have an opportunity to vote on that organization's budget request.

Snow predicted the fire and rescue service request will be 8.5 percent higher than its appropriated expenses of just over \$890,000 for fiscal year 2023, which would mean an appropriation increase of more than \$75,000, so the total predicted for 2023-24 is almost \$966,000.

Last year's fire and rescue budget was controversial and the closest vote among the separate budget articles approved at Town Meeting Day last March, passing with 57 percent of the votes cast on the issue.

Snow said the budget increase is mostly driven by personnel and personnel-related costs, including taxes, benefits and healthcare coverage for staff.

Workers' compensation has become more expensive for the fire and rescue service because it has been working to cross-train members so that more are certified to work both emergency medical and fire calls.

"Regrettably, the one bad part of that is that they all have to have workers' comp at the firefighter rate, which is much higher than the ambulance rate," Snow said.



The mission of The Charlotte News is:

- to publish rigorous, in-depth, fair reporting on town
- 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

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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.

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- 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.
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- 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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Letters to the Editor fetus, amendments related to conscience and parental rights, a ban on partial-birth abortion, and providing medical help to

abortion survivors. Elective pregnancy

termination up to the time of birth is very much on the table in Article 22 because Till refused to take it off.

Dr. Lauren MacAfee, OB/GYN at the University of Vermont Medical Center, said in an interview on Vermont Public Radio, "The goal of Article 22 is to really enshrine into our Constitution what current practice is happening now and to avoid some of the whims of the legislative sessions. At this time in Vermont, there are no abortions that are taking place in the third trimester. And that practice won't change with Article 22 if it were to pass."

MacAfee should know well that policies change and trends shift. For example, on Jan. 26, 2018, the University of Vermont Medical Center announced it would begin offering elective abortion procedures, ending a 45-year-old policy.

There are no prohibitions against third-trimester abortion in Article 22 nor mandates for future medical ethics boards. To suggest, as Till and MacAfee

do, that something that is constitutionally protected will "never happen" is naive at best and dangerously misleading at worst.

Article 22 proponents have intentionally proposed a vague state constitutional amendment while assuring voters of its

Carol Kauffman

(Carol Kauffman is associated with the Vermont Family Alliance.)

Support for Liam Madden for U.S. House of Representatives

To the Editor:

Our system of governance was founded on compromise; a bridging between parties for the greater good. Yet, today, we often elect representatives from both sides of the aisle who are less likely to compromise than ever. As recent decades have demonstrated, until this bridge is rebuilt, it is unlikely that we'll see longterm progress on many issues crucial to our nation.

As voters, we need to recognize our contribution to this reality. Few issues are binary today; we need to stop treating them as such. We need to think more deeply about the repercussions of electing polarizing candidates who represent the "far" from either side. Uncompromising ideals are dangerous and limiting in a diverse and large democracy.

The difference between the successful progressive movement of the early 20th century and today's movements is that the former bridged party lines while today's divide. Progress towards the greater good requires embracing unifying common goals and values.

In this vein, consider voting for Liam Madden for U.S. House. While running as a Republican, he is self-funded and has declined party endorsement. He is an independent thinker with strong values who doesn't firmly align with either party. Even if you find you don't agree with him on every topic, rest assured that he will work to encourage both parties to see that the only path forward to progress requires compromise and systemic change.

Ian Buchanan East Montpelier



It's Halloween on Greenbush Road!



Photos by Scooter MacMillan The fruits of Saturday's pumpkin carving at the library made a boo-tiful display for the



Mira Braidwood had the perfect costume for the display outside the Old Brick Store.



Thing 1 and Thing 2 trick-or-treated at the fire station.



Almost all the children, adults and homes were costumed..



Friends since Charlotte Central School, Will Bown and Charlie Kenyon were trick-ortreating with Haddie Rose Bown, who came as their father, and Sarah Kenyon, who came as a lobster, just like Mom.



Elyzabeth Donnelly brought an elephant (Carter Donnelly) to the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Station.



SPEEDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pace for a better year than usual, with only 15 crashes recorded as of Oct. 18.

Recent meetings of the Charlotte Selectboard, however, suggest that unsafe driving has never been a more pressing concern locally. On Sept. 26, speeding-related complaints by residents stretched the fiveminute "public comment" portion to a half an hour.

Neighboring towns tell similar stories. Throughout Chittenden County, municipal officials, prodded by concerned citizens, have sought in different ways to address the dangers posed by aggressive motorists. Sometimes, it can be hard for them to tell how much progress they've made.

"I've been in public service for quite a long time," said Shelburne Town Manager Lee Krohn. "In my experience — and I don't make light of it — people complain about speeding everywhere. Everywhere. Sometimes it's real; sometimes it's perception."

"I think it feels worse now because traffic was a lot quieter during the height of COVID," he conjectured. "The question always is: 'Well, what do you do about it?'"

Krohn pointed out that Shelburne has erected "several" speed feedback signs, whose dynamic digital displays let drivers know how fast they're going in the hope that they'll want to slow down.

"I've seen those popping up more and more frequently in towns throughout Vermont, especially along entries into the hearts of villages or downtowns," he observed. "I think they're a good idea in certain locations, but you don't want to overuse any particular device."

Studies by safety experts have established to varying degrees that feedback signs can be effective, but observers have their own impressions.

"We have one on Mechanicsville Road in the village," said Hinesburg Town Manager Todd Odit. "I run frequently, and it's in a speed zone that is 35. And I'll routinely observe people going 42, 45 by that speed sign."

Some feedback signs can transmit data that might indicate empirically whether frequent speeding has persisted after their installation, but most don't contain a memory bank.

"It probably requires a more costly electronic system," Krohn speculated. "Just the regular signs themselves are several thousand dollars."

Shelburne also owns a mobile radar cart, however, and when it's set up to record speeds, town officials can harvest the numbers later for examination, without commissioning a traffic count by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

"We collected a wide array of data some years back," Krohn remembered. "It showed that, for the most part, the vast majority of motorists were traveling within a reasonable plus or minus range of the posted limit."

Charlotte doesn't have any permanent speed feedback signs, but it did purchase a mobile radar cart in 2014. Lieutenant Allen Fortin, who works in the Chittenden County Sheriff's Office as a highway safety coordinator (a position funded by the Vermont State Highway Safety Office), rated the latter's ability to slow drivers more highly.

"I've never been a big fan of the permanent ones. People get used to them," Fortin said. "I would get the ones that you could move around, so you could put it on this road for this month, and then, next month, you move it to a different road."

At the moment, however, Charlotte's mobile radar cart covers limited ground. Town administrator Dean Bloch cited technical difficulties.

"At the time we bought it, our town planner was able to program it," he said. "It does take some special knowledge."

That planner changed jobs two and a half years ago. The town has deployed the cart as recently as this summer, but using it at a fresh location would require changing its setting.

"It operates on roads where the speed limit is 50, but we're trying to get it to operate on roads with lower speed limits," Bloch said. "It needs to be reprogrammed because there's



Photo by Brett Yates

Huntington can pull data from its speed signs. The first year after speed humps were installed, it seemed to show the speed hump reduced speeds, but town officials haven't pulled the data since.

some speed at which it begins to turn red or get angry at you or something."

In Shelburne, feedback signs aren't the only electronic devices flashing at drivers. In and around the downtown, upgraded crosswalks come with signage featuring what planners call RRFBs: button-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. A local Boy Scout prompted the installation of the ones outside the town office in 2019.

"When you're working toward your Eagle rank, you have to do some kind of community project. And this particular Eagle Scout chose to pursue a grant to help the town get these," Krohn said. "So, he got a grant; we paid the rest and had the state contractor install them because they're right on a state highway, and they need to be of a certain design and strength."

Shelburne has contemplated other trafficcalming measures to makes its village center less hospitable to fast-moving cars.

"Downtown Burlington has sort of gone to a certain extreme," Krohn said, "where they've put gigantic planters at intersections and built these things called 'bulb-outs,' where you actually extend the sidewalk and curbing out into the street to narrow the length that a pedestrian has to cross and make it harder for cars to travel through those tight intersections."

"Anything is theoretically possible," he continued, "but when you put obstructions into a heavily traveled roadway, it can create its own risks of accidents or snowplows running into these things. So, it's a real intriguing, dynamic process of trying to find a balance between the needs of multiple users of roads and what makes sense in the right place."

In Vergennes, City Manager Ron Redmond addressed the question of what the municipality has done to reduce speeding by pointing to the Vergennes Police Department.

"From the day I came came into Vergennes, one of the first complaints I had was the speeding and motor vehicle complaints," Police Chief George Merkel said. "So, I made that a priority."

"We identified the areas that were the problem areas, the most likely to get complaints. We did an analysis of the calls to see what days of the week, what times of the day, and then we developed a data-driven process," he said. "We devoted our time in those locations and during those periods, and we started making some headway."

"We developed a reputation that you didn't speed through Vergennes because you were going to get stopped," Merkel summarized.

The Vergennes Police Department has seven officers, who work 10-hour shifts. By Merkel's estimate, an average officer on an average day spends four to six hours on traffic enforcement.

Merkel also cited public awareness and education as "a big part" of the Vergennes Police Department's efforts to improve safety on the roads.

"We go to the local schools. I've gone to the Rotary Club. I've put articles in the paper. In the spring we talk about bicycle safety and helmets and crosswalks and being vigilant for bicycle riders," he said. "Officer Stacey teaches classes to motor vehicle offenders."

Over the course of more than 13 years, Merkel gradually saw fewer complaints of speeding, he said, as well as fewer incidents of drunk driving.

Merkel retired on Oct. 31, citing a climate of "continued and unwarranted disrespect" in a letter to city officials. In 2020, accusations of racially biased patrolling and overspending on law enforcement in Vergennes stirred a citywide debate that led to the resignations of the mayor and three aldermen.

Charlotte, which has no police department of its own, contracts the Vermont State Police for eight hours a week of traffic enforcement. In 2021, the Vermont Judiciary recorded 13 municipal fines for traffic violations in Charlotte. As of the most recently published report in August, this year has seen just six.

"When the selectboard first decided to have enforcement done — and I'm talking about recent times, within the past 15 or 20 years — they hired the Chittenden County Sheriff," Bloch said. "Considering they're pulling over town residents, the style of the sheriff was a little bit heavy-handed. And not to say that the selectboard wasn't interested in having tickets issued, but the manner of the interactions was not very professional at that."

The Shelburne Police Department subsequently took over the town's contract, which "worked very well for many years," until it got too expensive. Vermont State Police followed.

Within Charlotte, far fewer traffic stops occur on town roads than on Route 7, where the state collects penalties on its own behalf. In total, Vermont State Police pulled over 111 drivers in Charlotte last year, compared to 335 in 2020 and 871 in 2019. Across the state, Vermont State Police traffic stops have declined precipitously from a recent high of 64,093 in 2017 to 10,332 in 2021.

Jonathon Weber, who manages the Complete Streets Program at the Burlington-based advocacy nonprofit Local Motion, argued that traffic enforcement requires "a lot of resources to do at scale" and offers "very limited effectiveness" even so. He contended that "changes in land use and in the design of the road are the only ways to sustainably address speeding."

"Drivers adjust their speed and their behavior based on cues they are given by the roadway. Those cues include things like the width of the roadway and how much of a clear zone there is around the roadway. If there are trees or houses or buildings very close to the road, people will tend to slow down and be more aware. Even bends in the road can cause people to drive more slowly," he said.

"Also, the presence of people walking and biking and activity slows down drivers. That sort of starts to get into the land-use topic," Weber said. "You're not going to have people around in a rural area, generally, if there are no destinations. And if the destinations are so far from the origin that it's not realistic to walk or bike, the people at those destinations are all going to drive to get there. So that doesn't really help you fix your problem."

On Oct. 24, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission presented an East Charlotte Traffic Calming Study before the selectboard, recommending curbs, medians and even public art to "create a

SPEEDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

sense of place" that would have the effect of lowering vehicle speeds. With additions of this kind, either of Charlotte's villages, in theory, could start a journey toward becoming a dense, walkable, bikeable community of the sort that Local Motion promotes statewide, but ultimately, it would take more than traffic-calming measures.

"That requires buildings, and you know, Charlotte doesn't have a lot of them," Bloch said.

Local Motion organized a survey of walking and biking habits in Charlotte last year. The organization has found local allies, including on the Charlotte Energy Committee, which has begun to envision a small park-and-ride at the new town garage that would facilitate a Green Mountain Transit bus stop, thereby reducing individual commuter trips on Route 7 by speeders and non-speeders alike.

Townspeople have debated various plans and ideas of this nature for years. In 2012, at Town Meeting Day, voters authorized an expenditure up to \$77,000 to construct a sidewalk on Ferry Road in West Charlotte. A few weeks later, residents submitted a petition with enough signatures to force a second vote, and this time, the sidewalk lost.

Last year, the Charlotte Planning Commission began a process to update the town's land-use regulations, and voters will now consider an initial set of amendments on their November ballot. But in the absence of a wholesale transformation of either village, smaller roadway adjustments are possible, according to Weber.

"One example is just simply not having a center line, that yellow center line, on the roadway. That has been shown to reduce speeds, sometimes by as much as 7 mph," he said. "It requires drivers to think a little bit more about their position on the road, and that encourages slower speeds."

Towns can implement this change in downtowns or in rural areas, Weber noted. In the latter, there may be few The best speed management practices are a combination of appropriate engineering, educational and enforcement techniques, as all of these components working together are more effective than any of them can be alone.

Ian Degutis, Traffic engineer, Vermont Agency of Transportation

pedestrians around, but speeders still pose a danger to other motorists and, often, to recreational cyclists, who make frequent use of Charlotte's back roads. Off-road networks of multi-use paths, like the one under development by the Charlotte Trails Committee, can provide alternatives, but few offer enough mileage to satisfy dedicated riders.

Kevin Bessett, a Richmond resident who serves as president of the Green Mountain Bicycle Club, pointed to the perils of Mt. Philo Road at rush hour, with "very evident" speeding and no shoulder for refuge. He highlighted the helpfulness, elsewhere, of fog lines, the painted white stripes that narrow the roadway and orient drivers by demarcating its right-hand boundary, even in the absence of a proper shoulder.

"Another benefit, too, is that these lines provide a point of reference for the cyclist," Bessett said. "For example, I use the white line as a marker to ride on or to ride to the right of when cars are behind me."

According to Sai Sarepalli, a transportation planning engineer at the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission, Vermonters sometimes hope to control speeds on country roads simply by lowering the limit, but a wide, empty road will invite speed no matter what the signposts say. By his account, surveys have shown that drivers usually forget the posted limit "five to 10 seconds" after seeing it.

"The road dictates the speed, and just

arbitrarily reducing the speed limit, in most cases that I've noticed, it does not reduce the operating speeds of motorists," he said. "They'll drive at a speed where they feel comfortable."

The town of Huntington, with a population of 1,938, has few businesses and little pedestrian activity, but plenty of drivers pass through on their way to Camel's Hump State Park. A few years ago, municipal officials sought to control speeds in the lower village by installing a speed hump — a gentler version of a speed bump — at its southbound entry, along with feedback signs and painted speed limits on the blacktop.

This year and last, Charlotte deployed seasonal speed bumps of its own near the town beach and at Thompson's Point, but the Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescues Services has advocated against their more extensive use. Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescues Services cited data from Oregon and Illinois to warn of slowed emergency response times.

"The delay could be anywhere between three and 10 seconds. While that does not sound like much, consider that a fire doubles in size every minute it goes unchecked," said Chief Justin Bliss, who also noted "a potential for increased maintenance costs" for fire trucks and a possible "increase in patient discomfort and potential risk to providers in the back of an ambulance."

In Huntington, the speed hump on Main Road has been an apparent success. The town checked to be sure. "I'm able to pull data off of the speed signs," said Huntington town administrator Barbara Elliott.

She said they pulled the data the first year, but haven't since. That first year, it seemed to show the speed hump reduced speeds.

But, even here, the simultaneous introduction of multiple traffic-calming measures would confound a data-based analysis of any single tool's stand-alone efficacy.

"It's so hard to get a controlled environment to say X impacted the speeds, because there are so many other variables," said Chris Dubin, a transportation planner at the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

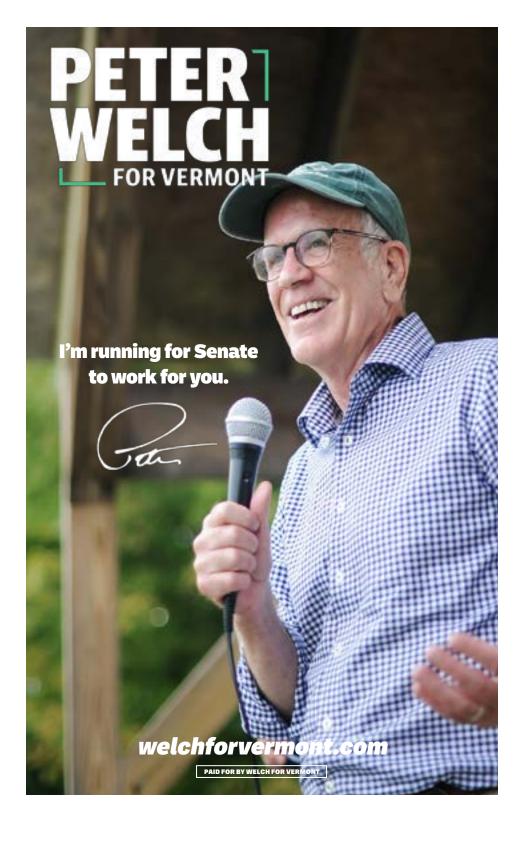
According to Dubin, the towns that commission the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission for traffic safety studies rarely call them back to examine the results of their subsequent actions. "I mean, we would probably love to, but oftentimes it's just onto the next thing, unfortunately."

But Dubin's colleague, Sarepalli, emphasized that researchers at the Federal Highway Administration have already "proven" the location-contingent effectiveness of all the standard engineering tools for traffic calming. And few towns will spend money on measures that "are not cheap," as he put it, without an engineer's input on implementation.

"Engineering countermeasures, such as changing roadway width, setting appropriate speed limits or installation of speed bumps, are context-sensitive, so it's generally a site-specific assessment to determine what is appropriate and feasible in a particular location," said Ian Degutis, a traffic engineer at the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation urges towns to adopt a diverse strategy of techniques to address speeding.

"The best speed management practices," Degutis said, "are a combination of appropriate engineering, educational and enforcement techniques, as all of these components working together are more effective than any of them can be alone."



Ferry transits reduced for staffing issues

Scooter MacMillan Editor

The ferry from Charlotte to Essex, N.Y., reduced the number of its lake crossings a bit earlier this year.

Normally, the Charlotte-Essex Ferry cuts its departures from every 30 minutes to every hour and reduces its hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. around the first of November, said Heather Stewart with Lake Champlain Transportation.

This year the company made the switch Oct. 17.

The ferry is now just running Mondays-Fridays with no weekend crossings.

Heather Stewart with Lake Champlain Transportation said the switch was made earlier because of staffing issues.

Unlike other businesses which can continue to operate with fewer staff, the ferry must run with a full crew, Stewart said. Like so many other businesses, Lake Champlain Transportation has been having trouble finding enough employees since the pandemic.

The ferry was completely shut down during the winter during the pandemic, but she said the company doesn't plan to stop ferry service this winter until ice becomes an issue on Lake Champlain.



The Charlotte-Essex Ferry making its way across Lake Champlain. Photo by ®Heather Forcier



Early morning wreck

Courtesy photo

No one was hurt when a box truck flipped near the intersection of Route 7 and Ferry Road just after midnight on Friday, Oct. 21. Route 7 was closed completely for a short time, but the southbound lane was closed for about two hours.

Community Roundup

Efficiency Vermont offering free business energy visit

Efficiency Vermont is offering free on-site energy visits to all Vermont businesses. These consultations give businesses access to rebate offers, financing solutions and technical advice. The result: lower energy costs and a more resilient business.

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Schedule a walkthrough today at efficiencyvermont.com/bizconsult, even if you plan to make energy updates further down the road. Your consultant may be able to provide low and no-cost ways to start lowering your energy bills now.

Lend a hand to an agency that needs volunteers

United Way's Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. Agencies are working hard to navigate volunteering during this time, but opportunities are increasing. Visit Volunteer Connection at unitedwaynwvt. galaxydigital.com to learn more about these and other opportunities:

- Burlington Dismas House provides transitional housing for newly released prisoners. They will be providing a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for residents and guests at their Buell Street (Justin Adair at 802-655-0300 or justin@dismasofvt.org) and East Allen Street (Hailey Leisten at 802-658-0381 or hailey@dismasofvt.org) locations. They're looking for volunteers to help make this a memorable event. Volunteers are encouraged to enjoy the meal with the residents.
- Mercy Connections is doing their community lunch on Thursdays and is looking for volunteers to help prep delivered food and serve. Shifts are roughly from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are: Nov. 3, Nov. 10, a special Harvest/Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and a holiday meal on Dec. 15. Contact Maeve Keating at mkeating@mercyconnections.org.
- Spectrum Youth and Family Services is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for youth ages 12-22. If you are a responsible adult in Chittenden or Grand Isle County and have reliable transportation, here's the chance to spend some quality time with a young person who is waiting to be connected to a healthy, compassionate mentor. Mentoring pairs can enjoy biking, a University of Vermont sports game, a show at the Flynn or many other mutually enjoyable activities. Contact

Rebecca Majoya at 802-864-7423, ext. 216 or email rmajoya@spectrumvt.

Peer Teaching and Learning is expanding and enhancing its board of directors and board committees with volunteers from communities in Vermont. They are looking for various skill sets and diverse age, geographic location, learning styles, gender, race, and ethnicity. The board meets via Zoom seven times a year with an annual in person meeting. Peer Teaching and Learning provides advanced learning opportunities for underserved populations, primarily adults with disabilities. Board members are encouraged to visit any of the 11 Vermont campuses to experience the unique opportunity being provided to students. Contact Stephen Tavella at 802-424-7717 or email executivedirector@ peerteachingandlearning.org.

Training geared for women running in local elections

Emerge Vermont, the state's premier organization for recruiting and training Democratic women to run for office, announced today that it will offer a new regional training program for women interested in running for local office.

Emerge Vermont Local is a half-day training that will provide skills and tools to enable Democratic women to run successful campaigns for school boards, selectboards, city councils and village trustee boards on Town Meeting Day.

"We are excited to launch this new training program for women who want to serve in local office. Fewer than a third of selectboard members in Vermont are women. This training will help improve women's representation in local government," said Elaine Haney, executive director of Emerge Vermont.

The training will be offered in St. Albans on Nov, 19, Greensboro on Dec. 10 and Brandon on Jan. 14 and will focus specifically on campaigning locally. Participants will develop practical knowledge in areas such as voter contact, messaging, fundraising, campaign strategy and more.

Emerge Vermont Local is different from the organization's more comprehensive candidate training program. "Local elections typically involve fewer registered voters and smaller geographic areas than legislative campaigns. They generally occur on Town Meeting Day each spring, and so the campaign season is also relatively short and requires less fundraising," Haney said. "The Emerge Vermont Local program will offer campaign training suited to the comparatively smaller local election cycle."

"Emerge is the gold standard in campaign training in Vermont. I'm thrilled to see them expanding their program to support candidates for municipal office," said Jim Dandeneau, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party.

The cost of participation is \$35 per person. Those interested can learn more at vt.emergeamerica.org/events/emerge-vermont-local.



Last blooms and waning autumn colors



Photos by Patricia O'Donnell Some of the last blooms of fall — daisy chrysanthemums, annual calendula and dahlias — strutting their stuff with the Adirondacks in the background.





Photo by Meg Berlin

Food Shelf News

Food shelf collecting nonperishable food for Thanksgiving

Maj Eisinger Charlotte Food Shelf

As days grow colder and the hours of darkness increase, the Charlotte Food Shelf prepares to provide warmth and nourishment in the holiday months. As we watch small birds and mammals store food for the months ahead, so do food shelf volunteers seek non-perishable items for the fast-approaching Thanksgiving Day basket meal.

In a lovely longstanding tradition, Charlotte Central School students and teachers fill boxes of nonperishable food items that are donated to the food shelf. Food shelf volunteers then add milk, butter, eggs and bread to the baskets. Turkeys, so generously supplied by the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary, complete this feast. Registered

families can pick up their basket and turkey Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m.-noon.

The warmth of our community helped make the Charlotte Hand-Me-Downs Fall Clothing Drive very successful. Twenty-five families donated clothes and winter gear. Each child served by the food shelf received a complete set of winter gear. Additional bags of clothing and outerwear were passed along to the Charlotte Central School counselor for further distribution. All remaining outerwear was donated to a coat drive for refugees living in Vermont. Thank you to the families who donated and for the Grange volunteers who helped to sort and pack clothing.

For future planning, please note that this effort happens twice a year. Donations are accepted at the Charlotte Grange in April and September. More detailed updates and drop-

off dates are posted seasonally in the Front Porch Forum and on the Charlotte Grange website at charlottegrange.org.

We are grateful to Kathleen Nolan, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Nancy Wood, Raymond and Eileen Curtis, Alexandra Lehmann and Nancy Pricer for monetary donations. Head over Fields has provided a lovely bounty of vegetables; Stewart's Breads continues to supply scrumptious breads; and the Repair Café collected many food items as well as a generous monetary donation for the food shelf. We appreciate these donations, as well as the huge basket of potatoes grown and harvested by youth from the Charlotte Congregational Church.

We give thanks in advance to Charlotte Congregational Church members and parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who again plan to put up Giving Trees in both churches the weekend after Thanksgiving Day. This tradition, which is more than 15 years old, provides wish gifts for children for the holidays.

In this time of giving thanks, many continue to reach out to others. For those wishing to donate nonperishable items, the following would be gratefully received: crackers; juice; mixes for muffins, cakes, pie crust, brownies or bread; canned pie fillings; and snacks such as granola bars.

As winter promises to bring both beauty

and cold, please note that the Charlotte Food Shelf has utility assistance available to residents of Charlotte and North Ferrisburgh. If you or someone you know is facing utility shut-off or another unexpected hardship, help is available. Simply call 802-425-3252 or fill out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf open hours or on our website at charlotteucc.org/copy-of-charlotte-food-shelf-1.

The Food Shelf is open for Food Distribution from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays, Nov. 9, Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28.

Holiday basket pickup dates are Saturdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, 10 a.m. until noon.

The Charlotte Food Bank is in back of the Congregational Church in Charlotte at 403 Church Hill Rd. 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, call 802-425-3252.

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

All the food shelf volunteers would like to wish all our community members a blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving!

Sports

CVU football, field hockey teams marching through postseason

Scooter MacMillan Editor

Football

CVU 49, Burlington-South Burlington 20

After beating the Seawolves 49-20 last Saturday, Oct. 29, one more hurdle stands between the Champlain Valley Union Redhawks and a repeat appearance in the state finals.

The Redhawks will play Essex High at CVU at 1 p.m. this Saturday. The winner of Saturday's contest will earn the right to play the winner of the Middlebury-Burr and Burton semifinals game in the state championship game in Rutland on the following Saturday, Nov. 12.

CVU earned the right to advance to the semifinals with a game that coach Rahn Fleming characterized as "the Jack Sumner show."

Sumner had a hand in five of the Redhawks' seven touchdowns.

The game was close at half with CVU up 21-13, but the second half was virtually all Redhawks. The Seawolves managed one last score with 2 seconds left in the game to pull within a somewhat more respectable 19 points

The score was more lopsided than the level of play. The Seawolves were in the game for most of the first half.

Late in the second quarter, a pair of plays seemed to turn the momentum decisively in the Redhawks' favor. Just up by eight points, Champlain Valley fumbled the ball, but on the first play of the ensuing possession, the Redhawks intercepted a pass to regain possession. From then on, the Redhawks appeared to be in control.

Besides crediting his players for the second half rout, Fleming gave kudos to his coaching staff.

"I have a very intelligent coaching staff and we're able to look and see what's happened on the ball field and make adjustments," Fleming said. "And something kicks into gear with the kids and they come out the second half ready to rock and roll."

CVU 42, BFA-St. Albans 14

Much of the credit for the Redhawks' continuing success has to go to Ollie Cheer.

When senior starting quarterback Max Destito went down towards the end of the regular season with a leg injury that put him out through the postseason, the junior stepped into the position with little drop off at the quarterback position.

Cheer's production at quarterback is probably due to his familiarity in the role. Fleming is noteworthy for giving lots of players lots of time on the field and not just when the outcome is no longer in doubt.

Against Bellows Falls Academy-St. Albans, Cheer finished with 54 yards rushing which included a 47-yard touchdown. He was 15 of 24 in passing with five touchdown tosses.

"Ollie sees and interprets the field so quickly," Fleming said. "He had a hand in all six touchdowns."

Alex Provost had eight catches for 126 yards and a touchdown catch.

Sumner had three catches for 55 yards to go with 32 yards running the ball. He scored a touchdown on both a run and a pass.

Billy Bates and Dylan Frere both had touchdown catches.

Sumner, Chase Leonard and Lucien Griffin all had interceptions.

This game was Senior Day and the coach was pleased that he was able to play all of his seniors.

"They were able to get quality reps in the third quarter, not just in the last five minutes of the game," Fleming said.

Girls field hockey

CVU 4, Mount Mansfield 0

Another Champlain Valley team headed to the semifinals is the girls field hockey team.

After a 4-0 dismantling of the Cougars on Friday, Oct. 28, the Redhawks were set for the penultimate game of the field hockey season against Bellows Falls Union High. That game was set to be played on Tuesday afternoon, which was played after press time for this newspaper.

If the Redhawks won Tuesday's game, the team is headed to the state championships this Saturday, Nov. 5, at the University of Vermont to face the winner of the semifinal match between South Burlington and Essex. The time for the championship game was still to be determined at press time.

In the Mount Mansfield game, at the half the outcome did not appear to be in doubt with the Redhawks already up 4-0.

Claire Marcoe scored three of CVU's goals. Two came on assists from Carly Strobeck, Sophie Madden and Tess Everett.



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Redhawk junior Calvin Steele makes one would-be tackler fall down as he runs with the ball.

One of Marcoe's goals she scored herself without an assist.

CVU's goalies Grace Ferguson and Rianne Nagelhout combined for two saves.

CVU 8, Middlebury 0

The Redhawks scored an even more dominating win over Middlebury 8-0 on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Fall ball champions



Courtesy photo

From left, Lucas Tresser, Zach Pratt, Will Boyce, Riley McDade, Augie Lang, Henry McLean, Jack Dore, Owen Daley and Jack Miner are members of the team that won the Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne and Williston Babe Ruth league seasonending tournament on Oct. 16. Not pictured: Jack Stoner.

Education

Charlotte Central exploring ways to learning targets

Naomi Strada (Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

At one time or another, most people have used a phone's GPS system for directions. A specific destination is entered, the phone will offer some possible routes and the journey begins.

In a similar fashion, the Champlain Valley School District has established specific destinations for all middle school students. These destinations are referred to as learning targets. These learning targets have been created and vetted by teachers in order to provide some shared skills for all students.

Over the course of the year, teachers and students work together to try and reach these specific destinations through the use of the content of their class. For instance, a humanities class may focus on the evidence learning target (I can find credible evidence that supports my purpose) while studying the role of government in society. The learning target is the destination, and then the study of government is the vehicle which would be used to practice this skill (finding evidence). In a science class the students might be working on the developing models learning target (I can develop a model to clearly show how all components work together to explain a phenomenon) while studying photosynthesis and respiration.

Once the destination has been set, the teacher acts like the GPS system. Teachers figure out where all students are starting

from and then help guide each student to the destination (or even beyond). Drivers have all encountered GPS routes getting messy, getting lost, encountering traffic jams or the car breaking down — this is where a teacher's knowledge of students comes into play and where differentiation occurs. The teacher works to guide all students to these destinations — taking as many routes as necessary.

The more clearly the Champlain Valley School District can articulate these destinations for students, the better chance they have to reach them. The Champlain Valley School District learning targets can be viewed under the curriculum heading at cvsdvt.org.

Whole school morning meeting

Several years ago, Charlotte Central School moved away from celebrating Halloween during the school day to maintain a calm routine focused on learning and social activities that are accessible and inclusive for all students.

On Friday, Nov. 4, the third whole school morning meeting will be held. This will be hosted by the sixth grade and will feature an invitation from the Student Leadership Council to encourage all Charlotte Central School students to share their hopes for the coming year. The hope is to encourage student voices and create opportunities for student-led innovation.

Donating children's books, stuffed animals

Sarah Stein, an eighth grader at Charlotte Central School was asked in wellness class to choose a project to help the community. She chose to collect books and stuffed animals. She will read to a children's group in Hinesburg and will take donations of lightly used stuffed animals and children's books for kids under 10. Anyone who would like to contribute to this effort can deliver items to the box in the front lobby of Charlotte Central School.





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Hi Neighbor!

Finding a home in emergency medicine and Charlotte



Phyl Newbeck Contributor

While many people might shudder at the stress of working in emergency medicine, Dr. Matthew Siket thrives in it.

"I think it's the best job in the world," he said. "I meet people when they're having a pretty bad day, and I enjoy being a calm and reassuring presence."

Siket joined the staff of the University of Vermont Medical Center in 2018.

While working in Rhode Island, Siket was the co-director of multiple stroke centers and spent a good deal of his non-clinical time with specialists in the field of neurology, designing systems of care. This led to the launch of a tele-stroke network.

After he arrived at the University of Vermont, Siket continued his advocacy for tele-health services. He applied for funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration for a new program called AUGMENT Tele-EM. He is the principal investigator in that program which is in the second year of a four-year

Continuing his quest to improve the way patients receive care in the emergency department, Siket began to look into a concept called emergency medicine comprehensive observation. When a patient is brought into the hospital, the focus is on stabilization and then diagnosis and disposition. The choices for reaching a disposition have traditionally been discharge or admission, but Siket notes that a third option is observation.

A number of hospitals have emergency department observation units, but Siket describes observation as a status rather than geography. Although the best-case scenario is having a separate unit, he believes that emergency department observation can still be done in a way that monitors the patient but also frees up a bed for someone else without a separate facility.

Recently, Siket was appointed to the state-wide Clinical Utilization and Review

"I'm still learning the ropes," he said, "but the group discusses issues pertaining to reimbursement for state Medicaid beneficiaries for certain health services. It was appealing to me because emergency physicians are focused on equitable care rather than revenue procedures. We are like a safety net for the system."

Siket is happy to be part of a group that focuses on vulnerable populations and sees it as a learning opportunity. He is partaking of another learning opportunity by taking classes toward a master's in health care innovations on-line through the University of Pennsylvania.

Siket has teaching responsibilities at the University of Vermont, including bedside training, didactic sessions and mentor. He serves as associate program director of the emergency medicine residency program which was started in 2019. He is also hoping to translate some of what he has learned into the syllabus for an undergraduate course he would like to teach at the honors college focusing on health care systems and innovation.

Several years ago, Siket's wife Meghan came to Vermont for an employment law conference and staved at an Airbnb on Greenbush Road. On her return, the Rouse's Point native told her Maine-born husband that she wanted to move to Vermont, a topic they had broached on one of their first dates when they both lived in New York City.

Both found jobs in their fields and were able to make the move with Meghan as associate general counsel at the University of Vermont. Having already experienced the beauty of Charlotte, this is where they looked for a home.

Although he is a hiker and hockey player, Siket said now their children's hobbies — Avery, 13, and Arne, 10 — are now his hobbies. He's been an assistant coach for baseball, hockey and soccer.

"We've been very fortunate in our move here," Siket said. "I feel like I have a voice and that's what has me interested in



Photo by Meghan Siket

Matthew Siket feels that he has a voice and access to legislators and hospital administrators in Vermont.

policy and reform. We have greater access in Vermont to legislators and hospital administrators than in most states. I never really bothered with any of this before and now I feel like this is too good an opportunity to pass up."

As part of that effort, Siket serves as one of the two councilors representing

Vermont in the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The pandemic-led attrition and burnout in the medical field didn't infect Siket: "This is the greatest job in the world. Emergency doctors interface with every other specialty. It's a fun intersection to be in."

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Community

Yes, Virginia, there are Christmas trees in Charlotte

Scooter MacMillan Editor

If Matt and Lauren Daley's dream comes true, eventually Charlotters won't have to go over the river and through the woods, traveling to other towns to get a Christmas tree.

This year, those who don't get one of the trees that Matt has hauled from Randolph may still have to go ... ahem, a fir piece ... to get their Christmas conifer.

The Daleys will begin selling trees on their Split Rock Tree Farm on the Friday after Thanksgiving. They'll be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Sunday.

Any that aren't sold will be available on subsequent Saturdays and Sundays. Matt Daley said the supply of Christmas trees was limited this year, so he wasn't able to truck in as many as he would have liked.

The Daleys' hope is that in two years people will be able to cut their own Christmas trees at Split Rock Tree Farm. They have planted 6,000 primarily balsams and, if the weather and everything else critical to Christmas tree growth cooperates, plan to be selling their own homegrown trees the Christmas after next.

Meantime, this year the Daleys are holding a soft opening to introduce people to the idea of shopping locally for their yule tannenbaums. They'll have hot chocolate and candy canes and will be selling wreaths.

Matt Daley said they are looking for other local businesses who would like to set up inside their barn and sell ornaments, jewelry, coffee or other gift ideas. Matt Daley is a captain with the Vermont State Police in charge of the five Northern Barracks.

He went to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y., where he played football and hockey. After graduating he was on the college coaching staff but soon realized that making \$12,000 a year wasn't going to cut it.

Matt was considering going into the military when his father mentioned that the state police were hiring.

One weekend, some years back, he was visiting his sister who was teaching at a prep school in Massachusetts when he met her friend, Lauren. Things clicked.

When Lauren Daley got a job as a school counselor in Waterbury, they were living in Esssex. Charlotte seemed like a good choice for travel to both of their jobs.

They were visiting a friend in Massachusetts who had a Christmas tree farm. Once again things clicked. It seemed like a good family business, so they kept that on their list of possibilities.

Initially, the Daleys lived on Greenbush Road north of Ferry Road, but down the road they found property that would make a good Christmas tree farm. They built a home there on 11 acres that had been subdivided from the old Bora farm in

Shortly after, they started planting Christmas trees, about 1,200 a year.

The Daleys "are kind of big on getting the kids out of the house and doing stuff



From left, the Daleys are Greta, Matt, Owen, Griffin and Lauren.

Courtesy photos

and learning something" and Christmas tree farming seems like a good way to do

The kids — Owen, 12, Griffin, 10, and Greta, 8 — are students at Charlotte Central School. The boys have already learned how to run the mower.

'We pay them to mow and keep the

weeds down," Matt Daley said. Split Rock Tree Farm is at 4224 Greenbush Road just south of Pelkey's

Blueberries. If you come by the weekend after Thanksgiving, the Daleys think yule enjoy it.



The Split Rock Tree Farm farm store.



A drone photo of Split Rock Tree Farm.



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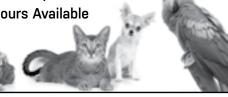
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Sacred Hunter

Meeting your self, and maybe your father, at deer camp



Bradley Carleton Contributor

My father was born the eighth child in a family of 10 children that subsisted from week to week on a coal miner's solitary income. He would climb 200 feet down into a mine shaft to help his one-legged father extract enough chunks of coal to bag, walk into town and sell in order to purchase food for the evening's dinner.

He told me he swore that his children would never suffer for lack of anything.

He set out on a course that took him to a small college in Alliance, Ohio, and on to a career in business. He started as an insurance salesman and within his first year he sold a million dollars' worth of insurance (which back then was a lot of money). He quickly learned that he was a consummate salesman and began working at a used car dealer, then purchased a small diner on the college campus.

From there the entrepreneurial spirit was lit. He started working deals to purchase anything that appeared to hold a modicum of the possibility of making money. He loved making deals. By the mid-60s he had amassed a small empire of hotels, nightclubs, nursing homes and partnerships in Swiss banks — even a racehorse that was bred to a Kentucky Derby winner. He had a private plane and pilot, a big ugly green limousine, and one of the first "car phones" in the back of his Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight.

Sounds materially impressive for a coal miner's son, right?

It would prove to be an ironic twist later in life that the value of all these "things" was nothing compared to what he gave us as a gentleman.

He had married the love of his life, the Homecoming Queen, my mother, who was a well-heeled matron worthy of raising children. Four of us.

He was jet-setting around the country and relied heavily on our mother to rear his progeny.

Then there came a time when his eldest son, an awkward sensitive young lad who failed miserably at team sports (even when his father owned the team), was in desperate need of a connection to find even the slightest vestige of traditional virility.

It was when I was 13 years old that he sent me to a hunters' education class and gave me a Marlin model .22 caliber bolt action rifle for Christmas. I studied that hunters ed course like it was to be my master's thesis. I was going to be a master of my own destiny! I would learn everything I could about safety, proper etiquette, habitat, ecosystems, conservation and yes, even hunting. I practiced in the back woods of our house in Pennsylvania, stalking rabbits and squirrels once I had received my first license.

When I had exhibited enough interest in learning to master something, I was 15. I had tried football and gotten creamed by the big dudes that they grow around Pittsburgh suburbs. I had tried baseball but could not find the courage to take a swing at a ball when I was up. Basketball? Are you kidding? My seventh-grade class had kids with full beards that stood over 6 feet tall. It was hopeless. I was a loner. But I had found my path — the outdoors.

That year my father did something extraordinary. He planned a deer hunting trip into central Pennsylvania, where he had grown up.

I sat up late that night, polishing my new Marlin 30-.30 and watching voluptuous snowflakes falling from the darkened sky and waiting for our departure. We had planned on a 2 a.m. start with a four-hour drive. I awakened my father around midnight, telling him that the snow was coming down hard and that we had better get going now before the roads became impassable.

He steered the Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser north to Interstate 80 and slid onto the slippery snowbound surface, busting through snowdrifts as if they were feather pillows. This is the first time that I saw my father as my hero. We plowed east through the night, listening to an old country radio station from Wheeling, West Virginia. My father drove with the window down so he could grab the wiper blades every few minutes and bang them against the frosted windshield to rid them of the heavy flakes. He would sing along to Hank Williams, Merle Haggard and Charlie Pride — names that I didn't know.

Six hours after we left, we pulled off the interstate and took a few back roads that I was sure would lead us closer to a tow truck. But within half an hour we plowed our way into a driveway with drifts over my waist and



Photo by Bradley Carleton

A deer camp may be filled with more than the smell of cigar smoke, bacon, coffee and whiskey.

slammed the bow of the Vista Cruiser into a snowdrift about 20 feet from the door of an old poorly lit log cabin.

We knocked on the door of the cabin and as it opened, pale yellow light from kerosene lanterns filled the doorway. The smell of cigar smoke, bacon, coffee and whiskey filled the night air around me. This was no place for kids. This place was a bastion of manhood — the old kind. And I was welcomed in as a man.

Now I know that by today's standards that scene would be quickly labeled inappropriate for a young man. But society hadn't developed into the calculating, politically correct version we have accepted today. And that is what I needed at the time. It was certainly better than getting hazed in the locker room of the high school.

The next day we stood in the woods together listening for deer. The trees were bowing down to the earth begging for mercy from the heavy snow on their boughs. Rabbits peeked out of their burrows to find a world that had been miraculously altered overnight. The sun shone brightly, creating pillars of light through the branches, and errant flakes drifted down from the sky with rainbow-like halos surrounding them.

And I had my father to myself for the first time.

We would get together every season after that until I went away to boarding school. Eventually, I convinced my family to move to Stowe because I'd had a vision of a white-mountained nirvana. We continued to hunt together each season until the family decided to move closer to New York City where my father's burgeoning investment business was demanding more and more of his time.

Decades later, my father having lost every penny of his fortune, I found myself living in Vermont and he in Connecticut. I was able to lease a small and very dilapidated deer camp in Huntington. My buddies and I fixed it up with hemlock paneling, an indoor bathroom — even a hot water shower — and decorated it with random furniture found along the roadsides. It was perfect. I invited my aging father to my camp with a few of my closest friends who comprise my inner circle. We laughed, we lied, we played cards, we swore, we drank a bit and generally asserted our God-given right to misbehave a little.

My father sat in a huge blue EZ Boy chair with his feet propped up in front of the woodstove and we reminisced about how we finally found our connection all those years ago.

In the last three years of my fathers' life, his health declined and he was no longer able to make the trip north.

I drove to Connecticut to visit him in his senior home just a mile away from my youngest sister at the end of June and realized that it would likely be my last chance to say goodbye. He told me that his only regret was that he didn't leave a fortune to his kids.

I held his withering hand and told him that he had given me a gift far greater than money. He had given me a love of nature and a connection to him that only I will understand.

To all of us he was a gentleman, a wise and adventurous soul, a remarkably compassionate and kind person who possessed a spirit that always saw the best in everyone.

But to me, he possessed the character of the kind of man that I wish to be.

I held his tender hand and whispered in his ear, "I will meet you at deer camp. You remember how to get there right?" He squeezed my hand and mouthed "yes."

In his eyes I saw the pale-yellow light of the doorway.

Gardening

Putting the garden to bed at end of growing season

Deborah J. Benoit University of Vermont Extension

Just because the growing season is over doesn't mean work in the garden has come to an end. Almost, but not quite. There are still a number of chores that, if done now, will make you smile come spring.

If you haven't already done so, bring any houseplants or tender perennial plants inside that you plan to overwinter. Pull dead and dying annuals from the garden, including vegetables and any tender perennials you aren't going to overwinter indoors. Consider leaving flowers with seedheads in place until spring as food for the birds.

Weed for the last time this year. This is especially important if any of those unwelcome visitors have gone to seed. Remove the weeds, carefully disposing of the seedheads so the seeds aren't spread around the garden to create a greater weed invasion next year.

Empty pots, clean and store them, particularly terracotta or ceramic pots, which may break due to stress from freezing.

Prune any damaged or diseased plant material, but resist the urge to prune spring and early summer flowering shrubs such as lilacs, forsythias and rhododendrons. If you do, you'll be cutting off next year's flowers.

If you don't already have a compost pile, start one. Compost is a healthy addition to garden soil and an easy way to dispose of prunings, grass clippings and end-of-season annuals.

Avoid adding weeds, especially those that have gone to seed, to your compost. See The Dirt on Compost (go.uvm.edu/dirt) for more information on starting a compost pile

and what materials should and should not be added to it.

Leave the leaves. Clearing paths and walkways of fallen leaves — shredding leaves in place or raking those on the lawn — are necessary chores.

Consider leaving fallen leaves in your garden beds until winter has passed. Come spring, they'll make a good addition to your compost bin. By leaving them in the garden now, you're providing a place for pollinators and other beneficial insects to survive the winter

If you have perennial flowers, shrubs or trees you didn't get around to planting during the growing season, you can still plant them as long as the ground hasn't yet frozen. Add a layer of mulch after the ground freezes.

Check young trees. If you haven't wrapped the trunks with a tree guard, it's a good idea to do so to discourage foraging critters from dining on the bark. Such nibbling can lead to girdling of the trunk, which can kill the tree. Flexible wraps that expand as the trunk grows are available at garden centers.

Cover roses and other plants that may need protection from winter's winds, but wait until their leaves have dropped. It's not always the cold that damages or kills plants. Exposure to winter's drying winds can desiccate stems and branches, severely damaging the plant.

Clean and store birdbaths and winterize water features and components that will remain outside. Drain and put away hoses, sprinklers and drip irrigation systems. Pots, plant supports used for annuals and any decorative pieces also should be cleaned and stored for the winter now.

Finally, clean, maintain and store garden tools and equipment so they'll be ready



Photo by Robilee Smith

In fall, damaged or diseased plant material may be pruned from shrubs (with the exception of lilacs, forsythias and other spring and early summer flowering shrubs) to avoid removing next year's flowers.

when spring arrives and the garden begins to awaken from its long winter's nap. This is also a good time to take an inventory of what you have.

Do you need more tomato cages? Another trellis? Do your pruners need to be replaced?

And the best part about putting the garden to bed for the winter? It's the perfect opportunity to prepare for spring.

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

Consider seeding before taking winter gardening vacation

Nadie VanZandt University of Vermont Extension

Before taking a rest from gardening for the season, have you thought of direct sowing seeds to grow a minimal-care garden next spring?

Like spring bulbs, many seeds require a natural freezing and thawing before awakening in the spring. Seeds from several annuals, biennials and perennial plants are good candidates for fall planting.

With just a little extra work, direct sowing in the fall is a simple and inexpensive way to grow a colorful garden with plants that will bloom earlier than when seeded in the spring.

Your first step is to select the right plants for your region and your U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plant hardiness zone. Just enter your zip code at planthardiness.ars.usda. gov to find your zone. To ensure the plants you choose are not listed as invasives in your area, please visit vtinvasives.org.

Generally, seeds that require cold stratification are well suited for fall seeding in USDA hardiness zones 3-5, which are the zones in Vermont. You may have already noticed "volunteers" in your garden from plants that dropped their seeds last autumn,

proof that these seeds survived the long New England winter.

Self-seeding perennials that benefit from cold winters include poppy (Papaver), bee balm (Monarda), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), columbine (Aquilegia), coneflower (Echinacea), delphinium, milkweed/butterfly plant (Asclepias) and lady's mantle (Alchemilla), among others.

Similarly, seeds of biennials like foxglove (Digitalis), sweet William (Dianthus) and hollyhocks (Alcea rosea) are also good choices for direct sowing in the fall.

Don't overlook the seeds of many annuals known to self-seed. These include annual poppies like breadseed poppy (Papaver somniferum), larkspur (Delphinium consolida), love-in-a-mist (Nigella), nasturtium (Tropaeolum), pansy (Viola), calendula and cosmos, as well as seeds from hardy annuals.

In your vegetable patch, you also can try seeds of cold-hardy vegetables such as beets, kale, lettuce, spinach, carrots, leeks and others that can withstand frost. Herbs, including dill, will do well when seeded in the fall.

You will need to prepare your planting bed the same way you would in the spring. Select a sunny and well-drained area and remove any weeds and debris. Lightly loosen the surface of the soil, taking care to not disturb the soil organisms and avoid releasing weed seeds to the surface. Amend the soil with a thin layer of compost.

Some seeds require light to germinate while others need darkness, so it's important to follow the instructions on your seed packets. You may or may not need a layer of mulch depending on the specific light requirement.

The seeds need to experience the correct sequence of winter cold followed by spring thaw. It's a good idea to plant them after a killing frost to make sure that they do not have a chance to germinate until the time is right in the spring

Direct sowing at this time of year has many other advantages. Come springtime, you won't need to harden off your seedlings, and they won't need to recover from the stress of transplanting. By overwintering in the garden, your seeds will produce stronger, healthier and well-acclimated seedlings.

Consider direct sowing this fall before taking a well-deserved rest this winter. You will appreciate your foresight when gazing at your healthy seedlings next spring.

(Nadie VanZandt is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from Panton.)

CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS SEPTEMBER 2022

September 1 Mitchell Shifrin Revocable Trust to Brian & Dana Whitehead, 2.16 acres Lot 3 Mt.Philo Rd. land only \$186,665

September 6 Jared Badger to Nicole Therese Balderrama Trustee Nicole Balderrama Trust, 1.19 acres 263 Lynrick Acres w/dwl \$432,000

September 7 Caneel LLC to Michael Cemprola, 1.19 acres 120 Elcy Lane, w/dwl \$530,000

September 22 Richard & Sarah Warren to Peter & Jesica Hoehl, 0 acres 189 Lane's Lane Camp \$460,000

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









Champlain Valley School District (Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George & Williston) Child Find Notice

Champlain Valley School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying and evaluating children with disabilities is known as child find.

Champlain Valley School District schools conduct Kindergarten screening each spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, CVSD has the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any CVSD resident who has a child with a disability under the age of 21 or a child who attends a private school located in Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George or Williston, Vermont, we would like to hear from you. Sometimes parents are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the School Principal (Charlotte Central School – 425-2771, Hinesburg Community School – 482-2106, Shelburne Community School – 985-3331, Williston Central/Allen Brook Schools – 878-2762) or the Director of Student Support Services, Anna Couperthwait at 383-1234 or acouperthwait@cvsdvt.org.

Gardening

Pondering the pumpkin



Photos by Vern Grubinger of numpkin sizes, colors

Farms, pumpkin patches and other venues offer a delightful array of pumpkin sizes, colors and shapes for sale during the fall season.

Vern Grubinger University of Vermont Extension

The pumpkin is an odd vegetable. The more popular pumpkins get, the less people eat them.

Everyone wants to carve a jack-o-lantern, but few people make pumpkin pie anymore. In other words, the pumpkin was once a popular food but now it's just another pretty face.

When Europeans arrived in the New World, pumpkins and other squashes were widely cultivated by Native Americans who boiled, baked and dried them for nourishment. Pumpkins are one of the oldest domesticated food plants. Seeds many thousands of years old have been found in the highlands of Mexico.

Pumpkins come in all sizes and shapes. They're in the cucurbit plant family that includes squashes and cucumbers, but there are different species of pumpkins. Cucurbita moschata includes pumpkins used for canning, which tend to be oblong with tan skin. The jack-o-lantern and miniature pumpkins are Cucurbita pepo. Cucurbita maxima are the beasts of the pumpkin patch, giant pumpkins.

Henry David Thoreau wrote about growing a pumpkin weighing 123 pounds in 1857. By 1893 the record was 365 pounds at the Chicago World's Fair. The 1,000-pound mark was reached in 1996 in New York. Last year, a pumpkin in Italy weighed 2,703 pounds.

Pumpkins of any size start from a female flower. These open for a few hours in the morning, ready for insects to deliver pollen from a male flower. Managed honeybees and native, ground-based bumble bees and squash bees are common pumpkin pollinators.

Once pollinated, pumpkins grow rapidly. They're ready for harvest when the skin is tough to puncture with a fingernail, and the seeds are ripe. Most pumpkins turn orange as they ripen, but there are varieties with blue, tan and white coloring.

The difference between pumpkins and other winter squashes is culinary rather than taxonomic.

Pumpkins are drier, coarser and strongflavored compared to squash. They're used in pies rather than served as a baked vegetable. They typically have a harder, more jagged stem, too.

The average pumpkin meets its demise in October or November for Halloween or Thanksgiving, as a jack-o-lantern or for dessert. The tradition of carving vegetables for Halloween was brought to America by Irish and Scottish immigrants, who previously used potatoes or turnips, but found pumpkins easier to carve. Halloween has its origins in an ancient Celtic event as well as All Saints Day, established by medieval popes.

The U.S. produces about 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins annually. Much of that comes from Illinois for canning. In the Northeast, pumpkins are an important source of fall revenue for many diversified vegetable farms.

Pumpkins are fun, delicious and nutritious, too. Their orange color comes from beta-carotene, an antioxidant that converts to vitamin A in the body. One cup of pumpkin contains just 50 calories but has three grams of fiber and a lot of potassium. Pumpkin seeds are packed with protein, fiber, many minerals and healthy unsaturated fats.

(Vern Grubinger, who is based in the University of Vermont Extension office in Brattleboro, is the extension vegetable and berry specialist.)



To get a good crop, pumpkin plants require a lot of care, such as these grown by Keith Armstrong at the Armstrong Farm in Bennington.

On Books

A Grief Observed — a companion for the grieving



Katherine Arthaud Contributor

"No one ever told me that grief felt so much like fear," writes C.S. Lewis, in A Grief Observed. "I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid."

A Grief Observed was published in 1961 under the pseudonym N.W. Clark because Lewis didn't want people to connect it to him. It was republished, two years later, after his death, under his own name.

It's a slim volume — only 60 pages — and can literally be read in a sitting, which is how I did it. It's true. Though certainly not a work likely to be deemed a page-turner, I couldn't put it down. And I didn't.

I'm not sure it would have been quite so compelling had I not recently been hit with a loss myself — not just of one loved one, but two. On Aug. 15, 2022, my father died, and two weeks later to the day, my quite a bit younger mother followed in his footsteps.

Losing a parent is a big deal. I have heard that said, and now I know. Losing two so close together would have been unthinkable had you spoken to me of such a thing six months ago. But so, it is. And grief is strange. Like childbirth, people tell you all about it to the point that you think you're pretty well prepared — but then it happens to you, and though it bears a passing resemblance to the descriptions, it's vaster and more real and stranger and more difficult than you could have ever imagined.

I remember back when I was about 12 years old my family was visiting Paris, and one morning, in our sunlit hotel room, my mother gave me something — some kind of I.D. or card, I don't remember what exactly — and said, as she placed it in my hand, "This will be good to have when I am not around." I can't imagine what the object was that she gave to me that day. But what I remember is being struck by the wildly unimaginable and insane concept that there might be a time in my life and the life of the cosmos that my mother would not "be around." Fortunately, she did stick around, and I was not rendered motherless until about a half-century later — long enough for me to grow up myself and have kids of my own. Yet her death is still a shock to my system and hard to get my head around. I do not think I have really begun metabolizing it.

That being said, I found Lewis' book to be immensely comforting, but not in the way you might think. It's not at all platitudinous, not simple, nor easy. On the contrary, it is honest, at times agonized and almost agonizing, questioning and brave — a transcript of a journal Lewis kept after the death of his wife, Helen Joy Davidman (referred to as "H.," probably for the same reason the book was not originally published under Lewis' real name).

Trekking through the pebbly, sometimes

sere, sometimes lush, boulder-strewn landscape of Lewis' thoughts, feelings, hopes and observations following his great loss, one would assume (I think) (I certainly did) that Lewis and H. (like my parents) had been together a long, long time. He is so acutely shattered, so utterly undone and spiritually/emotionally discombobulated at almost every level by her absence. Come to find out, they had quite a short marriage: only three years.

Lewis and Davidman (H.) met when Lewis was in his 60s and she two decades younger. They got married to resolve an immigration problem: Davidman, an American poet, wished to remain in the United Kingdom with her son, and marrying her friend Clive Staples Lewis, a British writer and Anglican lay theologian, would enable her to do so. The two were not strangers; they had known each other for a while, frequently corresponding about theology and literature. Lewis agreed to marry her "as a pure matter of friendship and expediency," he told a friend.

The two were married in a civil ceremony in 1956, but did not consider themselves officially wed, as the ceremony had not taken place in a church. Furthermore, Davidman was a divorcee, and back in the day the Church of England didn't recognize divorces. The couple had no expectation of ever having a wedding that would be sanctioned by the church. Even after their civil ceremony, they lived in separate houses.

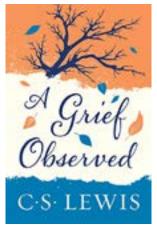
But things changed when Davidman was diagnosed with cancer and given the news that she had little time left to live. In the wake of this sad revelation, it dawned on the couple that what they had between them was more than friendship; it was indeed true love. They decided they wanted a real church wedding and managed to wangle a deathbed dispensation from an Anglican priest. They were married in a hospital bed in 1957.

After a brief remission following the wedding (which must have felt like a miracle to the newlyweds), Davidson's cancer returned, and she died in July of 1960.

"Her mind was lithe and quick and muscular as a leopard," writes Lewis. "It scented the first whiff of cant or slush; then sprang and knocked you over before you knew what was happening."

"I see I've described H. as being like a sword. That's true as far as it goes. But utterly inadequate by itself. And misleading. I ought to have balanced it. I ought to have said, 'But also like a garden. Like a nest of gardens, wall within wall, hedge with hedge, more secret, more full of fragrant and fertile life, the further you entered.""

Though this book does give glimpses of H. as a person, the reader never really gets a vivid, detailed idea of who she was in her life. Considered a child prodigy, she got a master's degree in English literature at Columbia University at age 20. Beyond that she was greatly beloved and irreplaceable to Lewis himself. Her death and his bereavement after her passing are the muse and generator of the narrative — which is





C.S. Lewis

Photo courtesy britannica.com

most about Lewis' state of mind during his journey, suddenly solo, through grief, laid bare.

Lewis' ruminations are fresh, unexpected and oddly and delightfully (if there can be anything delightful about grief) right on the mark. Or so I found them to be. His meanderings and ponderings rang true. His confusion rang true. His fear rang true. (No one I had spoken to had said anything of the fear.) Nothing here I found to be gratuitous or easy. The writing, thinking and yearning go deep and resonate. Unsettling, uncomfortable, even stumbling and almost desperate at times, it becomes somehow the perfect companion for those who have lost someone very important, very dear.

Warning: This book isn't linear. But, Warning No. 2: Grief isn't linear. Rather, it is, as Lewis puts it, "like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape."

At times, Lewis' words are deeply personal: "I cannot talk to the children about her," he writes. "The moment I try, there appears on their faces neither grief, nor love, nor fear, nor pity, but the most fatal of all non-conductors, embarrassment. They look as if I were committing an indecency. They are longing for me to stop. ... I can't blame them. It's the way boys are."

There is never a moment when Lewis is not frank, not candid. "The notes," he writes, "have been about myself, and about H., and about God. In that order."

Though Lewis was a Christian (he converted in 1931), there is a lot of grappling here with what it means to have a belief in and a relationship with God. But that makes sense, doesn't it, when one has lost an anchor, lost a sun, lost someone so pivotal and hugely important in one's life? The loss, the absence, is so big it has a way of jolting (and not in a small way) one's personal theology and one's whole experience of life and being. It's like an earthquake. The world is cracked, and rocked, and quaking, and so is the cosmos. Nothing is quite as it was, even though ... well, it kind of looks the

same

On God, Lewis writes, "Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him. The conclusion I dread is not 'So there's no God after all,' but 'So this is what God's really like. Deceive yourself no longer."

"Am I, for instance, just sidling back to God because I know that if there's any road to H., it runs through Him?"

On Christ: "I need Christ, not something that resembles Him. I want H., not something that is like her. A really good photograph might become in the end a snare, a horror and an obstacle."

An old friend of mine who had already been through great hardship in her young life once remarked, "I don't trust anyone who hasn't suffered." I've never forgotten her words and they come to mind now as I reflect on this short but deeply impactful book. For me, Lewis is trustworthy because he (1) has clearly suffered — and, in fact, is suffering as he writes this journal; and (2) really does lay himself and his pain bare for all the world to see, without concern for consistency, nicety, or even resolution. And yet, in the end, this work could not be better, in the way it offers us who are also grieving something solid, loving, real and relatable.

Madeleine L'Engle (author of A Wrinkle in Time) commented, "Lewis gives us permission to admit our own doubts, our own angers and anguishes, and to know that they are part of the soul's growth."

I don't know how this book would land on a reader who has not experienced a great loss. But having just experienced one (two), I found it (as have many over the 61 years it has been in circulation) to be just what the doctor ordered. Thank you to my sister Sharmy for recommending it.





for more information.

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee Meeting Thursday, November 3, 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Planning Commission: Regular mtg.

Thursday, November 3, 7 - 8 p.m.

Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday, November 7, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Development Review Board Regularly**

Scheduled Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 7 - 9 p.m.

Selectboard

Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Committee

Tuesday, November 15, 5:30.- 6:30 p.m.

Calendar of Events

Calendar by Mary Landon.

Please send event listings to calendar@thecharlottenews.org at least three weeks in advance.

Independently, together

Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, 6-8 p.m. The Poartry Project was created by JC Wayne, a Charlotte poet and visual artist. She offers Open Studio Thursdays as a drop-in, virtual artistic space for all creatives and their mediums. Work on a current project, share, ask questions, meet new friends and express your creativity in a non-critique way. All ages welcome and no prior experience required. For more info, see poartry.org.

Music of Thad Jones Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The University of Vermont Jazz Ensemble presents a free concert at the University of Vermont Recital Hall. On the program is music by Thad Jones, revered jazz trumpet soloist of the swing era and member of the Count Basie Orchestra. For more info on this and other recitals, see tinyurl.com/ mr2xc7sf.

Arioso Chamber Ensemble Friday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Works for alto, viola and piano will entertain listeners at the Richmond Free Library. Donation suggested at the door. More info at 802-279-6082 or ariosochambermusic.org. Performance repeats Saturday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m., at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier.

Stick season birding Saturday, Nov. 5, 9-11 a.m.

This outing at Audubon Vermont in Huntington welcomes all women from the community, whether experienced birders or beginners, to see what birds are staying around for the winter. This is an LGBTQIA++ affirming group. Dress appropriately. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/bdef62bb.

Williston craft show Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Over 100 artists and specialty food vendors will be at the Williston Central School for those who enjoy a local craft event before the holidays get busy. Free entry and parking. See tinyurl.com/ yv6wpna9 for all the details.

Applique workshop

Saturday, Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Join members of the Champlain Valley Quilt Guild to practice the raw edge appliqué method. Workshop held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Williston. More info or sign up at cvqgvt. org/november-2022.html.

Little City Gala Saturday, Nov. 5, 8-11 p.m.

Arrive dressed for a Roaring Twenties celebration at the Vergennes Opera House. This fundraiser for the Vergennes Union Elementary School has food, drinks, raffles, dancing and prizes for best-dressed attendees. Tickets and more info at tinyurl. com/2urct73u.

Veterans Town Hall Sunday, Nov. 6, 1 p.m.

Veterans are invited to speak about what their service means to them. All perspectives are valued; all are invited to attend and listen. This free, non-political event is held at McCarthy Arts Center on St. Michael's College. If you would like to speak, you are encouraged to register in advance at tinyurl.com/bd9bf3hd.

True stories told live Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

A Moth Story Slam happens at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington. Come prepared with a fiveminute story on the subject of "leftovers." Doors open 7 p.m. Buy tickets or info at themoth.org/events/leftovers-burlington.

Play with the orchestra Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Middle and high school students who play wind or brass instruments may join in a session of performing music with members

of the Vermont Youth Orchestra. It's free to join; membership in the Orchestra is not required. All players welcome at the Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College. More info and registration at tinyurl. com/4m7fxfyk.

Castalian quartet

Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Middlebury College hosts the Castalian String Quartet at the Mahaney Arts Center. The free performance includes works by Janacek, Sibelius and Beethoven. More info at castalianstringquartet.com.

Arnowitt at the piano Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30-9 p.m.

Pianist Michael Arnowitt performs a classical program at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/yprst5u2.

Teaching about slavery Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 am.-2 p.m.

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh presents Teaching About Slavery, Whiteness, Racism and the Underground Railroad in the North, a workshop targeted to educators of grades 2-12. Participants learn strategies for teaching emotion-laden topics, as well as for engaging student's curiosity when they visit Rokeby. More info and tickets are at rokeby.org/visit/ programsevents.

Colchester crafts

Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The United Church of Colchester, next to the Burnham Library on Route 2A, holds a Christmas craft show, including quilt raffle, bake sale, take-out soups and chili and much more. No entry fee. Questions: Sherry Beane 802-879-7641 or ssbeane50@gmail.com.

Rug concert

Saturday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-noon

The Vermont Youth Orchestra presents a program of music and discovery for its youngest listeners at the Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester. The interactive event gives young ones the chance to meet the musicians, their instruments and the vocalists. Call 802-655-5030 to RSVP and confirm details.

Vineyard festival

Saturday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Local producers and vendors offer food samples and sell products for early holiday preparation. Held at Shelburne Vineyard, with raffles each hour. Get in free with a non-perishable food or cash donation benefiting Feeding Chittenden. Details at tinyurl.com/2p9f4hht.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 1-3 p.m.

This hike is welcoming to everyone and goes at an easy pace along the trails at Shelburne Farms. Dress for the weather; bring snacks, water and binoculars if desired. Meet at the Farm Barn parking lot. No dogs please. Pre-register for COVID tracing at tinyurl.com/bdet7xv5. If you have questions about accessibility to this free event, email gcauser@audubon.org.

Archaeological clues Saturday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.

Vermont State Archivist, Jess Robinson, presents a program on the archaeological history of Chittenden County, focusing on Richmond and nearby communities. The talk is at the Richmond Congregational Church and all are welcome. Learn about Abenaki presence in the area and which early settlers dug the cellar holes found along the old roads. This is a free program of the Richmond Historical Society.

Aurora Chamber Singers

aurorachambersingers.org.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. Accompanied by orchestra led by conductor David Neiweem, singers perform Mozart's Requiem and selected Nocturnes at College Street Congregational Church

in Burlington. More info and tickets at

Northern nosh Sunday, Nov. 13, 11:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

The Ohavi Zedek synagogue in Burlington

Amélie

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 11-13

Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg presents its fall musical, Amélie. It's the story of a quiet woman with a rich imagination who performs covert acts of kindness for others, with mixed results. For more tickets and showtimes, see tinyurl. com/2p8ujx5e. Tickets also available at the door; check ticket link to see if sold out.



Vivian Volzer (young Amélie) and Addison Hoopes (Fluffy, her pet fish) rehearse a scene in CVU's production of Amélie.

holds a Jewish food fair. A variety of kosher foods will be presented, lovingly made by members of the community. Live music and kids' activities will be part of this inaugural event. Please bring a nonperishable food item for the food shelf. Food tickets available onsite as well as in advance at tinyurl.com/mpuumth8. More info at ohavizedek.org/event/foodfair-2022.

Talk on eugenics and ethnocide Sunday, Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m.

Vera Longtoe Sheehan is featured speaker at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington in this talk about the survival of the Abenaki. The talk is free. For more info, see ethanallenhomestead.org.

Food for Talk Sunday, Nov. 13, 3-5 p.m.

The Food for Talk group gathers at Burlington's Fletcher Free Library to talk about cooking, cookbooks and new recipes. Members will discuss Chinese Soul Food, which is available to check out with a library card. More info and registration for this free group at fletcherfree.org/food-talk.

Wine and cheese pairing Wednesday, Nov. 16, 5:30-7 p.m.

Shelburne Vineyard hosts a guided pairing of wines and cheeses for participants age 21 and over. Register at tinyurl.com/ bdezyk9s.

Venetian artisans

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Last Artisans of Venice is this month's movie from the Architecture + Design Film Series. Movies show at Contois Auditorium in Burlington, or online at adfilmseries.org. Films are free and doors open at 6 p.m.

Piano concert

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Middlebury College students of Diana Fanning presents a free concert at Mahaney Arts Center on the Middlebury campus. Vaccinations and boosters required; masks optional.

NRBQ

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

The Vergennes Opera House presents area favorite, the New Rhythm and Blues Quartet. Enjoy an evening of R&B, rockabilly and jazz, fun and danceable music. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for cash bar. Tickets and more info at tinyurl. com/2f3jmh3r.

Vermont and climate change Thursday, Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.

Professor and ecologist Amy Seidl speaks at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier. Her free talk, "Thinking Through Place," focuses on global warming and how Vermont fits into the environmental movement. This is a presentation of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. To read more, see tinyurl.com/37sjey4r.

Craft Vermont show Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18-20

This year marks the 70th annual Vermont Handcrafters fine art and craft show. It is held at the DoubleTree hotel in S.

Burlington and features a wide variety of local producers. For hours and more info, see vermonthandcrafters.com.

Riddleville

Through Saturday, Nov 19

The Amy Tarrant Gallery in Burlington hosts Riddleville, featuring Clark Russell's still-life scenes made with found and repurposed objects, many in miniature, that form their own unusual stories. For more info, see tinyurl.com/28hkahxc.

Holiday bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The United Church of Hinesburg holds its annual bazaar of arts, crafts, food, jewelry and much more. Baked goods for sale and soup and sandwich lunch is served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wreaths for sale as well.

CHARLOTTE

Plein air poetry

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2-3 p.m.

Come to the Charlotte Library for a poetry and art walk. This event is facilitated by Charlotte artist, poet and book author JC Wayne, founder of poartry.org. Families walk the outdoor story path at the library and observe the world as if they were poets or artists. Make art or write poetry in the fresh air. To learn more, or register, see poartry.org/nature-walks.

Autumn pop-up

Sunday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Visit Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg for a free houseplant talk, pastries, coffee and other fall activities. At 1 p.m., there is a make-and-take herb wreath workshop. Reserve a spot to make a wreath at the pop-up at tinyurl.com/cnvzevrh.

Hinesburg craft fair

Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Head to St. Jude's parish hall for the annual craft fair. If you are a crafter and want to participate, email Marie at stjude@ vermontcatholic.org for details.

Maker's Market

aturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4 Hula in Burlington hosts The Good Trade Maker's Market, bringing together nearly 100 of the country's greatest independent makers and manufacturers for a festive community shopping experience. No pets allowed. For more info and tickets, see goodtrademakersmarket.com.

Rotary speech contest

Weds., Feb. 8, 2023, 8 a.m. High school students from Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg are encouraged to enter the local Rotary speech contest.

The speech topic is: Why are diversity, equity and inclusion important? Students may present speeches in person or via Zoom. More info and updates are at rotaryclubofcsh.org.

Call to young artists Contest deadline: Thursday, Jan. 5

The Vermont Wildlife Education Fund organizes a wildlife art contest for students in grades 7-12. Prizes awarded and winners exhibited in February 2023. Find more info and an application at vtwildlifeeducationfund.org.

Library News

Pick up a free copy of comic about Vermont's history and future



Margaret Woodruff Director

The Center for Cartoon Studies was offered a challenge by the Office of Vermont's Secretary of State and Vermont Humanities: Create a graphic guide about the past, present and promise of democracy and civics in our brave little state. The comic book "Freedom and Unity" is the answer to that challenge. Pick up your free copy at the library.

Ongoing programs for all ages

Kids Crafts: See what fun activity youth services librarian Cheryl Sloan has concocted for younger library fans. Pick up the monthly craft kit in the library entryway.

Take & Make Kits: Try your hand at a simple but elegant fall garland to grace a window or Thanksgiving table. Available at the library circulation desk.

Book chat at the library Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet at the library 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 with the library for dates.

Short story selections First & third Thursdays, 1 p.m.

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

Book chat Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

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

Children and family programs

After-school maker challenge: Scribblebots

Thursday, Nov. 3, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Design, build and test a drawing robot. For fourth grade and up. Register at bit. ly/3DJ2Kfe.

KidPower confident kids workshop Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join Laura Slesar for a kid and parent workshop, learn Kidpower skills that kids can use right away to have more fun & fewer



problems with people. Register at tinyurl. com/KP-CPL-11-5-22.

Preschool story time Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

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

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

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. Join for play-based learning in the library program room. Ages 3 and 4.

Adult programs

Stillwater Meditation Saturdays, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, 9 a.m.

Gathering together for eight weeks this fall as the light changes, we will explore poetry and meditation as sacred community. Respect for all beings and faiths is a foundational quality of our time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. Come to one, many or all meetings. Free. Stillwater Meditation is an offering of Rain Elizabeth Healing Arts.

Staying healthy this winter: COVID and more

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Join Jim Hyde, professor emeritus for public health at Tufts University, to discuss what to expect this winter regarding COVID and the flu via Zoom. Learn about the most effective strategies you can use to protect yourself and our community. Hyde taught epidemiology and biostatistics at Tufts for more than 35 years. He helped establish and directed the Tufts masters degree program in health communication, taught and directed several research studies. Prior to joining



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

From left, Juniper, Drew and Arlo Slabaugh's creations were very inventive.

the Tufts faculty, he was the director of the Division of Preventive Medicine at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Register at bit.ly/3SRuqTm.

Hoopla 101: accessing digital audiobooks, ebooks and videos Thursday, Nov. 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Learn how to read, listen and watch on your device with your library card. Please have the device you'd like to use (smartphone, tablet or laptop), library card number and any passwords needed to download an app to your device. Laptops are also available at the library. No registration required.

One-on-one tech help Thursday, Nov. 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

Sign up for a 30-minute, one-on-one session at the Charlotte Senior Center with Susanna Kahn, Charlotte Library's technology librarian for some tech support. She will troubleshoot with you and provide suggestions for next steps. Make sure to bring your device and any necessary login information. When registering, please provide a specific topic/item that you need help with and include the device you will be bringing to the session (e.g. Windows laptop, Mac laptop, Kindle, iPhone, iPad, Android phone, etc.). Registration required at 802-425-6345.

From China to Charlotte: How a small town opened its heart to Guy Cheng Sunday, Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m.

David Sisco became intrigued with jewelry-making while watching his stepfather, Charlotte jewelry designer Guy Cheng, at work. Cheng provided him with a bench, some basic tools and instruction on how to work metals into pieces of art. Sisco will discuss Cheng's work and connections to Charlotte and to Vermont.



Marissa and Aapeli Green's pumpkin might be inspired by Edvard Munch.

Men's book discussion: Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

"To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light." — These were John Steinbeck's goals as he set out, at the age of 58, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years.

Library contact information

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



Senior Center News

Build connections, get exercise, play, eat at senior center



Lori York DIRECTOR

With daylight savings time soon ending, the days already seem shorter as it becomes darker earlier. What better way to start preparing for the days of winter than to begin building new connections and friendships at the Charlotte Senior Center. Consider trying out an exercise class, joining an art workshop, playing board and card games, or stopping by for one of the weekly lunches. Anyone 50 years or older is welcome to join in!

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.

Artist reception Friday, Nov. 4, 1-2:30 p.m.

The Friday morning arts group's exhibit includes multiple artists with a variety of mediums. Meet the artists, view the exhibit and enjoy some light refreshments. The Friday morning arts group will be exhibiting through the end of November. This group meets on Friday mornings for coffee, conversation — and inspiration.

Veterans Day lunch Friday, Nov. 11

In honor of Veterans Day, volunteer cooks will prepare a hearty lunch of shepherd's pie, salad and dessert. There will be the opportunity after lunch to connect with other veterans. Feel free to bring memorabilia to show and memories to share.

The meal will be served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or when the food runs out. No reservation required. Open to all with a suggested donation of \$5. Veterans eat for free. Thank you for your service.

Presentations

Discussion with Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Thursday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m.

Please join advanced emergency medical technician and firefighter Ginger Parent for an open discussion. Topics include the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service's role in the community, home safety, winter driving, using 911 and possible future community classes. Register by Tuesday, Nov. 8, by calling 802-425-6345.

Charlotte Grange Thursday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m.

Join Charlotte Grange members as they share the importance of having a vibrant Grange in the community and what the Charlotte Grange's vision is moving forward.

Programs

Coffee & Canvas Friday, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Unlike traditional Paint & Sips, this Coffee & Canvas will allow for exploring your own vision and creating a unique painting. Do you have a painting that you would like to create for a gift? Or have you always wanted to paint a specific subject? There will be a book filled with inspirational pictures, but feel free to bring photos from home. No prior painting experience needed. All materials included. The cost is \$25. Registration and payment required to hold your space by Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Shape-note singing Sunday, Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m.

Traditional a capella, four-part harmony sung for the joy of singing ... not as a

practice for performance. Search "sacred harp" on YouTube for examples, then come and sing with us. Introduction to shape notes and scales is recommended and offered 30 minutes before each first Sunday singing. Contact Kerry Cullinan at kelynxvt@gmail.com to schedule. There is no cost.

Tech help Thursday, Nov. 10

Email enigma? Kindle conundrum? App apprehension? Computer questions? 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 30-minute, one-on-one session at the senior center with the Charlotte Library's technology librarian, for some tech support. She will troubleshoot with you and will provide suggestions for next steps. Registration required. There is no cost.

Watercolor for fall Tuesday, Nov. 8 & 15, 9 a.m.-noon

In this two-morning workshop Lynn Cummings will explore fall-themed subjects while trying out a new technique or two. Join this fun, supportive group and enjoy creating some paintings. All levels are welcome. The supply list will be emailed upon registration. Registration and payment is required by Nov.1. The cost is \$83.

Exercise classes

Meditation Fridays, 8-9 a.m.

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

Bone Builders Tuesdays & Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

RSVP Bone Builders, a program of United Way of Northwest Vermont, is a no-impact, weight-training program designed to prevent and even reverse the negative effects of osteoporosis in older adults. Bone Builders consists of a warmup, balance exercises, arm and leg exercises, and a cool down with stretching. No cost or pre-registration required, but there will be paperwork to complete for the RSVP Bone Builders program.

The senior center offers daily exercise programs for a wide range of fitness and activity levels. A complete list of exercise programs and class descriptions is on the website 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, or until the food runs out. No registration required. Suggested lunch donation \$5.

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

Pick up on Thursdays 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. October menus are posted on the Charlotte Senior Center website at charlotteseniorcentervt. org. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. To register, contact Kerrie Pughe at 802-425-6345 at kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. \$5 suggested meal donation. *Please note, participants will need to complete an Age Well congregate meal registration form for Age Well's 2023 fiscal year. There will be copies available at the senior center and on the Age Well website at agewellvt.org.

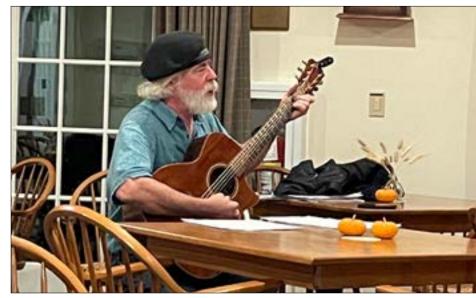


Photo by Dan York

John Creech teaches beginner guitar on Wednesday evenings.



Photo by Lori York

From left, Susan Kapsalis, Lorna Bates, Margery Rutherford and Susan Jacobs playing bridge at the senior center.



Photo by Lori York

Frank Califano paints at a Coffee & Canvas sunflower workshop.

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.

Write Ingredients

Pumpkin suits the American palate

Susan Ohanian Contributor

October is gone, but fear not: Pumpkin persists.

And the good news is that at the Charlotte Senior Center, it's real pumpkin. No sprinkles of that bogus pumpkin spice running rampant this time of year. No jet-puffed pumpkin spice marshmallows or pumpkin spice Twinkies, tortilla chips, popcorn, Oreo cookies at our place. No pumpkin spice Cheerios, waffles, hummus, hot cocoa, cold brew with pumpkin spice creamer or harvest pumpkin pie cream liqueur. No pumpkin spice M&Ms, bologna, toilet paper or condoms.

You can see all the above items on the Internet in all their realistic packaging. Then you can go to Snopes.com to learn which three are fake. Only three fakes. The rest are real.

Although the Escoffier Cook Book contains 37 recipes for cooking quail as well as recipes for English, French, German and Scotch bread puddings, I was not surprised to discover that "pumpkin" does not exist in its 2,997-item index.

When studying at the Universite d'Aix-Marseille, I lived with a French family who were curious about Thanksgiving. My mother sent the ingredients for pumpkin pie, and I made two pies. There was only one son still living at home, but on the day I baked pies, five brothers dropped by. They all had the same response: "Interesting."

I took some pie to the man whose wonderful avocation was to run Saturday classes for foreign students to learn about French cooking. When I confessed nobody liked the pie, he explained that the spices were just "too different," not something familiar to the French tongue.

The results of a native dish produced by a student from Scotland living in our home weren't any more successful: With great enthusiasm, she cooked oatmeal for everybody.

Monday Munch Nov. 7 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food is gone

Butternut squash, cheese tortellini soup (with or without sausage) and pumpkin roll.

Thursday, Nov. 10 Men's Breakfast, 7-9:30 a.m.

Bill Fraser-Harris will offer a travelogue of his trip across the country with his wife and dogs.

Grab & Go Meal pickup: 10-11 a.m.

Roast pork with sauce, mashed red potatoes, butternut squash and apple crisp. Registration required by the prior Monday. 802-425-6345 or kpughe@charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Meals provided by Age Well.

Friday Nov. 11 Veterans Day Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Shepherd's pie, salad, and dessert. Suggested donation: \$5. We thank veterans for their service, and they eat for free. We invite them to bring memorabilia and anecdotes to share.

Monday Munch Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sausage with tortellini soup, salad, homemade dessert.



Grab & Go Meal Thursday Nov. 17, pick up: 10-11 a.m.

Roast turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, sliced carrots, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie with cream. Registration required by the prior Monday.

Here's Peggy Lee with the Benny Goodman orchestra to remind us of the fact that even when it's raining or pouring, the Charlotte Senior Center is always on the sunny side of the street: tinyurl. com/4fpzkx6y.