Mulligatawny soup, the featured item for Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center, has a long, intriguing history. This popular soup has traveled from India, settling in at points around the globe, before making its appearance in Charlotte.

The article "Some Like It Hot: Class, Gender and Empire in the Making of Mulligatawny Soup," published in Economic and Political Weekly and available at tinyurl.com/3kxe2hab, offers insights into the identity and power structures embedded in this food — and in everything else we eat.

Noted missionary and explorer David Livingston wrote of eating mulligatawny during his African explorations; Charles Dickens’s weekly magazine, "All the Year Round," published a recipe. Another Victorian novelist, William Makepeace Thackery, who was born in Calcutta where his father worked for the East India Company, had his poem about mulligatawny published in "Punch." Charles Francatelli, chief cook for Queen Victoria, had his own version, which included ham, a turnip, a carrot and six apples.

Heinz put the popular soup in tins where you can still find it today.

Look at the menu board near the counter in the "Soup Nazi’s" shop in this episode (tinyurl.com/2p9zh62w) of Seinfield, and you will see 11 soup choices. Mulligatawny sits at the top of the list.

There are no Soup Nazis at the Charlotte Senior Center and rest assured that you won’t be kicked out if you ask for bread with your soup. Bread is always served with Monday Munch.

Monday Munch, April 10
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until the food is gone
Mulligatawny soup with chicken, green salad, almond cake with whipped cream and fruit. Remember: Reservations for Grab-and-Go meals are required by the previous Monday at meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org or 802-425-6345.

Thursday, April 13
Men’s Breakfast: 7-9:30 a.m.
Enjoy a conversational breakfast and then hear a talk on the joys and challenges of raising and selling shrimp in Vermont by John Brawley of Sweet Sound Aquaculture.
To register contact Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com.

Grab-and-Go meal
Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, Capri blend vegetables and Congo bar. The meal is provided by Age Well.
Suggested donation of $5, but not required. Pay what you can, when you can.

Monday Munch, April 17
At press time, volunteer cooks are still planning. For menu update, go to charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

Thursday, April 20
Grab-and-Go menu. Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Beef with BBQ sauce, baked beans, broccoli florets and pumpkin cookie.

A few more words about Monday Munch. Mulligatawny soup with a glass of sherry is the first course served in "Dinner for One," an 18-minute British slapstick farce. Not popular in Britain, try to figure out why watching this film is a German New Year’s rite, the most frequently repeated TV program there. People in Denmark, Sweden and Finland have adopted this New Year’s tradition (tinyurl.com/587s9uws).

There’s a short introduction in German, followed by the farce in English. I confess I could not make myself sit through all 18 minutes, but Rotten Tomatoes reports that lots of people give this high approval.

Think about what message people were trying to send when they reincarnated the soup as potage de madres and consommé l'idienne.

Meanwhile, at McSweeney’s, Sam Woods gives us an Olive Garden menu written by H.P. Lovecraft at tinyurl.com/bdzn92kn. Reading this should make you aware of how fortunate you are for the open invitation to come for Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center.

Yes, there is a song called "Mulligatawny." Here’s Fred Douglas singing it in 1927: tinyurl.com/bdftybxw.

Searching for a song to welcome spring? Here’s one: tinyurl.com/4t9hax7j.

Enjoy mulligatawny — a well-traveled soup
Town plans more user-, mobile-friendly website

Alicia Wolfram
Community News Service

A group of Charlotters is rolling up their sleeves to create a more user-friendly town website. The project, still in its early stages, is set to finish by July 1, with a beta version launched a few weeks before then. The website can be a useful tool to find information on trail maps, selectboard agendas, meeting minutes and more. But it can be hard for residents to wade through.

The homepage features a tab for each of the website’s 25 subsections, many of which branch out into two or three additional dropdown menus, creating a maze for users to navigate.

“It’s not at all intuitive or visually engaging, it’s very clunky and cluttered and it just really doesn’t conform to contemporary standards in terms of ease of use across multiple platforms,” said town planner Larry Lewack.

Lewack organized a kickoff meeting for the project March 14 to get people excited and recruit help. Groups with a presence on the website — such as Charlotte Library and Charlotte Recreation — were invited to the meeting to help get the ball rolling.

“I don’t want to be the sole architect of the new design,” Lewack said. “I want it to be something that’s co-created among all the people who have an interest in making sure that we have a more functional and usable website.”

Charlotte uses a web-hosting platform called Catalis. According to its website, the company “is one of the leading public sector software companies for government and constituencies across North America.” Catalis, responsible for the design and upkeep of the current town website, reconfigured its template in the last couple of years for all clients. The new framework is already in widespread use in other towns.

The group will meet every couple of weeks until the launch date, Lewack said, to make decisions about layout and content so that the website can be as accessible as possible.

Lewack said the goal is to better serve existing customers and also help non-residents learn more about the town without getting lost and sidetracked.

The new format is more graphically engaging and mobile-friendly, with rotating pictures and information organized to reflect relevance and demand.

“About two-thirds of all people who are using websites are accessing them in a mobile device like mobile phone or tablet,” said Lewack. “And given that, it’s really important that websites be completely portable across platforms and that they make sense and can be read and used.”

(Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.)

State champion

Ryan LaBerge won his weight division at the state championship wrestling tournament in St. Johnsbury Academy on Sunday, March 26, wrestling with the Colchester Cobras. Ryan is in first grade at Charlotte Central School. It was his first time of wrestling, and Ryan finished the wrestling season undefeated.

Town manager versus town admin debate ramps up

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

An ad hoc group collecting signatures for a petition to change Charlotte’s municipal government from a town administrator to a town manager has drawn the ire of some of the selectboard.

The group held a meeting to talk about the issue at the Charlotte Senior Center on Saturday, March 25. Selectboard chair Jim Faulkner said he was invited to the meeting at the last minute that morning, which he was careful to assert was not an official town meeting.

Frank Tenney also attended, but no other selectboard members did because that would have been too many discussing town business at an unannounced meeting and a violation of open meeting law.

The meeting, which both sides of the town manager issue have described as tense, brought forth.

Lee Krohn, Shelburne town manager, said the group held a meeting to help get the ball rolling.

“The town might decide not to do it,” Krohn said, “but we don’t know that, do we?”

Lee Krohn, Shelburne town manager

If the town decides to do it, it’s important for residents and town officials to know why they want to make the switch and what is the underlying issue they are trying to solve.

— Lee Krohn, Shelburne town manager

If the town decides to do it, it’s important for residents and town officials to know why they want to make the switch and what is the underlying issue they are trying to solve, he said.

One thing Krohn has noticed about Charlotte is how long its selectboard agendas tend to be. In Shelburne his agendas are usually just a few inches long and on one side of a piece of paper. Charlotte’s agendas often take up multiple sheets, and meetings frequently last longer than three hours.

He believes that after a meeting has gone on longer than two hours “things go downhill fast” and people’s attention spans don’t last that long.

Krohn said, when he first became town manager in Shelburne, he got some pushback for his shorter agendas, but then selectboard members realized that just because things were more efficient didn’t mean they were shutting down debate.

After they got used to the shorter agenda, selectboard members in Shelburne told Krohn, “This is efficient, and I can get up in the morning.”

Former Charlotte Selectboard member Lane Morrison, who is at the center of the town manager debate, said the selectboard is “pretty conscientious” about letting everybody who has an item on the agenda speak, so meetings go on for “hours and hours.”

“Not everything is of equal importance,” Morrison said. A town manager would have the authority to deal with lots of things, which would free up the selectboard “so they can act more like a board of directors.”

He believes that with a town manager running interference the selectboard could spend more time on issues of greater importance, like the new town garage or the transition to a town-run fire and rescue service.

Morrison said they would wait to submit their petition until after the April 17 selectboard meeting. If the petitioners decide to go forward, the first step would be to turn the document over to town clerk Mary Mead, who would check to see if the signatures were from residents who are registered voters.

According to Vermont statute, 5 percent of voters are needed to require a town vote on adopting the town manager form of municipal government.
Feeling peckish?

Journalist John Quinney is the new publisher and editorial director for The Charlotte News.

Quinney was previously the digital strategy director at The Reading Eagle in Pennsylvania.

"I am honored to join the team at The Charlotte News and look forward to working with our talented staff to bring out the best in our content," said Quinney.

He succeeds publisher and president John Quinney, who is stepping down after 10 years in the position.

"John has been an integral part of our team and has helped to grow The Charlotte News into a successful community newspaper," said board member Bill Regan.

"We are excited to welcome John to the Charlotte News family and look forward to seeing what he brings to the table."
Switching to e-lawn care equipment is more important than ever

Steven Wisbaum
Contributor

While the annoying wail of conventional lawn mowers has long been associated with summer, that sound is thankfully becoming less common with the growing popularity of battery electric lawn equipment.

There’s lots of reasons why so many people are switching to e-lawn equipment. Due to advancements in lithium-ion battery technology, there are now over 25 manufacturers, including at least nine offering residential riding mowers. And in Vermont, almost all the electric utilities offer rebates, which makes e-lawn equipment (purchased or picked up in Vermont) even more affordable.

Operating cost savings and convenience is also a huge motivating factor. E-lawn equipment eliminates the need to buy, transport and handle gasoline, doesn’t require oil changes and tuneups, and should run for many years without needing any repairs. And without any oil or gas to spill out, most walk-behind e-mowers are designed to stand upright for easy storage. Equally important, walk-behind e-mowers are designed to stand upright for easy storage. Equally important, walk-behind e-mowers are designed to stand upright for easy storage.

With ever-mounting evidence of the existential impacts of human-caused climate change, many people are trying to shrink their personal carbon footprint, either by driving electric cars, weatherizing their homes, flying less, installing solar photovoltaic systems or heat pumps, and switching to e-lawn equipment.

While a single residential conventional mower or “chore tool” doesn’t burn nearly as much fuel as your home furnace, the collective impact of all this lawn equipment is huge. In fact, a recent Federal Highway Administration analysis estimated that in Vermont alone, over 5 million gallons of gasoline are burned annually by lawn-care equipment, which generates over 5,000 tons of carbon dioxide. And this doesn’t even include the millions of gallons of diesel fuel used by contractors, local and state public works departments, golf courses, schools, etcetera.

So, if your gas-powered lawn equipment is at or nearing retirement, and you’re considering making the switch, here are some things to keep in mind:

• How to choose: Since there’s lots of manufacturers, and quality is relatively consistent, choice will largely depend on the different features available. Ask your friends and neighbors about their equipment, and try it out. The Mow Electric website also has links to some of the popular video product reviews and websites.

• Stick with one manufacturer: If you’re buying multiple items (e.g., mower and chore tools), stick with one manufacturer since batteries and chargers are not interchangeable between manufacturers.

• Battery capacity/run-time: For larger yards, it’s a good idea to buy the higher capacity/longer run-time battery options. But for a small yard, you can find a lower capacity battery that the manufacturer recommends to you. The battery will be rechargeable, and you can use the same battery with other tools.

Correction
A letter to the editor in the March 23 edition thanking voters for the passing of the school budget was incorrectly attributed to Bonnie Birdshall and her town of residence was misidentified. Although the intention of members of the Champlain Valley School District was for the letter to be attributed to the board of directors, the newspapers does not publish letters from boards, committees, commissions, organizations or groups, only from individuals.

The Charlotte News
NEXT PUBLICATION DATES
April 20
Copy Deadline: Friday, April 14
Ads Deadline: Friday, April 14

May 4
Copy Deadline: Friday, April 28
Ads Deadline: Friday, April 28

May 18
Copy Deadline: Friday, May 12
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Selectboard begrudgingly passes cannabis application

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Was a motion to approve a cannabis cultivation license voted on or tabled? This issue inserted a conundrum into an already confusing application process.

On March 27, the Charlotte Selectboard debated whether it had voted on a cannabis cultivation application at its March 13 meeting, or if board member Kelly Devine’s motion had died for lack of a second.

Devine insisted the board did vote on her motion to approve the application and defeated it 4-1 with hers the only vote in favor. A couple of applications were submitted at the March 13 meeting, or if board member Kelly Devine’s motion had died for lack of a second.

When the board couldn’t agree on what had happened, Mudge joked that they would figure out what had transpired, and that “one of us is going to buy the other a Coke.”

It sounds like Tenney is in arrears for at least one soft drink.

Needless to say, the process of approving applications for cannabis cultivation in Charlotte is almost as confusing as trigonometry — right now. Unlike trigonometry, there may be hope for the process becoming less perplexing. A couple of applications were submitted before the selectboard voted to give itself the authority to convene as the town’s cannabis control commission to consider applications. The planning commission is also working on changes to land-use regulations covering the cannabis cultivation application process. Ultimately, the board decided on March 27 that the question of whether a vote had been cast or a motion had failed for want of a second at the previous meeting was a moot point. Either way, it was still an issue on the board’s plate.

“I’m wondering since it wasn’t approved, but it wasn’t denied, if the selectboard could just make a motion and not worry about what happened last time,” town administrator Dean Bloch said.

The board agreed that this made the most sense. Then Tenney made a motion to approve an application from Vermont Cultivars for cannabis cultivation. The application was already approved by the former zoning administrator, and the appeal period passed without an appeal being submitted. Faulkner said, “so, no matter what we think about it or want to do about it, it’s a done deal.”

Mudge said he would vote against the application because the process is “Kafkaesque,” invoking the Bohemian writer whose stories have come to be seen as the epitome of bizarre and confusing situations which people feel powerless to understand or control.

“It represents everything that’s wrong, in my opinion, with some of the things coming out of Montpelier,” Mudge said. He once again expressed his displeasure that the board was being required to consider an application whose location it couldn’t agree on what happened last time,” town Selectboard administrator Dean Bloch said.

He once again expressed his displeasure that the board was being required to consider an application whose location it couldn’t agree on, and that “one of us is going to buy the other a Coke.”

Although she can’t actually be heard casting her vote on March 13, Mudge said at the March 27 meeting that Devine had voted in favor of her own motion by putting her hand up. devine insisted the board did vote on her motion to approve the application and defeated it 4-1 with hers the only vote in favor of her own motion by putting her hand up.

As much as I hate the process that’s happened, I don’t think it’s right to hold it up.”

Tenney can be heard saying, “As much as I hate the process that’s happened, I don’t think it’s right to hold it up.”

To which member Lewis Mudge says, “Well, then second the motion.”

Very clearly, Tenney says, “I’ll second the motion.”

But it’s not as cut and dried as that because when chair Faulkner asks for all those who support Devine’s motion to say “aye,” there’s another long silence. On the recording, not even Devine can be heard saying “aye.”

Finally, Devine asks, “So, everyone else is a nay?” This seems to indicate that she thought she had cast an “aye” vote.

Two of those who support Devine’s motion to approve the application passed — this time 3-2, with Mudge and Louise McCarren on the no side.

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Hi Neighbor

York: Finding her niche at the Charlotte Senior Center

Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

There’s a bit of an age gap between Lori York’s two careers but it’s not about her age. Instead, it’s a gap between the ages of the people she has served. York worked in admissions for Waldorf/ Schools in Keene, N.H., and Vermont before jumping a few generations to her current position as the director of the Charlotte Senior Center.

York and her family moved to Shelburne in 2018 so she could take the job of admissions director for the Waldorf School. As the pandemic hit, the school laid off 27 members of their faculty and staff. York was not one of those people, but her job was expanded to include marketing and development and she opted not to stay on.

When she saw that there was an opening at the senior center she decided to apply and has been thrilled with that decision.

“It’s taken my whole adult life to find out where I was meant to be,” York said.

Last December, York was promoted to the position of director. At first, she worried whether she would be able to do the job because she considers herself an introvert, but she found that being the host of the center was energizing.

“It’s not the way people might picture a nursing home with people sitting in rocking chairs, doing puzzles,” she said. “We’ve got kayaking, biking and daily exercise classes, as well as art, music and language classes. I can’t retire and can take part in the activities.

For those new to the center, York recommends attending the Monday Munch. Every week, a different group of volunteer cooks and dishwashers prepare meals for 60 people.

York notes that although the center’s mission is to serve those 50 and over, all adults are welcome. For classes with limited enrollment, seniors will get priority. She is proud of some of the new programming at the center including a partnership with Age Well for weekly Grab-and-Go meals. The center distributed 4,866 meals the first year of the program.

“Chittenden County may be affluent,” York said, “but there is still a lot of food insecurity.”

The center partnered with the United Way, which allowed York to recruit four volunteers to learn how to teach a Bone Builders class. The senior center now offers two weekly classes which are attended regularly by 27 people. York lauded Bone Builders as a great way to help prevent injuries caused by osteoporosis.

She noted that the center has a variety of exercise classes including one gentle yoga class and another geared toward building strength.

The center works with the library for one-on-one tech support for seniors and the Vermont Attorney General’s office for lessons on scam prevention. York is in the process of putting together a Senior Resource Fair to be held in May which will have tables staffed by members of a variety of organizations including AARP, Age Well, the Alzheimer’s Association and the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Recognizing that there are a lot of working seniors, York is trying to reach out with programs in the evenings and on weekends. Her hope is that some of these seniors might decide to volunteer with the center after attending a class or event.

“We have over 90 volunteers, which is the only way we can provide these programs,” York said, noting that she is the only full-time staff member and is helped by a part-time center coordinator.

Volunteers are instrumental in developing new programs and last year, one of those new events was a Veterans’ Day lunch which led York to decide to do more outreach to veterans.

The center also holds a drop-in event on Thanksgiving and Christmas for food and conversation, since holidays can be difficult for seniors who are living alone.

York appreciates the work of her volunteers because she is one herself, helping out at the Shelburne Food Shelf, joining the Lions Club and being a member of the Shelburne Social Services Committee.

“If you’re part of a community you should give back,” she said.

York truly believes she has found her niche at the senior center. “I’m grateful to come here every day,” she said. “It’s really the right job for me and it’s a gift to come here every day.”

Events

Here, there will be dragons

Vicky Drew
Contributor

Registration is open for Lake Champlain’s 17th annual Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday, Aug. 6.

The festival is a favorite annual event at the Burlington waterfront featuring community teams racing in 20-person canoes from Splash to the Coast Guard station. Community teams are created from local businesses, nonprofit organizations, including Camp Ta Kumm, the McClure Miller Respite House, Burlington Taiko and paddle to support cancer survivors in the community.

This year, Dragonheart Vermont will work together with Community Bank to host the annual event. Dragonheart Vermont is the local non-profit organization that organizes and hosts the festival each year.

Dragonheart Vermont strives to empower breast cancer survivors and supporters through the challenging sport of dragon boating and instilling in its members the values of teamwork, fitness and community giving. The Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival is a charitable event that raises money to support cancer survivors locally for Dragonheart Vermont and this year’s pledge partner, the McClure Miller Respite House.

Participants dress up in colorful costumes, compete for spirit awards with team cheers, warm up with Zumba and ride the dragons to raise money for charity. They enjoy the entertainment provided by local artists like Burlington Taiko and paddle to support cancer survivors in the community.

Dragonheart Vermont has given more than $1 million to various cancer-related organizations, including Camp Ta Kumm, the McClure Miller Respite House, Integrative Therapies at the University of Vermont Medical Center’s cancer center and, most recently, the Cancer Patient Support Network.

Teams are made up of 16 paddlers (plus a drummer who sits on the front of the boat and keeps time). Registration fees include an entry fee of $50 with a $75 fundraising commitment. The registration fee includes a 75-minute practice session on practice weekend (July 9-10) with some of the best coaches in the country, at least two races on festival day and souvenir shirts and medals. Extra awards are given for team spirit, top team fundraising and top finishers.

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Food shelf swings into spring, still seeking new home

Maj Eslinger
Contributor

April finds the Food Shelf in full swing, planning ways to augment the supply of fresh food, clothing and assistance for community members in need.

But, we are also looking for a new home, hoping to find a first-floor space of about 600 square feet with room for parking and receipt of large food orders.

As emergency pandemic grant assistance from the Foodbank expires, we appreciate all those in our community who strengthen the safety net for those in need. The Charlotte Food Shelf is grateful to be a beneficiary of the Farm Stand Together program. Meaghan Kennedy reports this small nonprofit will provide gift cards allowing those with food insecurity to shop at selected local farms.

Applications for the Farm Stand Together gift card are available through the Charlotte Food Shelf or directly through Foodstamdtogethervt.org. For more information visit foodstamdtogethervt.org.

Children benefit from the Shoe In program. This program uses donations to the food shelf to subsidize the purchase of sneakers, required for gymnasium floors. If your child is in need of “no mark” sneakers, please contact Betsy Lloyd, Charlotte Central School counselor.

Also, used clothing donated to the Grange in April helps Charlotte children. Those doing spring cleaning can put aside donations of gently used items of children’s clothing for this purpose.

For those who look forward to gardening season, please remember the food shelf as you plan your spring planting. If you grow, consider planting an extra row. Locally grown produce helps offset rising food prices. We hope that this lovely Charlotte tradition will continue to provide healthy leafy greens and vegetables to those in need.

The food shelf is grateful for monetary contributions from Lisa Crispin and Robert Downing, Stephen and Lynne Hale, Deborah Cook and the Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program. We also extend a big thank you to Rayne Herzog, the general manager of the Shelburne Athletic Club and the 18 vigorous participants in the 14-day My Zone Challenge, whose efforts resulted in a much appreciated donation.

Donations of foodstuffs are also much appreciated; we thank Stewart’s Bread, the Minker family and Will Perry, and all who contributed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel’s monthly food drive.

As the food shelf looks for a new home, we remain grateful for the many years the Congregational Church has provided space to us in their basement. Please email Peggy Sharpe, food shelf secretary, at cfmj110@comcast.net with any leads.

The Charlotte Food Shelf remains committed to providing dignified access to healthy food and assistance to those in need. We remind the community that if you or someone you know in Charlotte or North Ferrisburgh is facing utility shut-off or an unexpected hardship, help is available. All request and grants are kept private, and are available by simply calling 802-425-3253 or by filling out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf hours or online at https://foodshelfvt.org.

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

Meaing is encouraged during the ongoing pandemic and its new virus variants. For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130. If you cannot come to the Food Shelf due to COVID symptoms, or seek further information about the Food Shelf, please call 802-425-3130.

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

## Community Roundup

**Conservation Stewardship Program open for applications, state funds available**

A new state-funded program, the Vermont Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program, will assist Vermont farmers to achieve high levels of stewardship on their land by supporting them to enroll in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program.

The largest conservation program in the United States, Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program is a federal program that helps land managers enhance natural resources and improve their business operations. It requires producers to meet certain environmental objectives and commit to five years of enhanced conservation on their land.

In return, producers receive an annual conservation payment. The Vermont Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program is looking to increase enrollment in the program in Vermont while helping producers enhance their natural resource stewardship. Based on recommendations from the Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group, technical assistance and supplemental payments of $2,000-$9,500 will be provided to Vermont farmers who engage in Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program planning or enrollment in qualifying contracts for one or more enrol ment years.

The goal is to ensure that farms are adequately recognized and compensated for environmental stewardship and to incentivize conservation planning and enhanced conservation.

“The Vermont Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program is a great example of the collaboration we foster around conservation and agriculture here in Vermont,” said Alyson Eastman, deputy secretary of agriculture, food and markets and co-chair of the Working Group.

Under the Vermont Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program, agricultural producers of all sizes who successfully engage in the development of a Conservation Stewardship Plan will receive a one-time payment from the state of $2,000, followed by an additional state payment between $1,500 and $7,500 if they successfully sign a Conservation Stewardship Program contract.

These one-time payments in the first year of engagement are above and beyond any federal CSP funds made available to these producers ranging from $1,500-$40,000 per year for five years.

Travis Thompson, state conservationist, strongly encourages Vermont farmers to apply for the Conservation Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program.

“CSP is a great opportunity for Vermont farmers to connect for their land, to sign a CSP contract, to engage in the development of a CSP contract, and to incentivize conservation on their land,” Thompson said.

“The additional state funds for planning and enrollment, which may only be available for a few years, make this year a particularly good time to apply to CSP.”

To apply, producers must first contact their local Farm Services Agency to ensure their farm records are up to date, and then submit a CSP application to the Natural Resources Conservation Service by April 21, 2023. FSA and NRCS offices can be found online at the USDA Service Center locater. Producers must complete a separate application for state assistance under the Vermont Farmer Ecosystem Stewardship Program by May 8. Application materials and more information can be found at agriculture.vermont.gov/CSP-Assist.

**Shelburne Police Department holds child safety seat training**

This past week the Shelburne Police Department hosted a child passenger safety technician course.

This national certification course added 11 more child passenger safety technicians to the more than 100 working around the state ensuring the safety of children in vehicles through proper installation and use of Child Passenger Safety Restraint systems.

These technicians work in a variety of settings. While many are first responders, they may also be found in hospitals, day care centers, pediatric offices or other community service organizations. They may be a neighbor wanting to make a difference in the community.

The course was sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health. After three days of hands-on instruction by certified instructors, the course culminated with an instructor-led Child Passenger Safety Seat Check at the Shelburne Fire Department on Saturday morning, April 1. During this two-hour event the new technicians assisted with the proper inspection and installation of 12 car seats.

In addition, five car seats were given to those that did not have a proper car seat—either they had expired, were not appropriate for their child or otherwise needed the child seat.

To find a Child Safety Seat Inspection Station near you, visit bestsellingmart.org. To become a child passenger safety technician, visit safekids.org.

**Spring Colors Are In!**

courtesy photo

shelburne bay plaza
2989 shelburne rd | 985.9909
alittleshooting.com
next to the shelburne meat market

free gift wrapping!
Playing musical cars on a January night in Shelburne

John Quinney
Publisher and President

Once you place an order for a prescription refill, some pharmacies are as annoying as the village gossip.

On Jan. 4, I placed my Walgreens order shortly after 9 a.m. Within six hours, I had received two voicemails and two emails. If only to end the barrage, I stopped by the Shelburne Walgreens on my way back from a Williston appointment.

I picked up my meds and agreed to a 10-minute wait while the pharmacist arranged for our health care provider to pay for two COVID test kits.

Leaving Walgreens, I stroked to my car, hopped inside and reached for the key. But something was wrong. The upholstery was black not gray, and the car carried a faint tobacco smell. I quit cigarettes more than 35 years ago.

I got out of the small blue Toyota and noticed that it was a two-door model with an unfamiliar license plate. My small blue Toyota is a four-door Prius C.

Hmmm.

Perhaps I hadn’t parked my car where I thought I had? That seemed entirely possible, so I wandered around the parking lot for a couple of minutes looking for my car. Nothing.

I realized that I had parked in a handicapped spot, so went back inside. “Did you notice anyone towing my car within the last 15 minutes or so?” Baffled looks. “No. It would have taken longer than 15 minutes, though.”

Back outside for a more extensive parking lot search. No car.

Could my car have been stolen? In downtown Shelburne? After all, it was dark and I had left the car unlocked, keys in the cupholder.

I called the Shelburne Police and gave the dispatcher a description of my car and waited a few minutes until two officers arrived. One went inside Walgreens to check video footage, since my car had been parked right in front of the pharmacy camera. The other cop asked some basic questions and gave me an incident report to complete. I was thankful that he made no judgments about people leaving keys in unlocked cars.

I called Colleen and while waiting for her to come get me ran through some “worst case” outcomes. My car gets trashed and pickleball rackets are gone; I’ll be without a car for weeks …

Looking at the small, blue Toyota brought back memories of an embarrassing incident from the early ’90s.

I had returned to my Burlington Seventh Generation store in Burlington after running an errand to a nearby gas station and convenience store. My colleague Mark greeted me with, “Whose car is that?” I looked at the car I’d parked out front. It was similar to mine … but it didn’t belong to me.

I drove the car that wasn’t mine back to the gas station to find a puzzled person standing alongside my car. I had “stolen” his, and he was happy to have it back.

Back to that January night. Colleen arrived and I thanked the cops who said they would call later in the evening. “What are the odds that I’ll get my car back?” “Good. I’ve got a couple of ideas, but if those don’t check out, your car’s probably in Burlington.”

Back home, we started getting leftovers ready for a later than normal dinner. My phone rang. “Hi. This is John.” “Shelburne Dispatch. It’s a case of mistaken identity. Someone took your car by mistake. Do you give your consent for them to drive your car back to Walgreens?”

“Yes, of course. We’ll be there in a few minutes.” Big smile.

Soon after we arrived at Walgreens, two cars showed up. My small, blue Toyota pulled into the space next to the other small, blue Toyota. The Shelburne Police parked nearby.

A middle-aged guy hopped out of my car and apologized. He was visiting his sister and had borrowed her car. He had hopped into mine after doing his Walgreens business and tried his key. It didn’t work, but the one in the cupholder did, so off he went. He was somewhat embarrassed.

I told him my story about “stealing” a car. He relaxed a bit. We shook hands. I thanked the cops and drove home, laughing, incredulous and much relieved.
Learning the two-step dance to optimize career options

Margo Bartoch
College Essay Coach

Sixty-five percent of Americans believe a four-year college degree does not justify the cost because many graduates lack specific skills and are saddled with huge debt, according to the Wall Street Journal-National Opinion Research Center Poll this March. Overall, most respondents fear that their children will not be better off in their future. If students and families choose to make the investment to attend college, it is essential to develop a two-step plan to optimize success.

The first stage begins in high school, where the student is exposed to varied interests. The second phase is optimizing the college experience to be prepared for a career.

Starting in high school, developing a plan to be exposed to a range of interests can create a compelling college application. College planning begins with taking classes that explore academic interests. Being able to identify academic strengths can pave the way for future careers. It is helpful to review websites for their academic admissions requirements for high school courses. Extra-curricular activities highlight a student’s uniqueness and creativity. The Common Application, used by most colleges, includes a toast list of activities for a student to describe their talents and time commitments.

Configuration of 2023-24 teaching teams

Every year Charlotte Central School arranges personnel to best meet the needs of the student population. The following will be the configuration for the coming school year:

- **Kindergarten:** Sarah Cota and Beth Rowne
- **First grade:** Michele Filaneri and Monica Lubie
- **Second grade:** Danielle Hall-Potvin, Shannon Spellman and Devon Davis
- **Third grade:** Linda Poirier and Sophie Hancock
- **Fourth grade:** Katie Fraser and Dana Hanf
- **Fifth grade:** Jake Fraser and Dana Hanf
- **Sixth grade:** Sarah Pierson and speech-language pathologist Savannah Jones
- **Seventh grade:** Dave Baird
- **Eighth grade:** Brian Loughlin
- **First semester:** Brian Loughlin
- **Second semester:** Brian Loughlin
- **Seventh grade:** Rachael Miller
- **Eighth grade:** Andrew Laparzy
- **Fifth grade:** Elizabeth Lubic

Charlotte Central School announces 2023-24 teaching teams

Charlotte Central School announces 2023-24 teaching teams
Volunteers dwindling for Lewis Creek Association

The drop in volunteering to help with Lewis Creek could have consequences beyond that watershed, said an official with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Rachel Elliott
Community News Service

The pair of volunteers reach Lewis Creek just after sunrise in the summer; plastic bottles in hand. While one takes notes and plays livestock herdsman, the other bends down into the water, turns upstream and fills the bottles.

The one wading passes the bottles up to the buddy before scrambling back up the bank, careful to avoid slippery rocks and poison ivy. The pack part the bottles into a cool stream.

That’s how it usually goes for members of the Lewis Creek Association, a local environmental group that has been working to protect and restore Vermont waterways since 1993.

The group’s mission is to "educate people about the need to protect the watersheds," said Terry Dinnan, the association’s co-founder. "It has to be an unending process."

Dinnan said the group relies heavily on Lewis Creek and its immediate watershed for funding. Though it also receives some funding from the town of Charlotte and the state, the group’s efforts in the waterways are "self-financing."

The group’s core volunteers have been involved for more than 15 years, and have worked for years to keep water quality high in the Lewis Creek watershed.

"Most of our volunteers have been in the business for 20 to 30 years," Dinnan said.

She said the group relies on members to keep track of the work they do, and to keep track of the funds they raise.

The group has been able to keep its funding steady by "relying on volunteers," Dinnan said.

But the group’s financial situation is "a large concern," Dinnan said.

The group has raised about $2,700,000 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 of which an anticipated sum of $1,176,392 will be raised by property taxes and an anticipated sum of $1,604,321 will be raised by non-property taxes.

Dated this 31st day of March, 2023 at Charlotte, Vermont

Town of Charlotte Selectboard

NOTICE TO VOTERS
For Local Elections

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerk’s Office by April 2, 2023. If you are not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by April 12, 2023.

TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You can request early or absentee ballots at any time before the close of the polls on Election Day. You can request ballots by phone or by mail. To request a ballot by phone, call the Secretary of State’s Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can’t read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voter you know has physical disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get to the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.

Request or obtain a ballot before Election Day.

Demand that a voter vote or show that voter’s ballot(s) at the polling place.

Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.

Insist that a voter vote for the person the voter desires or that the voter vote for the person the voter desires.

Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.

Insist that a voter vote or show that voter’s ballot(s) at the polling place.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State’s Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Paper Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

Go to the entrance checklist table.

Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.

Wait until your name is repeated and checked off of the official roll.

An election official will give you a ballot.

Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

Wait until your name is repeated and checked off of the official roll.

Write-in candidate(s).

To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank write-in lines on the ballot and either write in the name or paste on sticker, then fill it out.

Checks out:

Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.

Wait until your name is repeated and checked off of the official roll.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your ballot in the "Voted Ballots" box.

Leave the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

The drop in volunteering to help with Lewis Creek could have consequences beyond that watershed, said an official with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.
Report from the Legislature

Legislature’s crossover week is a very busy time

Cheo Waters Evans
State Representative

The past two weeks were what people in the General Assembly call crossover week, and what I call, what-the-hell-just-happened week.

In simple form, here’s how it works: the House works on bills for the first half of the session, and the Senate works on bills for the first half of the session. Since we all have to vote on the same things by the end of the session, around the halfway point — crossover week — everyone works nonstop to pass out of their committees and out of the House and Senate all the bills that are a priority, that the parties or committees have decided are the most important to advance to the next step to make into laws.

The House passed some significant, and sometimes a little controversial, legislation after a lot of debate and discussion and amendments and votes. (I’ve written about these bills over the past couple of months.)

We sat in our, I’m not going to lie, terribly uncomfortable seats for up to 10-hour sessions. I set a world record by eating two pieces of pizza in about 30 seconds during a quick break.

Because the Democratic party has a sizable majority, none of the bills coming out of the House failed. Now, they go over to the Senate, and the Senate bills come over to the House, and then people (not me, I’m now, I don’t get to participate in this part of the fun) who are part of the parties’ leadership and the governor’s administration get to hash out what these bills will look like in the end. Then we’ll vote on them again. This time, everyone will be voting on the same form of the same bills.

I guess I should have known this, but before I got here, I didn’t quite realize how much a bill changes from what it’s introduced to when it becomes a law. Bills frequently change before they’re even voted out of committee. I hear from constituents a lot (which I really appreciate and enjoy) expressing their opinions or thoughts on a particular bill, and this can help inform my discussions with my colleagues. I don’t want anyone to think, though, that when I write back to you and say, “I’m going to vote...” I reserve my vote decision until the final bill,” that I’m putting anyone off or trying to avoid making a commitment. I’m just trying to be thoughtful.

Some bills that covered these topics came out of the House in the past couple weeks. I’d love to hear feedback about:

• Flavored tobacco-product ban. The argument for it is that flaky, sweet and mint-flavored tobacco vapes and cigarettes are new types of tobacco appeal to young people and encourage them to use and become addicted to, these products. The argument against it is that we already have laws prohibiting people under age 21 from purchasing these items and that enforcing the laws would allow local stores (instead of online, out-of-state sellers) to continue to sell these products to legal users and prevent kids from getting their hands on them.

• The “bottle bill.” Proposed in previous sessions, this bill would add sports drinks, wine bottles and water bottles to the list of beverage containers that have a redemption deposit. Pro: it would make the recycling process much easier for small redemption centers and eventually will raise deposit amounts. Con: there already exists a mechanism for plastic recycling through large recycling facilities, which work best when we send materials to recycle and possibly, eventually increasing their costs, which could be passed on to consumers.

If you’d like to come see me at the Statehouse, please do reach out and we can arrange a visit. I’m expecting some Charlotte Central School students next week, and I’m really excited to see them.

As always, you can find me at cevans@leg.state.vt.us or 917-887-8231.

Gardening

Encourage beneficial insects in garden with a bug hotel

Andrew Knepper
University of Vermont Extension

Many gardeners find ways to invite beneficial insects into their spaces by planting native pollinator plants, mulching and avoiding pesticide use. Another way to support a healthy beneficial insect community is a bug hotel.

Bug hotels provide a variety of nesting options for insects that we want to see in our gardens, such as solitary bees, wasps, ladybugs, beetles and spiders. Bug hotels also can be attractive pieces of garden decor.

Follow these easy steps to create a bug hotel for your garden during these last few weeks of older weather. When our insect friends emerge as the weather warms, they will be happy to find a new home to nest and lay eggs.

1. Start by finding or building a wooden frame for your bug hotel. This should be made out of untreated wood and have a depth of about 8 inches. Sometimes the size of a small shoebox is a good size to start with, although boxes can be any size. If one side of the box is longer, that can act as an overhang and protect the nesting materials when exposed to the elements.

2. Our goal in creating the bug hotel is to replicate the natural habitats that these insects search for in nature. Collect materials from around the garden or during a walk in the woods. Or you can purchase a kit online. Different insects look for different nesting spots, so there should be a variety of materials inside the box that are arranged in layers or sections.

Small pieces of bark and dead wood are attractive to beetles and spiders. Centipedes and millipedes also will enjoy making a home in this layer.

Ladybugs like to burrow together in the gaps made by piles of twigs and small sticks. Make sure all the sticks are trimmed so they are even with the depth of the box. Hollow, pithy stems make ideal nesting tunnels for wasps and solitary bees. Some common native plants that can provide these are milkweed, blackberries, black-eyed susans and sunflowers.

Bamboo also can be used for nesting cavities. I sometimes use bamboo in my garden for making and trellis. Each season or two, the bamboo becomes brittle. Putting it into the bug hotel is a great option to continue to use this.

Another way to provide nesting tunnels for solitary bees and other insects is by drilling holes into small pieces of wood. Different insects look for different-sized cavities. The recommended range is 2-10 millimeters in diameter.

Once you have arranged all of your chosen materials in the box, fill any gaps with dry leaves, pieces of straw or small twigs to ensure a tight fit.

Mount or place the bug hotel in a south-facing location at least 3 feet above the ground. Ideally, the spot you choose will be sheltered, or you can choose a frame that includes an overhang.

To maintain a healthy environment for your residents, you will need to replace materials occasionally. Early summer is a good time to clean-out your bug hotel. These will have moved out to pollinate and protect our gardens.

For more information, check out these resources: go.uvm.edu/bee-support and go.uvm.edu/pollinator-nesting.

(Andrew Knepper is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from Bolton.)
It’s finally spring (never mind any snow still on the ground). Daffodils have emerged, their buds anxious to open. Soon tulips (Tulipa), perhaps the most anticipated flowers of spring, will grace front yards and town squares. Tulips are so plentiful that sometimes we take their presence for granted. They’re common flowers, but how much do you really know about them?

Many people assume that since tulips are associated with Holland, they originated in Holland. They’re actually descendants of wildflowers native to Central Asia. The word “tulip” is derived from the Persian word for turban.

Around 3,000 years ago, they were being grown in what is now Turkey. Today, the tulip is Turkey’s national flower. In the late 1500s, tulips made their way to Europe as a gift to a botanist at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. By the 1630s, tulips were being grown commercially in Holland, and hybrid varieties were being developed. The new and exotic flowers were a favorite of the well-to-do. Along with an increasing demand for tulips, prices grew. During a few years in the 1630s, speculation drove the contract price of the rarest varieties to extremes, eventually reaching a fever pitch with certain bulbs selling for as much as a craftsman might earn in a year. That bout of “Tulip Mania” came to an end in 1637 when prices outpaced contract buyers’ willingness to pay.

Some of the most sought-after varieties that helped fuel Tulip Mania had striped or streaked petals, a condition referred to as “broken.” It wasn’t until nearly 300 years later that scientists had the technology to discover that the broken coloration of the petals was caused by a virus (tulip breaking virus aka tulip mosaic virus) transmitted by aphids.

After the drastic drop in the price of tulip bulbs and the end of contract price speculation in 1637, commercial growing of tulips continued to expand. Holland is still recognized for its production of tulips and remains the world’s largest producer with about 3 billion bulbs each year.

Today, there are over 3,500 named tulip varieties that come in a wide selection of colors and shapes. While they can be grown from seed, to do so would take 7-12 years to flower since a bulb must be formed first. Growing tulips from bulbs is quick and easy. Just plant in the fall and enjoy flowers the next spring.

Perhaps the most difficult part of growing tulips is choosing which tulips to grow. Pick one color or several. Tulips come in warm colors ranging from white, cream and yellow to pink, red and orange. Flowers are available in the readily recognizable egg shape, along with ruffled or fringe-edged petals, pointed petals and single or double varieties. Tulips bloom for about a week. If you’d like to extend the time, plant several types, including early, mid-, and late-spring bloomers.

While tulips are a perennial, they may fail to bloom after the first year. Sometimes the bulbs fall victim to hungry squirrels. Sometimes it’s the result of unfavorable conditions. Tulips prefer sun or partial shade and well-drained soil. The bulbs will rot in soggy soil. After flowering, leave foliage until it dies back on its own to allow the bulb to store nutrients for flowering the following spring.

For more information on growing tulips, see go.uvm.edu/tulips.

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For more information on growing tulips, see go.uvm.edu/tulips.

Tulip fields in the Netherlands.
Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m.

The August H poetry reading brings an interfaith comedy show to All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne. Four comedians, no politics, just laughs, poking fun at themselves and life. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/45s565z8.

Thursday, April 13, 6-8 p.m.

Learn the ellbd app

Thursday, April 13, 7-9:30 p.m.

Bridge Butler offers another tech training for bird watchers using the ellbd app. With ellbd, your observations become data for science communities studying bird migration, disappearing species and climate change. The free online class is through the Green Mountain Audubon Center. Registration is open for course starting March 31. See 6955 for more info and to register for a group.

Poetry and cultural identity

Friday, April 7, 7:13 a.m.

Richard Barnard gives the inaugural poet in U.S. history, born in Spain to Cuban exile parents. In this free online presentation for any high school students, Barnardo, teachers and school librarians, Blanco research and discusses his work was published by Vermont Humanities see tinyurl.com/29mknfsz for more info and to register for a group.

Festival of short films

Friday, April 7, 7-9 p.m.

Lunafest features award-winning films for and about women at Main Street Landing in Burlington. Doors open at 6 p.m. for snacks, cash bar, reception and film. Film starts at 7 p.m. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/ydfvdth6.

The power of music

Friday, April 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Middlebury Guitar Festival at Middlebury, along with Theo Bleckmann, in a musical program of works by Bach, contemporary classical and contemporary music. Trumpets and trombones are joined by vocals for an inspiring evening event. Tickets are $20. Projected view this Land, is an examination of music’s power to ignite progressive social movements and movements for change in difficult times. Concert held at Middlebury’s Mahaney Arts Center. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/z035b055.

New H 6vends Race

Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m.

A time kayaking event takes place on the New River in Middlebury, with a half-mile Class IV course. Boaters get two attempts at the course if they need to sign up ahead of time. This is also a popular spectator event. See facebook.com/NewHavenplace for more details and a waiver form. More info also at tinyurl.com/mw4v5kip.

Disappearing structures

Saturday, April 8, 8 p.m.

Photographer Jim Westphalen, Shelburne resident, chronicles the iconic, weathered and aging buildings that represent our country’s rural heritage. His documentary, Vanishes, takes viewers along on his travels, where he shares the history and the stories of these disappearing buildings across the country. More info about the Vermont’s Town Hall Theater. More info, trailer and tickets available at tinyurl.com/3mr2u2q5.

Festival of short films

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

An afternoon of short films from around the world is showcased at the Library in Essex Junction. Free to attend, with a cash bar, reception and raffle; film starts at 1 p.m. For more info, see tinyurl.com/evuv393f.

Dive deep in song

Sunday, April 9, 7-9:30 p.m.

Deep in song is a series of locally produced folk music and stories from the Vermont on the Hill Ministries’ home at the Ethan Allen Homestead at the homestead in Shelburne. More info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/59jxmf8c.

Archaeology of the Homestead

Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m.

A free talk on the archaeological history of the Ethan Allen Homestead set at the homestead with Neil Renihan. Program is in person or online. No registrations needed to attend in person; link for online streaming is at ethanallenhomestead.org.

Spring is for leaping lambs

Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn about sheep, lamb season, wool and afternoon chores at the Children’s Farmyard at Shelburne Farms. Event is also offered Sunday, April 23. More info and registration, plus a complete calendar of upcoming events, is at shelburnefarms.org/calendar.

Music from Madagascar

Sunday, April 15, 3-5 p.m.

Singer Mikheloy performs at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. She’s made the first American-made globes stock all year. Essential ingredients that make the Earth. For more info, see tinyurl.com/4uys5fdj.

All Saints Interfaith Gathering

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Alison Ardo and Dolly Mamon play at the Richmond Congregational Church. This band is known for its folk influences, with some jazz, blues and country thrown in. Their harmonies and soulful sophistication are well known. For tickets and more info, see tinyurl.com/4yv6f9c.

globes made by a former dancer

Wednesday, April 19, noon-1 p.m.

In 1810, Bradford farmer James Wilson made the first American-made globes. The Vermont Historical Society presents a free online class for participants wishing to become proficient at using the eBird app. With the eBird app, you can see Tinyurl.com/3e55uf8y.

Local Holy Week services

Charlotte Congregational Church –

Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m., Good Friday Service Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m., Palm Sunday service Friday, April 7, 4 p.m., Good Friday Service Saturday, April 8, noon, consecration of new Easter banner Sunday, April 9, 9:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Service Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m, Easter worship (also live-streamed)

Lighthouse Baptist Church, Hinesburg

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Easter service

Hinesburg Community Alliance Church

Sunday, April 9, 6 p.m., Good Friday Service Sunday, April 9, 9:30 a.m, Easter Sunday service

United Church of Hinesburg

Saturday, April 8, 6:45 a.m., Easter sunrise service Sunday, April 9, 7:30, Easter service

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne

Saturday, April 8, 5:30 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m., Easter mass

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Charlotte

Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m. Easter mass

Mount Mansfield United Church of Christ, Stowe

Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m., Easter service

All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne

Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m., Sunrise meditation and sunrise coffee Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m., Morning Worship Service Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m, Easter brunch potluck Sunday, April 9, 11 a.m, Music and Spirit service Sunday, April 9, 7 a.m, noon, community Easter egg hunt

Planning Commission: regular meeting

Thursday, April 6, 7-9 p.m

Selectboard

Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Development Review Board: regular meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 7-9:30 p.m.

Selectboard (public informational meeting on amended budget town meeting)

Wednesday, April 12, 6-7:30 p.m.

Regular meetings: 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 22, 7-9 p.m.

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife offers a training clinic for those who would like to become a certified instructor of Let’s Go Fishing. These classes are held at many state locations throughout the season. The clinic teaches adults who are new to fishing, as well as regulations, gear, Vermont fish species and a joy of the sport. There is no fee for the training. More info is for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Program in Essex. Make a small donation to Vermont Public (which serves as your ticket) and you can attend the preview, a Q&A with an attorney and a VIP reception. More info and ticket options at tinyurl.com/2wzv587.

Antiques Roadshow preview

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.

Three episodes of Antiques Roadshow were filmed at Shelburne Museum in July 2022. The events will air on Vermont PBS on April 24, May 1 and May 8 at 8 p.m. To get a sneak peek at what they’ll have coming up, make plans to attend an advance screening event at the Double E Performance Center in Essex. Make a small donation to Vermont Public (which serves as your ticket) and you can attend the preview, a Q&A with an attorney and a VIP reception. More info and ticket options at tinyurl.com/2wzv587.

The Town of Charlotte MEETINGS

Visit charlottevt.org for more information.

The Charlotte News  •  April 6, 2023 •  13
Plant CSI: Solving crimes with plants

Jodi Larison
University of Vermont Extension

Plant materials have been used to solve crimes on television shows, in books and in real life. The use of plant materials in solving crimes is called forensic botany. Plant materials that have been utilized in solving crimes include flowers, fruits, leaves, pollen, seeds and wood.

In his book, “Fruits of the Poisonous Tree: A Joe Gunther Mystery,” Vermont author Archer Mayor’s character Detective J.P. Tyler, commenting on evidence from a crime scene, held up a small baggie with a tiny fragment of organic matter in it. As to this organic matter, he said, “It’s Russian olive … not a rare plant. … The point is, there ain’t a single Russian olive on Gail’s property.”

Gail was the victim. Tyler also noted that he found “a Russian olive right in front of” a suspect’s trailer.

While that’s an example of plant CSI in fiction, one of the first and most famous cases solved using forensic botany was the 1992 kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby. A homemade ladder used in the kidnapping was left behind at the scene.

The rings of a piece of wood in the ladder matched perfectly with the rings of a floorboard in the attic of Bruno Richard Hauptmann, according to Dr. Arthur Koehler, chief wood technologist at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. The match was an exact match of the annual rings as well as their unique pattern.

The defense team tried to disallow the forensic botany evidence, but the judge decreed that Koehler was an expert and allowed his testimony. Hauptmann was convicted with the testimony presented by the wood technologist key to his conviction.

The first time plant DNA was used to get a conviction was in a 1992 murder of a woman in Arizona. In this case, an investigator noticed that a Palo Verde tree near the victim’s body had recently been scraped, possibly by a vehicle. DNA in the seeds from the tree matched the DNA of seeds found in seed pods in the suspect’s truck.

In both these cases, the plant material created botanical “fingerprints” that led to convictions.

Pollen also can act as a botanical fingerprint. For example, pollen might help identify a region where an event occurred or where a suspect has been. In some cases, analysis actually can link a leaf to a single tree.

When the pollen of some plants is unique, this is not true for all plants. For example, grass pollen generally can be linked to specific plants or areas, but seeds and fragments of algae may have unique DNA. While not technically a plant, algae also has added in solving crimes.

Additionally, plant materials may provide clues as to the timing of an incident. In the 2011 trial of Casey Anthony, plant materials were used by the defense to refute the prosecution’s timeline. In this case, a forensic botanist determined the duration of time that her daughter Caylee’s body was in the woods, all based on the growth of the plants in and around her remains.

Forensic botanist Christopher Hardy, a professor at Millersylvania University, has been cited as stating that forensic botany is an ideal investigative tool because it is always unbiased. So, the science of botany may be more important than one might think when it comes to solving crimes.

On Books

A compelling story of standing up to evil in World War II

Katherine Arthaud
Contributor

Happy spring—even though the temperature feels more like winter at the moment. But the sun is shining, and the sky is mostly blue, so it isn’t inconceivable that spring will really spring.

There are many, many positive things one could say about this book, one of which is the way author, Rebecca Donner breaks up the narrative into smallish segments, making the story easier to process than had it been written in long, dense narrative blocks. Also, there is something approaching poetry in the way Donner pauses and resumes her narrative. Plus, the inclusion of photographs of people and of fragments of original documents (including diary entries, letters, notes smuggled out of a Berlin prison, etcetera) render the book more personal, more engaging, more artful than your typical history book or biography.

“Her aim,” the book begins, “was self-erasure. The more invisible she was, the better her chances of survival. … She was at the harrowing center of the German resistance, but she wasn’t German, nor was she Polish or French. She was American—and conspicuously so. … The nature of her work required absolute secrecy. She didn’t dare tell her family, who were scattered across the towns and dairy farms of the Midwest. They remained bewildered that she, at 26, had jumped aboard a steamer ship and crossed the Atlantic, leaving behind everyone she loved. She preferred anonymity so I will whisper her name: Mildred Hancock.”

Mildred Hancock (Donner’s great-great-aunt) was born Sept. 16, 1902, in Milwaukee, Wis. In 1932, she held her first clandestine meeting in her German apartment with “a small band of political activists that grew into...”

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Notice for Public Informational Hearing

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING FOR AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLE TO BE VOTED AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 2, 2023

The Selectboard of the Town of Charlotte hereby gives notice that, in accordance with ST. V.S.A, §205(b)(1), an informational hearing will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Town Hall, 119 Ferry Road, Charlotte, Vermont, to discuss and hear questions regarding the article to be voted by Australian ballot at the Special Town Meeting on May 2, 2023. Town officials will be present during the public informational hearing to answer questions.

Public may participate in the hearing in person or via electronic means (Zoom)—see the link, phone number and meeting information below. The Zoom link, phone number and meeting information will also be posted on the Town’s website: charlottetown.org.

Please contact Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (425-3071 ext. 5; dean@townofcharlotte.com), with any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this meeting.

Link to join meeting online (via Zoom): https://tinyurl.com/2qf5n64
Join by phone at this number: 1-920-205-6099
Meeting ID: 858-4563 7552
Passcode: 256915
Other links:
• 19532056099,83161775649,7948202
• Please see information for participating in Selectboard meeting by clicking here: https://ka7ip5p9f

The following article is to be voted by Australian ballot at the Special Town Meeting:

Article 1: Will the voters of the Town approve the Selectboard’s revised budget of $2,780,713 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 of which an anticipated sum of $1,176,302 will be raised by property taxes and an anticipated sum of $1,604,321 will be raised by non-tax revenues?
New reason to smile:
One appointment = One new crown
If you need a crown, there's no need to see two or three dentists — we can do it in one appointment.

Library News

Crocheting, archaeology, microscopic viewing and more

ON BOOKS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the largest underground resistance group in Berlin by the end of the decade. They helped Jews escape, collaborated in writing leaflets Berlin by the end of the decade. They helped Jews escape, collaborated in writing leaflets to the Allies.

ON BOOKS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Despite Harnack’s wish to remain invisible, she left a trail for historians to follow. We learn about her family of origin, her marriage (to a German and fellow resistor), her friendships, her special gift of discerning who might be a possible recruit for the movement and who could not be trusted, her unbreakable bravery, her loyalty, her dedication, her strength, her time in prison. This was a woman who sacrificed everything — life, safety, comfort, family — to stand against as best she was able to the evil blossoming around her. It is an eerily intimate portrait that Donner paints of an extraordinary ordinary human being who might well have otherwise remained obscured by the shadows of her time and the sheer madness and confusion of those days.

In the end, the reader learns about a number of heroically courageous, able souls who worked alongside Harnack and in their own right to sabotage the meteoric rise of the Nazi Party. One individual whose story is braided into those of Mildred, her husband Arvid and others is a child, Don, whose father, a Kansas native, was working at the U.S. embassy at the time. We first meet 11-year-old Don skittering across the city with a blue knapsack to meet with his tutor, who is also American. “The boy is her courier, in the language of espionage. An 11-year-old spy.” Once his lessons are finished, his tutor “helps him with his coat and slips a piece of paper into his knapsack. Sometimes the paper looks like a reading list. Sometimes it looks like a recipe. Sometimes it looks like a letter, which she signs Mildred or, simply, M.”

This book is a masterpiece — not one I will soon forget. And I couldn’t help but notice, with chills icing my spine even in the heat of a Florida sun, how much 1940s Germany parallels some of what we are now witnessing in our own country. Like, for instance, the pressure the Nazis put on German women to leave their careers and professions to remain in the home, serve their husbands and give birth to as many children as possible — reminiscent of the war on women going on now in the U.S. with the systematic stripping away of women’s reproductive rights. Also, the banning of books. The prejudice and marginalization of certain ethnic groups. And the marginalization of LGBTQ people. And more. Yikes.

Oh, and just two more things:

• An accurate tally of the deaths at concentration camps is impossible. Available evidence indicates that two-thirds of the Jewish population in Europe—or six million Jews—were murdered.

• The title, “All the Troubles of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that Harnack, shackled in her cell at Gefangnis of Our Days,” is from a Goethe poem that 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Senior Center News

Developing social connections at a happening place

Lori York
Director

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of social connections. The Charlotte Senior Center is more than just a building where activities happen. The senior center is a community center where people gather for enrichment and social interactions. Visit the senior center and attend some of the programming. Learn about growing a pollinator garden or view the new photography exhibit. There are language groups, daily exercise classes. Or, visit for Monday lunch and gather for board and card games afterwards.

The senior center offers programming for adults 50 and older from Charlotte and surrounding communities. Priority is given to seniors, but programming is open to adults of all ages.

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening? Sign up for the “Week Ahead” email is sent out on 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.

Art show: photographic exhibit

A collection of scenic and wildlife photography by David Pearson. Pearson’s artistic style conveys his belief that “sometimes all it takes is pausing to take a deeper and longer look at the simple and ordinary, to see it from a different perspective.”

Chat with Chea Waters Evans
Monday, April 17, 1 p.m.

Bring your questions and concerns for a legislator. Meet and greet with Chea Waters Evans. Waters Evans is your newly elected Chittenden-5 representative and is interested in hearing from you so she can bring forward your issues in Montpelier.

Red Cross blood drive
Thursday, April 13, 2-7 p.m.

Please consider donating blood. The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: CHARLOTTE to schedule an appointment.

Senior Resource Fair
Wednesday, May 24, 3-5 p.m.

Stop by the senior center for the first annual Senior Resource Fair and learn about all the great resources available to seniors in the community. Over 20 local organizations have registered to be at the center to share information about their services.

Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.-noon.

It is time to plan for the Charlotte Senior Center’s Annual Plant Sale. If you are interested in donating plants or helping out with the plant sale, please contact Sukey at 802-877-2237 or Polly at ppolly02@gmail.com.

Programs

Antarctica
Tuesday, April 11, 1 p.m.

Interested in learning more about the Earth’s southernmost and least populated continent? Join Bill Fraser-Harris for this presentation about his recent trip to Antarctica, including his experience hiking and touring in Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park and Patagonia in Chile and Argentina. There will be photographs to pique your interest in travel and discussion around the preservation of this natural resource. Q&A to follow the presentation. Cost: Free. Registration recommended.

Birding expedition
Wednesday, April 12, 9 a.m.

There are a wide range of birding habitats in Chittenango County. Join avid bird watcher, Hank Kaestner and learn to identify the various bird species and habitats right here in Vermont. Registration required and group size is limited. To register for this class, create an account on the Charlotte Senior Center website under the Registration tab and follow the instructions to register for this birding trip. Cost: Free.

Carmen discussion
Tuesday, April 18, 1 p.m.

Toni Hill of the Chittenden County Opera Lovers will present a discussion on Georges Bizet’s Carmen, including video excerpts of the opera and exploring how the music and the drama were combined, reflecting changes in style based on pulp fiction in the 19th century. Cost: Free. Registration recommended.

Grow a pollinator garden
Thursday, April 20, 7-8 p.m.

Everyone is becoming more aware of the importance and plight of pollinators. Pollinating insects, birds and other creatures are essential not just for flower gardens, but also the food we eat. Every plant helps for pollinators. Charlie Nardozzi will discuss the essential ingredients to a successful pollinator garden beyond the plants, including habitat, water, shelter and best gardening practices for pollinators, and highlight pollinators beyond just honey bees. He will also discuss the plants that are best for pollinators, with emphasis on the open pollinated varieties.

Creative arts group
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

Come create, experiment, share ideas, encourage others and have fun. Bring whatever creative endeavor you’re working on or thinking about and enjoy making new friends while being creative. As Einstein said, “Creativity is intelligence having fun.” Let’s have some fun together. Any questions, call Katie Franks at 802-425-6270. Cost: Free.

Kelt & crochet for a cause
Thursdays, 2-3 p.m.

This group will meet weekly to work on projects that will be donated to local organizations in the community, to include COTS, Lund and the University of Vermont Medical Center’s oncology division. Bring a skein of yarn and needles or hook and let’s stitch. Patterns will be available, but feel free to bring your own project to work on. All skill levels are welcome. Registrations appreciated, but not required.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Men’s breakfast
Thursday, April 13, 7-9:30 a.m.

On the second Thursday of the month, the men gather for breakfast and conversation. This month, John Brawley, president of Sweet Sound Aquaculture, will be presenting “The Joys and Challenges of Raising and Selling Shrimp in Vermont.” Register by Tuesday, April 11, by noon. Suggested breakfast donation of $6. To register, contact Tim McCollough at cshrimp@aol.com.

Monday lunches
Served weekly. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or until the food runs out. Suggested lunch donation $5. No registration required.

Music is always a popular attraction at the senior center.

Weekly Age Well Grab-and-Go meals
Pick up on Thursdays 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is required by Monday the Thursday meal. $5 suggested meal donation but not required. To register, contact Carol Pepin at 802-425-6345 or at meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

From left, Frank Califano, Sean Moran and Carol Pepin help with Grab-and-Go meals. Volunteers distribute between 70-120 meals on Thursday mornings.

Senior center contact info:
Lori York, director, lyor@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte
802-425-6345
charlotteseniorcentervt.org

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.
Mulligatawny soup, the featured item for Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center, has a long, intriguing history. This popular soup has traveled from India, settling in at points around the globe, before making its appearance in Charlotte.

The article “Some Like It Hot: Class, Gender and Empire in the Making of Mulligatawny Soup,” published in Economic and Political Weekly and available at tinyurl.com/3kxe2hab, offers insights into the identity and power structures embedded in this food — and in everything else we eat.

Noted missionary and explorer David Livingston wrote of eating mulligatawny during his African explorations; Charles Dickens’s weekly magazine, “All the Year Round,” published a recipe. Another Victorian novelist, William Makepeace Thackery, who was born in Calcutta where his father worked for the East India Company, had his poem about mulligatawny published in “Punch.” Charles Francatelli, chief cook for Queen Victoria, had his own version, which included ham, a turnip, a carrot and six apples. Heinz put the popular soup in tins where you can still find it today.

Look at the menu board near the counter in the “Soup Nazi’s” shop in this episode (tinyurl.com/2p9zh62w) of Seinfeld, and you will see 11 soup choices. Mulligatawny sits at the top of the list.

There are no Soup Nazis at the Charlotte Senior Center and rest assured that you won’t be kicked out if you ask for bread with your soup. Bread is always served with Monday Munch.

Beef with BBQ sauce, baked beans, broccoli florets and pumpkin cookie.

A few more words about Monday Munch. Mulligatawny soup with a glass of sherry is the first course served in “Dinner for One,” an 18-minute British slapstick farce. Not popular in Britain, try to figure out why watching this film is a German New Year’s rite, the most frequently repeated TV program there. People in Denmark, Sweden and Finland have adopted this New Year’s tradition (tinyurl.com/587s9uws).

There’s a short introduction in German, followed by the farce in English. I confess I could not make myself sit through all 18 minutes, but Rotten Tomatoes reports that lots of people give this high approval.

Think about what message people were trying to send when they reincarnated the soup as potage de madres and consommé l’idienne.

Meanwhile, at McSweeney’s, Sam Woods gives us an Olive Garden menu written by H.P. Lovecraft at tinyurl.com/bdzn92kn. Reading this should make you aware of how fortunate you are for the open invitation to come for Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center.

Yes, there is a song called “Mulligatawny.” Here’s Fred Douglas singing it in 1927: tinyurl.com/bdftybxw.

Searching for a song to welcome spring? Here’s one: tinyurl.com/4t9hax7j.

Enjoy mulligatawny — a well-traveled soup

Thursday, April 13
Men’s Breakfast: 7:9:30 a.m.
Enjoy a conversational breakfast and then hear a talk on the joys and challenges of raising and selling shrimp in Vermont by John Brawley of Sweet Sound Aquaculture. To register contact Tim McCullough at cubnut5@aol.com.

Grab-and-Go meal
Pick up time 10-11 a.m.
Baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, Capri blend vegetables and Congo bar. The meal is provided by Age Well. Suggested donation of $5, but not required. Pay what you can, when you can.

Monday Munch, April 17
At press time, volunteer cooks are still planning. For menu update, go to charlotteseniorcentervt.org/lunch/meals.

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