

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

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Beach here now

Photo by Bill Fraser-Harris

Eva Fraser-Harris has for several summers provided a yoga class on Sundays at the beach. Although the class was free, donations to the effort at effortlessness accrued. Those funds went to this meditation rock overlooking the Charlotte Town Beach.

The Charlotte News

May 18 2023

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Museum plans 40th building for Native American art

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Although the Shelburne Museum has been focused on a new building to house Native American art for four years, the seeds of the Perry Center for Native American Art actually go back much farther, back to the museum’s founding in 1947.

“The very first plan for the museum from the 1940s has a Native American gallery on it,” said Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding director and CEO of Shelburne Museum.

On Monday, May 8, the Shelburne Museum announced it was building a \$12.6 million, 9,750-square-foot facility to house Native American art. This will be the 40th building on the museum’s 45-acre campus, and it will be designed by internationally acclaimed architectural studio Adjaye Associates.

Museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb purchased some very important baskets from the Pacific Northwest right after World War II. She purchased the baskets from Louis Comfort Tiffany, son of the founder of Tiffany & Company, famous for its jewelry and lamps.

Comfort Tiffany was the company’s first design director at his father’s company, and these Native American baskets had been inspiration for his lamps.

The Tiffany artifacts were exhibited at Shelburne Museum until the 1990s, when it was decided they should be displayed in



Courtesy photo
Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding director and CEO of the Shelburne Museum

a way that was more culturally sensitive in an environment suitable for such organic material.

Denenberg said the museum plans to engage contemporary Indigenous artists moving forward, possibly having a gallery space in the new building where contemporary artists respond to the historical collections.

The name for the new building comes from the significant collection of Native

American art donated to the Shelburne Museum by Anthony and Teresa Perry, who lived in Charlotte for years.

The late Anthony Perry owned a number of restaurants across the Northeast, including Sirloin Saloons in Shelburne and Manchester and Sweetwaters and Perry’s Fish House in Burlington. Many of his



Photo by Jennifer Hardman
Artist formerly known (Iowa),Moccasins, ca. 1860–70. Perry Collection of Native American Arts. M23.



Courtesy photo
Artist formerly known [Tsistsistas/Suhtai (Cheyenne)],Beaded Pannier, ca.1880. Collection of Shelburne Museum, gift of Ogden M. Pleissner.1961-182.36.1.

SEE **MUSEUM** PAGE 2

Charlotter is Pulitzer Prize winner with L.A. Times

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

There are prizes. And there are prizes. Then there is the Pulitzer Prize.

For a journalist a Pulitzer Prize is like a Superbowl ring.

It’s a big deal when someone in your state wins a Pulitzer Prize.

It’s a really big deal when someone from your town of just over 3,900 residents wins the Stanley Cup of journalism.

On Monday, this year’s winners of the Pulitzer Prize were announced. Among those chosen few was Dakota Smith.

Smith may live in Los Angeles and work for the Los Angeles Times, but she grew up in Charlotte and considers it her hometown. Her parents live here.

The award was recognition for months of intensive work by that newspaper’s staff that began in early October when a reporter at The Times learned there was a secret recording of a meeting between members of the L.A. City Council and a labor leader at which racist remarks had been made.

On the recording the city council president and other city lawmakers could be heard talking about how they and other Latino politicians would hold onto power. During the discussion, they referred to a white councilman and his Black son in racist terms.

Smith was part of the four-person

SEE **PULITZER** PAGE 2

Win cruise, etc. in our photo contest

Claudia Marshall
Board of Directors

You are cordially invited to enter The Charlotte News photo contest — “What Charlotte Means to Me.”

In the inimitable words of the 1971 Rod Stewart song: “Every picture tells a story, don’t it?”

We’d love to see your photo of Charlotte, and to learn about the story behind the picture, since they will undoubtedly be unlike any other. Maybe it’s a photo of a pig or cow or pet? It might be a landscape, like the view from the Charlotte Beach, a covered bridge or a crumbling barn. Or even a pic of your family, or a community gathering. You decide.

Photos should be submitted by email and must be received by Friday, June 30. Your entry should be accompanied by an explanation of no more than one or two sentences that describe how your photo expresses what Charlotte means to you (see below).

Our judge is Lee Krohn. You’ve seen many of his photos on the pages of The Charlotte News. We’re grateful to him both for judging our photo contest, and also for providing us with such a beautiful and diverse range of photos for the paper. Judging criteria will include composition, image quality, creativity and how well your photo and description capture and express what Charlotte means to you.

We will publish a selection of the winning photos in the July 13 paper and on The Charlotte News website. As if that wasn’t prize enough, several Charlotte residents and a business have donated prizes:

First Prize: A late afternoon Lake Champlain cruise on the Albin 28 trawler “Cloud Nine” for up to four people. To include cocktails and enticing snacks. Offered by Glen Findholt and Frances



Photos by Lee Krohn

Foster.

Second Prize: A two-hour Charlotte outing to share photography tips and techniques with Lee Krohn, our contest judge.

Third Prize: A \$100 gift certificate for organic vegetables, flowers and herbs produced by Head Over Fields. Redeemable at their farm stand in Charlotte or at the Shelburne Farmers Market.

The fine print: Photos are due by Friday, June 30, 5 p.m. They should be submitted

by email to Anna Cyr, our production manager, at anna@thecharlottenews.org. Photos should be high resolution, 300 dpi. One entry per person, please. Your entry must include your name, address, phone number and email address (so we can notify you) and a brief description of how your photo expresses what Charlotte means to you.

That’s it. Just that simple. So, get out there, get clickin’ and send us your photo of “What Charlotte Means to Me.”

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

restaurants had a Western theme, and he raised buffalo in Charlotte.

When the Perry collection is combined with the Indigenous art already in the museum’s collection, around 80 tribes from coast to coast will be represented at the Perry Center for Native American Art. The Perry collection is “very Electra Webb-like,” Denenberg said. For example, with close to 50 pairs of moccasins, it’s very similar to the type of collecting Webb engaged in.

“It’s one of the largest additions to the museum since Electra Webb founded it, by far,” said Denenberg. “I think it’s the right moment to question what do we mean by ‘Americana.’”

Having the new building at the south end of the campus means it will be near the entrance and one of the first exhibits available to entering visitors. He likes the idea of people beginning their visit here.

“It’s a wonderful way of resetting how people view American art, American culture and American history,” Denenberg said.

Although the design plans are still being drawn, he expects it to be “sort of an inside-out building,” so that the landscaping will be integral to the building’s design. Reed Hilderbrand, a Cambridge, Mass., landscape architecture firm has been hired to realize the museum’s vision of landscaping that’s as important as the building.

The museum has consulted with the leadership of the four bands of the state-recognized Abenaki Tribe. Don Stevens of Shelburne, Chief of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation, told Denenberg that he was less interested in the building itself than he was interested in

the garden that will surround it.

“The relationship of the place to the building is really what’s key,” Denenberg said.

Since long before Europeans arrived, Shelburne has been a point of exchange for Indigenous people from the west side of Lake Champlain. He said, “It’s all kind of part of an ecosystem here, and we want to make sure that that’s really encoded in the building.”

The hiring of Adjaye Associates as architects for the new building is an impressive coup for Shelburne Museum. There are not that many Adjaye-designed buildings in the United States, and this will be the first in New England.

The firm is internationally known for working across cultures. Included in its resume is the design for the National Museum of African American History and Culture for the Smithsonian Institution and an Aboriginal-themed community building and plaza in Sydney, Australia.

“They’re particularly adept at this kind of project,” Denenberg said.

Founder of the firm David Adjaye is a Ghanaian-British architect, who was born in 1966 in Tanzania to a Ghanaian diplomat. He moved with his family to Britain when he was 9. Adjaye was knighted in 2017.

In a release, Adjaye said, “Our team is inspired by the potential of the Perry Center to not only enhance Shelburne Museum as a destination for education, but also to amplify and empower the Indigenous communities represented by the collection and to reconceptualize the role of a museum facility in the 21st century.”

The first renderings of the building are expected in the summer. The museum is looking for a design with avant-garde, cutting-edge architecture that will be a cultural center of the organization. Denenberg said the museum feels a



Photography by AndyDubac

Artists formerly known (Alaska, Northwest Coast and Plateau),Carrying Basket, Basket, Berry Basket and Lidded Basket,late 19th or early 20thcentury. Collection of Shelburne Museum, gifts of Electra Havemeyer Webb& J. Watson Webb, Jr. 1947 17.1, 3 & 6 and 1973 13.

responsibility to build something that’s not just special for its collections, but also for its symbolism as a building.

The museum has been hearing from teachers who are excited about the ways the new building will increase its value as an educational resource.

The project has received early public and private grant funding support including from the Henry Luce Foundation, state of Vermont, National Endowment for the Arts, Institute of Museum and Library Services and National Endowment for the Humanities, which recently awarded the project a \$750,000 Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant, the museum’s release said.

It’s exciting to finally be able to share the news, said Leslie Wright, Shelburne Museum’s director of advancement. She expects ground to be broken for the new construction in the fall of 2024.

PULITZER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

team of reporters who learned about the recording on a Saturday afternoon and worked through the night, writing a story that was posted just after 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9.

The revelation of the recording guided the L.A. Times staff to subsequent stories, revealing a racial divide in Los Angeles’ city government and leading to the city council president’s resignation within a week of the story breaking.

This past Sunday, Smith’s editor sent out an email asking for reporters to come to the newsroom to watch when the Pulitzer awards were announced at noon on Monday. “Usually when they do that it’s a sign that somebody is either a finalist maybe or somebody won,” Smith said.

But the newspaper was up for other awards, so she hoped, but didn’t know if, her team had won.

Smith was one of about 100 reporters watching as the nominees and winners were announced. When the announcement came of the newspaper’s win for breaking news reporting, she felt “sheer joy.”

“We had worked so hard on it and it was such a difficult time for the city to watch what people were going through after this audio was released, this horrible audio,” Smith said. “It felt good to be rewarded for our hard work.”

The Pulitzer Prize for breaking news



Dakota Smith Courtesy photo

reporting usually goes to events like natural or manmade disasters. For example, last year the prize went to the staff of the Miami Herald for its coverage of the condominium collapse. The year before the award went to the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, Minn., for its coverage of the death of George Floyd at the hands of police and of the reverberations that followed.

She felt it was particularly gratifying for them to win for a government beat like covering city hall.

In 2016, Smith was thrilled when she

was hired by the L.A. Times to cover the mayor and city hall after years as a writer and reporter.

She has always had a passion for writing, but it was particularly kindled by an English teacher during her high school years at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts.

Writing was natural for her because she has always been curious about “understanding the world through understanding different people’s points of view.”

Her dad, Whit Smith, said his daughter had always written a lot, and since her school days he has believed in her talent.

“You could tell she had a natural ability as a writer,” he said. “Written expression was a clear vocational option.”

She moved to Charlotte with her family when she was 7 and entered the second grade at Charlotte Central School.

Smith has wonderful memories of her childhood, building snow forts behind the school, going to the Old Brick Store for a lemonade on a hot day, watching the ferry come in, playing softball and reading the school menus in The Charlotte News.

“I just encourage everyone to support their local news outlets,” Smith said. “It’s so important for government accountability, that reporters can be watchdogs and city hall can be closely scrutinized.”

As exciting as it was to talk to a Pulitzer Prize winner, the telephone conversation with Dakota Smith had to end — she had another story to finish.



Mission Statement
To engage and inform Charlotte and nearby communities by:

- Publishing rigorous, in-depth reporting on town affairs.
- Providing a home for stories from our neighbors and friends.
- Reporting on how other towns have addressed challenges similar to our own.

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

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

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

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Dorset Street bridge reopens with a weight limit

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

“Sixteen tons and what do you get?” asks a song Merle Travis wrote and Tennessee Ernie Ford made famous. A relatively fat fine if you drive a truck that heavy across the Dorset Street bridge might be the response the Charlotte Selectboard would sing if they formed a country band. In fact, any truck weighing over 15 tons could get you a fine for driving over the bridge between Carpenter and Hinesburg roads after the board’s meeting on Monday, May 8.

The selectboard voted unanimously to lower the weight limit for the temporarily repaired bridge, which was closed since April 25 after a hole was discovered in it. On the previous Monday, the selectboard had held a special meeting, called to address the Dorset Street bridge issue. At that meeting the board voted to approve spending not more than \$23,000 for Parent Construction of Hinesburg to make the temporary fix.

“It doesn’t get any better than that. That actually took about one week, so this goes down in the record as the fastest repair we’ve ever done,” said chair Jim Faulkner after road commissioner Junior Lewis shared the news that the bridge had reopened earlier that day. He also gave props to Lewis for saving the town \$1,700 by negotiating for a used 1-inch piece of steel to make the temporary repair. In a phone conversation, Lewis said the bridge was repaired with steel sheets that were paved over. He said the bridge looks “pretty sound” now. The weight limit was imposed to cut down on wear and tear on the temporary fix. The fine for exceeding that limit could be in the thousands of dollars, Lewis said, and would be based upon how much over the limit a truck is. The fine is set by the

“There are limited funds that come through the Federal Highway Administration,” Marshia said. “The needs outpace the funding. It’s a competitive process.”

— Kevin Marshia
director of asset management for
the Vermont Agency of Transportation

state. Signs warning of the weight limit will be posted at Carpenter Road and Dorset Street, at Hinesburg Road and Dorset Street and on both sides of the bridge. Kevin Marshia, director of asset management for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, said sometimes such temporary repairs may be good for 10-15 years or even longer. Although there is a good bit of deterioration in the concrete structure with some exposed rebar, Marshia said this kind of deterioration unfortunately is not unusual on Vermont’s bridges. Among other things, salt spread on snowy roads contributes to bridges’ declining. The almost 90-foot bridge over the LaPlatte River was originally built in 1939



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

The bridge on Dorset Street between Carpenter Road and Hinesburg Road is in need of major structural repair work and was temporarily closed on April 25.

and reconstructed in 1960, according to state records. The bridge is one of six in Charlotte the town is responsible for maintaining, three concrete and three covered, Lewis said. Vermont is responsible for any bridges on state roads and the only state road in Charlotte is Route 7. The selectboard is hoping to get federal funds that are dispensed by the state to help pay for a permanent fix of the bridge, but it will be a while before the town can get those funds — if it can. The deadline for applying passed April 15, so it will be another year before Charlotte can apply. “There are limited funds that come through the Federal Highway Administration,” Marshia said. “The needs outpace the funding. It’s a

competitive process.” There are 4,000 bridges in Vermont, and the state inspects both town and state bridges annually. There are smaller grants of up to \$200,000 that the state of Vermont gives for such projects, but that is a small part of what the eventual fix will probably cost. Marshia said it was impossible for him to give a round estimate of what the bridge fix might cost. That kind of figure will have to wait until there’s been an engineering study. Getting on the capital program for federal funds to get the bridge permanently rebuilt will probably take at least four-six years, he said.

Letter to the Editor

E-waste is world’s fastest growing waste stream

To the Editor:
I would like to raise awareness about one of the largest waste problems in the world, electronic waste (e-waste). E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world. The U.S. produces 13.84 billion pounds of e-waste every year. Only 12.5 percent is properly recycled in the U.S. Of the remainder, about 40 percent is exported to developing countries across Africa and Asia. Most of it goes to India and China where waste laws are the least restrictive and labor costs are extremely low. Underpaid workers are subject to awful working

conditions resulting in severe and permanent health effects from toxic chemicals released during the extraction of valuable materials in open air acid baths or burnings. E-waste also has major negative effects on the environment. In the U.S. it makes up just 2 percent of waste in landfills but accounts for over 70 percent of toxic waste. This high toxicity found in electronics causes serious pollution and chemical leaching into the environment, affecting both wildlife and people that rely on it. This problem is amplified in countries where e-waste is exported to because of the unsafe and uncontained methods of “recycling” done there. So, what can you do? The first thing

is to reduce the amount of e-waste you produce. This can be done by not needlessly upgrading to the most up-to-date hardware as soon as it is released and instead focus on making your electronics last. Another thing you can do is not throw away your old electronics in the trash (even though it’s illegal in Vermont). Instead bring your e-waste to a recycling facility that uses proper recycling methods. Some organizations close to Charlotte include: Chittenden Solid Waste District with collection centers across Chittenden County, Staples, Best Buy and Good Point Recycling in Middlebury. Griffin Hengelsberg
Charlotte



NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

June 1

Copy Deadline: Friday, May 26
Ads Deadline: Friday, May 26

June 15

Copy Deadline: Friday, June 9
Ads Deadline: Friday, June 9

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Outdoors

Climbers beware: cliffs closed as peregrine falcons nest

Kira Corasanti
Community News Service

As part of an ongoing recovery project, wildlife officials have announced the annual closings of cliffs where peregrine falcons nest across Vermont. The closures began this month and will run until Aug. 1 to protect the birds from human interference during breeding season.

“These nesting closures are critical,” said biologist Margaret Fowle of Audubon Vermont. “We want to maintain the population.”

Peregrine falcons, known for their remarkable speed and hunting skills, have made an extraordinary comeback from near extinction in the past century. In the mid-1900s, peregrines became both federal and state endangered species after suffering significant declines due to the harmful pesticide DDT.

“They were one of the species that was telling a story of what DDT was doing to the environment,” Fowle said. Reintroduction efforts began in the mid-1970s, and in 2005, peregrines were taken off Vermont’s endangered list.

But their nesting sites remain vulnerable to human activities, such as rock climbing and hiking, which can scare young birds or keep falcons away from their young. “They are still considered a sensitive species and one of conservation need,” Fowle said.

Audubon Vermont coordinates peregrine falcon monitoring and management efforts in partnership with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Green Mountain Club and Climbing Resource Access Group, or CRAG, a rock climbing and conservation organization. Volunteers and officials find and document nests, determine

incubation, hatching and fledging dates and count the number of young fledged at each site.

The closures have been happening since the 1980s. “They are pretty consistent with where they breed — they come back to the same cliff year after year,” said Fowle. There are 12 cliffs closed for nesting season this summer.

Keeping climbers away from nests is especially important since their presence can lead to falcons deaths.

“There is a critical window with the chicks in particular where they aren’t ready to fly yet,” said Travis Peckham, a volunteer with CRAG. “If climbers get too close, the chicks would jump prematurely . . . It’s a risk to the chicks and a risk to the climbers — of course you don’t want to be climbing on a rock when a bird smacks into you.”

Every year, volunteers put up new signs and postings on climbs or trails.

Yet some people ignore these warnings. “We know people have been seen going on the top despite the closures or the signage,” Fowle said. Rested on an overlook, the nesting site on Prospect Rock in Johnson is a problem area frequented by many hikers.

“In 2020, the nest on Prospect didn’t survive because of people,” Peckham said. Now the birds don’t come back, which is why the site isn’t on this year’s list. The Green Mountain Club plans to reroute the trail there to avoid the overlook.

Posting signs can be tricky, too, because people might be tempted to try to see the birds if they know they’re around. “You want there to be awareness, but sometimes you don’t want there to be attention,” said Rosalind Renfrew, who manages the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Wildlife

Diversity Program and teaches at the University of Vermont.

At the same time, monitoring from volunteers and recreationists is an important part of the ongoing efforts. “If people are climbing or hiking and find peregrines, they help spread the word,” Fowle noted.

The extra eyes can also dissuade would-be intruders. “It would be pretty embarrassing if you were to disturb them and someone found out,” Renfrew said.

Since their comeback, peregrines have established more than 40 nesting sites in Vermont. “It’s exciting for me as a climber to see a peregrine falcon,” said Peckham. “That was not the case 20 years ago.”

Why are peregrine falcons important? “They nest on these cliff sites, and they take small birds as prey. They occupy a niche that no other species does around here,” Renfrew said. “And frankly, they are amazing for people. They are a spectacle.” The birds can also tell scientists how the rest of the ecosystem is doing. “If they aren’t doing well, it’s a sign that other things aren’t doing well,” Fowle said.

The closure sites are:
Bolton Notch (Bolton) — UUW cliff’s cliff access and climbing closed
Bone Mountain (Bolton) — portions closed to climbing
Deer Leap (Bristol) — clifftop and climbing closed
Eagle Ledge (Vershire) — closed to hiking and climbing
Fairlee Palisades (Fairlee) — clifftop closed



Photo by U.S. National Park Service

A peregrine falcon in flight.

Marshfield Mountain (Marshfield) — portions closed to climbing
Mt. Horrid (Rochester) — Great Cliff overlook closed
Nichols Ledge (Woodbury) — clifftop and climbing closed
Red Rocks Park (South Burlington) — southern cliff access closed
Rattlesnake Point (Salisbury) — southern overlook closed
Snake Mountain (Addison) — entire western trail closed.
People who want to get involved can reach out to Fowle at margaret.fowle@audubon.org.
Editor’s note: After the initial publication of the story, Fowle told Community News Service that falcons had been found at Prospect this week.
(Community News Service works in a partnership with The Charlotte News and other local media outlets to provide opportunities to University of Vermont students.)

Outdoors



Photo by Don Stevens
This bear showed up in Don Stevens’ backyard on Bacon Drive near Marsett Road.

The bare necessities of avoiding bear complexities

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Shortly before noon on Sunday morning Don Stevens saw a small bear, about 100 pounds, playing with his bird feeder. His home is on Bacon Road, not very far north of the Charlotte town line.

Although the bear bent the rod holding the feeder, it didn’t destroy anything. “I think he respected that we are both a part of the Bear Clan,” said Stevens, who is Chief of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation.

Sgt. Josh Flore of the Shelburne Police reported the department had received multiple reports of a bear in the Hullcrest Road–Hedgerow Drive neighborhood north of Shelburne Village near the Country Christmas Loft on Tuesday.

Flore sent a timely reminder that people often encourage bears and other wildlife into populated areas by providing easy access to food without realizing it. When these animals become used to these food sources and humans, they become more dependent on human foods and less wary.

The most common sources of food that attract bears are pet food, bird feeders, barbecue grills, household trash and the like.

In his release, Flore asked for people to “take these reasonable measures” to protect their property from bears:

- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Only feed birds from December to March.
- Store trash in a secure place. Trash cans alone are not enough.

Bears are wild animals that should be treated with respect and appreciated from a distance. For your safety, please keep yourselves and pets away from bears and other wild animals.

Flore included these tips if you do encounter a bear:

- Remain calm and ensure the bear has an escape route.
- Do not approach or try to feed the bear.
- If possible, back away or go inside.
- Do not run from a bear.
- Do not climb trees to escape a bear.

Another summer of festivities at town beach

Bill Fraser-Harris
Charlotte Recreation Committee

Mark your calendar to join other Charlotte residents at the town beach this summer. The celebrations include:

- Summer music series opening concert on Wednesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. for picnicking and 6-7 p.m. for music from the Vermont Youth Orchestra.
- The Charlotte Town Beach Party on Saturday, July 8, 4-8 pm. Come meet and greet and eat. Join your friends and neighbors for a free barbecue with food from local vendors — Fat Cow Farm, Misty Knoll, Stoney Loam Farm, Adams Berry Farm, Elizabeth Moore of Ridgeline Real Estate and gelato from Backyard Bistro — grilled by Fortin’s Lawncare and Snowplowing. Enjoy Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue demos and live music by Mystic Party Band. Please bring a donation for the band.

We will have tables of food; bring your favorite potluck dish to share. Bring your own beverages, plates and utensils.

Please no dogs. The entire event is free with free parking after 4 p.m. Dinner will be served around 6 p.m.

- Music at the Beach on Wednesdays, July 19 and 26 and Aug. 2, with



picnicking at 5 p.m. and at 6 p.m. classical music from the Vermont Youth Orchestra Quartet. Free with season parking pass or paid day pass. Bring your favorite person and picnic dinner. Donations are encouraged.

All music events are weather permitting with the Charlotte Senior Center as the back-up rain location. Updates on Residents of Charlotte VT Facebook page and details available from billandeva@gmavt.net or 802-343-4350.



Photo by Bill Fraser-Harris
Charlotte’s Town Beach Pary will be Saturday, July 8.

Stronger Together

Upcoming Charlotte Grange programs for whole family

Linda Hamilton
Charlotte Grange

Charlotte Grange members are planning a variety of programs and events this spring and summer including:

- Grange Hall spring cleaning, Saturday, May 20, 9-11 a.m. — We are preparing to open the Grange Hall doors once again for public events and activities this spring and summer. We are excited to be able to do this after almost three years of being closed for COVID precautions and some needed repairs. But first, a good spring cleaning is in order. Members and volunteers will work together to spruce up the hall inside and out. Email charlottegrangevt@gmail.com to learn more.

- Placing U.S. flags on veterans’ graves on Memorial Day: Monday, May 29, 9 a.m. —Gather at Grandview Cemetery behind Charlotte Congregational Church on Church Hill Road for brief remarks by Grange member Karen Tuininga and Charlotte combat veteran Jordan Paquette and the playing of “Taps” by Charlotte Central School students. Those who wish to stay can then help replace last year’s flags with fresh ones to respectfully acknowledge each grave of a person who served in the U.S. military, whether they died in times of combat or returned home. Families are encouraged to participate since it is an opportunity to talk with children about military service and share stories about past or present family members who served. Please join in this long-standing Grange tradition.

- Collecting worn-out U.S. flags for proper disposal: May 29-June 3 — If you have a flag that is tattered or soiled, it is probably time for a new one. And



Courtesy photo

Stewart Robinson places a flag during the Grange’s Memorial Day efforts.

Charlotte Grange can help you dispose of your old flag properly. On Memorial Day, we will collect worn flags from Veterans’ graves in Charlotte cemeteries and later in the week take them to the Vergennes American Legion to be respectfully retired in a Flag Day ceremony. You are welcome to add your worn flag to this collection, by either bringing it to the 9 a.m. Memorial Day event at Grandview Cemetery

(described above) or dropping it off at the Grange Hall at 2858 Spear Street. There will be a covered bin in front of the Grange Hall for this.

- Charlotte trail walks — Not familiar with Charlotte’s public walking trails? Want to meet and chat with other Charlotters while on an outing? Every second Thursday at 8:30 a.m., you are invited to join Grange members Tai

Dinnan and Karen Tuininga as they enjoy the various trails and public accesses around town. Our first walk will be on June 8. Walks will last approximately an hour and will be led at an adult pace. Visit charlottegrange.org to learn the location of each month’s walk. Sign up in advance if you’d like to be contacted if weather changes our plans at charlottegrange@gmail.com.

- Community potluck supper — Sunday, June 25, 5-7 p.m. in the Grange Hall, 2858 Spear Street in East Charlotte Village. Gather with other Charlotters to share food and conversation. Connect with old friends and make new ones. Potluck suppers are a fine old Grange tradition, and we are very happy to start hosting them again. No charge; just bring a dish to share, and your own plate and utensils; beverage will be provided. Seating is limited, so if possible, please let us know if you plan to come (charlottegrangevt@gmail.com). Because the food at a potluck is whatever folks bring, we can’t necessarily promise a balanced meal, but we do anticipate a good time.

- Grange on the Green — This popular series of family-friendly music concerts on the Charlotte Town Green in front of the town hall will be 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27. Perfect for a picnic. There is plenty of room for your chair or blanket on the grass, with the musicians on the library porch. Made possible by ReArch Company, Inc., the builder of the library addition to our Library and Otter Creek Awnings. July 6 will feature Vermont singer/songwriter Patti Casey with Tom MacKenzie on banjo and hammered dulcimer.

For more details and other Grange events see charlottegrange.org.

Green Up Day

Trash talk



Photo by Matt Sargent
From left, Matt Sargent, Mike Walker, Suzy Hodgson and David McColgin were the Green Up team on White Birch Lane and Spear Street.



Photo by Suzy Hodgson
A green frog or *Lithobates clamitans* found by a volunteer on Green Up Day. Research shows that green frogs in the wild can switch sexes. No word on whether green frogs are banned in Florida.



Photo by John Quinney
Colleen Armstrong picking up trash on Spear Street Extension.



Photo by Suzy Hodgson
Suzy Hodgson's largest find on Green Up Day was the larger part of a car plastic bumper.

Gardening

Growing herbs for tea

Andrea Knepper
University of Vermont Extension

Herbs are attractive in the garden, easy to grow and a pleasure to use. Many common herbs can also be brewed into delicious herbal teas.

Chamomile is one of the most popular herbal teas and is easy to grow in the garden. Choose German chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*), which is less bitter than its relative, Roman chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*).

Sow seeds, pressing gently into the surface, about four weeks before the last frost. Chamomile reseeds readily, so you can expect your patch to return every year. Harvest the flowers when they are nearly in full bloom.

Dry the flowers by spreading them on a tray or in a dehydrator. Then steep one to two teaspoons in hot water for a soothing herbal tea.

An herb you may already have in your garden that makes a lovely tea is lemon

thyme (*Thymus citriodorus*). It is a perennial in many Vermont locations, as it is hardy in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5-9. Look for plants at your local garden center as this herb can be difficult to start from seed.

Harvest 5-6 inch long stems, tie them together and hang them to dry. When ready to consume, steep one or two stems in hot water. This herb is very flavorful, so experiment to find your preferred strength.

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) is a short-lived perennial that is loved by pollinators, especially bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. The seeds need cold stratification and light to germinate.

Sow the seeds about four weeks before the last frost, lightly pressing them into the soil. Harvest the licorice-scented leaves after the flowers have bloomed and then dry in a dehydrator. Or cut stems, secure them in a bundle and hang them upside down to dry. Brew tea by steeping two to three teaspoons of dried leaves in hot water.

If you prefer your tea with an added



Photo by Polina Andreeva/Pixabay

When chamomile flowers are almost in full bloom, they can be snipped off, dried on a tray or in a dehydrator and used to make a delicious herbal tea.

sweetener, try growing stevia (*Stevia rebaudiana*). Stevia can be difficult to start from seed, so check with your local garden center for a plant. Both fresh and dried stevia leaves can be enjoyed in your teas.

Harvest leaves when the plant reaches about 8 inches tall and before it blooms. Stems can be trimmed, secured together and

hung to dry. Stevia leaves are significantly sweeter than granulated sugar, so experiment with the quantity to find your desired sweetness.

Perhaps the most versatile herb you can grow for herbal teas is tulsi, sometimes known as holy basil. Tulsi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*) is an herb native to India that is well known for its delicious flavor and adaptogenic properties. Adaptogens are plants that promote overall wellbeing by helping your body respond to tiredness, stress and anxiety.

Tulsi is easy to start from seed. Seeds can be started indoors about four weeks before the last frost and transplanted or direct seeded in the garden after all danger of frost has passed.

Begin harvesting tulsi when the plant starts to develop flowers. Trim stems above a growth node, bundle them together and hang them to dry. Tulsi tea is delicious when brewed on its own or blended with other herbs to suit your taste.

View additional resources on growing and using herbs at uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/gardening-resources.

Communities need to plan for emerald ash borer now

Ginger Nickerson
Forest Pest Education Coordinator

The week of May 22-28 has been designated National Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week to help increase public awareness of this tree-killing beetle and the damage it can cause to all species of native ash trees within the *Fraxinus* genus.

The emerald ash borer, a native of southeast Asia, was first detected in Michigan in 2002. It was initially confirmed in Vermont in 2018 in Orange County and has now been confirmed in all counties except Essex County.

We have learned from municipalities in the American Midwest that have been dealing with emerald ash borer for two decades that the more time a town or city has to plan for the removal or treatment of ash trees on municipally managed lands, the better they are able to manage the financial costs and

impact of the beetle.

Towns may choose to treat some public ash trees with pesticides, which is costly, but may be the only viable option to save a tree. However, this must be done before the beetle is well-established in the tree. If not treated, ash trees will die and potentially create a hazard along roads and other public areas.

Once an adult emerald ash borer starts laying eggs in an ash tree, it can take three to five years for enough larvae to build up under the bark for the tree to start showing symptoms. Because of this, emerald ash borer can be hidden in plain sight, and ash trees in an area with confirmed infestations may still look fine.

It can take up to 10 years from when emerald ash borer first arrives in an area before ash trees begin dying off at a large or landscape scale. That is why communities throughout Vermont should start planning now for how they will deal with ash trees on



Photo by Stephen Ausmus/U.S. Department of Agriculture

The emerald ash borer, which has been confirmed in 13 Vermont counties, is an invasive pest that infests and kills trees of several native ash tree species.

municipal lands.

The first step for any municipality to establish an ash management strategy is to inventory the ash trees on municipal lands. This includes shade trees on streets, parking lots and green spaces, town forests and municipal rights-of-way. Inventories can range from simple paper-based tally sheets to using GIS software to create digitized maps.

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program provides resources and direct technical assistance to design and conduct ash inventories. Its website (go.uvm.edu/eabpests) has many resources including templates for writing ash management plans, tools to calculate the costs of different management scenarios, case studies from other municipalities and examples of documents, such as letters to residents and contracts with tree removal companies.

I am available at ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu to give presentations on emerald ash borer and provide technical assistance to municipalities, including assistance to conduct ash tree inventories.

Community members can do their part

to scout for this pest and report any trees suspected of being infested with emerald ash borer by uploading photographs via the “Report It!” button at vtinvasives.org. You can learn how to identify ash trees and the signs and symptoms of the pest at go.uvm.edu/ash-borer.

This website also links to a map of emerald ash borer infestations, created by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, which shows a 10-mile radius around each confirmed infestation. Areas marked in yellow indicate a high likelihood of other ash trees being infested with emerald ash borer. The areas in orange and red have a more established emerald ash borer infestation level.

Over time, the emerald ash borer infestation in Vermont will continue to spread. State agencies and conservation organizations are helping manage this pest, but more needs to be done to avoid accelerating its spread and unnecessary management costs. Recommendations can be found at go.uvm.edu/ash-borer-spread.

Sports

Racing up Mount Philo, an offseason revenue stream

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

About 50-70 people were standing around talking in the comfortably chill evening air at the top of Mount Philo on Friday, May 5, about the Hillclimber race that weekend. It was not much of a detour when the conversation turned to the modifications, the repairs and the amount of money the competitors had put into the cars they would be racing on Sunday.

One of the competitors either didn’t know how much he’d spent or wouldn’t say. He also wouldn’t say if his wife knew how much he’d spent, but he did say, “It’s not as much as she’s spent on dogs.”

Co-chair of the Hillclimber event at Mount Philo, Chris Rielly of Colchester doesn’t have to worry about his wife knowing how much he’s spent because she races, too.

One winter, Rielly saw cars racing on the ice in Malletts Bay. Curious and having always wanted to figure out how to get into racing, Rielly went over to investigate.

He discovered a community of sports car racing enthusiasts who were only too willing to introduce him to the sport and guide him down the rabbit hole of racing up mountains.

Rielly, who started in 2008, is in his 15th year of racing, except for two years he took off to save up money after he had a motor blow up. His wife had been coming to the races, volunteering to help with the myriad tasks required to put on these events. During his hillclimbing hiatus, she said she wanted to race.

“She raced for two years. She had a blast. Then after those two years, she decided OK, that was enough,” said Rielly.

His wife had already gone home by this time on this beautiful spring evening. She would be back the next day to cook for the event.

Mount Philo, like the rest of the state

parks in Vermont, was still closed on this weekend. Nate McKeen, director of Vermont state parks, said the Hillclimber events are a way to bring money into the system’s coffers when the parks aren’t open and aren’t making money.

People recreate in state parks in a wide variety of ways from mountain biking to traditional activities like hiking, camping, fishing. McKeen said, “We try to offer as much as we can, within the scope of the entire state park system. There’s only a few with a mountain road that’s paved.”

So, there are a limited number of state parks where Hillclimber rides can happen, including Mount Ascutney and Okemo Mountain.

The oldest hillclimber race is up Mount Washington, said Rielly. Okemo probably has the biggest turnout. Since it’s in southern Vermont, it can draw participants from large population centers to the south.

The Mount Washington Hillclimb Auto Race is also known as the Climb to the Clouds. The first was run in 1904, so it is older than the Indianapolis 500 and the Pikes Peak Hill Climb.

Three sports car clubs are involved in the annual hillclimber race at Mount Philo — Sports Car Club of Vermont, Killington Sports Car Club and the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire.

They pay the state parks system \$2,000 to rent the mountain for the weekend. Rielly estimated 30-50 racers would pony up the \$200 fee to compete. In addition to that, the clubs have to pay for security and an ambulance on standby.

An organizer said he could count on one hand the number of times the event has broken even.

It’s about a mile up to the top of Mount Philo. Rielly said the fastest time ever is around 60.5 seconds.

“If I’m below 68 seconds, I’ll be happy with myself,” he said.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

The consensus of people milling around on Friday evening before the Sunday race was that this was the car to beat.



Seth Achilles and Eric Reisner give an orientation talk to competitors at the top of Mount Philo.



Ellie knew what to do when someone pointed a camera in her direction.

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Sports

Redhawk’s baseball season hits troubled waters

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

After starting the season with a spotless record, going unbeaten in its first eight games, the Champlain Valley Union baseball team has hit a rough patch, losing two in a row.

With roughly a week and a half remaining in the regular season, how the Redhawks deal with these blemishes on its record will determine how this year’s baseball campaign is remembered.

The term assistant coach Samuel Fontaine used is “FASCO.” He said every team faces failures, adversity, setbacks, challenges and obstacles.

How CVU responds to their FASCO as a team and as individuals is paramount to discovering who they are as a team and what their postseason will look like.

“We need to just go back to what we were successful at in the beginning of the season, which was to stay ahead in counts, put the ball in play, and execute stellar defense,” Fontaine said. “Our goal was to be near the top at the end of the regular season.”

CVU is scheduled to host Rice on the day this newspaper comes out, Thursday, May 18.

CVU 10, St. Johnsbury 3

The Redhawks got back to their winning ways with a 10-3 win at St. Johnsbury (5-7) on Tuesday, May 16.

Stephen Rickert pitched six innings for CVU (9-2) in the win, giving up seven hits while striking out seven with one walk

Zach Santos led things on offense for CVU, going 3-for-5 at the plate with two singles and a double that led to two RBIs.

Travis Stroh was 2-for-5, getting a single and a double. He also notched two RBIs.

Rickert helped his cause at the plate going 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

As a team, the Redhawks had 17 hits.

Mount Mansfield 12, CVU 8

This past Saturday, May 13, the Redhawks dropped to 8-2 for the season after a loss to Mount Mansfield in Hinesburg.

The Cougars scored eight runs in the third inning to build a sizable lead. The Redhawks had six errors that led to most of Mount Mansfield’s (8-3) scoring total.

Lewis Kerest was 2-for-4 at the plate with a double and two RBIs. Declan Cummings was 1-for-4 with a double and one RBI.

South Burlington 11, CVU 10

The first loss of the season came on Thursday, May 11, also at home against South Burlington (9-2).

The Wolves jumped out to a 7-1 lead after scoring five runs in the second inning.

In the seventh CVU scored seven runs, but the comeback attempt failed when the Redhawks left two runners in scoring position in the last inning.

Kyle Tivnan led the scoring for the Redhawks, going 2-for-3, with a single, a double and two RBIs. Zach Santos was 2-for-4 with two singles and an RBI.

CVU 12, Burlington 1

The Redhawks dealt Burlington (2-8) a loss in a six-inning 12-1 game behind the pitching of Elise Berger.

She pitched four innings giving up a



Photo by Al Frey

Travis Stroh connects at the plate during CVU’s 12-8 loss to Mount Mansfield on Saturday.

walk, an error and two hits, while notching six strikeouts in the Tuesday, May 9, game.

CVU (8-0) scored six runs in the fourth and five in the sixth.

CVU 6, Burr & Burton 5

The Redhawks broke out the scoring in the fifth inning with four runs, behind Robbie Fragola’s two RBI single on Saturday, May 6.

Bulldogs (5-3) battled back in the

seventh inning when they scored three runs, but fell short when failing to knock in the tying run from second.

CVU 12, Essex 2

The Redhawks dropped Essex 12-2 on May 5 in a game that was ended after five innings.

Tivnan went 2-for-2 at the plate with a single, a triple and three RBIs. In her sole trip to the plate, Berger hit a double, knocking in two runs.

Into the Woods

Forests should be managed for carbon resiliency

Ethan Tapper
Contributor

In the midst of a climate crisis, many people are interested in forests’ ability to help mitigate climate change by sequestering and storing carbon. While managing forests for carbon may seem simple in principle, in practice it is incredibly nuanced, complex and unintuitive.

What is forest carbon? While we may picture carbon as some shapeless, amorphous substance, most carbon in the forest is, in short, wood. As a tree photosynthesizes, it sequesters carbon, sucking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Combined with a few other elements, that carbon is transformed into sugars and starches which are used to help the tree grow, much of it ending up stored in the tree’s branches, trunk and roots. When that tree dies, some of its carbon will be released into the atmosphere through the process of decomposition, and some of it will be stored in the forest as dead wood and eventually as organic material in forest soils. Incredibly, only about one-third of the carbon in a typical Vermont forest is found in living trees. The majority — about 60 percent — is stored in the soil.

In the form of living trees and plants, carbon feeds and shelters thousands of species of living things, forming the living structure around which the forest community is built. In the form of dead wood, carbon benefits forest hydrology, provides habitat for mammals, amphibians, insects and fungi, and enriches forest soils. Forests are not carbon factories; carbon is a co-benefit of healthy forested ecosystems, one which must be considered alongside wildlife habitat, biodiversity and many other vital qualities, functions and values. Forest management will always be a balance between many things; we cannot responsibly manage forests solely for carbon any more than we can manage them solely for timber or for any other individual resource.

While research suggests that unmanaged forests store more carbon than managed forests in the short-term, our forests are young and altered, vulnerable to large-scale natural disturbances and to an expansive array of threats and stressors which fundamentally challenge their ability to grow, to thrive, and thus, to sequester and store carbon in the future. While it would be comforting to believe it, leaving all of our forests unmanaged is not a viable or responsible long-term strategy for carbon or for climate mitigation.

Instead, we need to focus on resilient carbon: carbon which is stored in healthy, diverse, resilient forests. In many, if not most, cases, management will be necessary to help forests develop qualities like multi-generationality and diversity which are integral to their ability to be resilient and adaptable in a changing climate, as well as to respond to the countless forest health and biodiversity threats that they face. This will often mean removing some carbon from forests in the short-term (cutting trees) in order to



Courtesy photo
A “snag,” or dead-standing tree, is an example of how carbon is contained in both living and dead trees in the forest.

safeguard their ability to sequester and store carbon in the long-term. This carbon will not be a loss; it will be an investment in a more abundant and resilient future.

As we consider the nuances of forest carbon, we must also recognize the present and future carbon costs of our lives. When we use carbon as a justification for saying “not in my backyard” to forest management, we often trade local wood for wood produced in industrial forests which use much less carbon-friendly practices or for resources like steel and concrete which have massive carbon footprints. We engage in the illusion of preservation, displacing the impacts of our consumption on ecosystems somewhere else and on people without the privilege of saying “not in my backyard,” likely with a much greater cost to our forests, our climate and our global community.

The future of forest carbon is not a landscape of unmanaged forests; it is a landscape where forests are managed for resilience and adaptability, for biodiversity, for local, renewable resources and for resilient carbon, all at once. As we try to protect our forests and ourselves in a changing climate, it is critical that we reject simple and incomplete solutions in favor of nuance and complexity, and that we do the right thing even when it makes us uncomfortable. Resilient carbon is another example of what is so often the case in our forests: What is simple is rarely true, and what is necessary is rarely easy.

(Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he’s written at linktr.ee/chittendencountyforester.)

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Hi Neighbor

Finding common musical ground with many art forms

Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

It’s not unusual for a musician to collaborate with other musicians on projects, but Damon Ferrante casts a much wider net for the partnerships he forms through his business, Steeplechase Arts. Two of his current musical collaborators are Charlotte painter Cameron Davis and former Vermont poet laureate Ellen Bryant Voigt.

Ferrante was still in graduate school at the Peabody Conservatory in 2003 when he founded Steeplechase Arts to produce his first opera. A theater director offered to provide funding so he could present it, if Ferrante agreed to take charge of all the logistics including auditioning singers. He formed the business that year and Super Double Lite debuted at Symphony Space in New York City in 2004.

“The name Steeplechase is a confluence of a few different things,” Ferrante said, noting that it is the name of a rollercoaster in Coney Island, as well as both a human and equestrian racing event involving obstacles.

“That’s how I feel about live performances,” he said. “There’s an aspect of danger.”

Steeplechase Arts started as a music production company that worked in collaboration with other musicians, as well as theater and dance groups.

In 2012, Ferrante branched out to include music publishing with a series of books on music and instrument history and how-to books. Rolling Stone magazine named



Photo by Barbara Colombo
Damon Ferrante has provided musical collaboration for artists from all walks of life and disciplines.

Steeplechase Arts beginner guitar and piano books the best in the field during the pandemic. The publishing side of the business has grown but Ferrante is happy that with the return of live events, the

collaborative music side of the business is also on the upswing.

Ferrante’s own musical history is also bifurcated. He is trained as a classical pianist and self-taught as a rock guitarist.

Both of Ferrante’s uncles were mechanics. “They’d come by and leave us cars, stray dogs and other things,” he recalls. One uncle brought over a guitar and amplifier that had been broken into pieces. Ferrante used screws and duct tape to put the guitar back together, but he still got a small electric shock when he played because someone had pulled out the grounding wire.

The music he writes is mostly for piano, but he rarely plays the instrument, preferring his steel-string and electric guitars.

Ferrante is currently involved in a number of non-traditional collaborations. He is working with the Bowers-Fader Duo, which is made up of a guitarist and a mezzo-soprano to provide music to go alongside the poems of Ellen Bryant Voigt, who was Vermont poet laureate 1999-2002.

His collaboration with artist Cameron Davis consists of piano preludes. Another project involves creating music based on the natural world and is inspired by Linda Hamilton and her late husband Larry, who was a long-time environmentalist and served as tree warden in Charlotte for many years.

Ferrante is currently juggling collaborations in New York City and Europe, but now that he and his wife have a toddler, he is doing less travelling. Local musical collaborators include a rock project with bassist Aram Bedrosian who owns Music

Dojo in Burlington and the singer Debra Fotheringham. He has just finished a set of 13 dance preludes for classic guitar called Divinità Minori, which means little gods in Italian and would like to continue in that vein with companion pieces for steel string guitar.

In addition to Super Double Lite, which is a comic opera, Ferrante has written a lyric opera called Jefferson and Poe. His film scores include “White Winter,” and an Argentinian film called “La Flor.” Ferrante described his work for both films as “atmospheric.” He is excited to be working on the score for a thriller by Vermont filmmaker Sean Baker called “Follow Her” about a social media influencer.

Ferrante has performed across the globe including venues as far afield as China, Greece, Italy and Spain, but he has called Charlotte home since 2014.

“We really like the people here,” he said. “We like the sense of community and connectedness, the slower pace and the kindness of the people.”

Ferrante finds inspiration from his collaborators but also from objects like Calder sculptures and Miro paintings. “It’s a mysterious process,” he said. “Sometimes ideas that are not exactly drawn from music inspire the musical ideas.”

He also relishes the give and take with other musicians.

“There is a lot of solitary work in being a composer and performer so it’s quite a joy to share ideas with other artists,” he said. “That’s been a wonderful part of my life.”



Light show

A rainbow on Friday evening, May 5, indicates there must be gold about a mile east of Mt. Philo Road.

Photo by Scooter MacMillan

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Food Shelf News

May has seen flowering of food shelf volunteering

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

May is a time of renewal. The birdsong, rich fragrances and floral hues of Vermont tend to provide inspiration to labor, be it in the garden or at the food shelf.

The Charlotte Food Shelf volunteers have been busy with spring cleaning and organizing. We would like to thank all our volunteers, including Maria Blanchette, Kim Ziegelman and Katie Shearer, who we welcome as new volunteers.

We are grateful for the decade of work volunteer John Lavigne has provided the Charlotte Food Shelf. He has always been the friendly face of welcome to families and consistently looks for ways the food shelf can serve those in need. He is our “go-to guy” for jobs including stocking large food bank orders, managing monthly pickup of fresh produce, defrosting the freezer and food distribution. We thank you, John.

Many hands do make light work. We are hoping to increase our volunteers who have the strength and stamina to manage delivery and stocking of food bank deliveries, including food transport down stairs to the basement of the food shelf. We are also hoping to increase our volunteers to staff food distribution on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

There are many ways that this wonderful community makes the food shelf mission a reality. The food shelf is the grateful recipient of monies and boxes of food collected from the Repair Café fundraiser, sponsored by Sustainable Charlotte Vermont. Participants whose items were repaired both saved items from the landfill and gave a donation to the food shelf as payment for repairs; a “win-win” for both people and our environment.

We are grateful for the donation provided by the Shelburne-Charlotte Association of Travelers made in honor and thanks to the Charlotte landowners who welcome recreational snowmobilers. The clothing drive, a collaboration between the Charlotte Grange and the

Charlotte Food Shelf, was a huge success. Donations of children’s clothing are appreciated and in active use.

We also thank Claire Houghton for her generous donation of beef, Stewart’s Bread for its delicious bread donations and the talented Agnes Lussier for the teddy bears she sewed and gifted to the babies served by the food shelf. The donations received from Meg Berlin and Jeffrey and Irene Horbar are also much appreciated.

Growing season brings forth creative ideas to share the bounty. The food shelf is grateful for the \$2,000 grant received from the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program of the Vermont Foodbank. This will provide the food shelf with fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and dairy products from local producers. Fresh local produce is so appreciated.

For those home gardeners, please consider planting an extra row to benefit the Food Shelf. Please call Nancy Bloch (802-598-0410) for produce or nonperishable food donations. Access to local produce for food shelf families will also be increased through the Farm Stand Together program, which provides gift cards that will allow those with food insecurity to shop at selected local farmstands. Applications for the Farm Stand Together gift card are available through the Charlotte Food Shelf or directly through farmstandtogethervt.org/apply. For more information about this exciting program, visit farmstandtogethervt.org.

For many years the Charlotte Congregational Church has generously provided space to us in their basement. We are still actively searching 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. Please contact Peggy Sharpe, food shelf secretary, at ckmj@comcast.net with any leads.

The Charlotte Food Shelf remains committed to providing dignified access to healthy food as well as assistance to those in need. We remind the community that if



Marie Blanchette (left) and Kim Ziegelmen work on organizing the Charlotte Food Shelf.

you or someone you know in Charlotte or North Ferrisburgh is facing utility shut-off or an unexpected hardship, help is available. All requests and grants are kept private and are available by simply calling 802-425-3252 or by filling out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf open hours or on our website charlotteucc.org/copy-of-charlotte-food-shelf-1.

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, in back of the Congregational Church in Charlotte. Masking is encouraged. For emergency food, please call John at 802-425-3130. If you cannot come to the food shelf due to COVID symptoms or seek more information about the food shelf, call 802-425-3252.

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

Tasty stalks



Photo by Meg Berlin

George Lavalette has been growing and selling his famous asparagus on Greenbush Road for years — and rhubarb.

Community Roundup

Green Drinks Night at Backyard Bistro

What brings you joy? How much stuff is enough stuff? Why do we keep buying what we don’t need? How much can humans live without? Or is it better to think of what we live with? What does it take to create harmony in our lives while we observe the changes taking place on Earth?

Sustainable Charlotte invites you to join in a conversation, answering some of the above, or other thoughts that you bring. We’ll gather at Backyard Bistro on Route 7 in Charlotte to drink, eat and share ideas 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 24.

The purpose of the international movement of Green Drinks nights is to deepen community ties, know more of our neighbors and even walk away with something new to think about how we live on our beautiful, blue planet.

This is the first evening of Green Drinks and we’re hoping to do it again in the fall. Do you have a topic you’d like to share? Contact Sustainable Charlotte at info@sustainablecharlottetv.org. And check out our website at sustainablecharlottetv.org.

For more information call Ruah Swennerfelt at 802-922-2259.

Junapr named to best workplaces list

Junapr has been named to Inc. magazine’s annual Best Workplaces list. Featured in the May/June 2023 issue, which hit newsstands on May 16, and prominently featured on Inc.com, the list is the result of a comprehensive

measurement of American companies that have excelled in creating exceptional workplaces and company culture, whether operating in a physical or a virtual facility.

Junapr is a Vermont-based communication and public relations firm working across sectors including consumer packaged goods, juvenile, non-profit, higher education, business services, and hospitality. The firm recently acquired the event management company Standing O. Inc. chose 591 honorees this year from thousands of submissions. Each company that was nominated took part in an employee survey conducted by Quantum Workplace, which included topics like management effectiveness, perks, fostering employee growth, and overall company culture. The organization’s benefits were also audited to determine the overall score and ranking.

“This is an incredible honor to be named to the prestigious Inc. Magazine Best Places to Work list,” Nicole Junas Ravlin, founder and president of Junapr, said. “As a company, the entire team works hard to protect and foster the culture created at Junapr. I was delighted to see that ‘supportive’ was one of the top qualities identified by the team. We strive to be deliberate in making decisions that impact the team and their lives outside of the company. One of our guiding principles is to ‘celebrate our successes.’ We will most certainly be celebrating this one!”

“Being named to Best Workplaces is an honor that only a small fraction of companies have been able to claim,” Inc. editor-in-chief Scott Omelianuk said.

Education

Colleges appreciate adding arts to STEM studies

Elizabeth Bartsch
College Essay Coach

Snap Inc. co-founder and CEO Evan Spiegel and his wife Miranda Kerr, the model and businesswoman, recently donated more than \$10 million to Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. In high school, Spiegel attended classes at Otis. He graduated from Stanford University majoring in product design.

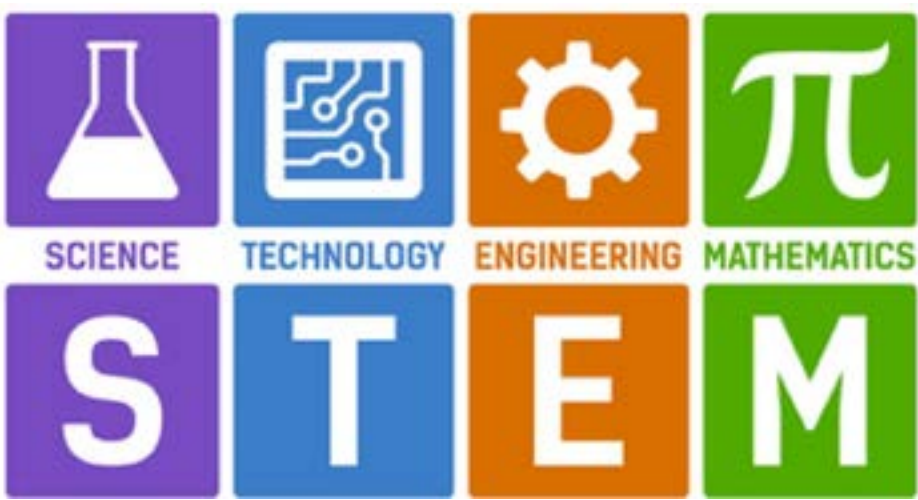
“I felt pushed and challenged to grow surrounded by super talented artists and designers,” Siegel reflected, “and we were all in it together.”

This mindset of adding the arts to traditional STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) has created the acronym STEAM. Colleges recognize the importance of the arts to foster critical thinking and creative ideas.

To encourage students to share their creative talents, some colleges have added video essays and other integrated media portfolios. With many colleges reporting increased applications for limited slots, involvement in the arts can differentiate a student with their talents.

The Common Application includes the SlideRoom portfolio platform. For an additional fee, students can submit artistic work, video performances and writing samples. It is important to review the requirements of each college and specific degree programs as to whether they require or allow optional submissions.

Most colleges with a School of Architecture or College of Visual and Performing Arts require an additional portfolio. For example, Syracuse University School of Architecture and Tufts University School of the Museum of Fine Arts both require portfolio submissions.



Creative work can showcase a well-rounded application. Tufts allows students applying to Arts and Sciences, as well as Engineering, to submit optional SlideRoom portfolios including photography and artwork. The University of Chicago allows optional supplemental materials to be uploaded to the UChicago account including creative writing, music, dance, visual art, theater performance, capstone projects, business plans and research.

Once a student submits their college application, some colleges invite students to add an optional video interview as an alternative to meeting with alumni or admissions officers. For example, Brown University encourages students to submit a two-minute video as a creative way to share in their voice as to why they want to attend Brown and showcase their personality. The video is then uploaded to the Brown Applicant Portal.

Wake Forest University has an optional two-three minute virtual interview. The applicant must choose from three prompts to

respond to: (1) What world problem would you solve? (2) What does the university motto pro humanitate mean to you? or (3) Discuss something of importance that is not already in your application. This can be a selfie video and should not be professionally produced.

The video essay format gives college admissions an additional glimpse into the student’s world. Written and verbal communication is integral to the college living and learning environment with classroom presentations, group projects and campus activities.

There are local Vermont organizations for high school students to develop their creative confidence. Pursuing the arts encourages self-expression.

The Shelburne Craft School offers a variety of classes including gardening, embroidery, woodworking, oil painting, stained glass and wheel throwing. Classes are offered each season for various levels and age groups at shelburnecraftschool.org/ courses.

Davis Studio provides the Destinations High School Program during the school year for sophomores through seniors. This artistic focus includes drawing, fashion design and multi-media. The goal is to build a portfolio that highlights student talents for non-traditional paths, college, art school and professions in art. See davisstudiovt.com.

Very Merry Theater includes summer camps for children ages 6-13, as well as volunteer camp counselor opportunities for high school students. Visit their website to complete the application. The Charlotte Wagon Tour camp is a one- or two-week camp to perform an original or licensed summer theater production. The typical day includes practice, costumes and set design. There is a performance at the end of the camp session. See verymerrytheatre.org/programs-and-camps.

Vermont Ballet Theater has two locations in Essex and Shelburne that offer a range of summer dance camps. For advanced dancers, there is intensive ballet that requires an audition. For young dancers, there is ballet camp that includes making small ballet-themed props and learning choreography for a performance at the end of camp. Also, the Broadway-inspired And All That Jazz theater camp, includes singing, dancing and acting. These “triple threat” musical-inspired camps include a performance for family and friends. See vbts.org/SummerCamps.html.

With all the buzz about STEM, don’t forget to add the arts. STEAM ahead to uncover talents that can enhance college applications and influence your creative future.

(Margo Bartsch founded College Essay Coach, a full-service college admission business, and has been an adjunct professor in business at Champlain College and at Middlebury College.)

Education

Assistant principal taking job in Addison County schools

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Charlotte Central School assistant principal, Courtney Krahn, will be taking a job in Addison County next year. She has spent this last year as part of the Charlotte Central School administrative team.

“After having spent the last eight months with your children and the stellar staff at Charlotte Central School, I write with mixed emotions to let you know that, after much reflection, I’ve accepted the position of director of teaching and learning in the Addison Central School District, which is the community I live in, where my husband teaches and where my three kids attend school.

“While I’m looking forward to this unexpected opportunity closer to home, I do want you to know that it was not my intention for my tenure with you to be so short. I’ve always thought — and still think — that Charlotte Central School is a wonderful community, and I feel like I am

just now truly getting to know the Charlotte Central School students and their families, an opportunity for which I’ve been so grateful.

“My time at Charlotte Central School has been filled with joy, and I’m looking forward to working, learning and playing alongside your kids through the end of this school year,” Krahn wrote.

Pandemic electronic transfer payments

Vermont will be issuing a final round of pandemic electronic transfer payments benefits for this summer. All our students qualify for a benefit of \$120 per student because free school meals are being offered to all students this year.

The benefit will be sent to the head of household and the mailing address held on file for the student. If a parent has moved or needs to update the head of household, please contact the school office to let the school know.

These benefits will be sent out by mid-

August. If the student missed school for a COVID-related reason between February 2023 and May 11, 2023, benefits for those days will be transferred at the same time.

To request a new card or for more info about P- pandemic electronic transfer payments benefits, visit dcf.vermont.gov/esd/P-EBT or call 1-800-479-6151, option 7.

Family Fun Day to support Vermont Make-A-Wish Foundation

When: Saturday, June 10, 4-7 p.m.

Where: Champlain Valley Union High School

Activities: Music, yard games, face painting, group activities, guest speakers and more.

Tickets: \$12 for adults and \$6 for youth (12 & under) if pre-purchased online (see below), \$15 for adults and \$8 for youth if purchased at the door. Each ticket includes a voucher for one food item and one drink.

All proceeds benefit the Vermont Make-A-Wish Foundation. Go to eventbrite.com under “Charity & Causes” to pre-purchase

tickets. If unable to attend, donations can be made to Make-A-Wish Vermont.

This event is put on by Champlain Valley Union High students. Questions: Logan Vaughan at familyfunday@cvsdvt.org.

Music dates to remember

Charlotte Central School Bands and Choruses perform the National Anthem at the Lake Monsters Game at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, at Centennial Field in Burlington.

The Charlotte Central School Jazz Band will perform at the Champlain Valley School District Jazz Festival at Champlain Valley Union High on Wednesday, May 31, 7 p.m. The festival will feature the jazz bands from Hinesburg, Shelburne, Williston, Charlotte and Champlain Valley Union High. The event is free and open to the public.

Charlotte Central School Jazz Band will perform as part of Burlington’s Discover Jazz Festival on Wednesday, June 7, on the Mall Block of Church Street from 1:40-2:20 p.m.

Vermont 4-H hosts Summer of Science

Lauren Traister
University of Vermont Extension

Interested in building a rocket or learning to code? Perhaps exploring forest ecology or the workings of the human brain fuels your passion.

There’s something for everyone through University of Vermont Extension 4-H’s “Summer of Science,” which offers 15 free workshops and opportunities for middle and high school students. Spaces are limited, and advanced registration is required.

For information or to register, go to uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. If

a program is full, please contact Lauren Traister at lauren.traister@uvm.edu or 802-656-7565 to be placed on a waiting list. Requests for language interpretation, translation assistance or a disability-related accommodation to participate must be made by June 1.

Before registering, please review workshop descriptions for details including registration deadline, date, time and location as well as what grade levels are eligible to participate.

Opportunities include:

- June 23: Learn About Lake Champlain on a Floating Classroom. Participants will

explore Vermont’s largest lake aboard the R/V Marcelle Melosira, the University of Vermont’s research vessel, for hands-on learning about aquatic food webs and water quality testing.

- June 27: Flow Cytometry. Students will learn about flow cytometry and how a flow cytometer works and work with a scientist to process samples in a university research laboratory.

- June 28: Plant and Fungi Ecology and Evolution. This workshop entails a woodland walk, the University of Vermont greenhouse tour and lab work to better understand the



evolution and diversity of plants and how they interact with fungi, animals and other organisms.

- July 6 and 27: Build a Rocket. At Benchmark Space Systems in Burlington, students will explore the workings of hybrid rocket engines and rocket design. They will create their own rocket designs to be 3-D printed and fired and discuss the test results

Sacred Hunter

Hunting for turkeys, bagging fiddleheads and ramps

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

It’s mid-May, and I’m still sitting under the same oak tree waiting for the dark purple light in the east to begin gradually succumbing to the pale green and blue of a mid-spring morning.

I’m waiting on one of the wisest old tom turkeys to give away his position by proclaiming his dominance over the foolish jakes that rush in to the first mating call of a hen and learn the most important lesson of their lives. Where fools rush in, lives come to a sudden end. But the old Boss sits in his tree and watches as his flock flies down, creating raucous thundering wingbeats, breaking branches and cackling on their descent. He knows that those cautious hens and immature jakes will lead the group with courage and a sense of strategy much like in chess. Always protect your king. Send in the rooks, the pawns and the bishops, if necessary, but protect his Majesty at all costs.

He lets the hens lead the flock toward the strangely unfamiliar clucks of this renegade bird flaunting her desire to breed. But something about that cluck and purr are not a familiar intonation. Her vocalizations aren’t in tune with the same familiar flock that communicates with him day in and day out, warning him of predators and purring to soothe the flock when it’s safe to feed. The hen he hears seems to speak with an alien dialect.

He will let the hens march forward to see if the outsider is the real deal or if those sounds are being made by a hunter with a box or slate call. Maybe a latex mouth diaphragm model.

Most of the young males, called jakes, have been fooled by the mistaken call of amore and wound up going home on a sling, slung over a hunter’s shoulder. But not the Boss. He’s seen this game played out for several years now and isn’t suckered into his demise by following the whims of his raging hormones. Like



Courtesy photo

Even if the hunting is unsuccessful, the cupboard doesn’t have to be bare.

a happily married man, he recognizes temptation and restrains his impulses, even though following them are imperative in maintaining the succession of his flock.

So, he waits. When all the birds have flown down to the forest floor and begun peacefully clucking and purring, signifying that the landing area is safe, he finally launches off his bark-encrusted throne 20 feet up in the old pine. On his landing, he gives one powerful gobble, letting everyone know his Majesty has landed and they can go about their daily routine.

The hens lead the way across the flat area carpeted with last year’s acorns and fresh insects buzzing in the low forest grasses. They begin to head toward the field at the bottom of the hill, where the farmer has left silage in a pile over the winter. Hens first. Then jakes.

When they reach the field edge, a gentle putt-putt-putt comes from above somewhere in the shrubbery. The two remaining jakes race to the call, unaware of the hunter concealed in 3-D camouflage from head to toe. The Boss stays behind, watching the overzealous young birds race to their certain death.

But no gun is fired. There is no resounding “boom” from the old shotgun. The jakes look left and right, then again.

“Where is this hen that is so ready to breed?” They cluck and search, each of them desperately trying to be the one who finds her.

After five minutes of searching for the imaginary hen, they get frustrated and begin to bicker with each other. Suddenly a fight breaks out. Rearing up on their scaly legs, they jump at one another with their juvenile spurs facing their opponent’s breasts. The fight intensifies,

and they begin to purr loudly as if they are cursing at each other.

The hunter sits tight, watching the show. He’s not there to harvest a juvenile. For the seasoned hunter knows that only after the jakes have been unsuccessful, without being shot, will the King saunter up to inspect the hen with the foreign accent.

The hunter waits patiently with his gun raised and aimed at the tom 60 yards away. He knows that to have to raise the gun as he is walking toward him is a big mistake. The king begins to move slowly toward the hidden hunter. He is closing the distance. The king steps up on top of a small hummock of grass raising his red, white and blue head. He thrusts his head forward, swinging his snood over his beak with authority and screams at the top of his lungs, commanding this ghost hen to show herself. The hunter sights down the raised ridge of his barrel, centering the bead on the big tom’s head, 40 yards and closing.

He slips the safety off and slides his finger to the front of the trigger. As he is about to pull the trigger back, the tom gobbles again, louder than before.

But wait a minute. Have I fallen asleep again? Was that gobble real? My eyes bolt open and a large male bird with a thick beard and a bright red head is walking away from me to join his flock at the feed pile at the bottom of the hill.

I exhale deeply and admit that, once again, I will be eating “tag soup” this season. So that the day is not a total loss, I climb up the hill and manage to harvest a good basket of ramps. On the way home, I stop by my favorite local fishing hole and pick a batch of fiddleheads for the rainbow trout I’m “planning on” catching this afternoon.

(Bradley Carleton is executive director of sacredhunter.org, a privately owned limited liability corporation that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature through hunting, fishing and foraging.)

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Calendar of Events

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

Sun to Cheese tour

Thursday, May 18, 2-4 p.m.

Follow the journey of Shelburne Farms’ cheeses, starting with the sun on the fields, during this family tour at the farm. Repeats every day except Tuesdays through Oct. 22. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/2p9t3jnh.

Acoustic folk jam

Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.

The Pierson Library in Shelburne invites any aspiring or experienced musicians, and listeners, to gather for an evening of bluegrass and country jams. Bring your instrument if you want to play. Free event. To RSVP, email rbroder@shelburnevt.org or rmose1948@gmail.com.

Burgers at Bread and Butter
Friday, May 19, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Gather at Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne for an outdoor, rain or shine burger night. Bring blankets and other items to keep you comfortable on the grass. For all the info, upcoming dates and tickets, see breadandbutterfarm.com/burger-night.

Bluegrass in the vineyard

Friday, May 19, 6-9 p.m.

Listen to Brett Hughes and That Bluegrass Band perform at Shelburne Vineyard. Fine wines, local beers, non-alcoholic beverages and local food truck fare will be available to purchase. Call 802-985-8222 for more info or purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/3fdxcndf.

The Sponge Bob Musical

Friday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Burlington’s Very Merry Theatre presents a musical at the Old North End Community Center in Burlington. Family show is free and donations gratefully accepted. To see a list of all summer performances by this traveling group, see verymerrytheatre.org/performances.

James and the Giant Peach Jr

Friday, May 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, 12:30-1:45 p.m.,

peach pie party

Sunday, May 21, 2-4 p.m.

James and the Giant Peach Jr. is the student-directed and performed musical adaptation of Roald Dahl’s beloved story at Essex High School. Attendance at the play is by donation at the door. The peach pie party costs \$5 at the door, where you can have a treat and meet the cast. For more info, call 802-879-7121 or see tinyurl.com/nhjrp885.

Taste of Summer celebration

Friday, May 19, 4-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ferrisburgh kicks off the summer season with three days of community-building, live music, food vendors, dancing, antique cars and a craft market at the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall. Event is organized in support of restoration

WE NEED YOU

Do you love the calendar of events?

Of course, you do. You are reading this calendar, so you must find it useful in keeping up with what is happening in and around Charlotte.

Mary Landon has been producing it for nearly a year and a half. Now, she’s moving on, and we need a volunteer (or two) to take over.

This is a labor of love, and a good match for someone who is adventurous, curious about all the many happenings in Charlotte and beyond — and is up for a chance to give back to your community.

Mary Landon has kindly offered to pass along what she’s learned and how she gathers and organizes the events calendar (every two weeks).

To find out more, please contact Scooter MacMillan at 802-881-4728 or scooter@thecharlottenews.org.



efforts for the hall at 41 Middlebrook Rd. Questions may be directed to 802-425-2166 or see the schedule at tinyurl.com/5n6wrbf8. Event is rain or shine.

Spring craft fair

Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Local craft and art producers sell a variety of wares at the Hinesburg Fire Station. Partial proceeds benefit the Hinesburg Firefighters Association. Boy Scouts will be hosting a concession stand.

Tea time at Horsford’s

Saturday, May 20, 10-11 a.m.

Learn about tea plants, as well as complementary herbs, at this free workshop at Horsford Gardens and Nursery in Charlotte. Workshop is outdoors or in barn if inclement weather. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/bdhtcy57.

Bloom Time Festival

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-noon

Come to the University of Vermont Horticulture and Research Education Center, fondly known as the Hort Farm, to celebrate all things spring. The farm, off Shelburne Road in South Burlington, will come alive with hayrides, plein air artists, tours of the rhododendron and conifer collections, lilac blooms and music. Bring your own picnic lunch if desired. This free family festival is open to all; bug spray and water recommended. To read more, see tinyurl.com/yc88xhzm.

Shelburne open studios

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Twenty visual artists from Shelburne Pond Studios open their doors to show pieces and answer questions about their work. Explore the barn and wander the fields at 1260 Pond Rd. in Shelburne. More info at tinyurl.com/2ssyxmuu.

Songs of the Night

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Bella Voce is Vermont’s premiere women’s chorus. Their spring concert features pieces that reflect some of the emotions and experiences associated with nighttime. Concert is at the College Street Congregational Church in Burlington. For more info and tickets, see bellavocevt.org/events. Tickets also at the door.

Women in the Business of Slavery

Sunday, May 21, 2 p.m.

This month’s free lecture at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington is called Elite Women in the Business of Slavery, Revolutionary and Early Federal Eras. This lecture by Alexandra Garrett is in person at the Homestead or go to ethanallenhomestead.org to register for online attendance. The website lists more seasonal events.

Play Every Town

Sunday, May 21, 2 p.m.

Vermont pianist/composer David Feurzeig continues his series of concerts, one in each town in Vermont. This performance is at the United Methodist Church in Shelburne. Feurzeig set out to complete these free concerts to bring attention to the unsustainable expense and climate impact of numerous plane flights to his worldwide performances. Read more at tinyurl.com/2p8cwb8x.

Valley Players auditions

Sunday-Monday, May 21-22, 6-8 p.m.

The Valley Players in Waitsfield hold auditions for a fall performance of The Glass Menagerie.

Questions about auditions may be directed to Ruth Ann at 802-793-4220. Info at valleyplayers.com. Auditions are held at 4254 Main St. in Waitsfield.

Family music night

Monday, May 22, 5-7 p.m.

Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne hosts Music for Sprouts, a lawn concert for all ages. Bring blankets or chairs; food and drinks available for purchase onsite. Rain location is in barn. Info and tickets at tinyurl.com/4u9a5hm7.

Sourdough creativity

Monday, May 22, 5:30-7 p.m.

After you’ve made a starter, this free online class will explore the many things you can do with your sourdough. Think beyond bread and imagine waffles, chocolate cake or granola. Class is offered through City Market and requires registration at tinyurl.com/bdfaujkk.

Nature’s seasonal cycles

Wednesday, May 24, noon-1 p.m.

The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock presents a free, online program, All About Phenology: How Nature Changes Over Time led by the park’s natural resources team discussing how they study the seasonal cycles of the flora and fauna in the area, especially under the influence of environmental changes. For more info and to register, see tinyurl.com/bctvhpv8.

Music with the Museum

Thursday, May 25, 6 p.m.

Live music by Paul Asbell and Bob Stannard is on the schedule for this event in support of Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh. Concert, silent auction and food and drink tastings are at the Ferrisburgh Community Center (Town Hall) and proceeds benefit Rokeby’s exhibition fund. For more info and tickets, see tinyurl.com/mpjmbamd.

The Comedy of Errors

Thursday-Saturday, May 25-27, 7 p.m. and

Saturday, May 27, 2 p.m.

The Vermont Repertory Theatre presents Shakespeare’s Elizabethan farce, The Comedy of Errors, at Isham Family Farm in Williston, in the barn theater. To learn more and buy tickets, see tinyurl.com/32kbm72y.

CHARLOTTE

Senior center plant sale

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Make sure to stop by the Charlotte Senior Center to find a variety of plants for your gardens. Veggies, annuals and perennials are at great prices; event is rain or shine. Donations of plants, or garden tools you no longer use, may be made between May 19-24. If you have questions, call Sukey Condict at 802-877-2237.

Monkton yard sales

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Find treasures and score deals at the town-wide yard sales in Monkton today.

Drop-in art activity

Saturday, May 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Family Art Saturday is at Burlington City Arts on Church Street. Families are encouraged to drop in to make art inspired by the current gallery exhibitions. Free and open to all. More info at tinyurl.com/ytpcveas.

Over the moon

Saturday, May 27, 1-3 p.m.

Families are invited to a screening of the

movie Over the Moon at the Pierson Library in Shelburne. This PG film is appropriate for ages 6+ and is shown in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The story centers on a Chinese family that bonds over food. Fei Fei, the daughter, excels at science and wants to build a rocket to the moon. For more movie info, see commonsensemmedia.org and search the movie title.

Elements of Shelter exhibit

Saturday, May 27, 4-6 p.m.

A reception for the new exhibition at the Vermont Arts Council Sculpture Garden will take place at 136 State St. in Montpelier. The new exhibit features sculptures by faculty and staff of Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Waitsfield. The event is free and open to all; light refreshments served. More info at tinyurl.com/2kpnh7va.

Afro-Caribbean dance music

Saturday, May 27, 6 p.m.

Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven opens for the season on Thursday, May 18. Their first concert of many this season features Mal Maiz, a Costa-Rican multi-instrumentalist who is joined by his band the Afro-Latino Orchestra. Bring families, blankets and an appetite. More info and tickets at lincolnpkpeakvineyard.com.

The life of Lady Diana

Friday, May 27, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May

28, 2 & 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Munson of Williston performs her one-woman, award-winning show about the life of Lady Diana. Show is at the Black Box Theater, Main Street Landing, Burlington. For more info and tickets, see charlottemunson.com.

Revolutionary reenactment

Saturday-Sunday, May 27-28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Ethan Allen Homestead plans a Revolutionary militia reenactment with Whitcomb’s Rangers. The militia conduct their spring training; artisan crafters will also be onsite. Free with general admission. More info at 802-865-4556.

Open studio weekend

Saturday-Sunday, May 27-28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Members of the Vermont Crafts Council who work in a variety of media will open their studio doors to the public this weekend. Meet artists and craftspeople, see their studios, support their businesses and enjoy a country drive in between stops. For more info and a map of participants, see tinyurl.com/54kxyrze.

Sun catcher class

Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

At the Shelburne Craft School, learn the basics of glass cutting, use of copper foil and soldering. All experience levels are welcome to the class, ages 18+. Make several sun catchers to take home with you; multiple design possibilities. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/3aydf93n.

FaithNet presentation

Sunday, May 28, 11 a.m.-noon

Jericho United Methodist Church hosts a free presentation for the community, in collaboration with members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The program, which follows the church service, discusses ways for members of all faiths to create more welcoming and supportive communities for those impacted by mental illness. For more info, email program@namivt.org or call 802-876-7949, ext. 101.

Parade in Vergennes

Monday, May 29, begins 11 a.m.

Vergennes holds Memorial Day parade. Following, there is a ceremony in the town park. Starting at noon, a chicken barbecue lunch will be available at the American Legion Post #14 until sold out. Info at marsulli75@gmail.com.

Girls on the Run 5k

Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.

Girls on the Run hosts a 5k race at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Pick up bibs and do same-day registration starting at 7:30 a.m.; race begins at 10 a.m. To learn more or register in advance (prior to May 31), see gotrvt.org/5k-essex.

Field sketching workshop

Saturday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join artist Rachel Mirus at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington for some bird-inspired drawing, with a focus on feathers. Bring special natural items that you might want to draw. Art materials provided. Best for ages 13+. Bring lunch and water if you’d like to picnic at the Museum after the class. Dress to be comfortable in the outdoors. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/2p934yzv.



Town of Charlotte MEETINGS

Visit charlottevt.org for more information.

Development Review Board: special meeting

Thursday, May 18, 3:30-4 p.m.

Planning Commission: regular meeting.

Thursday, May 18, 7-9 p.m.

Selectboard

Monday, May 22, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard special meeting: discussion of town administrator vs. town manager

Tuesday, May 23, 7p.m.

Development Review Board: regular meeting

Wednesday, May 24, 7-9:30 p.m.

Memorial Day (town office closed)

Monday, May 29

Library News

Library gets \$10,000 grant to redesign its website

Margaret Woodruff
Director

The Charlotte Library was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to redesign the library website.

The new format will better facilitate website navigation and make the entire site more accessible to everyone seeking resources and information. Stay tuned for more details.

Aspiring chef? Accomplished cook? We're looking to expand our menu of food-based programs using our Charlie Cart so let us know if you have any ideas. This portable kitchen comes fully equipped with tools and supplies for fun cooking activities for all ages. Stop by the library or contact Margaret Woodruff at margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org if you're interested.

Our Mending Matters gathering was a hit. Repair-minded Charlotters met to repair everything from sweatshirt zippers to woolen socks. If you're interested in joining this informal group, let us know.

Explore outdoors

Seed library

It's still a good time to request garden seeds from the Seed Library. Have a look at the 2023 Seed Catalog online or at a hard copy at the library front desk.

Contact us at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org to request small amounts of heritage seed for vegetables, herbs and edible flowers at no charge.

Join the blog to receive technical information and notice of educational programs to help your garden succeed and learn how to save seeds for next year.

Library Garden Circle

Join the Garden Circle of volunteers who will tend the educational gardens around the library this year. Contact Garden Stewards Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org to sign up to join the merry group work sessions Wednesdays 4:30-6 p.m. starting in late May.

Many hands make for light work, and there is always interesting conversation about plants and gardening.

The rain garden is establishing itself as an effective way to manage the rainwater coming off the library roof, and the welcome garden on the south side is filling out with colorful and pollinator-friendly blooms.

Outdoor resources

If you're considering a wildflower walk, take a beautiful map available at the library with you to identify the species that carpet our woods and meadows. Copies are available at the library circulation desk from the Vermont Master Naturalist program at vermontmasternaturalist.org.

Similarly, Northern Woodlands weekly emails can help you appreciate the variety of flora and fauna all around us. Check out This Week in the Woods at tinyurl.com/53dr9ph8 or look for the magazine at the library.

Children's programs

Young children's story time Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

No registration required.

Preschool free play Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks, play dough — these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning at the Charlotte Library. Ages 2-4. No registration required.

Programs for adults

Book Chat Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet each week to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. No registration necessary.

Crochet & Knit Night Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.

Claudia Marshall is your host for a casual weekly session of crocheting and chatting,



Courtesy photo

The weather has been wonderful for book chats on the library porch on Wednesday afternoons.

knitting and catching up. Bring your project or start a new one with yarn and needles available at the library, along with plenty of books to instruct and inspire. For teens and adults.

Short story selections First and third Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Join Library Director Margaret Woodruff to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Register in advance for the Zoom link at tinyurl.com/bdnhh86f.

Creating an Edible Landscape with Dani Baker Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m.

If you want to create an edible hedge, an edible bed, a foundation planting or a forest garden, you will discover there are a variety of native food plants to choose from to fill your space. This illustrated talk will describe

the growth habit, preferred habitat, care required, food value, other users, aesthetic appeal and propagation techniques for over 25 native perennial plants you can include in your edible landscape. Join us online or in person for this timely presentation from Dani Baker, whose work promotes acting as good stewards of the land and water resources entrusted to us on her farm in upstate New York and through presentations like this. Register for Zoom at bit.ly/3GC458U and for in-person attendance at bit.ly/3oduCmk.

Library contact information:

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

For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for our monthly newsletter: Charlotte Library Newsletter.

SCIENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

and observations with rocket scientists and designers.

- July 10: Biomimicry. After exploring the outdoors, participants will brainstorm ideas for how functions in nature can be used to make changes for the better in human lives, a practice known as biomimicry.

- July 12: Learn About Forest Ecology. Students will learn how to identify common tree species and how foresters and forest scientists measure trees and study soil to assess the history of a site to determine which tree species will grow there.

- July 14-16: Natural Resources Management Academy. This overnight camp will combine field exploration of watershed science, fish health, food waste to fuel conversion and ecological restoration with opportunities for outdoor recreation.

- July 17: Youth Day at the Stem Cells, Cell Therapy and Bioengineering in Lung Biology and Disease Conference. Participants will tour

a University of Vermont research laboratory and learn about the biomechanical regulation of lung function and translational science career paths.

- July 18: Learn About Brain Connections with Neuronify. This session will focus on how scientists use Neuronify, an open-source app, to study the various ways brain cells send and receive information.

- July 21: Microbe Detectives. Students will learn what goes on behind the scenes at a doctor's office, including how to draw and analyze a patient's blood and test bacterial growth to identify the microbe causing an infection. They also will tour the University of Vermont Medical Center's clinical laboratory and discover what it takes to become a phlebotomist, pathologist, medical laboratory scientist or histotechnologist.

- July 24-28: Science Exploration Camp.

This week-long day camp will look at a number of science disciplines through hands-on experiments.

- July 31-August 4: Morning Cup of Code. The five-day virtual workshop will teach foundational coding concepts for building a customizable quiz game using the Scratch coding platform.

- August 4: Brain Lab. This laboratory experience involves the use of real human brains to delve into neuroanatomy and the mysterious workings of the brain.

- August 6: Nature Awareness and Ecological Restoration. Participants will learn how to use field guides, identify and record wild species, work with a map and compass and employ basic skills to restore an ecosystem under the direction of the University of Vermont Mycolab team.

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Senior Center News

Don't forget the plant sale or Senior Resource Fair

Lori York
Director

This month there are two big events happening at the senior center. The Senior Resource Fair is 3-5 p.m., Wednesday, May 24, and the Charlotte Senior Center annual plant sale is on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Remember to mark your calendars and join the community at these events. And as you are dividing perennials in your garden, please consider donating extra plants to the Senior Center Plant Sale.

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

Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening? 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 programs for the upcoming week.

Events

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

Stop by the Senior Resource Fair and learn about housing opportunities for seniors, support for Alzheimer’s caregivers, resources for veterans, food programs, energy and emergency resources, library services for seniors and fraud protection tools.

There will be free hearing tests, hearing aid cleanings and if you are a veteran, you can find out about military veteran services and benefits. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to discover all the great resources available to seniors.

For a complete listing of the 30 organizations that will be attending the Senior Resource Fair, check out the Charlotte Senior Center website, charlotteseniorcentervt.org/senior-resource-fair.

A special thank you to the Charlotte Congregational Church charlotteucc.org, which is providing parking for the 30 organizations who will be at the fair.

Thank you also to the Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg Rotary Club rotaryclubofcsh.org whose members will be helping direct parking during the Senior Resource Fair.

Charlotte Senior Center annual plant sale Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Stock up on a great selection of annuals and perennials at great prices. Rain or shine.

If you’re dividing perennials in your garden, pot (and label) a few to donate to the sale. Drop off plants at the center any time between Friday-Wednesday, May 19-24.

Need help digging? Please call 802-425-6345 and leave your name, address and phone number. Questions? Call Sukey Condict at 802-877-2237 or email Polly Price at ppolly62@ymail.com.

Make Music VT Wednesday, June 21

The Charlotte Senior Center and Charlotte Library will be participating in Make Music VT. Info at bigheavyworld.com/makemusictv. Stay tuned for details about this free event. Are you a musician interested in performing at the senior center or on the library porch? Contact Nick Carter at nickcarter011@gmail.com.

Programs

Birding expedition Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m.

There are a wide range of birding habitats in Chittenden County. Join avid bird watcher Hank Kaestner and learn to identify the various bird species and habitats right here in Vermont. Cost: Free. Registration required and



Wally Gates welcoming gardeners and collecting payments at last year’s annual plant sale.

group size is limited. Register online at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/registration, in-person or by calling 802-425-6345.

Brain games Fridays, 2:30-4 p.m.

There are many ways adults can stimulate their brains to increase mental health, improve memory skills and contribute to overall well-being. Research finds that positive interaction with others and engagement in stimulating group activities sharpens cognition and increases memory ability. Join in to play various games, share laughter and enjoy one another’s company. There are some games available, but also feel free to bring your own games. Questions? Please call Lin Kalson at 608-345-9321 or email [lin. linkalson7@gmail.com](mailto:linkalson7@gmail.com). No cost and no registration required — just show up.

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 Franko at 802-425-6270. Cost: Free. No registration required. *There will be no meeting 5/24 due to the setting up for the Senior Resource Fair.

Beginner guitar Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m. May 24-June 28

Interested in learning guitar? Join John Creech, a composer and guitarist for over 40 years, as he shares his love of this instrument. The session will cover the basics to learning acoustic guitar in an easy-going and supportive environment. Registration and payment required. Cost: \$75 for the six-week session. Register online at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/registration, in-person or by calling 802-425-6345.

New paddling group forming

There is interest in starting a new paddling group at the senior center. Open to all skill levels. Interested in finding out more? Contact Dean Tuininga at dean.tuininga@gmail.com.

Writing Our Way Through Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., May 25, June 1, 15, 22 & 29

Join Pamela Powell as she guides you through this generative writing workshop. Questions? Reach out to Pamela at mermaidpamela44@gmail.com or 781-646-6708. Registration and payment required by May 17. Cost: \$100 for the



Photos by Lori York

A concert by the Segel family is a popular senior center event. From left, Juna and Hannah Segel perform.



From left, Katie Franko, Frank Califano and Janice Bauch are part of the Creative Arts Group that meets on Wednesday mornings at the senior center.

five-week session.
Meals
Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

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

Weekly Age Well Grab-&-Go meals
Pick up on Thursdays 10-11a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is

required by Monday for the Thursday meal. \$5 suggested meal donation but not required. To register, contact Carol Pepin at 802-425-6345 or at meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Senior center contact info
Lori York, director, lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte
802-425-6345
charlotteseniorcentervt.org
Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.

Write Ingredients

By any other name it's still meatloaf

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Celebrated Library of Congress poet laureate Donald Hall, who lived at Eagle Pond Farm in New Hampshire, once remarked that on his birthday every year he got to choose the menu: meatloaf, corn niblets, rice and chocolate cake.

Come to Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center and you won't have to wait until your birthday for meat loaf and chocolate cake.

Monday Munch, May 22

11:30-12:30, or until the food is gone

Meatloaf, new potatoes, green beans and chocolate cake.

Meatloaf has worldwide appeal. Called faschierter Braten in Austria, Mańser lof in Bangladesh, vleesbrod in Belgium, rulo stefani in Bulgaria and sekaná. in Czechoslovakia, where they put pickled gherkins in the middle.

It sounds like the lyrics for a song:

Put some gherkin in your sekaná
And then you won't need the banana.

If you follow David Tanis' plan for the Italian polpettone in NY Times Cooking, you'll need ground veal and pork along with the beef, prosciutto, parmesan, provolone, spinach and lots of spices.

In the 1870s, the first recorded recipe for the modern American meatloaf added salt, pepper, onion, egg and milk-soaked bread to chopped beef. The resulting meatloaf was regarded as something to eat for breakfast.

Betty Crocker's 1958 book, "365 Ways to Cook Hamburger," included 70 recipes for meatloaf. Some of the suggestions found there require quite a stretch, including smashed bananas and ketchup-filled peach halves.

Not to second-guess the ingredients of Monday Munch Meatloaf at the Charlotte Senior Center, but it seems safe to predict it will not include bananas or peach halves.

Enjoy the meatloaf and be sure to save room for the chocolate cake.

Surprisingly, the Escoffier Cook Book has only one entry for chocolate: chocolate sauce. That's it.

Renowned pastry chef and chocolatier Jacques Torres made chocolate soup for Julia Child on her PBS cooking show. To make this, besides chocolate, you'll need bananas and rum. See at pbs.org/food/recipes/baked-chocolate-soup.

Julia goes light on chocolate in her famous cookbooks, offering recipes for two chocolate cakes, one mousse and a sauce for ice cream.

Dom Deluise's "Eat This ... It'll Make You Feel Better" has three chocolate cake recipes.

"The Fanny Farmer Cookbook" offers chocolate recipes for 14 cakes, eight cookies, five fudges and several puddings.

From the sublime to the inedible, Hostess introduced Ding Dongs in 1967.

On your way to good eating at the Charlotte Senior Center, put a little bounce in your step with Sammy Davis Jr.'s "The Candy Man," featured in the 1971 musical "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory." Satisfy your musical sweet tooth here: tinyurl.com/3yktd6yc.

Then put some bounce in a Charlotte child's life by donating a copy of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" — or any other book — to the Little Free Library for kids, located in front of the Charlotte Grange.

Monday, May 29

The Charlotte Senior Center is closed for Memorial Day.



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