

Your nonprofit community news source since 1958

The Charlotte News

Thursday, June 15, 2023 Volume 65 Number 25



Slowdown for slowpokes

Photo by Christina Asquith

The Chelydridae, or snapping turtles, are on the move. Many residents are worried about turtle safety on town roads; some have put up handmade, craft signs to encourage turtle awareness.

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Vol. 65, No.25

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The story of the Champlain Valley Union state championship was pretty much: Get the lead early and hang on the rest of the way.

After the Redhawks (16-2) scored two runs in the first inning and four in the second, offense was a closed chapter for both teams from then on. Those six runs were more than enough to give CVU a 6-0 win in the title match over Mount Anthony Union (17-4).

When the Patriots' final out was finished, it was instantaneous pandemonium on the mound. Suddenly, winning pitcher Stephen Rickert was smothered in a wiggling mass of teammates.

"When you see your team dogpile at Centennial Field because you won a state championship, there is no better feeling. None," said assistant coach Sam Fontaine, who has experienced this unrivaled feeling with CVU five times in 10 years.

Once again, the Redhawks baseball team was revisiting a familiar neighborhood, a championship territory where they've set up camp in recent years. This state baseball title was Champlain Valley's third title in four years, fifth since 2012.

With the shutout championship win, the Redhawks also made history by becoming just the second school in Vermont history to have won the boys state titles in football, basketball and baseball in the same year.

"The trifecta," CVU football coach Rahn Fleming called the three-sport title sweep.

Ed Hockenbury, former athletic director at Essex High, said Essex first accomplished the feat during the 2009-10 school year.

The Redhawk's title came behind the pitching prowess of junior Stephen Rickert, who pitched seven innings of one-hit ball. He issued a single walk and struck out five. It was the third complete game he's thrown this year.

In the third inning, Rickert demonstrated some timely defensive skills. On a sharply hit ball that came straight back at him, Rickert deftly spun away from the ball to avoid getting hit in his front. As he spun, the pitcher reached behind himself and caught the hard-smacked drive with his back to the batter. Without a pause, he tossed the ball to first.

Rickert has made that play before, said first-year coach Nick Elderton, whose pitcher

REDHAWKS SHUTOUT CHAMPIONSHIP



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Above: When Mount Anthony's final out was tallied, a pile o' players appeared almost immediately on top of pitcher Stephen Rickert.

Top right: From left, Calvin Steele, Aaron LaRose and Steve Rickert celebrate with CVU's new trophy after the Redhawks shut out the Patriots 6-0 for the state title.

demonstrated during the season a knack for being in the right spot at the right time. During the year, his team was rallied by the confidence of Rickert and the other pitchers on CVU's talented pitching roster.

That the second-inning, four-run offensive onslaught, which essentially put the game away, came with two outs is emblematic of his team, said coach Elderton. "It just shows the grit of this team and just who we are. It's been amazing all year."

He acknowledged that his team's

performance during the season was up and down in various areas of the game of baseball, but during the playoffs things were different; his players were consistent and in sync.

"In the last couple of games, we finally put together all four aspects of the game — base running, hitting, pitching and defense," Elderton said. "It's a pretty special day when everything is working."

SEE **CVU BASEBALL** PAGE 2

Chittenden County Sheriff to patrol Charlotte

Brett Yates
Contributor

Starting in July, the Chittenden County Sheriff's Office will take up traffic enforcement duties on Charlotte's town roads.

For years, the town, which has no police department of its own, has contracted the Vermont State Police to keep tabs on speeders. Under the current agreement, which expires on June 30, the service costs \$78.60 per hour and no more than \$33,000 per year.

The Chittenden County Sheriff's Office will charge \$65 per hour and no more than \$30,000 per year. It will patrol townwide from Monday through Friday for "up to eight-nine hours per week," according to the contract, which the Charlotte Selectboard signed at its meeting on June 12.

Board member Lewis Mudge described the absence of weekend enforcement as "a real kick in the pants." But chair James Faulkner argued in favor of prioritizing weekdays.

"Everybody travels on those days the most, back and forth to work," Faulkner said. "It would be great if we could have seven days, but the budget didn't allow for it."

The Chittenden County Sheriff's Office previous tenure in Charlotte ended in 2008, when the town hired the Shelburne Police Department to replace what town administrator Dean Bloch remembered last year as the former's "heavy-handed" and "not very professional" interactions with local motorists. The town subsequently switched to the Vermont State Police after Shelburne raised its rate.

According to data published by the Vermont Judiciary, Vermont State Police issued 14 fines for municipal traffic violations in Charlotte in 2022. The agency will continue to patrol Route 7 on the state's behalf.

Ex-Shelburne town manager to consult on town manager switch

Release of vote petition threatened

Scooter MacMillan and Brett Yates

(An earlier version of this story published in the online newsletter has been edited and updated here to include reporting of the June 12 selectboard meeting.)

In the middle of a discussion of three metaphorical buckets to organize town thoughts about changing to a town manager, it was revealed that former Shelburne town manager Lee Krohn might be enlisted to help Charlotte figure out what goes into which bucket.

The bucket analogy was used on June 6 at another special meeting about whether to switch to a town manager municipal government. Selectboard chair Jim Faulkner said one bucket would be for the responsibilities of a town administrator, one for those of a town manager and one for responsibilities required by state statute.

Charlotte officials have used the bucket metaphor previously, for example to organize discussions about land-use plan amendments.

Faulkner said he had been talking for a week or so to Krohn, who recently retired

as town manager of Shelburne and who lives in Charlotte. He related that Krohn is not interested in working as an interim town manager, but he's willing to serve as a consultant. Faulkner proposed for the town to enlist Krohn to organize the advantages and disadvantages of a town administrator versus a town manager into the "three buckets."

Board member Louise McCarren said the question she has come away with from her discussions with town residents is: "What is the problem we're trying to solve?"

The answer, she feels, is that many residents think the selectboard is preoccupied with mundane things when more important things need its attention. The board reached a consensus agreement, which it later violated, to not use curb cuts as an example of such mundane decisions that it could delegate.

Lewis Mudge, also a board member, said he doesn't see Charlotte's situation as a

"In order to stay current with all the work you've done, I think the timing is right to release the petition."

— Lane Morrison

problem, but more as an opportunity. With town administrator Dean Bloch retiring, it's an opportunity for the town to consider what the role of that position should be.

"I think it's normal, and I think it's appropriate that we do. We might stay with a town administrator," Mudge said. "What direction do we want to move in?"

Board member Frank Tenney recommended the town look at how and why some towns, which changed to town managers, veered from state statute to modify their town managers' responsibilities.

Such a change from state statute would require a charter approved by the legislature. That process would probably take two years, Faulkner said.

The selectboard is worried about the amount of time it is taking to hire Bloch's replacement with him leaving at the end of October. Board members discussed, as they have before, how it will affect hiring to fill

this position while the nature of that position is unsettled.

Faulkner believes that Krohn's experience as a town manager could expedite the hiring process.

To reiterate: An ad hoc group headed by former selectboard chair Lane Morrison has collected at least 200 signatures on a petition to hold a vote on changing to a town manager. The group has decided to pause in submitting that petition while the selectboard considers the proposal. If the petition is submitted, the town would have to schedule a town meeting within 60 days for residents to vote for or against the change.

Even if the selectboard decides it wants to change the town government to a town manger system, it would still require a vote by residents.

Although Faulkner had suggested it

SEE **TOWN MANAGER** PAGE 3



Police looking for tanker truck fire witnesses

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

(This story has been updated from the initial version in the newsletter.)

A natural gas tanker truck fire on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh late the night of June 1, that easily could have been deadly, did knock out power in the area for awhile, but no one was hurt. Considering the size of the conflagration, damage was minimal.

Workers restoring cable and phone service the morning of June 2 said around 11:05 p.m. the night before a driver noticed sparks, apparently from a gas tanker truck’s brakes.

The driver passed the tanker truck and managed to signal the truck driver over. They both dashed a safe distance away and weren’t hurt when the truck burst into flames.

Grass and trees were burned for about 40 feet on both sides of Route 7 south of Dakin Road.

The truck was a total loss. No buildings were burned, although a structure close to the road was not far from the conflagration. The next morning it appeared to have been untouched by the flames.

A week after the fire the Vermont State Police sent out a release saying an investigation of the natural gas truck fire is “ongoing.”

“The investigation into last week’s fire involving a commercial motor vehicle carrying compressed natural gas on U.S. Route 7 in Ferrisburgh remains active,” the release said.

The state police are asking for motorists, or anyone in the area who saw the fire or the tanker before the blaze, to call New Haven at 802-388-4919 and ask for Sgt. Brittani Barone.

A worker at the scene said the fire had been suppressed by the time he arrived, just after midnight.

Another who lives in Monkton said he lost power the night before, but it had been restored in just a couple of hours.

Ferrisburgh fire chief Bill Wager said such tanker trucks are equipped with a venting system with a release when a maximum pressure is reached to prevent an explosion.



Photo courtesy Ferrisburgh Fire Department

A massive fire, but no injuries, appear to have been caused by sparks from the brakes of a natural gas tanker truck on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh on June 1.

“The venting system worked perfectly,” Wager said. “The container did what it was supposed to do.”

Fire fighters were able to spray the fire with water to cool it down. Wager said, in his 46 years of firefighting, it was one of the biggest he’s seen.

About 80 feet of both the north and south lanes of the roadway of Route 7 were damaged three-quarters of an inch deep

because of the high temperatures of the fire, said Daniel Shepard with Vermont Agency of Transportation in a release.

Temporary repairs to the roadway to ensure the safety of the road had been made by the next day, Friday, June 2, but more permanent repairs are needed in the near future, he said.

Nine fire departments, including Charlotte, responded to the fire.

CVU BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Travis Stroh led the way in the hitting aspect of CVU’s game in the title tilt, getting two hits in his three trips to the plate — a single and a homerun that accounted for four of the Redhawks’ six runs. Kyle Tivnan and Zach Santos each knocked in an RBI for CVU’s two other runs.

How the Redhawks got here

The Champlain Valley Union High baseball team achieved its early season goal of ending the regular season ranked No. 1 in the state, so it played all its playoff games at home, until the finals. And the final game

on Centennial Field is almost a ritual, so the Redhawks may be starting to feel like it’s a home game, too.

The team had visited Centennial Field on a recent day and walked the field where the final contest would be held.

“They just kind of walked it visualizing that success, just seeing it. The dimensions are a lot bigger but all these kids stepped up,” Elderton said.

Their No. 1 ranking also earned the Redhawks a bye in the first round, so in their first playoff game, they faced Colchester in the quarterfinals, a team they dispatched 13-0 in a five-inning match shortened by the mercy rule.

In the semifinals, the Redhawks

vanquished Mount Mansfield (13-5) 6-3 on June 6.

Chris Robinson pitched five innings to take the win for CVU with four strikeouts while yielding three hits.

Robbie Fragola got a hit all four times he stepped into the batter’s box, with two doubles and two singles.

Rickert showed off his hitting prowess on a day when he wasn’t pitching, going 2-for-3 with a single, a double and an RBI.



Asa Roberts signs a ball for a young fan. As the Red Hawks progressed in the state playoff, younger audience members began asking CVU players for their autographs. Assistant coach Sam Fontaine said this is a newer tradition the coaches have endorsed, seeing it as a way to give back to the community and for players to be role models for future Redhawks.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Stephen Rickert pitched the Redhawks to the state title, throwing a complete game while only surrendering one hit.



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.

Send submissions, questions, photos, etc. to scooter@thecharlottenews.org

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The Charlotte News is delivered at no cost to all Charlotte residences. Subscriptions are available for first-class delivery at \$60 per calendar year.
Want a subscription? Subscribe on our website, charlottenewsvt.org

Postmaster/Send address changes to:

The Charlotte News, P.O. Box 251,
Charlotte, VT 05445 Telephone: 802-425-4949
Circulation: 2,100

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Commentary

Children’s center and church working to expand childcare facilities

Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen
and Kelly Bouteiller
Charlotte Congregational Church and
Charlotte Children’s Center

For many years, Charlotte Children’s Center and Charlotte Congregational Church have partnered to provide childcare and pre-school education for families in our community through the Children’s Center Extension Program (Voyager). While the main children’s center site is on Ferry Road (across from the Charlotte Library), Voyager is housed in rented space in the vestry building of Charlotte Congregational Church. Currently, our two institutions are working together on some exciting projects that we’re pleased to share with the wider community.

Over the past nine months there has been a movement to renovate the playground area on the church campus that serves children from both the Voyager Program and the church. The vision is to replace the fence,



Courtesy photo
Julian LaMere on the wooden and starry playground.

expand the play area and replace the main playground structure.

With the help of many volunteers, essential in-kind donations, funds contributed by both institutions and a generous private donation by members of the church, the playground renovation is underway. In May 2023, the play area was expanded and a new playground structure was added. Later this summer, the fence will be replaced, and the overall play area will be significantly expanded into a shadier part of the church lawn. Next time you’re on Church Hill Road, look for the new cedar structure with red flags, blue slides and a starry roof.

While this playground project is visible to the whole community, it’s just one prong of a two-pronged initiative to address critical needs in our community. We celebrate the recent legislative action in Montpelier (H.217). Once it becomes law, it will provide the investment needed to expand childcare and pre-school options for families.

We are mindful that right now the waiting list at the children’s center is very long, with infant care being especially tight. In light of that reality and with a shared desire to serve our community by meeting this critical need, Charlotte Children’s Center and Charlotte Congregational Church are furthering their partnership to provide infant care for the first time at the Voyager Program.

We’re working together to make the church’s largest classroom into a dedicated infant room while getting creative to preserve space for the existing preschool students and the church’s vibrant children and youth programs. Through a grant awarded by Let’s Grow Kids and VT’s Child Development Division to Charlotte Children’s Center, a grant provided by Shelburne-Charlotte-Hinesburg Interfaith Projects (SCHIP), and donations by both institutions, the room should be ready this fall to welcome up to six infants. The grant funds will also help to expand infant and toddler capacity at the children’s center main

campus and preschool spaces in the Voyager Program.

The indoor and outdoor improvements represent a significant investment in time and money, but they are also an investment in the future resilience of our community. At a time in our country when there are endless reports

of disagreement, division and institutions working against one another, right here in Charlotte we have a different story to tell: A story of shared vision, institutional cooperation, wide-spread generosity and bold action leading to a playground of possibilities.

Wide-open house



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

On Saturday, June 3, the selectboard held an open house at the site of the construction of the town garage. From left, board member Lewis Mudge and road commissioner Junior Lewis discuss the project. Chair Jim Faulkner said, although the project is behind by a couple of weeks, the project will be finished long before the snow flies. He said the original finish date was July. Although that date has been moved back, there is still plenty of time for construction to be completed long before the penalty date.

TOWN MANAGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would take Krohn about four to six weeks to organize the various points for and against into the “three buckets,” resident Peter Richardson contested that estimate, saying it should take a couple of hours.

The organization of the various points into a more easily understood format “is not very subtle,” Richardson said. “That’s a short-term assignment that someone with Lee’s experience should turn around in a couple of days.”

Regular selectboard meeting

At the board’s regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, the board’s intention to hire Krohn nearly derailed altogether when Morrison stood up to announce that he might reverse course and file the withheld petition after all.

“In order to stay current with all the work you’ve done,” he said, “I think the timing is right to release the petition,”

Morrison envisioned a special town meeting at the end of July, following the conclusion of Krohn’s research. But Tenney argued that, if Morrison chose to “force the issue” instead of waiting for the selectboard to decide whether to bring the question to the voters, it wouldn’t make sense for the town to contract Krohn to study the pros and cons between the different forms of government for the purpose of informing that decision.

“I thought we had a plan,” Faulkner added. “What bothers me the most is that you don’t trust us. You don’t trust that we will follow through with what we’re saying.” Morrison relented, and the board executed a contract with Krohn for \$2,500, with the expectation that he would deliver a report by July 20 for review at the board’s July 24 meeting. The extra time will give Krohn a

chance to consult the town attorney during his analysis of the “opportunities, constraints, requirements, and/or limitations that may flow from state statutes regarding town administrators and town manager,” as the contract puts it.

“I’m not doubting your ability to interpret state statutes,” Mudge said. “It’s just that I think there’s different ways of reading state statutes amongst different people, and I think at the end of the day we’re going to want a lawyer to decide it.”

The board also finalized its help wanted ad, which it’ll publish later this week, as well as a longer job description to accompany it on the town website. The ad will solicit candidates for a “town administrator/town manager,” with a deadline of July 14.

The town of Hinesburg presented a model for the hiring process ahead. When that town was recruiting and interviewing candidates to fill its town administrator position, it was also considering a switch to a town manager. It hired a person willing to be an administrator but able to step into the town manager role. Ultimately, the residents voted to change to a town manager.

Amid ongoing editing, the board tabled a draft solicitation for a search committee, where, according to the current language, three members of the public will help two selectboard members interview applicants. Board member Kelly Devine said the selectboard should look for volunteers in the town with experience in developing “rubrics” or guidelines for evaluating job candidates.

“We think that’s a real resource that we can we can tap into to make this process less expensive, more local, more engaging for our community, and hopefully, get us to a position where, whoever we hire, it’s somebody that everybody’s happy with,” Devine said.

DIYC
CHICKEN
BARBECUE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, June 24
6 p.m.
at Point Bay Marina

This is our longest standing event and a summer tradition for our yacht club.

The BBQ includes half a chicken and an array of delicious sides and simple desserts. We will have vegetarian sides for those that want to attend the event but prefer not to eat chicken. Drinks are available, but you are welcome to bring a beverage of choice.

Members: \$16 | Non-member guests: \$21 | Children (5-12) \$10

Sign up on the DIYC website diamondislandyc.org by Sunday June 18 to secure your place at the table.

COMMUNITY
POTLUCK SUPPER

Gather with friends and neighbors to share food and conversation at the Grange Hall, 2858 Spear Street in East Charlotte Village.

Sunday, June 25, 5 - 7 p.m.
Bring a dish to share, plate and utensils
Beverages will be provided

Seating is limited; please email charlottegrangevt@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Visit charlottegrange.org for up-to-date event information.

The Charlotte News is proud to support this event

Around Town

Preparing to rock



Photo by Alexandra Z. Lazar

Since robin eggs take about 13 days to gestate, these should be rockin’ any day now, out-bopping the buzzard and the oriole, hoppin’ and a-boppin’ and a-singing their songs.

Dale Lockwood Caldwell

Dale Lockwood Caldwell of Charlotte died on May 28 in his home at the age of 58. Dale was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., to Garth Lockwood Caldwell and Mary Ann Caldwell who moved to Manchester, Vt., shortly after Dale’s birth.

Dale maintained a connection with Florida with his loyal support of the Miami Dolphins football team. He attended schools in Manchester and then attended the University of Vermont where he got his bachelor’s degree. He spent more than 30 years at Gardener’s Supply working as a network administrator.

Dale was deeply loyal and found the greatest joy when he was with his friends and family. His greatest source of pride was his two children. Dale was the absolute source of obscure comic book facts and was famous among his family and friends for his great joy of conversation and his sharp, cynical wit.

He is survived by his two children, Phoenix and Ace Caldwell, and his wife, Kristine Bryan Caldwell, his mother, his brother, Christopher Caldwell, and three nieces, Robyn, Nicole and Savanna Caldwell. He was predeceased by his father.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Muscular Dystrophy Association or the Homeward Board: Addison County Humane Society.

Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock

It is with sadness that the family of Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock, 94, previously of East Charlotte, Vermont, announce her death on June 3 at the Arbors in Shelburne, Vermont.

She was born May 2, 1929, in Burlington to Horace and Dorothy Melendy. She grew up on Shelburne Road, where one of her favorite activities as a little girl was sitting with her dad on his Vermont State Police Excelsior-Henderson motorcycle. As a teenager she was a fine equestrian and loved to ride her horse, Starr, through the woodlands and meadows around her home. She graduated from Burlington High School.

In 1949, she married John E. Hancock, a handsome farmer from East Hardwick. After one cold winter in a poorly heated farmhouse with a newborn daughter, that career path ended. They moved back to Shelburne Road before moving to Proctor, Vermont, for several years, later settling in East Charlotte where they would live much of the remainder of their lives.

After her four children were grown, she began her years of academia. In 1976, at the age of 47, she attended Trinity College in Burlington, graduating summa cum laude. In 1984, she graduated from St. Michaels College



Dale Lockwood Caldwell

with a master’s in science and counseling degree.

During and after her years in school, she was also a licensed lay minister with the United Church of Christ, serving many churches in Vermont. She was one of three women in Vermont to establish the order of St. Luke’s Healing Ministry with the United Church of Christ, an ecumenical ministry of healing, prayer, the laying on of hands and the sacraments. She had absolute faith and experience that prayer healed. Deciding to become an ordained minister, she studied and worked under the tutelage of Rev. John Nutting, and on April 30, 2000, at the age of 71, she earned the title of Rev. Anne Hancock at the Cornwall Church. She continued to serve as their pastor for three more years, retiring at the age of 74.

Our mom was a beautiful seamstress, community leader and ardent supporter of women’s rights. She was passionate about serving the underprivileged, whether it was hosting a Fresh Air child, fostering children, welcoming all the folks her children brought home from Camp Jened or supporting Heifer International and Save the Children. Never to be forgotten are the summer vacations in Wells, Maine, where she and our father gathered all their children and grandchildren together for some of the best and most memorable times of their lives.

Anne is predeceased by her husband of 62 years, John Hancock (2011), her second husband, Gene Rothman (2018), her brother, Irving Melendy (2021) and her longtime companion, her little dog Willy.

“Nonny” is survived by her children Betsy Hartman (Ed), John Hancock, Stephen Rose and Melissa Hancock (Toby). Her grandchildren: Radiance Vafai (Shahin), Etienne Hancock (Jill), Jalali Hartman, Elise Hancock, Anna Dyer (Kelly), Juliette Volk (Nick), Michael Fitzgerald, Kate Fitzgerald, Julia Sumner (Tom), Maliyah Kent (Kevin), Brookes Clemmons, Luke Clemmons, Olivia Clemmons and Emile Hartman. She is also survived by 13 great grandchildren: Munir, Bashir, Nabil, Brooke, Sasha, Celia, Hadrian, Pharah, Niri, Theron, Lila, Eva and Riley.

Services were held June 6 at the Charlotte Congregational Church, where she was a lifelong member. She was interred in the Grand View Cemetery. Donations can be made in her memory to the Vermont Food Bank or the charity of your choice.

“The progress of the human spirit in the divine world after its connection with the physical body has been severed, is either purely through the grace and bounty of the Lord or through the intercession and prayers of other human souls, or through the significant contributions and charitable deeds which are offered in its name.” Abdu’l-Baha

James M. Lawrence

James Merton Lawrence of Shelburne, Vermont, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2023, with family at his side.

James was born on November 11, 1946, in Binghamton, N.Y., the son of the late Merton Grover Lawrence and Anne (Spelniak) Lawrence.

The first in his family to attend college, James enrolled at Cornell University intending to pursue a veterinary career. After taking



Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock

Around Town

an elective class in Communication Arts he fell in love with the field of journalism. Upon graduating in 1969 he joined the Peace Corps and worked in Putumayo, Colombia for two years.

Returning home, James enrolled in a magazine journalism program at Syracuse University graduating with a masters in 1974. With family ties in Canada, he landed a job as a reporter for The Kingston Whig Standard, moving from police reporting to editing the op-ed page and doing investigative journalism.

The start of James’ incredible entrepreneurial career was in 1976 with the kitchen table launch of a back-to-the-land style magazine titled Harrowsmith, after a nearby Ontario town. The first issue had the eye-catching cover of a large green tomato imprinted with a lipstick kiss and the cover line: “Kissing Supermarkets Goodbye.” This was followed in 1981 with the launch of Equinox, The Magazine of Canadian Discovery. Both titles earned prestigious Canadian national magazine awards.

James had big ideas and the determination to bring them to life through a combination of hard work and the unerring ability to find and convert talented people to his cause.

Two affiliated book-publishing companies, Camden House Books (Canada and U.S.), produced titles in the fields of natural history, gardening, food, country skills, astronomy and ecology.

With an eye towards a larger audience and to establish a U.S. base of operations, James and his family moved to Charlotte, Vt., in 1985 where he launched Harrowsmith Country Life. In 1990, EatingWell Magazine was launched, riding the growing interest in healthful eating and reliably delicious recipes. After an acquisition, the new parent company shuttered the magazine in 1999.

James went on to open a new book-publishing venture and beautiful destination bookstore in Shelburne, Vt., both called Chapters. Chapters Publishing was the winner of various awards, including the James Beard Award and Julia Child Award for Excellence in Cookbook Publishing.

The ups and downs of publishing led to the next adventure, Microcosm Books, specializing in publications about the natural world, notably ocean life and aquarium-keeping, both long-time personal interests. During this period the opportunity came to reacquire the EatingWell brand and the magazine was successfully relaunched in 2002. In this second life of EatingWell, James personally won a James Beard award for food journalism.

Separating from EatingWell in 2006, he then established Reef to Rainforest Media and launched the highly respected Amazonas and CORAL magazines. His most recent project was editing the memoirs of the late Dr. J.E. (Jack) Randall, a world-renowned ichthyologist, to be published in partnership



James Lawrence

with the Bishop Museum in Hawai’i.

He is survived by his partner Judy Billard; his daughters Bayley Freeman (Nicholas), Kerry Healey (Michael), Jessica Lawrence (Shawn); their mother and his former wife, Alice Z. Lawrence; and his grandchildren Zoe, Owen, Maya and Fiona. Also, by Judy’s sons Craig Bunten (Callie), Alex Bunten (Britta) and Will Bunten (Kathy) and her grandchildren Eliza, Phoebe, Edie and Warren.

James’ many interests included cooking, barbecuing, gardening, travel, ecology, ocean life, warm sandy beaches (especially on Antigua), snorkeling, aquarium-keeping, train sets and music.

A complex, intelligent man with intense interests and the optimism of an entrepreneur and inventor, James had a profound and lasting effect on the people with whom he worked and lived. He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered.

In James’ memory please consider donating to World Central Kitchen or the Vermont Food Bank. Private services will be held to celebrate his life at a later date.

Arrangements are in the care of the Cremation Society of Chittenden County. To send online condolences to her family please visit cremationsocietycc.com.

Norman Riggs

Norman Riggs died peacefully at the University of Vermont Medical Center on Monday, May 22, 2023, shortly after his 80th birthday. His family grieves the loss but is grateful he is at peace after battling several maladies that impacted his quality of life.

Born in Topeka, Kan., in 1943, Norm grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and later settled in Vermont with his wife, Sandy, following their retirement. He was an accomplished athlete at Roosevelt High School and graduated with top honors from Drake University.

Throughout his more than 30-year career as Community Development Specialist at Iowa State University, Norm was respected and beloved for his acumen in supporting Iowa’s small towns and agricultural and urban communities in adapting to socioeconomic change. Norm had a strong moral compass and spent time volunteering to help people who were homeless. He would often rise at 5 a.m. to hit the streets of Des Moines in a support van to feed and assist people in need, and in his retirement in Vermont he was a regular volunteer in a similar capacity. He was quiet and humble about his service, rarely mentioning it to others.

Norm was an outdoorsman and naturalist, as well as an esteemed gardener and backyard horticulturist. He holds the distinguished honor of being the first person to grow artichokes in Iowa after his university colleagues concluded it was futile and abandoned the project. He delighted in sharing his homemade preserves from his prized gooseberry and black currant patches and donating wagonfuls of excess garden bounty with neighbors and food banks. Norm spent his free time camping, trout fishing, and scouring the countryside for morel mushrooms. From his early childhood, he and his lifelong friend, Pete, developed a keen interest in butterflies, collecting and

mounting prized specimens from all over North America, culminating in a highly valued private collection. His collection will be donated to Harvard’s Department of Entomology later this year.

“Stormin’ Norman” ran his first marathon with a very respectable time, crossing the finish line holding the second of two beers that he claimed were necessary to keep hydrated. He was a voracious reader, student of the English language, possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of sports and music trivia, and was a prankster extraordinaire. Often content to linger in the background but always affable, people gravitated to his intellect, offbeat humor and gift for storytelling. His yen for adventure, combined with a healthy distrust of authority, was chronicled in his memoir “Curbing Across America in the Age of Innocence,” which detailed his summer adventures bouncing from city to city in the Western states, painting house addresses on curbs for donations to his college fund (often one step ahead of the municipal police). He regaled his kids and grandkids with tales of his service as a mess cook in the Army, instigating mischief at every opportunity. Handsomely grizzled and cantankerous with a soft underbelly, Norm lived life on his own terms. He had little regard for material possessions, social formality or conservative politics. His greatest pleasure was sitting quietly outside in the yard, surveying his gardens and the natural world.

He saved his greatest affection for his family, including his dogs, and is survived by his wife Sandy Meuwissen Riggs, brother Art Riggs of Oakland, Calif., son Chris Riggs (wife Elizabeth) of Ann Arbor, Mich., daughter Katrina Riggs Webster (husband Dan) of Shelburne, Vt., and his four beloved grandchildren: Hannah, Lucie, Hollis, and Colette.

Please honor him by stopping to pet a dog (the sillier looking the better) and quietly and without fanfare, help someone who is down on their luck. Donations in his honor will be gratefully received at the Charlotte Congregational Church, the Committee on Temporary Shelter in Des Moines, Iowa, or the Xerces Society.

Donna Elizabeth Wark (McVetty)

Donna Elizabeth Wark (McVetty) died peacefully on May 30, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

She is survived by her daughters Dr. Rachel Polgrean of Bedford, N.H., her husband attorney John Polgrean and their three daughters, Brynn, Emma and Kallie; and Dr. Heather Wark of Northampton, Mass., her husband, Dr. Win Whitcomb and their two children, Maela and Nicholas; and her brother, Alfred, his wife, Susan, and their children, Alfred, Tracey and Michael. Her sister, Lynda, predeceases her.

She was born in Stewartstown, N.H. on July 31, 1940, to Dr. Rufus McVetty and Santina McVetty (Bertotti). She graduated with an RN from Mary Fletcher School of Nursing, additionally obtaining her BSN and Master of Education from the University of Vermont.

Donna was a woman of diverse talents

who was ahead of her time in many of the contributions she made to her community. She worked for decades as a nurse in the Fletcher Allen and University of Vermont health organizations and also started her own bakery business. She started the Charlotte Central School girls’ soccer team in the 70s, served as district commissioner of the Charlotte Pony Club, volunteered for the local 4H program, taught health education and volunteered for the PTA at Charlotte Central School.

In addition, she was an accomplished golfer, tennis player and horseback rider. Among her hobbies were painting, crafting, cross country skiing, hiking, travelling and sailing.

She was devoted to family, friends, co-workers and many others from the myriad circles in which she travelled.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the amazing community and staff of Wake Robin in Shelburne, Vt. She will be greatly missed by all. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association at apdaparkinson.org

Congratualtions

Cole Boffa of Charlotte has been named to the dean’s list at James Madison University for the spring semester. Boffa is majoring in industrial design.

Hana Couture of Charlotte was awarded a master of business administration degree in business administration during Salve Regina University’s 73rd commencement. Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Jakob Holm of Charlotte was named to the dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin –Madison. Holm is a student in the College of Agricultural & Life Science.

Katrina Elizabeth Fuller of Charlotte earned an associate degree at Community College of Vermont’s 2023 commencement.

Robert “Bob” Turnau of Charlotte has retired as vice president of finance and chief financial officer of Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) after seven years with the organization and a career in finance spanning nearly 40 years.

The company delivers health data for Vermonters.

“Bob will be greatly missed, as will his unique sense of humor and deep repertoire of accounting jokes,” said Beth Anderson, CEO.

Turnau directed all financial and human resources activities, including budgeting, grants and human resource management for 32 staff members at Vermont Information Technology Leaders.

Before joining, Bob worked in finance for B.F. Goodrich and then General Dynamics, where he oversaw hundreds of millions of dollars for the company, produced more than 1,500 proposals per year and secured a multiyear, multimillion-dollar contract with the United States Army.



Robert “Bob” Turnau

News from The Charlotte News

Got a hankerin’ to drive?

John Quinney
Publisher & President

I love driving over the stunning Lake Champlain Bridge.

If you share the feeling, we have an unusual opportunity for you.

We’re looking for someone to drive across the lake and back once every four weeks, late at night or very early in the morning.

The Charlotte News is printed in Elizabethtown, N.Y., about 55 miles away via Fort Henry, N.Y. Every second Thursday, by no later than 7 in the morning, the printer delivers our papers in two batches: about 1,850 are dropped at the Shelburne post office and another 200 go to the senior center. We pay about \$4,000 a year for this service — and that’s a lot of money for a small, nonprofit community newspaper. Hence this request.

There are two options for meeting the post office’s 7 a.m. deadline: picking the papers

up around 5 a.m. every second Thursday or on the Wednesday evening before around 9 p.m.

We realize that this “opportunity” may appeal to only a tiny number of our readers. But, we need only two of you, taking this in turns, once every four weeks — and I would be your backup, as needed.

All 2,050 papers will fit in a mid-sized car. And we’re happy to reimburse you for the cost of gas — or electricity if you own an EV.

Last year, more than 80 individuals volunteered their time and talents to The Charlotte News. They wrote stories, sent photos, served on the board, proofread the paper and delivered copies around town.

If you’d like to join this remarkable community, and drive to Elizabethtown and back once every four weeks, please get in touch via email (john@thecharlottenews.org) or phone — 802-318-7189. I would be thrilled to hear from you!



Photo by Trey Cambern Photography/Courtesy of HNTB

The Lake Champlain Bridge at Crown Point is part of the scenic drive a volunteer would experience picking up newspapers at the printer in New York once a month.

Still time to send in photos for newspaper’s contest

John Quinney
Publisher & President

As you may know, we’re running a photo contest, asking for your photos and thoughts on “What Charlotte means to me.”

In promoting the contest for us, three people had this to say about what Charlotte means to them:

- “After a long weekend in and around suburban NYC, I was surprised at how much I felt a longing to be back in Charlotte while driving up I-87 yesterday afternoon. Many of us have those feelings when we go away.”

- “I love that retired CEOs are comfortable sitting down for a breakfast sandwich at the Old Brick Store with the local farmers dressed in workday clothes and sharing smiles and laughter that prove that our community embraces and includes all people. ... We have so much to learn from each other, if we just take the time to inquire with an open mind what our neighbors find brings them joy and soothes their fears.”
- “A compassionate people, rooted in tradition, walking wide-eyed into the future; a community of farms and lakes, mountains and streams, hopes and dreams; neighbors at play together in this cathedral

of beauty; a town, my town, that I simply call ‘home.’”

So far, we’ve received 17 entries — including two from Charlotte kids — and we’d love to see more. In addition to three prizes open to all entrants, we have added special prizes for those under 18 years old:

- First prize: Four tickets to the ECHO Leahy Center (two adults, two kids).
- Second prize: A \$50 gift certificate from Cookie Love.
- Third Prize: A \$50 gift certificate from Stones Throw Pizza.

Full photo contest details are available on our website: charlottenewsvt.org, but

here are the essentials: Photos are due by Friday, June 30. They should be submitted by email to Anna Cyr, our production manager, anna@thecharlottenews.org.

Photos should be high resolution, 300 dpi. One entry per person, please. Your entry must include your name, age (if you’re under 18), 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.

Many thanks to those supplying our prizes: Lee Krohn, Frances Foster and Glen Findholt, Head over Fields Farm, The ECHO Leahy Center, Cookie Love and Stone’s Throw Pizza.

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Commentary

Where do we go from here? The will of the community?

Peter Joslin
Contributor

What is the will of our community?
Are we more than one community based on where we live?
The town plan and land-use regulations divide the town into districts and outline the types of development appropriate in them with an eye on protecting “areas of high public value.” So, it would seem reasonable to say the will of the community has repeatedly approved what these documents stipulate.
The reality of where development occurs tells a different story.
People’s opinions about development are often swayed by their proximity to proposed changes. “Out of sight, out of mind” comes to mind.

Charlotte is about to embark on a major two-three year planning project spearheaded by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and the Charlotte Planning Commission called the Unified Planning Work Program. The primary goal is to update Charlotte’s town plan and land-use regulations so they reflect the true will of the community.
Larry Lewack, Charlotte town planner, said the planning commission and selectboard have been fully briefed on this project. According to Lewack, critical to this project is momentum and “broad outreach in town” to determine “the will of the community.”
Taylor Newton, planning program manager of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, gave his presentation of the aforementioned two-three year unified planning work program to both the selectboard and planning commission in May. He outlined the timeline and various steps to complete amended land-

use regulations and town plan. The most important aspect of this process is significant outreach to the town at large. Once collected, visual architectural models of what future village development might look like will be provided for feedback.
These visual models are critical, and perhaps one of the reasons articles 6 and 7 of the amended land-use regulations failed a few years back.
Kyra Wegman, member of the planning commission, said, “I think whatever the unified planning work program grant gives us in the way of paying for consultants, the debate will remain theoretical and, I suspect, pretty acrimonious, if recent history is any indication, without a clear visual representation of what they mean when they say, ‘development in the villages.’ It’s not a general messaging problem; it is just unspecific.”
Wegman continued, “Not being able to visualize exactly what was being proposed left a gaping hole where people’s most extreme imaginings could take hold.”
I agree. Many of those opposed to those articles said they didn’t want a “Kwiniaska Ridge” in Charlotte. This is an example of a worst-case scenario.
Often when presented with potential change one hears: “What is the problem we are trying to solve?”
The answer: The steady drumbeat of development in the rural district and lack thereof in the east and west villages.
Regarding development in the villages, planning commissioner Robert Bloch said, “The point is that even though our town plan contains this neat articulation of a vision and rationale for village development, which was approved by a majority of, I would guess, the usual 30 percent of voters who actually vote in these local elections, we are far from consensus on whether more intense village

development should be undertaken, or how it should be undertaken.”
Considering this major two-three year effort, I asked Charlie Pughe, chair of the Charlotte Planning Commission, how important is it for the selectboard to be involved and supportive of this project as well as other committees and boards?
He said: “I see this effort as an ultimate reshaping of the Town Plan, making it more definitive and providing positive steps to achieve what have been aspirational goals before, yet seemed to remain out of reach. I think it is critical for the selectboard, as well as all of the other town boards and commissions, to participate. Everyone — trails, recreation, conservation — will all have interests that need to be addressed as part of the process. Beyond that, as broad of a cross section of the town as we can get, needs to participate. This effort has the potential to change how our village centers live and function, and we need to make sure we are moving in the right direction for Charlotte.”
Wegman, who with Robert Bloch, has been spearheading the Community Heart and Soul outreach said: “In any case, at the two Community Heart & Soul chili events we held, two values came up over and over again in conversation: people said we need more affordable housing in Charlotte, workforce housing; and folks spoke over and over about the natural beauty around us and wanting to care for it. I think if we persist in treating these two values like they are in absolute conflict with each other, it’s going to be hard to move forward with anything, when in fact I think there is a way to build a bit more housing, in a measured way, where our town plan is honored and our collective values are leading the vision.”
I agree with Wegman’s assessment, lack of housing and protecting the natural beauty

(areas of high public value as identified in the town plan) must be considered as interdependent. Therefore, compromise is necessary on all sides.
The last deliverables of the unified planning work program for Charlotte are a preliminary engineering report; a draft engineering services agreement; and final design of a wastewater system in the west village. This part extends into March 2027 per Newton’s proposed master plan. That is, if there is a public will to attempt this. As stated in the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission’s assessment of Charlotte’s land-use regulations, lack of municipal wastewater and water in the village districts is a significant obstacle to development.
“I have talked to and listened to people in town about concentrating development in the villages. Even those who voice support do it in a half-hearted way, with a sense of resignation in their voice, a feeling of inevitability, and maybe the idea that ‘I just hope we can do it reasonably well.’” Bloch said. “People who actually live in the villages express a level of concern or fear that the wonderful place they discovered will change.”
What are the next steps? A consultant will be hired in July-August and the project kicks off this September. October 2023 through February 2024 is the meat of the project called “village visions.” This is where outreach throughout the community will take place. This is where you come in.
Change is imminent, looming at our door. We need to understand the true will of the community to plan for the future.
(Peter Joslin is a former chair of the planning commission and a member of The Charlotte News board of directors. The opinions expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the board.)

Commentary

Canadian smoke indicates need for climate action

Mike Yantachka
Contributor

Anyone who has been outdoors during the past week is well aware of the wildfires burning in Quebec and Nova Scotia. The smoky haze that inundated Vermont is nothing compared to the thick smog that settled on New York City and other eastern states south of the Champlain Valley.

The wildfires burning across Canada today, as well as those that have devastated the western United States in recent years, are driven by climate change that is melting ice caps and altering the jet stream. These effects, in turn, dry out major land areas, making them susceptible to drought and wildfires, and increase water content in the atmosphere, driving more extreme storms that flood coastal areas susceptible to higher rainfall.

On the first Saturday in June, I had the opportunity to attend the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network conference at Middlebury College along with my Charlotte Energy Committee colleague, Deirdre Holmes.

The keynote speaker was Bill McKibben, author, climate activist and founder of 350.org and Third Act. In his talk, he said that we continue to face an existential crisis with a changing climate that is already on the cusp of reaching a point of no return. The impacts are being felt around the world as well as here at home: 33 million people displaced by unprecedented flooding in Pakistan; a 20-percent decrease in the great Antarctic circumpolar current which affects marine ecosystems worldwide; and a prediction that we will exceed a 1.5 degree-Celsius increase in global temperature in 2024.

The melting of the polar ice caps at both ends of the earth are reducing the reflectivity



Photo by Lee Krohn

Smoke from Canadian forest fires appears better this week than last when it made for monochromatic sunsets like this at the town beach. Smoky air led to warnings in the Northeast to limit time outside. Vermont was spared the really bad air quality levels of larger cities to the south like New York, which last week averaged an air quality index of 413, which is hazardous. For the same time Vermont averaged 102. This week began with all of Vermont monitoring stations reporting less than 50 or good on the air quality index.

of the sun's rays as well as increasing sea levels; while the melting of permafrost in the arctic releases tons of the highly potent greenhouse gas methane, further increasing global warming.

But McKibben also noted some positive developments over the past decade. Scientists and engineers have done a great job providing us with tools to combat climate change, including cleaner methods of energy production, better methods of natural resource management to store carbon, and increased understanding of climate science. As a result, the cost of renewable energy has dropped lower than fossil-fuel prices. Wind is now the cheapest way to generate electricity, and solar is close behind. The costs of combustion, moreover, far outweigh the benefits in terms of climate change, adverse health effects, and its influence on geopolitics. He compared renewable energy versus fossil fuels as "getting energy from heaven instead of from hell."

He is encouraged for the climate by the youth movement. Our young people understand the need to change our habits. NIMBY-ism has to change; we have to look beyond our own backyards. We can no longer ignore the effects of fossil fuel production and consumption on others while we refuse to take responsibility for our own actions or inaction. He then challenged the rest of us to do our job to combat climate change, too, because "once the arctic is melted, there is no plan to freeze it again."

The Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network conference provided an opportunity to learn more about the assistance that towns, organizations and individuals can expect as a result of the major federal legislation that passed, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Bonnie Waninger of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns gave an overview of the programs and gave us links to the information at the website vlct.org/federal-funding-assistance-program-ffaarpa. Vermont

League of Cities and Towns can provide consultants to Vermont municipalities for the various programs including renewable energy grants and low-interest loans, a USDA Loan forgiveness program, and charging and fueling infrastructure grants.

Jan Myers of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity gave us a rundown of the Residential Energy Efficiency tax credit that helps homeowners with weatherization and energy reduction and the Residential Clean Energy tax credit (30 percent) for renewable energy installations. She also referenced low-interest loans for clean energy provided through Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

Following the presentations were breakout sessions for exchanging ideas among attendees and experts.

As Charlotte moves forward with implementing the Town Plan, there are many opportunities to keep climate change mitigation in mind. The Charlotte Energy Committee is sponsoring the Solarize Charlotte initiative to encourage adoption of residential solar. (See CharlotteEnergy.org for details.) The design of the town garage includes geothermal heating and solar-ready roofing. A 5-MW solar facility on Lake Road will help Vermont's electric grid reach its 100 percent renewable electricity goal and support transitioning our transportation and heating demands to cleaner electricity. We can all take advantage of the assistance from Efficiency Vermont to button up our homes. And, finally, Sustainable Charlotte is currently taking orders for energy-conserving window inserts for the coming winter (windowdressers.org).

(Mike Yantachka is a former state representative and a current member of the Charlotte Energy Committee.)

Food Shelf News

With benefits reduced, donations provide safety net

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

This spring, we have been privileged to view the phoebe pair that has built a nest under our eaves. They are dedicated to the care and feeding of three nestlings, whose progress we mark from afar. Their appetites appear insatiable and we rejoice in their growth. With the world avian population diminishing by 30 percent, we are happy to support the progress of this phoebe family.

Here in Charlotte, we are grateful for the way neighbors continue to support the food shelf, especially since the number of families requiring assistance has increased. Since the declaration of the end of the COVID emergency, summer funding for children who lack access to lunch provided during the school term has vanished. We thus deeply appreciate the support of William and Barbara Benedict and Lois McClure, in honor of their Cedar Beach friends Carol Clark and Harriet Sherman. Clark and Sherman were teachers who understood students' need of support in the summertime.

As SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits have been reduced, and meat is in short supply in our recent Food Bank deliveries, donations provide an important safety net. We appreciate donations received from the Charlotte Congregational Church, as well as Barry Finette and Sharon Mount. We are grateful for Backyard Bread's fundraiser, which donated all profits to the Charlotte Food Shelf. In addition, we thank Stewart's Bread for its continuing supply of rolls and those anonymous neighbors who have provided fresh eggs to families we serve.




We remind gardeners to consider planting an extra row to harvest for the food shelf; please call Nancy Bloch (802-598-0410) for produce or nonperishable food donations.

For many years the Congregational Church has generously provided space to us in its 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 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 at tinyurl.com/jrse63ap.


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, please call 802-425-3252. Monetary donations are appreciated, tax deductible and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445.



Charlotte Central School

Congratulations Graduates

					
Caleb Albertson	Julian Anderson	Marin Bergeson	Ava Bergquist		
					
Will Boyce	Parker Chappelle	Emma Cote	Serena Davis	Jack Dore	Amelie Fairweather
					
Chloe Ford	Astraea Garcia-Derbes	Cal Gardner	Eloise Glasscoe	Meredith Golek	Chapin Grubbs
					
Lucia Hackerman	Ryder Jones	Martin Kahm	Willow Kehr	Johnathon Kogut	Judah Kohn
					
Hudson LeBlanc	Nouvelle MacPherson	Eva Mazur	Treson McEnaney	Charlie Moore	Danae Moustakas
					
Sam Nostrand	JP Novak	Javin Paquette	Sam Pitcavage	LilyMae Siedlecki	Avery Siket
					
Oliver Smith	Sarah Stein	Alden Valjevac	Maggie Wilson	Bryant Yackel	



Stronger Together

Eagle Scout project at the Grange encourages reading for fun

Susan Ohanian
Charlotte Grange

Growing up in a small town in northern California, I have deep-rooted memories of the Grange. My family were not farmers, but then, as now, the Grange welcomed everyone who wanted to participate in the community. Dad worked on building projects; Mom organized vegetable and fruit-canning marathons and knitting projects. At meetings, families ate, shared stories and had a great time. I remember learning to square dance.

I didn't need my master's in English with an emphasis on Samuel Johnson and his 1755 dictionary, considered one of the most influential dictionaries in the history of the English language, to applaud the Charlotte Grange's long-standing-program, Words for Thirds, giving an age-appropriate dictionary to every third grader at Charlotte Central School, as well as home-schoolers.

After admiring this project for years, I decided I should connect this wonderful "eternal" gift with my own longtime teaching experience and writing 20+ books about the critical importance of connecting kids with books they enjoy. As a sev-

enth-eighth grade corrective reading teacher, I insisted that our budget should go for children's books, not publishers' skill kits.

Besides the books filling the room, every month each child received a coupon redeemable for a paperback of choice at the local bookstore. My boss, a reader himself, only said, "Let's hope the school board doesn't find out."

The point here is that instead of spending thousands of dollars on commercial skill-builder drills, we sent kids to the bookstore. Parents were first astonished and then delighted with the results.

When a program evaluator from the New York State Department of Reading came to see why student reading scores had soared, she kept asking to see "the program," and finally I held up Shel Silverstein's "Where the Sidewalk Ends," and said, "This is a book everybody reads."

She left, bewildered.

My experience with third graders grouped as the worst readers in that grade was similar. We started each day with everybody, including me, reading a book of their choice. Too many children have never seen an adult read. At first, getting children to sit with a book for 10 minutes was excruciating, but the books won, and by December, children were complaining when I

called a halt after 55 minutes.

To build on Words for Thirds, I talked with my friend and Charlotte Grange member Cindi Robinson about putting up a Little Free Library for kids here in town. She was enthusiastic, and we thought the Grange Hall on Spear Street in East Charlotte Village would be an ideal location.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Robinson's son Stuart built this Little Free Library, carefully designed to reflect the historic Grange Hall architecture. It was installed in spring 2022, joining the network of more than 115,000 Little Free Libraries worldwide, including those in every U.S. state, to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers and expanding book access for all.

Our Little Free Library is supported not only by the Grange but also the Charlotte Library, the Friends of the Charlotte Senior Center and the Flying Pig Bookstore (which, you'll remember, did get its start in Charlotte and is still a vital part of our community). We are fortunate indeed to live in a community that nourishes children in this way.

Special note to parents: There is a mountain of research showing that reading books is far and above the best — and surest — way for children to gain the multitude

of discrete skills linked to reading. Noted researcher and University of Southern California emeritus professor of education Stephen Krashen puts it succinctly: "The more children read for pleasure (and that includes mostly fiction), the better they read, write and spell, and the larger their vocabularies. The more they read (again for pleasure, largely fiction), the more they know about history, literature and science, and the more they know about other cultures."

So, encourage the children in your care to go to the Grange Hall and take a look — and bring home a book to read for the fun of it.

The Little Free Library is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Cindi Robinson monitors it regularly and replenishes it from our stockpile as needed. Of course, as in all Little Free Libraries, the idea is take one and when possible, give one back; but thanks to our special sponsors, children who visit will find new and enticing books they can call their own and keep. Just think about it: A brand-new book to take home.

And read.

(Susan Ohanian is a member of Charlotte Grange. For more information on these and other Grange programs, see charlottegrange.org.)



School learnin'

Photos by Tai Dinnan

Left: Dan Cole from the Charlotte Historical Society paints a picture of the history of education in Charlotte, and the role one-room schoolhouses, such as the Grange building, played on June 11.

Below: Community members filled the Charlotte Grange Hall to learn about one-room school houses, tour the Grange Hall and enjoy pie and conversation with other attendees.



Education

Sampling wisdom from buffet of graduation speeches

Margo Bartsch
College Education Coach

This year’s graduating classes of high school and college students have persevered through many challenges, including the global pandemic. With all their obstacles, they persisted. Their personal resilience can inspire others for the better.

Dressed in caps and gowns, the class of 2023 listened to commencement addresses sharing the message to push forward for positive change. The speeches have a double meaning: reflect on the past as a springboard into the future.

In early May, civil rights attorney Ben Crump spoke at North Carolina Central University reminding graduates: “Lift as you climb and never forget where you

came from.”

Crump is uniquely suited to deliver this message. He is an attorney representing the civil rights and wrongful death lawsuits on behalf of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, the Flint Water Crisis and others.

His message reminds graduates of the responsibility to share their learning with others: “Education is of no value if we keep it amongst the educated. You gotta take this education back to your ‘hood. Back to your homeboys, back to your homegirls. Back to your cousins. You gotta take it, and you gotta share it with them.”

Continuing this theme of inspiring others, “Abbott Elementary” actress Sheryl Lee Ralph delivered the Rutgers University commencement address. She is an Emmy award winner and Rutgers graduate, who

was recognized with an honorary doctorate.

Ralph gave an emotional address: “Our country and the world took a tragic and difficult turn. Kobe died, George Floyd was killed and then the world and everything changed when COVID-19 ... shut down the world.”

She applauded the graduates, “But you stayed the course, you never gave up, you kept doing. We need people who have been through something and still have so much to give and share — that’s you.”

On a global front, Oksana Markarova, Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, spoke to the Boston College graduates. She reminded them that common purpose knows no boundaries.

resentation for people wrongly convicted or denied a fair trial.

“Hopelessness is the enemy of justice,” Stevenson said. “Injustice prevails where hopelessness persists.”

“I believe we have to create a generation of people like you, who are not just engineers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, teachers, business leaders but are people who are also committed to doing things that increase the justice quotient in our world.”

This priority on standing up for bigger ideals continued with Tom Hanks speaking at Harvard University: “We could all use a superhero right now.”

Hanks’s main message was safeguarding truth: “If you live in the United States, the responsibility is yours. Ours. The effort is optional, but the truth is sacred, unalterable, chiseled into the stone of the foundation of our republic.”

Collectively, these graduation speeches are a time capsule of the events the graduates have lived through, including a tumultuous pandemic and intense social change. Their common history made them aware that they are not bystanders; they can encourage others to not take anything for granted.

Making a positive impact is an ongoing challenge against many obstacles. The speeches remind us that small steps taken toward a bigger purpose can inspire others.

Commencement represents new beginnings for a better tomorrow that can influence our collective 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.)

Helicopter parenting



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

June 6 was Charlotte Central School’s Bring Your Dad to School Day. One student celebrated the day by having her father come to school in his usual work vehicle, a Blackhawk helicopter, which took off from the athletic fields behind Charlotte Central School.



Courtesy photo

The Blackhawk was big enough for a whole class to have a seat.

Jazzed up



Photo by Kevin Goldenbogen

Andy Smith directs the Charlotte Central School jazz band on Wednesday afternoon. The jazz band performed on the opening day of the Discover Jazz Festival on Church Street in Burlington. It was the jazz band’s final performance of the year.

Side eye



Photos by Lee Krohn

Though he may have been on a training bike ride, Lee Krohn still found time to stop, smell and photograph the flowers.

Learning how to make your land wildlife friendly



Courtesy photo

Mark Labarr, a conservation biologist with the Audubon Society of Vermont, speaks to a group of neighbors on Lewis Creek Road about dealing with plant invasives and making their land more wildlife friendly.

From Sustainable Charlotte

In an effort to share resources and people to guide Charlotte residents in taking better care of their land, Sustainable Charlotte has scheduled a walk in the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge with Mark Labarr on Wednesday, June 28, at 5 p.m.

Labarr, a conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont, will discuss work the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Park has done to combat invasives and restore habitat health.

“We have bought into the idea that lawns sprinkled with beautiful exotic plants originating from foreign lands are aesthetically pleasing. They actually don’t do much to support the native species that we love to encounter or support the natural cycles we depend upon,” said Cathy Hunter of Sustainable Charlotte. “Fortunately, there

are resources and people to guide us in taking better care of our land.”

The Charlotte Conservation Commission is co-hosting the event, and chair Maggie Cittarella will be on hand to answer questions. Mark Dillenbeck, town tree warden, will also be available to share information and his personal experience dealing with invasives.

This is a free event. Bring good walking shoes and bug protection. For more information, call Hunter at 802-355-0439.

Additional resources:

- To find native plants for our area — nwf.org/Garden-for-wildlife/about/native-plants
- To learn more about rewilding — rewilding.org
- Pollinator Pathways — pollinator-pathway.org/
- Books by Douglas Tallamy available at the Charlotte Library — “Natures Best Hope” and “Bringing Nature Home.”

Sacred Hunter

Sometimes a master guide teaches more than fishing

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

The summer, thus far, has been mercurial at best. We started out with our beloved lake pushing 99 feet above sea level.

(FYI: I’m a total nerd when it comes to tracking our lake levels due to recent history of swamps getting so low that we can’t even get a canoe into our duck blind in October.)

With a couple days of 100-degree heat index points in May, I thought that our aqueous jewel might look more like Bonneville Flats by August. Foraging season happened in the blink of an eye. Fiddleheads and ramps popped in early May and wild asparagus were stalked out before the end of the month.

The rivers were running very warm. Our regular spot on the Winooski ran at an absurd 70 degrees even before the Fish & Wildlife Department had finished stocking the rainbows, browns and brookies. Fly hatches were so minuscule that only the most knowledgeable guides were able to read what was happening when someone spotted a rise. That’s why, even though I have 54 years of experience flyfishing, I recognize when I need to spend time with a truly professional, full-time, off-the-charts Master Guide.

Recently I invited a new friend along for a day on the North Branch of the Lamoille with my revered flyfishing wizard, Mark Wilde, of Uncle Jammer’s Guide Service. I wanted my new friend, Steve Shaw, to experience what it was like to learn from an incredibly gracious and gifted fisherman.

Mark took us to one of those postcard-picture scenes with a deep pool under a wooden bridge and, rather than compete for some rising brown trout at the upper edge of a riffle, I chose to watch. The oxygen was clearly a lifesaver for these fish, as was the water temperature — a perfect 58 degrees.

Mark directed Steve where to place his parachute Adams fly mid-riffle. Steve cast several times without a taker.

Mark stepped up next to him and asked if he’d like any guidance. Like any truly gracious fly fisherman, Mark does not generally solicit coaching unless asked. Steve accepted the offer.

Mark stepped up to the hole, spontaneously calculating

the speed of the main current inside the riffle track and demonstrated a cast I had not seen before. Most accomplished fly fishermen and women know the importance of mending a line to keep the fly floating at the same speed as the current where the fish lie in wait. But this one was new to me. As Mark let the line run from his forward cast through the smooth eyelets of the well-loaded rod, it gained speed that the weight forward line needed to reach across the slower current closer to shore.

Nanoseconds before his fly began to settle, he twitched the perfectly weighted flyrod, making the floating line “wiggle” like crazy. I watched in amazement. What was this? A bizarre version of mending?

Within two seconds a beautiful buttery brown trout slammed that Adams. Steve and I looked on in amazement. I broke the silence and asked the singular stupid question of the day. (I allow myself one stupid question a day when fishing with those who are more accomplished than myself.) I blurted out: “What the heck was that? And why did it work so well?”

Mark explained the dynamics of providing enough slack in the slower current that the “wiggly” section of line absorbed the slower speed, allowing the fly to travel at the exact same speed as a naturally occurring hatch would.

Anyone who claims that flyfishing is “boring” is clearly not paying attention to all the details, which I proclaim are one of the billions of miracles that occur around us — every day, every hour, every minute, down to the millisecond.

If the parachute Adams, size 14, didn’t match the size of the real hatch, if the color of the wings or the thorax didn’t match the natural, if the speed of the fly in the current wasn’t perfectly matched with the surrounding water, if the sun was in front of the feeding fish and cast a shadow of your body on the pool. If, if, if.

If you’ve ever wondered what makes fly fishermen so passionate, consider the details. How did Tiger Woods get to the level of mastery of his game? How did LeBron James get to the top of his game? I would propose to you, my dear reader, that the passion for perfection comes from a deep abiding love that exists in all living souls. A connection to the divine nature of all that surrounds us.

I didn’t catch any fish that day, but instead, perched on



Courtesy photo

A fishing guide and support test the waters.

a high slab of rock, I watched a master gently guide my friend to a new level of consciousness. Within minutes, Steve was landing and releasing several well-toned browns.

I think I saw him whispering the words “thank you” to himself.

(Bradley Carleton is executive director of Sacred Hunter.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.)

Into the Woods

Most red pine is remnant of outmoded pine plantations

Ethan Tapper
Chittenden County Forester

While some people call all evergreen trees “pines,” pines are actually a distinct group of closely related trees in the *Pinus* genus.

While Vermont is home to four species of native pines, the two most common are Eastern white pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and red pine (*Pinus resinosa*). Of these two species, white pine is by far the most common, the most charismatic, the most valuable, the most celebrated. Red pine is a more idiosyncratic tree, the under-appreciated younger sibling of the pine world.

To me, the foliage of white pines looks soft and cloud-like, comprised of thin, delicate needles in clusters (fascicles) of five. While healthy white pines usually have straight, columnar trunks, many have multiple stems as a result of damage from the white pine weevil, a native insect which attacks white pine trees growing in the open.

By comparison, red pines look like bottlebrushes, with a single, arrow-straight trunk topped with a tuft of coarse-looking foliage — relatively thick, brittle needles in fascicles of two. Red pine bark is distinctive: an extremely flaky mosaic of pink, red and grey that looks a bit like broken slate.

Like our white pines, most of Vermont’s red pines are legacies of historic land use. Whereas most white pines trees are “volunteers” growing on abandoned agricultural land, nearly all our red pines are planted stands (plantations).

Along with white pine, non-native Scotch pine and Norway spruce, red pine was widely planted in the early-1900s, with many plantations established by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and 1940s. More red pine was planted in the mid-1900s, as white pine blister rust swept across North America and red pine was lauded as a resistant alternative to white pine. As late as the 1960s and 1970s, farmers in Vermont were reportedly incentivized to convert old fields into red pine plantations.

In the early-1900s, plantations were considered the height of responsible forestry, a way to grow timber quickly and efficiently, while stabilizing soils and protecting water supplies. Today, for a variety of reasons, healthy red pine plantations are the exception, not the rule, and plantation forestry is largely seen as an antiquated and ineffective method of growing trees and forests in Vermont.

At a time when the future of our forests depends on bolstering resilience and reducing vulnerability, plantations are nearly the opposite of the forests that we need: monocultures which are extremely vulnerable to pests, pathogens, catastrophic natural disturbances and the many effects of climate change and global change. In many cases, the most responsible action with respect to wildlife habitat, biodiversity protection, carbon and climate resilience is to



Courtesy photo
Red pine bark with bear bitemark and claw mark.

use forest management to transition red pine plantations into diverse, multi-aged forests.

In Vermont, unplanted red pine is somewhat uncommon. It can be found scattered across south-facing slopes and dry sites, often growing with red oak, red maple, red spruce, white pine and beech. Red pine is a component of several uncommon natural communities, such as red pine forest (usually found on thin-soiled ridgetops, like at the top of the Preston Pond Conservation Area’s Libby’s Look Trail and at the Andrews Community Forest), dry oak forest and pine-oak-heath sandplain forest (such as at Sunny Hollow Natural Area in Colchester).

While red pine provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, my favorite example is the way that it is used by black bears, which rub on red pines, claw and bite them, using them as territorial markers. The next time you see an individual red pine tree in the woods, look for bitemarks and claw marks. In my experience, you will nearly always find them.

Red pine, like most pine species, is fire-adapted — considered an indicator of forests that may have historically burned. Fire creates two conditions which benefit red pine: soil scarification (the removal of the leaf litter, exposing the mineral soil beneath) and large canopy openings (red pine is intolerant of shade). While fire is uncommon on our landscape today, we can create these conditions by managing some forests in the summertime, when dragging trees and the tires of logging equipment can create scarification, and by making some larger (larger than 1 acre) openings. Doing these things will encourage red pine as well as a whole suite of trees, shrubs and plants that are adapted to these same conditions.

(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.)



Music At The Beach

July 19, 26 & August 2
VSO String Quartet

Picnicking at 5 p.m.
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FREE with season beach pass or paid day pass

Donations Encouraged
Rain Site will be at the Charlotte Senior Center
Send questions to billandeva@gmavt.net

 The Charlotte News is proud to support this event

On Books

Four books and two plays worthy of consideration

Katherine Artaud
Contributor

What beautiful days we have been having. Despite the smoke from the Canadian forest fires, the sky seems blue today, the birds are singing and everything looks very green. Not a day goes by that I don’t feel at least one pleasant twinge of gratitude that I live here in Vermont.

I know this is a “books and reading” column, but I want to take a bit of a different tack for a moment and recommend two plays I just saw on a recent trip to New York City.

The first is “Parade” (Bernard B. Jacobs Theater). Leo (Ben Platt, also the early lead in “Dear Evan Hanson”) and Lucille (Micaela Diamond) Frank are a Jewish couple—newlyweds beginning their lives together in the state of Georgia. (The play opens with a strong Confederate tone.) Leo is accused of a brutal crime, and things go from bad to worse for him, and for his devoted wife who loves and believes in him.

Set between 1913 and 1915 and based on a book by Alfred Uhry (with music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown), “Parade” tells the story of the actual 1913 rape and murder of 13-year-old factory worker Mary Phagan and the arrest, trial and sentencing — and eventual lynching — of a Jewish factory superintendent. It’s a sad and deeply unsettling story, set to music — an odd combination, I know, but it works somehow. I couldn’t stop thinking, as I walked through Times Square with my friends after the show, scanning the noisy and cacophonous streets for a taxi, what a wonderful, colorful yet deeply troubled country this is that we live in.

The acting here is superb, and the story, which weaves in themes of justice, prejudice, scapegoating, and love and the way it “rejoices with the truth,” is impactful and hard to forget. I’m still a bit haunted, a few weeks out.

This Sunday, June 11, “Parade” won the 2023 Tony Award for Best Revival of a

Musical. Hurrah. Well deserved.

“Prima Facie” is a play I had no plan or intention of seeing, nor had I even heard of it, but three people recommended it, so at the last minute I snagged a ticket for my last night in the city. Coincidentally, it is playing right next door to “Parade” at the John Golden Theatre.

Written by Australian/British playwright Suzie Miller, “Prima Facie” is a one-woman show — meaning that the only human being one ever sees on the stage is Jodie Comer, who does an extraordinary job generating intensity, tension, passion and emotional devastation amidst a minimalist set.

I have to say, one-person shows tend to make me a tad nervous, because if the acting and directing isn’t topnotch, they can be exceedingly painful to endure. Plus, I can’t help it, I love interesting, intricate, cool sets. But there was nothing painful (outside of the content of the play. A few on-the-spot creative costume changes, a few tables pushed to the side, and you’re on to the next thing, right with her, galloping into whatever happens next. Not a dull moment, is what I’m saying. Topnotch acting and directing.

Tessa (Comer) is a young, criminal defense barrister, who at the beginning of the show we find twirling about in her book-lined office in a gray tie-wig and black robe, gleefully regaling the audience with tales about her ability to discredit witnesses and get her clients off the hook. She boastfully recounts cases in which she has won the day, ambushing and trouncing opponents, acting out the courtroom dramas.

But when the tables are turned and Tessa herself becomes the victim testifying in court, she experiences firsthand the anguish and confusion of being on the other side of the justice game, interrogated by a whip-smart defense barrister as determined and zealous as she once was herself to poke holes in victims’ testimonies.

It’s a riveting play — one hour, 40 minutes, no intermission — that deals not only with ideas of justice, but also with how the “male” style of interrogation can



(1) fail to get to the heart of the matter, and (2) obfuscate rather than clarify the truth, resulting, of course, in countless tragic incidences of miscarriage of justice, which when you look at the statistics is far from fictional and all too real-life.

Interestingly, I just read that Comer’s June 7 performance was cut short because — as she told the audience, 10 minutes into the Wednesday matinee performance — she couldn’t breathe. According to IQAir.com, the air quality in New York City that day was the worst in the world. After a stage manager helped Comer off the stage, the play started from the top with understudy Dani Arlington.

On June 11, Comer was awarded Best Leading Actress in a Play at the 2023 Tony Awards. “This has been my greatest honor,” she said, “and continues to be these three weeks left.”

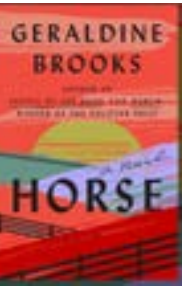
I would highly recommend both these plays, if you happen to be in New York any time soon.

As far as books, I have a handful to recommend.

Geraldine Brooks’ “Horse,” inspired by the prizewinning racing thoroughbred Lexington, is a beautiful, well-written story that takes readers from Kentucky in 1850 to New York City in 1954 to Washington, D.C., in 2019. The Civil War South, the powerful bond between human and horse, racism, horse racing, art, history, science and anatomy, love — this is a book well worth your time and attention.

“This is How we Love” by Lisa Moore is another really good read. I love the author’s spare, poetic style and the way she reveals events and occurrences.

The novel begins with a phone call, the kind all parents dread. An accident. A crime. An attack. And the parents have to get back home ASAP from a Mexico vacation to deal. Sort of a whodunit but, really, much more than that. Definitely check this book out, it is excellent. All about family and love and the sometimes violent



complexities of life and belonging.

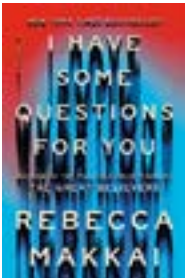
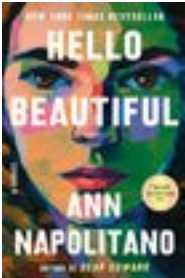
“Hello Beautiful” by Ann Napolitano, a 2023 Oprah’s Book Club Pick, is a lovely, straightforward story about four sisters, and a marriage, and another marriage, and how life doesn’t always turn out the way we plan. It touches on trauma and depression, and repression, too, and the bonds and challenges of being part of a large family. Some echoes of Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women” here. Good summer read. Throw it in your beach bag.

“I Have Some Questions for You” by Rebecca Makkai is another really good book, and like many good books, it revolves around a murder. (Why do we love murder so much? Who knows?) The victim here is Thalia Keith, a senior at a New Hampshire boarding school. But the focus is Thalia’s former roommate, Bodie Kane, film professor and podcaster, who, when the school invites her back to teach a course, is magnetically drawn to the old crime and the mystery and injustice that seem to her to exude from it.

Did the school athletic trainer, Omar Evans, really kill Thalia? Or was it someone else? Bodie’s obsession with what really happened back in the day gets woven into the class she is teaching and the work and psyches of her students.

Makkai is the author of “The Great Believers,” finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. It was also named one of the Ten Best Books of 2028 by The New York Times. And get this: Rebecca Makkai lives part-time in Vermont. Excellent read.

Enjoy these lovely days and good books and maybe get yourself down to New York for some plays before the summer’s through.



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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.

Growing young gardeners

Thursdays, through Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-noon

Every Thursday, young people are invited to participate in a free gardening program at the Vermont Garden Park on Dorset Street in South Burlington. A program of the Burlington Garden Club, kids and their accompanying adults learn about different subjects related to gardening. Best for ages 4-10 with a grown-up (or two). Free; snack time and a craft project included. More info at bgcv.org/events.html and scroll down a bit.

Birds in our forests

Friday, June 16, noon-1 p.m.

Tim Duclos of Audubon Vermont discusses Vermont's forest bird populations, and how avian diversity can predict overall ecosystem health. More info and registration for free Zoom at tinyurl.com/mve2sa3x.

Allman Brothers tribute

Friday, June 16, 7-9:30 p.m.

Shelburne Vineyard welcomes the authentic and local sounds of Soulshine Revival in a lively tribute to the Allman Brothers Band. Tickets and more info are at tinyurl.com/4mad3xk5.

Illustrating nature

Friday- Sunday, June 16-18, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Learn about patterns in nature, forms and functions, tiny parts as well as whole plants. This three-day workshop with illustrator Susan Sawyer includes field exploration, instruction and the enjoyment of the natural world. No experience is necessary for this class at North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier. For complete info and registration, see tinyurl.com/59ybrh5c.

Seventeen syllables

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

No writing experience required for a haiku workshop at Vermont Zen Center in Shelburne. Learn some history about this understated written form, usually evoking elements of the natural world. Event is rain or shine; take notes and pictures during the walk around the gardens for inspiration. More info and registration is at tinyurl.com/3phdw3w4.

Carve a diminutive owl

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Carve and paint a saw-whet owl, with the assistance of a member of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers, at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington. More info and registration is at tinyurl.com/3jw4y3su.

A bit of Scottish history

Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fort Ticonderoga in Ticonderoga, NY., will celebrate Scottish history and heritage. Bagpipes, musket demonstrations, clan tents and boat cruises are part of this living history event. Hear heroic stories of the Scottish soldiers who served in the British Army when they served at the fort in the 18th century. Admission is included in daily fee. For more info, see tinyurl.com/y25kabd9.

Art at Horsfords

Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn the basics of carving a linoleum block and printing your designs on paper and

fabric at Horsfords Garden and Nursery in Charlotte. Jen Berger leads the course in blockprinting botanicals. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/mrye5dar.

Sheep and more sheep

Saturday, June 17, noon-3 p.m.

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh is pleased to invite all ages to their Sheep and Wool Day, a free event with wool spinning, a printing press demonstration, lawn games, crafts, a musical instrument petting zoo, and of course, sheep to visit. Soak up the history of the Robinson's farm in the early 1800s. Museum entrance is free up until 5 p.m. for visiting exhibitions and buildings during the sheep festival. Read more about Rokeby events at rokeby.org/visit/programmevents/.

From Nashville to Vermont

Saturday, June 17, begins 5 p.m.

Vermont native Jamie Lee Thurston puts on a free show at Snow Farm Vineyard in South Hero. Music starts at 5 p.m.; bring blankets or chairs and picnic dinners. Food trucks and beverages available. No outside alcohol permitted. To read more, see tinyurl.com/3audebxb or call 802-324-5563.

Jazz from the greats

Saturday, June 17, 6-8:30 p.m.

Blue Moon Music performs at Shelburne Vineyard in a free concert on the patio. No tickets or reservations needed. Blue Moon features vocalist Hilary Kissel plus guitar and piano. Read more at tinyurl.com/kuhthbsu.

Outdoor skills for women

Saturday, June 17, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and Outdoorsy Women Learning Survival Skills (OWLS Skills) present three adventure-based trainings for women: June 17 is survival basics; June 18 is shelter creation; and June 24-25 is a two-day navigation class. These courses take place near Burlington. Learn more and register at tinyurl.com/yc2pjsij or email owlsskills@gmail.com.

Abenaki heritage weekend

Saturday-Sunday, June 17-18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Explore the Abenaki perspective on life in the Champlain Valley. Citizens from several nations and tribes will give presentations and hold workshops. Drumming, singing, dancing, crafts and storytelling are part of this free, two-day family celebration at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes. More info at tinyurl.com/2j94mt5j.

Gerald and Piggie on stage

Sunday, June 18, 10-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.

Lyric Theatre Company of South Burlington presents two free performances of "Elephant and Piggie's We Are in a Play" story. This musical follows Gerald, the elephant, and Piggie on their adventures with their friends the Squirrelles on the Circus Lawn at Shelburne Museum. Perfect for all ages. Reservations strongly suggested because performances do fill up. Learn more and register at tinyurl.com/yc8d3tvp.

Science of Father's Day

Sunday, June 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee offers free admission to dads today. Bring the family, explore the exhibits, bring a picnic to enjoy and have a memorable visit at this special place. Read more at vinsweb.org.

Father's Day celebration

Sunday, June 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Make-A-Wish Vermont and the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory invite all families and dads to a food truck festival at Vermont Teddy Bear in Shelburne. Free. More info and reserve a spot at tinyurl.com/npuf9bw9.

CHARLOTTE

Juneteenth in Charlotte

Sunday, June 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, June 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Freestyling our Futures is a free, two-day family event at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte. Numerous free activities celebrate Black culture, history and resilience with live music, an arts and crafts market, free food and community co-creation art projects. Limited space; registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/42a24za6. Read more about the farm at clemmonsfamilyfarm.org.

CHARLOTTE

A living memorial of Charlotte

Every Sunday, 1-4 p.m., June 18-October 9

Charlotte's Historical Society has its home at the Charlotte Memorial Museum at the intersection of Church Hill Road, Museum Road and Hinesburg Road. The museum opens Sunday, June 18, for the season. Inside the circa 1850 Greek Revival building are archival photos, historical arts and crafts, and home and farm implements of yesteryear. Stop by to learn more about the town that was established 261 years ago — on June 24, 1762. More info at charlottetvhistory.org.

Free admission to Rokeby

Monday, June 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh celebrates Juneteenth with free admission for visitors to buildings, exhibits and trails. Between 1792 and 1961, generations of the Robinson family farmed and worked hard on this tract of land. The first of their family established mills on near-by Lewis Creek. Sheep farming began in 1810 and grew into a thriving business. Rowland T. and Rachel Robinson were radical abolitionists who sheltered dozens of fugitives from slavery during the mid-1800s. More info at rokeby.org.

Do you fancy a spot of tea?

Tuesday, June 20, 1 p.m.

Vermont Public invites all British comedy and drama fans to a British tea at the Essex Resort and Spa in Essex. Two speakers will discuss British sitcom history as well as upcoming British shows that you'll want to watch. Tea, finger sandwiches and snacks will be served; it's optional to wear your Sunday finery. Tickets are available by donating to Vermont Public. More info and registration at tinyurl.com/2e7s9mw9.

CHARLOTTE

Everyone, make some music!

Wednesday, June 21, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.

If you can't be in Charlotte on this day, there are locations in over 120 countries that will celebrate Make Music Day, the first day of summer. Live music and community spirit will infuse our town with good feelings and a shared appreciation for music in our lives. Whether you participate or listen, come on out to the Senior Center in Charlotte from 1-4 p.m., or the Charlotte Library porch from 4-7 p.m., to share the fun. Dancing



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.

welcomed. Bring your instruments, including your voice, because we all need more music. If you'd like to get your name on the program, email Nick at nickcarter011@gmail.com. Showing up spur-of-the-moment is fine, as well.

Street trees of Burlington

Wednesday, June 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Take a stroll around some Burlington streets with a naturalist while learning about some of the trees and plants you see. There are many special tree species on the Burlington streets. Christian Pages leads this free walk organized by City Market Coop. More info and registration is at tinyurl.com/5n6jvk35.

Trapping and hunting discussion

Thursday, June 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is holding an online public hearing about new proposed regulations for trapping and for hunting coyotes with the aid of dogs. The new proposed rules may be read at tinyurl.com/2p8mb2tp. The link for tonight's hearing is tinyurl.com/h7tfj383. The comment period on these issues is open now through Friday, June 30, by emailing ANR. FWPublicComment@vermont.gov.

Little Shop of Horrors

Thursday-Saturday, June 22-24, 7 p.m.

The Williston Community Theater presents the iconic story, "Little Shop of Horrors," at the Isham Family Farm in Williston. For tickets, see tinyurl.com/ys5t89zn.

City Hall Park concert

Friday, June 23, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Burlington City Arts is pleased to welcome all ages to the park to hear The Pour Cousins, a guitar and fiddle duo playing roots music from New England as well as Ireland, Scotland and Quebec. Event is one of many free daytime and evening performances in the park. To see the calendar, go to burlingtoncityarts.org/events.

Summer of science possibilities

Friday, June 23-Sunday, August 6, various times

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H department offers many free summer programs for high school students (and some younger) who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities. Pre-registration is required for these events; read more and register at tinyurl.com/4my4nxz8 and scroll to Summer of Science.

Built from the earth

Saturday, June 24, 2-3 p.m.

Take a guided tour with the curator of the Shelburne Museum's special exhibition of Pueblo pottery. Included in admission fee. To read more, see tinyurl.com/52nunc4f.



Town of Charlotte
MEETINGS
Visit charlottetv.org
for more information.

Planning Commission:

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7 - 9 p.m.

Selectboard

Monday, June 26, 6:30 p.m.

Development Review Board:

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 28, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Special Meeting

Thursday, June 29, 7 - 9 p.m.

FREE!

LIVE MUSIC!
by Mystic Party Band

CHARLOTTE BEACH PARTY

Saturday, July 8 at 5 p.m.
Dinner served at 6 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, July 9

Please bring an item to share, your own utensils & beverages.
Please Carry out your trash

Local food served courtesy of:
Fat Cow Farm: Burgers
Misty Knoll: Chicken
Stony Loam: Salad
and Adam's Berry Farm: Dessert
Gelato by Backyard Bistro courtesy of
Elizabeth More with Ridgeline Real Estate

Send questions to billandeva@gmavt.net

The Charlotte News is proud to support this event.

Library News

Augment outdoor experiences with library passes

Margaret Woodruff
Director

It’s national great outdoors month — let’s get outside.
The library offers museum and park passes that provide free or discounted admission to local attractions. See the full list at charlottepubliclibrary.org/about/#passes.

Friends of the Library book sale dropoff
The drop-off dates and times for donating books for the upcoming book sale are: Tuesday, June 27, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Wednesday June 28, 4-7 p.m.; Friday, July 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, July 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday July 20, 4-7 p.m. and Tuesday, July 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

Summer reading program begins
Create your own packet with the fun options for pick-up in the children’s area of the library.

Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Wednesday, June 28, 1 p.m.
Faster than a speeding car, able to leap tall fences in a single bound — look! It’s an animal superhero. Discover the amazing adaptations animals make to be the heroes of the natural world. Get up close with our live animal ambassadors and other amazing artifacts. You will walk away with the power to be a champion of nature. The Vermont



Institute of Natural Science will bring three live animals to the Charlotte Library, two reptiles and a bird of prey.

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, library director Margaret Woodruff selects a theme and highlights related titles from the library collection. No registration necessary. No Book Chat on April 19.

Crochet & Knit Night
Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.
Claudia Marshall is your host for a casual weekly session of crocheting and chatting, 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 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/bdnhn86f.

Mystery book group
Monday, June 19, 10 a.m.
In “Voice” by Arnaldur Indriðason, the Christmas rush is at its peak in a grand Reykjavik hotel when Inspector Erlendur is called in to investigate a murder. Erlendur and his fellow detectives find no shortage of suspects between the hotel staff and the international travelers staying for the holidays. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

Library book discussion group
Thursday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
Have you ever wondered what those bright, squiggly graffiti marks on the sidewalk mean? Or stopped to consider why you don’t see metal fire escapes on new buildings? In “The 99% Invisible City: A Field Guide to Hidden World of Everyday Design,” host Roman Mars and coauthor Kurt Kohlstedt examine the various elements that make our cities work, exploring the origins and other fascinating stories behind everything from power grids and fire escapes to drinking fountains and street signs. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join the discussion on Zoom at tinyurl.com/4ch2xzap.

Walk & talk book club
Saturday, June 23, 11 a.m.
Join the librarians and readers from Carpenter-Carse Library, Charlotte Library and Pierson Library at Geprags Park for an outdoor perambulation and discussion of books on the subject of our big, beautiful world. For this session, we will meet at the park in Hinesburg at 554 Shelburne Falls Rd. The book we’ll discuss is “Our Better Nature” by Curt Lindberg. We’ll be joined by the author and by members

of Hinesburg’s Conservation Commission for a walk featuring a landscape shaped by beaver activity. In the event of rain, we will meet in the community room at Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg. Please contact your home library to pick up a copy of the book.

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.

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., online and in person. Please contact the library or visit the library website (charlottepubliclibrary.org) for more information.

CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2023

March
March 20 Estate of Catherine Elizabeth Carol Hugh to Henry Mauck & Kathryn Collier, 1.0 acre 685 Ferry Rd. with dwelling \$400,000

April
April 10 Jackson W Clemmons Rev. Trust & Lydia M Clemmons Rev.Trust to Clemmons Family Farm, Inc. 138.55 acres 2158 Greenbush Rd. with dwelling \$2,500,000

April 10 Julie A Polk, Trustee Julie A Polk Trust Agreement to James M & Dorothy R Hodson, Trustees of Hodson Living Trust 6.33 acres 37 Turtle Moon Rd. with dwelling and 6.01 acres 780 Cedar Beach Rd. \$2,100,000

April 12 Mitchell Shifrin, Trustee of 2019 Mitchell B Shifrin Rev. Trust to Jonathan & Maureen Simons, 8.59 acres 4035 Mt. Philo Rd. Lot 2 with dwelling \$207,000

April 17 Stonehouse Properties LLC to Andrew Hale & Hannah Perry 10.0 acres 1875 Prindle Rd. open land \$300,000

May
May 2 Jeremy Smith & Allyson Speilberg to Kyle & Joanne Mack, 2.02 acres 1415 Converse Bay with dwelling, \$625,000

May 2 Thomas Clark & Mallika Sostry to Max Alan & Nancy Lee Burcham Trustees of 205 Burecham Family Trust, 340 North Shore Rd.Seasonal camp, \$146,000

May 5 Christopher Fredericks to Sarah E. Fauver 2.1 acres, 20 Baldwin Rd. \$445,000

May 10 Tyler & Teresa Tomsen to Mark Amblo, 1.74 acres 30 Split Rock Rd., with dwelling \$385,000

May 17 Roy H. Marble, Sharon J. Winn & Tammy M.Clark to Stephen & Lacey Winn, 14.87 acres, 3453 Spear St with dwelling \$294,687.50

May 30 Dorothy A. Waller Family Trust & David A. Waller Family Trust to William & Stacia Baker, 10.8 acres Lot 11 Pease Mtn. Rd. no dwelling \$300,000.

This information was supplied by Jay Strausser of Four Seasons Sothebys International Real Estate.



CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Friends, families and fireflies
Saturday, June 24, 8:30-9:30 p.m.
Gregory Pask of Middlebury College will help participants identify fireflies at the Otter Creek Gorge in Weybridge. The evening is for all ages; bring blankets or chairs to enjoy the campfire and count firefly flashes. Free event organized by Middlebury Area Land Trust; no registration needed. For more info and directions, see tinyurl.com/2te8dr4b.

Words in the woods
Sunday, June 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Author, artist and teacher Toby MacNutt will speak live at Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh as part of a Vermont Humanities writers program. Toby will read from his work and talk about his life and writing process. Register in advance for this free program at tinyurl.com/328rbsus. More info about Toby may be found at tobymacnutt.com.

Tenderbellies in Richmond
Sunday, June 25, 5 p.m.
The Richmond Historical Society starts off their Round Church Concert Series with Vermont-based group The Tenderbellies. Their music is a blend of blues, soul, Americana, jazz and bluegrass. Some concerts are inside the Church, some are on the lawn where picnics and blankets are welcome (no dogs or alcohol). Call the Church at 802-434-2556 for information about which shows are inside or outside. Family-friendly events; doors open at 4 p.m. For tickets to the series, see tinyurl.com/52rpsrn8. Click on the band’s name for more info about the music. Tickets also at the door.

Cooie DeFrancesco
Sunday, June 25, 6-8:30 p.m.
DeFrancesco sings traditional tunes, popular songs and originals in the blues, jazz and folk genres. She presents a free concert on the patio at Shelburne Vineyard; no tickets or reservations required. More info at tinyurl.com/3uwtnajc.

Plein Air at Shelburne Museum
Monday, June 26-Wednesday, June 28, 9:15 a.m.-noon
Get comfortable painting outdoors, in your chosen medium, while surrounded by historical architecture and picturesque gardens as subjects. Enjoy group encouragement and guidance from artist leader Stephanie Bush from the Shelburne Craft School. Best for all experience levels, ages 16 and over; participants use their own materials. To read more and register, see tinyurl.com/y6Gaydyt.

CHARLOTTE
Animal ambassadors at library
Wednesday, June 28, 1-2:30 p.m.
An educator from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee will be at the Charlotte Public Library with some impressive animal visitors, including two reptiles and a bird of prey. Get up close to the animals and learn about their importance in the natural world. No registration required.

CHARLOTTE
Wildlife walk
Wednesday, June 28, 5-7 p.m.
Conservation biologist Mark LaBarr of Audubon Vermont leads a walk through the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, sharing ways to make our lands wildlife friendly habitats for all creatures. Free program of Sustainable Charlotte; wear comfortable walking shoes. For more info, call Cathy Hunter at 802-355-0439.

Mushroom meander
Thursday, June 29, 5-7:30 p.m.
The Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington hosts local author and mycologist Meg Madden for an observation walk around the museum’s property. Learn identification tips and the important roles fungi play in a forest habitat. Registration required and includes a signed copy of Madden’s new book on mushrooms. Note: This is not a foraging program. To read more and register, see tinyurl.com/25xue2k8.

Paddling the canoe trail
Thursday, June 29, 6-7 p.m.
Teacher, canoeist and musician Peter Macfarlane presents his story about paddling the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Program is at Vergennes’ Bixby Library and is free and open to all.

Women in music
Friday, June 30, 6 p.m.
Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven presents a Women in Music series of concerts in June, July and August. Concerts are free but require registration. Food and drinks available for purchase. Sarah King opens the series with her thought-provoking Americana music. Bring blankets and the family; no outside alcohol allowed. To read more and reserve spots, see tinyurl.com/3dkm6n64.

Senior Center News

At the center, on the water or trail – a wide variety of activities

Lori York
Director

Summer is rapidly approaching, and with the warmer weather, there is interest in spending time outdoors. Consider joining one of the hiking, kayaking or canoeing trips.

This month don’t forget to stop by the senior center for the afternoon of music performances on June 21 as part of World Music Day. Peter’s Playlist, a collection of oldies music, will also be returning to perform later this month.

There are two new program offerings at the senior center. Under the “Locally Yours” program, produce from Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg will be dropped at the senior center and participants (age 60 and over) will have access to fresh fruit and vegetables at no charge. This program is slated to start in the next couple of weeks, as the details are being finalized. Call 802-425-6345 for more information.

There is also a monthly Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group starting at the senior center beginning July 15. The group will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 5-6 p.m.

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.

Art show

At Water’s Edge

An exhibit of nature photographs by Fran MacDonald includes both expansive vistas and detailed views of landscapes with water, the edges of water or flowing water.

Outdoor Activities

Women’s kayak trips Second & fourth Friday mornings

These kayak trips are for active women who share a love for exploring the many local lakes, ponds and rivers. To register your interest, please respond by email directly to Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com to be placed on a master list of paddlers. On June 23, the group will go to Wrightsville Reservoir. Registration required. Free.

Recreational paddling trip Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m.

There’s a new recreational paddling group starting. Please join Karen and Dean Tuininga for the first paddling trip on Saturday morning, June 17, on Lewis Creek. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. Plan to spend a couple of hours on the water. This trip is open to everyone 18 and older, but space is limited to 10 boats plus leaders, so be sure to sign up early. Questions? Contact Dean Tuininga at dean.tuininga@gmail.com. Registration required. Cost: Free.

New walking or gentle hiking group

There is interest in starting a new walking and gentle hiking group at the senior center. Interested in finding out more? Contact Penny Burman at 916-753-7279.

Music

World Music Day & Make Music Charlotte Wednesday, June 21 1-4 p.m., Charlotte Senior Center & 4-8 p.m., Charlotte Library

Vermont Make Music Day is part of World Music Day on June 21. Musicians of all ages from all over the world play music for their communities, celebrating how music crosses borders and brings people together. The Charlotte Senior Center and Charlotte Library will be hosting a full afternoon and evening of live music as part of World Music

Day. More info about the overall event at bigheavyworld.com/makemusicvt. Free.
Performances at the senior center: 1-1:45 p.m. Carlanne Herzog on piano and Janet Green on cello; 2-3 p.m. Kathryn Blume, spiritual feminist blues-rock; 3-3:30 p.m. Janice Russotti & Shane Bowley, a mix of Americana covers and originals; and 3:30-4 p.m. Dick Mosehauer, bluegrass.

Peter’s Playlist Wednesday, June 28, 1-2 p.m.

Join us as Peter and Helen Rosemblum from Hinesburg return to the senior center with music of the 50s, 60s & 70s. They will sing and strum from their large playlist that includes folk songs, romantic ballads, blues and rock. Free. Registration recommended.

Upcoming programs

Italian: Beginner I Fridays, June 23, 30, July 7, 21, 28, Aug.4, 10-11 a.m.

Interested in beginning your study of Italian? Join us to explore the beauty of the Italian language and culture. Cost: \$60. Registration required. *There will be no class on July 14.

Charlotte Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group Thursday, July 15, 5-6 p.m.

Are you caring for someone with Alzheimer’s? Do you know someone who is? Please join the first monthly caregiver support group on Thursday, July 15. The meetings provide a safe place for caregivers, family, and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. The group will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 5-6 p.m. For more information or questions contact Susan Cartwright at scartwrightasg@gmail.com

Are you looking for a job to be of service to seniors in the community?

The Charlotte Senior Center is seeking a part-time senior center coordinator. Responsibilities include database management and volunteer coordination. The full job description can be viewed at charlotteseniorcentervt.org. Pay rate is \$16.50-\$17.75 an hour. Position is 15 hours a week with a set schedule of three hours per day each morning, Monday-Friday. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Lori York at lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Monday Lunches

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



Photo by Bill Fraser-Harris

Folks listen to the Vermont Youth Orchestra at the senior center after it was rained-out at the town beach.



Photo by Lori York

Lewis Mudge talks about his work with Human Rights Watch in Africa at the June Men’s Breakfast.

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

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

Senior center 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.

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Write Ingredients

Favor mushy strawberries over perfect-looking, less juicy

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

You'll find strawberry shortcake, a perennial topic of discussion; disagreement; and pleasure at the Charlotte Senior Center on June 19.

In 1931, soon after publication of a New York Times editorial praising strawberry shortcake, an irate letter writer complained of "the pale and insipid illegitimate offspring of a degenerate sponge cake and an inner tube," further describing this item as "that effete, magenta delicacy — a spongy space-filler, usually demoralized by a deluge of whipped cream." He added this advice: "If you would enjoy the food of the gods ... make a thin pie crust."

Since the 17th century Puritan minister Roger Williams noted that Indians "bruise strawberries with a mortar to make a strawberry bread," people have argued over whether strawberries go best with biscuit or spongecake.

Mark Bittman declared that the bakery-counter strawberry shortcake "is children's food, more akin to Twinkies than to the real thing." He then offered the recipe for a quick, easy biscuit, advising, "the more butter you use, the more crumbly (and delicious)." Melissa Clark prefers crumbly cookies with her strawberries.

One must suspect there's probably a good reason that a recipe in the newspaper of record for strawberries atop cornmeal biscuits directs the cook to macerate those berries in kirsch before putting them on those cornbread biscuits.

The New York Times seems intent on variety, offering a recipe for strawberry shortcake with a lemon-pepper sauce, along with the advice that if you have the choice between mushy, homely but juicy berries, pick those over firm, pretty and less-juicy ones. And if you can't find good strawberries, substitute apricots, peaches, nectarines or plums. Or drop the shortcake plan and make a rhubarb compote.

That mushy versus firm is a key observation. Fruits like pears may be much the same as they were 50 or 100 years ago, but strawberries have been radically transformed by industrial agriculture. Dana Goodyear's 2017 New Yorker article, "How Driscoll's



Reinvented the Strawberry," with the subtitle "The berry behemoth turned produce into a beauty contest and won," explains how this happened.

Using a comparison with a Silicon Valley neighbor, the Driscoll's president explained the company's relentless focus on appearance. "We make the inventions, they assemble it, and then we market it, so it's not that dissimilar from Apple using someone else to do the manufacturing but they've made the invention and marketed the end product."

In 2017, Driscoll's controlled roughly one-third of the total \$6 billion U.S. berry market.

Although Driscoll's is not mentioned in "Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism and the World" by Malcolm Harris, the book's abundance of very clever, greedy megalomaniacs is must-reading for anyone who cares about the history of the products that have changed how we do everything, including how we eat.

For those interested in size, in 1975, a 5,700-pound shortcake serving more than 16,000 people brought Lebanon, Oregon, the title of World's Largest Shortcake. But records are made to be broken. In 2011, volunteers in Pasadena, Texas, began a six-hour marathon of berry prep of 1,200 pounds of berries—to produce the world's largest strawberry shortcake, measuring 1,905-square-feet. But in a sad sign of the times nationwide, the strawberry fields in Pasadena, Texas, originally celebrated in the town's 1974 Strawberry Festival as the "Strawberry Capitol of the South," were gone by 2011. Since then, all of the berries at the festival have been trucked in from a produce company.

Plant City, Fla., and the University of Maryland have also produced "World's Largest" strawberry shortcakes. The Guinness World Record website lists the Municipality of La Trinidad in the Philippines as the record holder for a 21,213.40-pound cake that was whipped up in 2004.

Sad to say, Charlotters are too late for the annual strawberry festival in Lebanon, Oregon. Held the first weekend in June, this fete started in 1909 and continues as "a chance to bring our community together and to celebrate with pride all of Lebanon's beauty and friendliness."

Newspaper deadlines are difficult for volunteer cooks at the Charlotte Senior Center. As we're going to press, Monday Munch menus are undecided for June 19 and 26 but come on in: You're sure to find tasty

meals and good conversation, a community coming together to celebrate beauty and friendliness — all year round. But we doubt that you'll experience what Damon Runyon described: "She has a laugh so hearty it knocks the whipped cream off an order of strawberry shortcake on a table 50 feet away."

Here are The Beatles with "Strawberry Fields Forever:" [youtube.com/watch?v=HtUH9z_Oey8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtUH9z_Oey8).

Age Well Meal Pickup Thursday, June 22, 10-11 a.m.

Italian chicken breast, duck sauce, rice & vegetables, broccoli florets, wheat bread, strawberry shortcake with cream and milk.

Age Well Meal Pickup Thursday, June 29, 10-11 a.m.

Beef stroganoff with mushroom sauce, rotini noodles, Brussels sprouts, wheat roll, blueberry crisp and milk. Suggested Age Well donation of \$5 is not required to receive a meal. Pay what you can, when you can. Registration for the meal is required by the prior Monday.

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