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The Charlotte News

Thursday, July 13, 2023 | Volume 66 Number 02



Photo by Bill Fraser-Harris
Charlotte celebrated its annual town party
at the town beach on Saturday. Read more
about the festivities on page 4.



Courtesy photo

This is one of two electric aircraft BETA Technologies has developed. It is capable of taking off and landing vertically.

BETA taking electric to new heights

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

The first electric engine was developed in Vermont. It seems only right for the first electric commercial airplane engine to be developed here, too.

If BETA Technologies has its way, that’s exactly what will happen.

A group of men who gather for breakfast at the Charlotte Senior Center were treated to a tour of the company where that magic is happening.

In 1834, Thomas Davenport, who lived near Brandon, invented the first electric motor. That first electric motor powered a small printing press.

The technology that BETA Technologies is working on is new and progress on the path to electric commercial flight is happening fast. In fact, just the day before the tour, the company had moved a critical step forward in

the FAA’s long and exacting approval process for new aircraft.

That approval step was for a powered-lift category of aircraft; in other words, planes that can take off and land vertically and then fly horizontally, Tyler Seeholzer of BETA Technologies said. These are called eVTOL for electric vertical takeoff and landing.

Seeholzer said he uses the term electric magic to explain how spinning magnets generate electrical energy that can be converted into mechanical energy.

“People laugh and they smile when I say that, but nobody has yet to define magnetism to me in a way that I can fully understand,” he said.

Besides eVTOL, BETA has designed and is working on certification for commercial electric planes that take off and land horizontally. Vertical takeoff requires lots of energy and severely depletes battery storage. As it stands now, after a vertical takeoff,

the BETA Technologies’ battery technology leaves the aircraft batteries with about 15 minutes of flight time.

But vertical takeoff is important to the company because one of its first customers is United Therapeutics, which develops life-extending technologies for lung disease and organ transplants. It would use these aircraft to deliver synthetic organs for transplants.

Both planes are all electric with zero emissions while flying, and BETA is testing prototypes of both almost daily.

The company has flown a traditional landing prototype from Jamestown, N.Y., to Plattsburgh. At 386 miles, Seeholzer said they think this is the longest electric flight ever. BETA Technologies’ goal is for the planes to have a range of around 250 miles when taking off and landing conventionally.

SEE **BETA TECH** PAGE 5

65 years and still kicking in print

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

All together now: Happy birthday to The Charlotte News! Happy birthday to The Charlotte News! Happy birthday to this newspaper!

That’s right: This spunky compendium of what’s happening in town is celebrating its 65th birthday.

The first edition was printed on July 18, 1958.

The oft-told tale is that teenager Nancy Wood needed to sell her horse but didn’t know how to find a buyer.

At the end of summer, Wood would be headed back to her boarding school for her senior year of high school. With college on the horizon, it was time to find another home for her horse Socks.

Socks had an aversion to being loaded into a horse trailer. Wood hoped to find a buyer in Charlotte, close enough that she could ride him to his new home and forego the trailer.

At that time, the only newspaper where she could have taken out a classified ad was the Burlington Free Press.

Her father suggested she start a newspaper, so she and a group of other teenagers started a newspaper in the basement of the Charlotte Congregational Church. It was a project of the youth group.

As it happened, Wood found a buyer before the first issue of the newspaper came out, but by that time the train had left



SEE **BIRTHDAY** PAGE 5

Charlotte dodges flooding

Staff report

As of Tuesday morning, it was looking like Charlotte had dodged the flooding that so much of Vermont suffered from Monday.

Road commissioner Junior Lewis said all he had heard about was a few trees that had fallen.

No roads were closed, and he didn’t know of any flood damage.

The town only got 3 inches of rain when some areas, mostly to the south, had gotten 7-9 inches.

For the time being Lewis Creek appeared to be within its banks, Lewis said.

The rain ended later in the day, but the forecast said there was the possibility of some rain every day for the rest of the week with a 50-percent chance of heavy rain this Thursday afternoon, July 13.

Town pauses change to town-run rescue service

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

If falling metaphors made sounds, someone standing outside the Charlotte Town Hall on Monday, June 26, would have heard two figurative knocks.

Those two knocks would have come from two proverbial shoes being dropped, neither of which was on the agenda of the selectboard meeting that was happening inside.

The meeting began with chair Jim Faulkner announcing that he wanted to pause the transition to a town-run fire and rescue service.

The other shoe that dropped was the news that fire chief Justin Bliss has resigned.

In a phone call, Bliss said he was leaving to spend more time with family.

“I’m really sorry to go. It frustrates me because I feel like we were doing a lot,” Bliss said. “It frustrates me that I need to leave in the middle of that because I feel like there’s so much more I can be doing, but we’ve got a saying in the emergency service world that it’s always family first.”

Faulkner said work on the transition to a municipal fire and rescue service should be paused because the board just doesn’t have

enough information to make the change, nor enough time because of dealing with the issue of whether the town should switch to a town manager from a town administrator form of government.

“When we had the town manager issue pop up, that made it pretty difficult because it has an effect on almost everything we do,” Faulkner said.

He said the board has considered a lot of different dates for when the transition for the town to take over management of the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service would happen. Since its beginning, the fire and rescue service has been a nonprofit organization separate from the town but mostly funded by the town. At one time, the selectboard had thought the fire and rescue transition date would be July 1.

Although the selectboard has recently finished dealing with the budget after its first proposed budget was vetoed by voters on Town Meeting Day and a second amended budget was approved at a special election on May 2, it will soon be working on next year’s budget in early autumn.

The board discussed returning to the transition after they get through with next year’s budget in January or February.

“There’s a lot of issues in front of the

selectboard right now, and we really need to get those finished before we make any kind of transition,” Faulkner said.

Board member Frank Tenney agreed.

“Getting the information, finding out what information is absolutely necessary in order for the changeover, there’s still a lot to be done,” Tenney said. “Time is ticking. We need to get things done, and we need to know what we’re doing.”

The time that is ticking is the need to hire someone to take over for current town administrator Dean Bloch when he retires at the end of October, whether that new hire is a town administrator or town manager.

Dan Lyons of Gallagher, Flynn & Company was hired by the town to work as a consultant, helping the town take over management of the fire and rescue service. The board decided to have Lyons pause in this work.

According to Tenney, a lot of Lyons’ work so far has been on such things as gathering information and finding out what the fire and rescue service’s assets are. Gathering information has been difficult because many of the people working at the fire and rescue

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 2

Selectboard appoints interview committee

Brett Yates
Contributor

Charlotte’s search for a new town administrator or town manager took one step forward on Monday night, July 10, with the appointment of three volunteers to a committee that will help screen applicants for the position.

Assistant town clerk and treasurer Emily Tupper and two former selectboard chairs, Charles Russell and Moe Harvey, will join current selectboard members Lewis Mudge and Kelly Devine on the interview committee.

A solicitation for candidates to fill the three spots reserved for members of the public yielded just four responses over the course of two weeks. Devine, who did not attend the July 10 meeting, advocated in writing to give townspeople more time to throw their hats into the ring, but for the rest of the selectboard, an eagerness to keep the process moving prevailed.

After a round of brief public interviews and a short executive session, the board appointed the three candidates who had shown up to make their case. It didn’t hear from the fourth, Kim Kanios, who, per town administrator Dean Bloch, could not make it to the meeting that night.

Tupper, Russell and Harvey all reported experience in hiring. Harvey, in particular,



emphasized that, as a business owner for nearly half a century, he’d found “some great employees that have been with us for 30, 35 years, so I do know how to hire people.”

The actual task of hiring in this case, however, will belong to the selectboard. The interview committee will play an advisory role, examining résumés and talking to applicants before recommending finalists for the selectboard’s consideration.

Tupper expressed a belief that involving Charlotte’s existing municipal workforce in the decision “right from the start” would help ensure a good fit and would lay the groundwork for a collaborative atmosphere in town hall. The selectboard hired Tupper last year.

“I think it’s critical to have employee perspective and employee voice,” she said. “Employees individually bring so much to their role, not just experience and skill in all

that they do, but they’ve got the boots on the ground, and when they work together, that’s when success can happen.”

Tupper stressed her neutrality on the question of whether Charlotte should maintain its existing system of government, with a town administrator, or make the switch to a town manager. Harvey, on the other hand, acknowledged skepticism about the potential changeover.

“Historically, being run by the selectboard and having a town administrator has worked pretty well,” he opined.

Russell seemed to represent the opposite side of issue, owing to his place within “that original committee for the town manager,” as selectboard chair Jim Faulkner put it, referring to the group of residents who’d gathered signatures to hold a vote on the matter. But Russell clarified that he wanted now only to “hire the best person for the job,” regardless of which job it might ultimately be.

“In terms of the town manager, the most important point from my point of view was that it be considered in a timely manner, which you guys are now doing,” Russell said.

As of July 10, Charlotte had heard from eight job seekers. The town will continue to accept applications until 4 p.m. this Friday, July 14.



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.

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

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The Charlotte News has adopted the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics as the touchstone to guide newsroom practices. The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics is built on four principles:

- Seek truth and report it.
- Minimize harm.
- Act independently.
- Be accountable and transparent.

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

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Charlotte joins Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership

Brett Yates
Contributor

In 2019, five Chittenden County towns — South Burlington, Williston, Shelburne, Hinesburg and St. George — formed the Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership for the purpose of managing land and protecting natural resources “at a regional scale.”

On Monday night, Charlotte joined the effort, which so far has focused on preserving the contiguity of a swath of forests and waterways that transverses municipal borders across much of southern Chittenden County, hosting “a diversity of

rare, threatened and endangered species and other elements.”

Maggie Citarella, who chairs the Charlotte Conservation Commission, had already made a habit of attending the group’s meetings as an observer. The Charlotte Selectboard approved a motion for her to represent the town in an official capacity.

“Sharing conservation strategies and advice and resources across the towns has been really productive and helpful for us in determining what kind of strategies we want to take on and what outreach projects we want to do,” Citarella said.

Citarella described the Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership as a

“collaborative” that envisions “a landscape that provides connected open space for wildlife and humans and where open spaces are large enough to sustain a wide array of species.”

By its own account, the Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership aims to achieve its goals through the “purchase of land and rights in land, upland habitat restoration, wetland and stream restoration, community outreach, land use planning and the sharing of experience.”

Membership carries no financial obligation for participating municipalities.

SELECTBOARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

service now were not involved with getting the service’s licensing, he said.

“What’s our obligation to the voters and the citizens?” board member Kelly Devine asked.

Tenney replied that there had never been a selectboard vote about when the transition would happen, just a vote that it would happen. The board does have a fiduciary responsibility to the town, and this is why it has been working towards a transition to a town-run fire and rescue service.

All the board has been getting from the fire and rescue service is quarterly reports, which show what the budget is, how much has been spent and the percentage that’s been spent, Tenney said.

The town has a verbal agreement with

the fire and rescue service board that they would go forward with the goal of merging the service with the town. Tenney attended the fire and rescue board’s most recent meeting and shared the news that there was a possibility of putting the transition on hold.

Tanna Kelton commented from the audience that she was uncomfortable with the amount of turnover there has been at the “fire and rescue department” and she was worried about the strength of the service.

Tenney said that as it stands now the fire and rescue service is not a town department, and worries about the strength of the service should be addressed to the fire and rescue board.

He said it has been difficult getting information needed to make the transition and part of the trouble in getting information is because most of the members of the fire and rescue service have never accessed this information.

“Most of the people over there have never filled out this information, so they don’t know right off hand what information is necessary that we need to do this,” Tenney said. “It would be nice to have a copy of the

current license, which should have all the information on it.”

Other Vermont towns have gone through a transition from a privately run fire and rescue service to a municipal service.

Faulkner said, “These transitions are very difficult. There are towns that went through a transition, and it didn’t quite work out the way they expected, and the towns ended up paying out a bit more money than they expected.”

Devine said she was concerned because sometimes elected volunteer governmental bodies’ pauses become permanent. She pushed for setting a date to take up the transition again when the board could get a written report from Lyons about what he’s learned and what information he’s looking for.

The board decided to have an update on the transition at its first meeting in August after all its members have had a chance to read Lyons’ notes on the project and the memorandum of agreement the town has with the fire and rescue service. The first regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 14.

NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

July 27

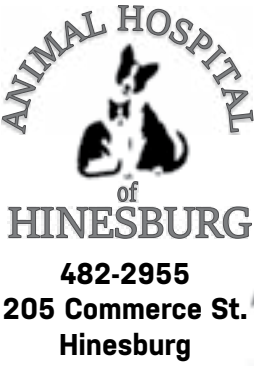
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John Quinney
Publisher and President

When we asked entrants in our photo contest to tell us what Charlotte means to them, we received a wide range of responses. Many referred to Charlotte’s beautiful, diverse landscape and the wildlife that lives here:

- Frances Foster wrote, “Part of what I love about Charlotte is its rural nature and the knowledge that much of its beautiful land will be preserved.”
- Jonathan Silverman said, “An everyday reflective walk in Charlotte ignites wonder and wander, daring and delight, inviting us to follow paths buoyed by rays, nature’s guidance, and community support.”

Other mentions included family, church, school, neighbors, year-round swims in Lake Champlain, where kids can be kids, community music, people and animals living together, volunteerism and agriculture.

Here are the winners with comments from our contest judge, Lee Krohn:

- **First prize:** Tanna Kelton. A late afternoon Lake Champlain cruise on the Albin 28 trawler “Cloud Nine.” To include cocktails and enticing snacks. Offered by Glen Findholt and Frances Foster.

Kelton wrote, “Living in Charlotte means being able to use the lake in all seasons, but the winter season is our favorite time of the year to be in the lake for us cold-water swimmers.”

Krohn said, “I just really like this one ... perfect focus, the colors of swimwear contrasting with the more monochrome ice and sky, the swimmer’s wonderful expression. I also like that it’s a tight enough

What Charlotte Means to Me

PHOTO CONTEST

Winners!

image to focus the viewer’s eyes on the subject, yet with enough background to provide a balanced perspective and sense of place.”

- **Second prize:** Heather Morse. A two-hour Charlotte outing to share photography tips and techniques from Krohn.

Morse wrote, “Charlotte is our home where my kids can be kids.”

Krohn wrote, “A wonderful, amusing, serendipitous, unusual perspective communicating the general joy of childhood. Indeed, I find that this works so well because it does not focus on nor identify the child’s face. Who can’t simply smile at this image?”

- **Third prize:** Sarah Thompson. A \$100 gift certificate for organic vegetables, flowers and herbs produced by Head Over Fields.

“The ability to be rural, while still convenient to amenities makes Charlotte home; it is peace, hope, and the ability to be a part of nature,” Thompson said.

Krohn said, “Tough capture to balance the horse in shadow while maintaining the sky and rainbows, another moment of serendipity with the arc of the horse’s body echoing the arc of the rainbows; and I know that those moments don’t last.”

The winners in the youngsters category were:

- **First prize:** Caden Asher Anderson, 11 years old. Four tickets to ECHO, Leahy

Center for Lake Champlain.

Caden wrote, “I love Charlotte because it is filled with hundreds of birds and I love bird watching. Another reason I love Charlotte is it’s not a city and it’s filled with wildlife.”

Krohn’s perspective: “Owls are magical creatures that often keep to themselves and are somewhat reticent to allow human interaction, even though I’ve been fortunate to have my own, as well. Tight image, in focus, nicely done.”

- **Second prize:** Tommy Armell, 6 years old. A \$50 gift certificate from Cookie Love.

Tommy wrote, “What’s Charlotte? Ohhh right, I like my school and trampoline.”

Krohn said, “Although it would benefit from tighter cropping, we all learn as we go. I love the expression captured on the little one’s face, and perfectly in focus, standing out from the rest of the image. Well done.”

- **Third prize:** Walter Armell, 4 years old. A \$50 gift certificate from Stones Throw Pizza.

Walter wrote, “I love my Billy (cat) and Tommy (brother) who me live with.”

“Children and pets often create wonderful moments, reflecting our wonderful relationship with animals and all that they bring to our lives,” Krohn said.

Krohn also mentioned these entries:

- “Andrea Grayson’s winter rainbow: To me, this image communicated well the

simple beauty and clarity of a cold winter day.

- “Helen Toor’s multi-image collage (a quadtych) captured creatively the early life cycle of these birds.
- “Judith Tuttle’s still life with chickens amused me with its contrasting elements, although it would benefit from tighter cropping.
- “Jonathan Silverman did a nice job with his late-day shadows, and the simplicity of the contrasting elements and colors.
- “Juliann Phelps’ image of the young child on the hay bale was also nice, in a manner similar to Tanna Kelton’s photo, focusing closely enough on the subject while still retaining enough background for a sense of place and perspective.”

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations that donated prizes — living in a kind and generous community is a big part of what Charlotte means to most of us.

Thanks to everyone who entered our photo contest and especially to Krohn for his effort and extraordinary perspectives on the photos.

Also, thank you to Claudia Marshall and Matt Zucker, who had the idea for the photo contest. Without them, no photo contest.

The last words belong to Krohn: “Thanks to everyone who submitted photos. You never know if you don’t try. Best wishes to all. Keep at it! Be glad to answer questions about these or other images, and how we can all continue to learn and improve in our image making.”

You can email him at leekrohn1@gmail.com.

We have published all 47 photo contest entries on our website at charlottenewsvt.org/category/news-from-the-news/

Adult Catagory - First Place



Tanna Kelton

Second Place



Heather Morse

Third Place



Sarah Thompson

Kid Catagory - First Place



Caden Asher Anderson, 11 years old

Second Place



Tommy Armell, 6 years old

Third Place



Walter Armell, 4 years old

Celebrating 65 years!

Charlotte celebrates Charlotte

Scooter MacMillan
John Quinney

What has more than 600 legs?
And more than 150 chickens, 200 burgers, 150 hot dogs, 36 veggie burgers, not to mention a wide assortment of potluck dishes?
Why the Charlotte Town Party, of course.
The party last Saturday afternoon was a rousing success and 300 people (or 600 legs) is probably a profound underestimation of the number of Charlotters who showed up to feast, converse, swim and just generally celebrate their joy in the town where they live.
Bill Fraser-Harris, the prime mover behind the annual municipal revelry at the town beach, said it was the largest attendance yet, thanks to the contributions of Fat Cow Farm (burgers), Misty Knoll (chicken), Stoney Loam (greens), Backyard Bistro and Elizabeth Moore/Ridgeline Real Estate (gelato), Adams Berry Farm (popsicles) and Stones Throw (pizza).
The Hokum Bros. underscored the merri-ment with their jaunty and lighthearted music.
Brian, Melissa and Kevin Fortin deftly tended a large grill and kept the food coming so the only holdup was the wait for people to fill their plates.
“The Fortins grilled almost as well as they mow,” Fraser-Harris said. The Fortin family has had the town contract for mowing for a couple of years.
The newspaper had some fun with a headline raffle at the Charlotte Town Party.
The raffle had no guidelines but was intended to encourage creativity by having people who stopped by The Charlotte News’ table at the party and to submit their original fictional headline for the newspaper.
More than 30 creative headline entries were received including, “Floating pickleball



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Organizer Bill Fraser-Harris said this past weekend’s town party was the biggest yet.

“Taylor Swift plays free concert at Old Lantern” and “Turtle causes biggest car crash in history.”
The four winners picked by the paper’s Not Ready for Olympic Judging Judges were:
• Carol Haag, “Epic event happened that three old men could not explain.”
• Janet Yantachka, “Charlotte has the best town party in Vermont.”
• Josie Kaestner, “Sighting of Champ off Charlotte Beach at town party.”
• Saval Crow, “Selectboard votes yes on fighting climate change in Charlotte.”
The winners received gift certificates from Backyard Bistro, Charlotte Country Store and Pelkey’s Blueberries, and an inflatable river raft donated by Meredith Moses.
Thanks for the donations and to everyone who participated.



Swimming is one of the biggest attractions of the Charlotte Town Party.



The Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service gave kids tours of their vehicles and demonstrated some of their emergency procedures.



From left, Janet and Mike Yantachka, John Hammer and Peter Joslin oversee the collection of original fictional headlines at the newspaper’s table at the town party.



Although Greg and Lynn Cluff have lived in Charlotte for many years, they had never attended the town party. They happened by the beach, saw what was happening, found it irresistible and stayed for the festivities.



Vivian and Alexandra Phelps are big fans of the town party.

BETA TECH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A traditional commercial aircraft will burn at least 500 pounds of gas an hour. On an average flight it will weigh around 30,000 pounds when it takes off and about 15,000 pounds when it reaches its destination, he said.

“Nobody ever asks where that 15,000 pounds of stuff goes,” Seeholzer said. “If I took a swimming pool full of gas, and I filled it up with the same amount of fuel that you put in that plane and lit it on fire, you couldn’t find the one person that wouldn’t be outraged.”

That’s an environmental disaster that’s repeated over and over again every single day, he said. The electrified plane weighs the same when it lands as when it took off.

With just three moving parts — a stationary stator with wound magnets, a rotating rotor and a shaft that ultimately connects to the aircraft’s propeller — the life of an electric plane engine will be much longer than conventional aircraft engines.

BIRTHDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the station.

The kids were fired up about putting out a newspaper. In the first sentence on the first page of the first edition of the newspaper, they staked out their mission: “We hope this first issue of The Charlotte News will lay the foundation for a permanent newspaper in our town. The purposes of this paper are to inform the townspeople of coming business and social functions; to report local news and to describe, through feature stories, unique and interesting places and personalities in our town about which little is known to many of us.”

Six and a half decades later, that’s still a pretty accurate description of this newspaper’s mission, except now we also like “to afflict the comfortable to comfort the afflicted,” as they say.

The kids wrote and typed the stories. They sold ads which they drew by hand. The town was very supportive in both reading the newspaper and buying the ads, Woods said.

A few weeks after the debut issue, Wood returned to school and her friend Connie Waller took over as editor.

Electric engines weigh so much less. Seeholzer said that, if they were to develop a traditional combustion engine for vertical lift, it would have to weigh thousands of pounds, while the electric engines the company is developing weigh 150 pounds each.

The eVTOL has five of those engines, four that provide vertical lift and a fifth that pushes the plane horizontally once it’s reached height, for a total engine weight of around 750 pounds. The conventional horizontal takeoff and landing plane they are testing has just one 150-pound horizontal pushing engine.

The batteries come from other sources, but BETA Technologies packages them. Each of these battery packs are a rectangular box a bit larger than a big, standard suitcase. Each pack goes to a different propellor engine and they are not connected, so a problem with one does not travel to other battery packs.

These battery packs are filled with lots of independent batteries instead of being one giant battery. The advantages to this include not losing power if one battery cell is worn out and in getting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for their

Marjorie Coleman was the adult adviser to the group of youths producing the newspaper. Eventually, she took over as editor and gradually the newspaper became a labor of love mostly performed by adults.

But still today, The Charlotte News loves to get writing from young people. In fact, if you know a young person, or are a young person, who would like to write for the newspaper or otherwise contribute to the volunteer effort needed to put out each edition, please call 802-881-4728 or email scooter@thecharlottenews.org. We would be thrilled to hear from you — even if you’re not a young person.

“People really chipped in and were excited about having a little newspaper,” Wood said. “Back then, the only way you had any idea of what was going on in town was looking at the bulletin boards at the stores or word of mouth or phone contact.”

The first issue had four pages printed the front and back of two sheets of paper on a mimeograph machine and stapled together.

Today, there are a lot of people living in Charlotte who don’t remember the thrill of sniffing newly printed mimeograph pages when they’re handed out.

groundbreaking aircraft.

“Milwaukee’s been doing it for years. That cell technology has a great track record with some science behind it,” Seeholzer said. “Today, our chief focus is certifying a plane, so we take reliable, predictable technology.”

That’s not to say they won’t change battery technology in the future. In fact, BETA Technologies has a battery research facility in the old Duracell facility in St. Albans

It takes about 45 minutes to recharge the batteries on the planes, but if a plane is needed faster than that, the battery pack can just be pulled out and replaced with a charged battery pack.

The researchers of BETA Technologies took test flights to Bentonville, Ark., in a conventional aircraft and in one of their electric planes. The flight was not direct and done in legs. Each leg of the flight cost an average of \$700 for the conventional plane while it cost about \$17 for their electric plane.

In the race to be first, BETA Technologies is feeling confident because all of their largest competitors are just flying remote-controlled test electric planes with no humans on board, not even the pilot. “Yet Kyle Clark, our CEO, flies flight tests two or three times a week inside our aircraft,” Seeholzer said.

In order to keep weight down and have the potential to carry the most cargo, the planes the company is working on now are planned for just one person, the pilot. However, he said, they are building dual-control training

Celebrating 65 years!

prototypes of the aircraft where a pilot rated for training can sit beside a trainee and take over the controls if needed.

United Parcel Service (UPS) has ordered 10 horizontal takeoff and landing airplanes to be delivered next year which it plans to have fly directly to and from its facilities rather than use airports.

The company’s intent is to have its eVTOL aircraft certified in 2026.

That’s a pretty fast development for the company that Kyle Clark of Essex founded in 2017, developing its first aircraft with around 40 people.

Now there are about 500 people employed by the company. Its biggest facility is next to the airport in South Burlington, but it also has almost a dozen sites from Montreal to Georgia to Arkansas.

Although he expects the company to continue expanding into lots of other areas, he doesn’t see it leaving Vermont.

“This is a Vermont company by Vermonters for Vermonters. If we’re going to demonstrate rural capability, we’re not going to do it in the Nevada desert the way everybody else is. We’re going to do it right here,” he said.

While money is critical to the future of BETA Technologies, Seeholzer said, “we’re not trying to make money. We’re trying to quite literally change an industry. We’re not allergic to money, but it’s not the driving factor.”

Second fuel truck fire in area

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

In just over a month, there have been two fuel truck fires on Route 7 near Charlotte.

The most recent was Wednesday afternoon, July 5, on Route 7 at Patton Woods Road just north of Horsford Garden and Nursery.

On June 1 a fuel tanker truck carrying natural gas caught fire resulting in a huge conflagration about 6 miles south of Charlotte near Dakin Road in Ferrisburgh. That truck was a complete loss.

The more recent fire was a tractor-trailer hauling diesel headed north when its breaks caught fire.

Charlotte fire chief Justin Bliss said fire fighters were on the scene in three minutes after getting the call.

“The fire was under control in 20 minutes and crews observed the tanker for another 30 minutes to verify the fire was out. No other vehicles were involved, and no injuries were reported,” Bliss said.

He applauded the Charlotte Fire and Rescue Service for its quick response, saying that it is a great achievement to



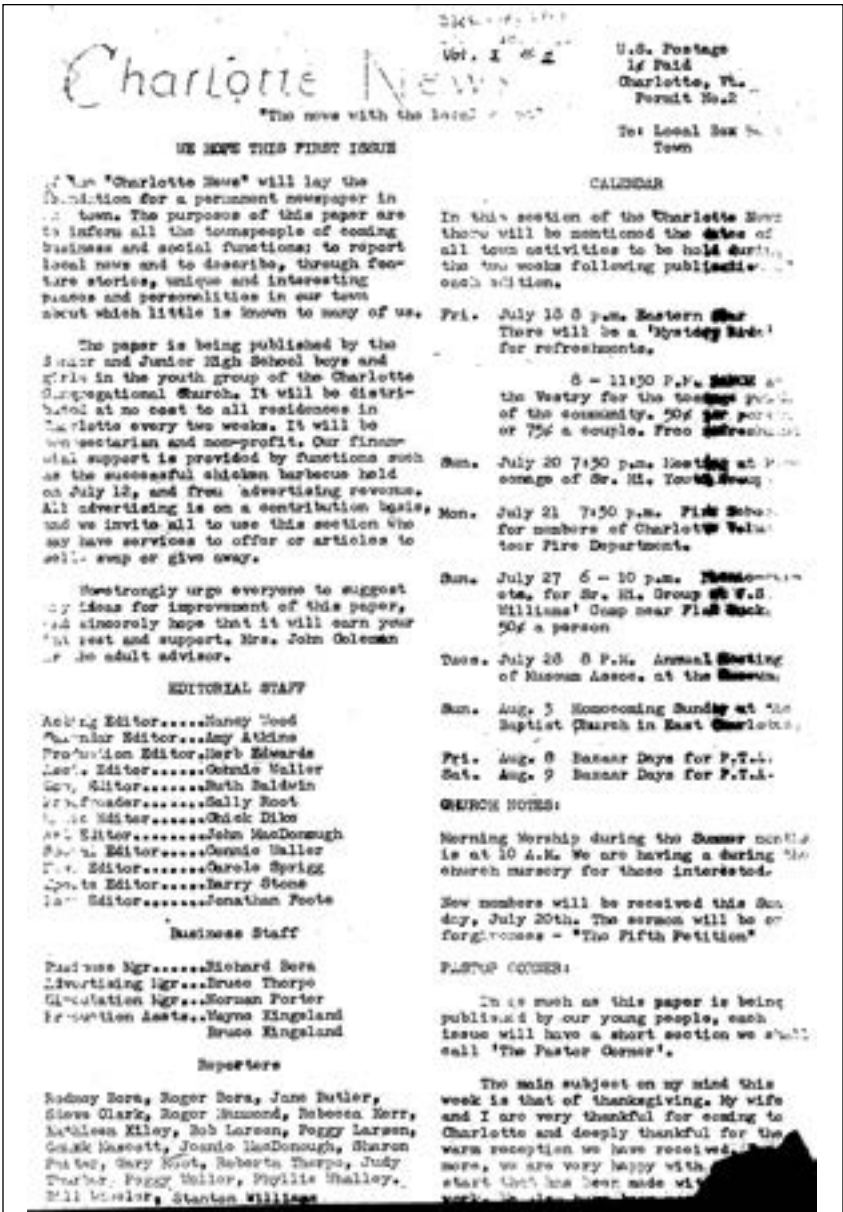
Courtesy photo

Firefighters quickly arrived on the scene of a diesel tractor-trailer truck fire July 5 on Routh 7 just north of Horsford Garden and Nursery.

have gotten there that quickly with a volunteer fire department.

The incident started with the 68-year-old driver noticing smoke come from the trailer tires. As he pulled off the road a fire started in the right back wheel well, according to WCAX.

The driver was able to detach the trailer from the truck, avoiding worse damage.



Letter to the Editor

Need political leaders to work on generic cancer drug crisis

To the Editor:

All of us know someone who has or is going through a cancer battle. Statistically one in three people will have some sort of cancer in their lifetime.

There is a healthcare crisis in the cancer community brought on by the pharmaceutical companies. There is currently a shortage of highly effective cancer drugs that save the lives of people dealing with a variety of cancers, specifically Carboplatin and Cisplatin.

These drugs have been available for many years as well as being in generic form. This is an advantage to patients and insurance companies, but not for the investors backing drug companies. Little money is generated on generic drugs.

There are over 500,000 cancer patients in the United States that rely on these specific drugs every day for survival. With this shortage and facilities running out of their supplies patients are left with minimal alternatives that can possibly change the outcome of their prognosis.

The news media is not covering these stories with their focus on certain political news. Human lives are at stake and we need our senators and congressman to step in hard and help mitigate this crisis. Please use your voice and reach out on behalf of our cancer community.

Donna Liebert
Charlotte

Education

Charlotte Community School work underway

From Champlain Valley School District

If you’ve driven past the Charlotte Community School during the past month, you may have noticed that there are big construction projects afoot.

This work is Phase Two of renovations at the school.

Phase One took place during the summer of 2021, improving ventilation, replacing siding and insulation, and installing more thermally efficient windows and doors, the school system said in a release.

This summer Phase Two work is finishing life-safety and code-compliance work begun last year. The renovations are funded in part by a bond residents of the Champlain Valley School District towns approved during Town Meeting Day voting this March.

The front part of the building was gated off on June 19 to allow excavation work. Contractors are making room for five 4000-gallon water tanks that will feed the new fire suppression system.

Underground utilities are being upgraded for electrical service and a new generator system will be installed to keep the building fully functional if it loses power.

All the ceilings on the first floor have been removed so electrical updates can be made and fire suppression lines can be extended everywhere.

The hope is that the demolition derby of



Courtesy photo

An excavator digs up the parking area in front of Charlotte Central School so that five 4000-gallon water tanks that will feed the new fire suppression system can be installed.

dodging potholes in the bus lot will be a thing of the past.

“This summer, we are reconstructing and paving the lot and creating a smooth parking area that will accommodate buses and community members. While that paving project is underway, the ‘bus lot’

will be closed to community traffic,” the release said.

If you are hiking the Pease Mountain Trail, school officials ask you use the parking lot on the east side of the school building.

Commentary

Selectboard meeting demonstrates need for town manager

Peter Joslin
Contributor

At the outset of the June 26 selectboard meeting, the selectboard agreed to chair Jim Faulkner’s request to change the agenda by adding an update concerning the transition of the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service to a municipal department.

Although changes to the agenda are at the discretion of the selectboard, it was surprising that such an important issue to Charlotters was not tabled by the selectboard for a future meeting to accommodate input from the public. It begs the question as to why this wasn’t put on a future agenda.

I contacted Jim Faulkner about this and he emailed me and said, “The selectboard is well aware of the importance of the transition of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. The board has simply put the transition on pause due to the significant other issues facing the town

at this time. We are also approaching the next budget discussions and wanted to make sure that Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service had the opportunity to present their budget as they have done in the past. The selectboard will continue the discussions once [they] have the replacement for Dean Bloch [and] the next budget has been finalized. This is an important issue and needs a through [sic] analysis.”

At this meeting, Faulkner said that the transition of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service be put on pause because the selectboard has “lots of issues in front them” and added that the town manager option is consuming a lot of their time. He said, “If we didn’t have the town manager/ town administrator in front of us, we would probably continue to work on the MOA” (the town’s memorandum of agreement with Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service). He proposed getting back on track with Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service at the end of February

2024. The selectboard also agreed to provide some kind of an update in mid-August.

Bear in mind that Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service expenses represent 22.9 percent (\$966,806) of total town expenses for the current year. This is a considerable fiduciary responsibility of the town.

During the half-hour discussion about Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Jim Faulkner and Frank Tenney said repeatedly they did not have the information necessary to move forward with the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service transition. In fact, the word “information” was uttered at least 30 times. “Getting the information needed,” “getting the right information,” “knowing what information is needed” and “it’s hard to get” were some of the phrases repeated during the discussion. At one point, Faulkner said, “We’ve tried all kinds of angles to get the information, but can’t seem to get it.”

Faulkner said that the lack of information was not the fault of Dan Lyons, the consultant from Gallagher, Flynn and Co. contracted by the selectboard to provide services in the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service transition effort. He began in February 2023. As of July 7, the town has paid Gallagher, Flynn, and Co. \$14,175.

I contacted John Snow, Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service corporate board president, and asked him if he knew about missing information. He said, “I have confirmed with Dan that he had all the information he needed from Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. To do his assignment he also needed quite a bit of information from the town and various third parties. I do not know where that stands.”

So what information is lacking?

It was evident at the meeting that, what appeared to be at the outset an agreement by the selectboard to transition Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service to a municipal entity (also agreed to by

Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service), was never voted on by the selectboard, nor was a letter of intent written. At this meeting there was no consensus by the selectboard as to whether Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service should continue the transition to a municipal department, abandon it entirely, leave the current memorandum of agreement in place or amend the agreement.

Later in the meeting, while discussing a different agenda item, Dean Bloch, town administrator, spoke to all the issues in front of the selectboard: compensation, town garage, town garage solar, traffic calming, cannabis land-use regulations, road paving, website update and affordable housing.

Frank Tenney, vice chair, said there are “lots of issues in front of the selectboard now.”

Jim Faulkner repeatedly made it clear that in his opinion there are a lot of issues in front of the selectboard right now and that the fact that the town manager option “popped up” is preventing the selectboard from continuing with the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service transition.

Having watched the recording of this meeting, it was clear that the selectboard is often unable to address significant policy issues in a timely manner. They stated they are too busy and over-burdened and are therefore compromised addressing significant policy issues at hand.

On July 18, Lee Krohn, hired by the selectboard to analyze the pros and cons of a town manager versus a town administrator will present his findings. Equally critical is the need for the selectboard to take stock of their tenure to date and how they plan to meet the many challenges of the future.

A candid review of the June 26 meeting would be worthy of their time. It points to the need of a town manager.

(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.)

Community Roundup

Here are some links to help with flood recovery

With so many communities battered by flooding, the Vermont Community Foundation has established the Vermont Flood Response & Recovery Fund to coordinate and distribute support to where it is most needed in the days, weeks and months to come. To help, access the fund at tinyurl.com/nedw5s8x.

In addition to the fund at the Community Foundation, here are some additional early giving recommendations.

The American Red Cross of Northern New England is a trusted partner in the early stages of a disaster and can be reached at tinyurl.com/3snvz2et.

Community action agencies throughout the state are all addressing issues such as temporary housing, food, clothing, case management to help people access state or federal assistance, clean up and much more:

- Capstone Community Action at capstonevt.org
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity at cvoeo.org
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action at nekcavt.org
- Southeastern Vermont Community Action at sevca.org.

Vermont Fresh Network’s 25th annual dinner at Shelburne Farms

The Vermont Fresh Network’s 25th annual Forum Dinner is Sunday, Aug. 6, at the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms.

The dinner celebrates local food on the shores of Lake Champlain with Vermont Fresh Network’s chefs, farmers and specialty food and beverage makers.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails in the courtyard filled with local food producers offering food and beverage samples and tastings with live music provided by jazz band The Cordials.

At 6 p.m. the doors to the Coach Barn

open for diners to enjoy a menu of small dishes prepared by Vermont Fresh Network chefs from across the state, including Cara Tobin of Honey Road in Burlington, chef Christian Kruse of Black Flannel Brewing & Distilling in Essex, chef Justin Wright of The Tillerman in Bristol and chef Sean Blomgren of the Lodge at Spruce Peak in Stowe.

The evening will end with an ice cream social on the lawn overlooking the sunset on Lake Champlain with entertainment by Vermont fire performance troupe Cirque de Fuego.

All proceeds from this event provide funding for Vermont Fresh Networks’ work to have a greater impact on the health of the rural economy and the sustainability of Vermont’s restaurants.

Tickets are \$150. For tickets and more information, visit vermontfresh.net. Diners are asked to pre-purchase their tickets; there are no ticket sales at the door.

Funds available for Vermont organic dairy farmers

Vermont organic dairy farmers are encouraged by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to apply for relief funding.

This grant funding is designed to mitigate the extreme market challenges in 2022, including high feed and input costs for which the state budget allocates \$6.9 million.

Eligible dairy farmers who apply will receive a single payment of \$5 per hundredweight of organic milk produced in 2022.

All documents must be correct and complete before payment can be issued. This includes receipt of your 2022 production information, a W-9, and a submitted application.

The application period for this relief program closes at noon, Friday, Oct. 20.

More program information can be found at tinyurl.com/4wcjfrtp.

Haze for days



Photo by Lee Krohn

The view from Greenbush Road on Saturday, July 1, looking east into the smoky wildfire haze.

Stronger Together

Enjoy music, connect with community at town green concerts

Linda Hamilton and Lynn Fox
Charlotte Grange

If something like a music concert is good, it’s worth paying for, right? And those who go to the concert should be the ones who pay, right? Well, maybe.

Many parts of our current society press us to value the worth of everything in terms of money. The assumption behind this is often that if something is free it’s either not worth anything, part of a gimmick to get you to spend money later, or the donor is just foolish. But upon reflection we know that there are many things in our lives whose value cannot and should not be judged in terms of money because they are gifts from the heart.

Underwriting free community events which bring pleasure and strengthen community ties through people having fun together is a gift from the heart. Businesses and individuals who step up to sponsor such events make it possible for more families to participate, regardless of how tight their budgets are. This provides an opportunity for more Charlotters to meet, get to know each other, and very often, discover some common interests. It’s connecting threads like these that help hold a community together.

With this in mind, for the last few summers the Charlotte Grange in cooperation with the Charlotte Library, has organized a series of family friendly music concerts featuring some of the talent in the region, and held on one of the town’s beautiful public spaces, the town green. Called Grange on the Green, the concert series has become popular, well attended and the kind of relaxed fun

that sends you home in a happy mood. Importantly, it’s free to everyone, thanks to local businesses and individuals who underwrite.

On behalf of all of us, Charlotte Grange thanks our sponsors Otter Creek Awnings, ReArch Company, Inc., Philo Ridge Farm, Point Bay Marina, music company Cumbancha and the many Charlotters whose individual donations who make Grange on the Green possible.

Here’s a closer look at this year’s sponsors:

- Locally owned and operated by third and fifth generation Charlotters, Otter Creek Awnings has been in business since 1976. (ottercreekawnings.com) It offers patio awnings, stationary awnings including deck canopies, window awnings, exterior solar screens and custom weather protection curtains for both residential and commercial clients. Owners Sarah and Kris Larson loved growing up in Charlotte and came from farm families active in the Grange.

“There’s nothing better on a summer evening than a picnic and music on the Green, and we really appreciate Charlotte’s Grange and Library for making the concerts possible,” Sarah Larson said.

- ReArch Company (researchcompany.com) offers an array of services that includes property development, construction management and property management. Founded by John Ilick and headquartered in South Burlington, ReArch was responsible for our Charlotte Library addition.

“The quality of their work was exceptional; they managed the challenging



Courtesy photo

A good-sized crowd turned out for a previous Grange on the Green concert.

logistics of construction while keeping the library open and staying within budget,” said Nan Mason of the Library’s Building Committee.

- Philo Ridge Farm on Mt. Philo Road (philoridgefarm.com) has a unique farm market and dining services based on what the 400 acre organic farm produces. Owners Peter Swift and Diana McCargo are devoted to regenerative agriculture practices and contributing to the vibrancy of the Charlotte community.

- Point Bay Marina on Thompson’s Point Road (pointbaymarina.com) is a full-service marina with 200 seasonal slips and over 10,000 square feet dedicated to factory authorized repairs of sail and power boats. General Manager Todd Smith said he is glad to give back to the

Charlotte community that has long been supportive of the business.

- Sponsoring for the second year, Cumbancha (cumbancha.com) is a Charlotte-based record label, booking agency and music publisher founded by Jacob Edgar, an ethnomusicologist and music producer. Edgar explains cumbancha is a Cuban word of West African derivation that refers to an impromptu party or musical jam session and implies an opportunity to get together with family and friends to dance, sing and celebrate life.

Because of these sponsors and donations from individual Charlotters, we will do exactly that during this season’s Grange on the Green.

Bring your chair, blanket and picnic to the Charlotte Town Green each Thursday in July for music 5:30-7 p.m., and Adam’s Berry Farm all-fruit popsicles will be on sale while they last.

See charlottegrange.org for information about each concert’s music.

(Linda Hamilton and Lynn Fox are members of Charlotte Grange. For information about Grange programs and membership, see charlottegrange.org.)

Around Town

Congratulations

Hannah Cleveland of Charlotte graduated from the University of Tampa on May 6 with a Bachelor of Arts in applied sociology.

Wiley Simard of Charlotte was recently named to the Castleton University president’s list for the spring semester.

Outdoors & Gardening



Photoby Todd Chretien/Fair Share Farm

As slime molds age, they fade from bright yellow to a crusty dull tan and release spores that can stay dormant until the next bout of rainy weather.

Wet weather brings slime mold

Ann Hazelrigg
University of Vermont Extension

With all the recent wet weather, conspicuous neon yellow masses have appeared on bark mulches and lawns. These brightly colored blobs, called plasmodia, are unique organisms called slime molds. The harmless, yellow, foamy slime molds (Fuligo septica), often called the dog vomit slime mold, were originally classified as fungi. They are now in the kingdom Protista since they more closely resemble amoeba.

The size of slime molds can vary from a few inches to several feet in diameter. They are not pathogenic to plants although some can grow over plants and briefly decrease their access to sunlight. The plasmodium is the feeding stage of the organism, engulfing bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms as it grows.

The plasmodial stage can appear to “creep” and can move several feet in a day, alarming homeowners and gardeners. However, slime molds are beneficial since they contribute to the decomposition of dead vegetation. As the bright yellow slime molds age, they fade from bright yellow to a crusty dull tan and release spores that can stay dormant until the next round of rainy weather. No control is necessary for slime molds. They will disappear as soon as the weather dries. To hasten their breakdown, you can break apart the blob with a rake. For more information, visit go.uvm.edu/slime-mold.

(Ann Hazelrigg is the University of Vermont Extension plant pathologist and director of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic.)



Photo by Joelle Kraft

After a stretch of wet weather, bright yellow, foamy masses of “dog vomit” slime mold may appear on bark mulches and lawns.

Prince of the Forest?



Photo by Stephen Kiernan

On a drier day than most this week, a doe and fawn stepped out of woods on Orchard Road for a photo op. By the way, the word “fawn” comes from an Old English word for glad. Let’s hope these two continue being glad about living in Charlotte.

Outdoors & Gardening

Avoiding cedar apple rust

Ann Hazelrigg
University of Vermont Extension

With our recent rainy weather, you may have noticed bright orange orbs with gelatinous tendrils on our native eastern red cedar and ornamental cedars (*Juniperus* spp.). These are the galls of the cedar apple rust disease pathogen, *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae* Schwein. This unique fungus disease requires two hosts within a couple of miles of each other to complete its lifecycle, a juniper species and an apple, crabapple, serviceberry, hawthorn or quince host. The pathogen overwinters on the evergreen host as a 1- to 2-inch knotty brown gall or swelling. When the weather warms in May and conditions are rainy, orange gelatinous “spore horns” are produced. The gall functions as a fruiting body, releasing spores that are carried on wind currents to the alternate host. These fruiting bodies can dry down between rains and then become active again five to seven times following rainy weather through May and

June. When the fungus infects the alternate host, it causes a leaf spot that initially appears on the foliage as small yellow spots. These gradually enlarge and turn bright yellow-orange, often with a dark orange border. The leaf spot stage on apples and crabapples can impact the health and vigor of the apple host and has probably contributed to some of the early defoliation we have noted in the past few years. On the leaf undersides another kind of fruiting body is apparent, releasing spores in summer that are carried back to the juniper host completing the lifecycle. Although this disease rarely kills either host, you should try to avoid growing susceptible junipers near crabapples and apples. When planting new apples or crabapples, select rust-resistant cultivars. Even if the fruits on your apple trees show symptoms of the disease, the apples are safe to eat. However, you may want to remove the blemished area first. Pruning apples and crabapples yearly to open them up to air and light can reduce leaf wetness and reduce infection.



Photo by Ann Hazelrigg

Bright orange orbs with gelatinous tendrils spotted on native eastern red cedar and ornamental cedars are the galls of the cedar apple rust fungus. Removing dormant galls from junipers before the orange-colored spore tendrils are formed in the spring can also help to reduce the amount of disease. Fungicide control for the disease is not practical or necessary. *(Ann Hazelrigg is the University of Vermont Extension plant pathologist and director of the plant diagnostic clinic.)*

Sour cherry season is here

Bonnie Kirn Donahue
University of Vermont Extension

The beginning of July means that sour cherry season is almost here. Sour cherries are bright red, jeweled fruits that are exceptionally tart and acidic, yet delicious when made into jams, jellies, syrups, ice creams and baked goods. When ripe, the juicy fruit practically falls off the tree into your hand, making it easy to fill many pints without making a dent in the tree’s crop. The most difficult part is finding a stable raised surface to reach these stone fruits. Sour cherries are self-fruitful, so if you are interested in growing one, you only need one tree to start. Pick a site with sun for 6 to 8 hours that is well-drained and has good airflow. The best time to plant is in the spring before budbreak. Varieties that grow well in Vermont include Montmorency, North Star and Meteor. If planting more than one tree, space them 15 to 25 feet apart, depending on the variety size. As the cherry trees get older, they should be pruned in early spring while they are still dormant. Pruning helps the tree maintain a healthy branching structure and helps allow light to reach the fruit. The technique of pruning can be tricky to learn at first. The Cornell Guide to Growing Fruit at Home (go.uvm.edu/growing-fruit) is a great place to learn more about pruning fruit trees and



includes diagrams that illustrate pruning concepts. Sour cherries make spectacular pies and jams. The tartness of the cherries is tamed with sugar and fat, creating a unique, enjoyable tasting experience. The most difficult part is removing the pits from the cherries. The cherries are acidic, so I like to wear disposable gloves while pitting them to protect my hands. Using a paring knife or a cherry pitter tool, carefully remove the pit from each cherry. This is important to do carefully.



Photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

For sour cherry trees to thrive, they require a well-drained site that has good airflow and sun for 6 to 8 hours daily. This task will take the bulk of your time working with sour cherries, but it is worth it in the end. The cherries can be used immediately or frozen for up to a year. Many orchards in Vermont offer u-pick sour cherries. This is a great way to get to know the fruit and see how you like it. Farmers markets may have pints of sour cherries for sale as well. Interested in growing your own sour cherry tree? Check out local fruit nurseries for these and other unique fruiting trees and shrubs, many of them native. *(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.)*

Outdoors & Gardening

Containers may be way to release inner gardener

Jodi Larison
University of Vermont Extension

Container gardening is a good option if you have limited space or want to be able to alter your environment by moving pots around. You will have fewer plant diseases and weeds and less physical stress as containers can be placed at a height requiring less bending.

Before deciding to start a container vegetable or herb garden, assess your growing conditions. Most veggies and herbs require a minimum of six hours per day of direct sunlight, but many salad greens may be fine with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight daily.

When choosing containers, be creative or practical. For example, you can cut the top off a plastic gallon milk jug or purchase a stylish pot of the same size.

Another thing to consider when choosing containers is the material. They may be made of clay or terracotta that’s glazed or unglazed, metal, plastic or wood. You also can plant in grow bags. All have advantages and disadvantages.

For example, clay may be more attractive, but plastic is lighter, making the pots easier to move. Plastic also has better water retention.

Any containers used for planting must have good drainage. Avoid anything that once held something toxic. When re-using any container, always sanitize it first with a mix of 10 percent bleach and 90 percent water.

When deciding what to plant, choose vegetables and herbs that you and your family like. Consider a theme garden. A pizza garden might include tomato, oregano and basil plants, while a salad garden could have lettuce, arugula, chervil and endive.

After determining what to grow, research

the plants’ requirements. Choose plant varieties labeled bush, patio, dwarf or compact as well as disease-resistant cultivars developed for containers.

Next, determine the size of container needed. For example, a single tomato plant will require a five-gallon pot while basil, which grows well with tomatoes, only needs a soil depth of eight inches. I prefer to select a container based on the size of the full-grown plant rather than having to re-pot.

Before planting, determine the last and first freeze dates for your specific U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone. This information can be found at garden.org/nga/zipzone. Through this link, you also will find recommended timing for planting specific vegetables. You can plant in containers at the same time you would plant in-ground.

To plant, line the base of the pot with coffee filters, newspaper or paper towels to prevent soil loss. Drill holes for drainage first, if needed.

Fill the container with potting mix to 1/2- to 1-inch below the top. Finish by soaking the potting mix with water.

Use a potting mix labeled for container gardening. Read the label as so many have added nutrients while others are formulated for better water retention. You will need to replace your potting mix every growing season.

As to watering, the rule of thumb is not to let the soil dry out. It is best to water in the morning and near the base of the plant, applying water until it drains out the bottom. Plants in containers may require daily and possibly even twice daily watering, but do not overwater.

For nutrition, use a water-soluble fertilizer such as 10-20-10. Be sure to follow all label



Photo by Jodi Larison

Many vegetables and herbs can be grown successfully in containers, if planted in the proper size container and requirements for water, sunlight and other growing conditions are met.

directions carefully.

At the end of the outdoor growing season, consider moving your herb containers inside as it might be possible to maintain them year-round. I have done this with rosemary. This

works best if you have a sunny south-facing window.

(Jodi Larison is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener intern from West Dover.)

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Sacred Hunter

Reflections on how flooding may change our streams

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

As I write this column tonight, we are witnessing another epic natural crisis by way of a deluge of rain that is rivaling the wrath of Irene in 2011. Pictures are flooding the internet (pun intended, but not sarcastically) of rivers flowing through towns and cities in our state, washing cars, bridges, and roadways toward their largest depositories, ours being Lake Champlain.

I had booked a charter fishing tour for tomorrow with a couple of business contacts, and upon hearing our governor declare a state of emergency, one of the more sensible gentlemen opted to try to protect his house in Corinth near a stream that had turned into a class IV rapid section.

For those of us who are intimately familiar with trout streams, it is a night unlike any other. Our favorite streams and deep pools that have brought us the joy of connecting to the wild native brook trout will likely be rearranged beyond recognition. All the riparian repairs we have made over the last decade and a half will be undone.

I remember visiting the Neshobe River in Brandon in 2012, the year after Irene, and not even being able to recognize my favorite pools.

If you are still a climate change denier, you might rationalize that Mother Nature does this on a regular cycle. And that the smoke from the Canadian wildfires is part of a larger cycle. All I know is that those of us who love to hike into the mountain headwaters of our big rivers like the Lamoille, Missisquoi, Winooski, Middlebury and Otter will not be able to deny the damage done to our alpine fisheries.

As an avid fan of the native brook trout, (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) which has been around through all the dramatic climactic

variations of this planet and has still managed to procreate and flourish while glaciers receded from the interior ocean that is now our beloved state, we can only hope that this current crisis will not extirpate the major population of our state fish. They are not really an adaptable species and require cold, very clean water that still perks out of the springs high up in the Green Mountains.

Memories of deep dark pools surrounded by a canopy of pines with a smattering of chanterelles gracing the banks will undoubtedly be transformed into boulder-laden streams with trees and root balls thrown haphazardly across the newly created pools, some with deeper and some with shallower pools. But, if the colorful char-family trout can survive not being swept downstream, they will hopefully recover and find new pools to continue to bring joy to the angler.

We will be the ones who will struggle to adjust. We will have to employ new methods and patterns of approach and scouting to locate these new denizens of the riffles and tail-outs.

This storm may change more than just the riverscape. It may reshape the roads and bridges that have contained the water within its shorelines. We will likely find that many of the flies we use at this time of the year have been scoured from the bottom of rocky streams.

Will there still be a Hendrickson hatch? Will we be able to raise any remaining brookies to the surface with dry flies? Will we be able to imitate minnows with steamers? Or will those be washed away as well? What will Vermont’s favorite swimming holes look like after this?

I pray that no one will be foolish enough to try to wade into streams for the next few days. Many of us enjoy a good challenge, but this is not the time to prove your



Courtesy photo

Hopefully brook trout and other native char-family trout will survive the flooding and find new pools where they can thrive.

invincibility. Leave the cape at home. Tonight, I am sure that all the members of the local Trout Unlimited chapters are gathering in their homes and communicating with one another, making plans to get out once the waters recede to assess the damage. They will, once again, begin to assist Mother Nature in healing the precious resource that such a fraternity worships.

Tonight, I am thinking of all my friends who are guides and charter captains, and the many Trout Unlimited members who share a true love of our sacred places. Next to our spouses, these wonderful and extremely charitable souls cherish our streams and rivers like no other.

My hope hangs on the history of the magnificent brook trout and its remarkable ability to weather glacial retreats and mountain ranges that squeeze tectonic plates into jagged ridges 4,000 feet high. And from

these violent upheavals, spring springs that push their way through the bedrock to bring clean, fresh, cold water from deep below the surface. This is where the brook trout thrive. It is quite miraculous if you think about it. These fish, with their brilliant orange bellies, white tipped fins, blue halos surrounding red spots on their flanks and camouflaged black and green backs have been around longer than we have.

Maybe there is something we can learn from them? How about we start with being more proactive about the health of our water and doing a better job managing stormwater?

(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.)

Calendar of Events

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

**Grange on the Green: The Will Patton Quartet
Thursday, July 13, 5:30-7 p.m.**

The Will Patton Quartet will play Roma jazz and Brazilian styles as well as straight-up bebop and many original compositions. Sponored by Cumbancha Music, ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings.

**Burlington library birthday
Saturday, July 15, noon-3:30 p.m.**

The Fletcher Free Library celebrates its 150th birthday with a parade, performers, music, community art, birthday cake and more. The celebration will begin with a costume parade down Church Street at noon. Free performances include a 12:30 p.m. musical program by Mikahely, a 1:30 p.m. magic show with Marko the Magician, and a 2:30 p.m. music and dance performance by A2VT. Throughout the day there will be airbrushed tattoos from Little Artsy Faces, a photobooth, Cyanotypes Community Art with Renee Greenlee, a scavenger hunt, Bubbles with Phinneus and birthday cake.

**Holocaust History and Its
Connections in Vermont
Sunday, July 16, 2 p.m.**

The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum presents a free lecture by Vermont Holocaust Memorial members Miriam Rosenbloom and Tom Glaser. Vermont Holocaust Memorial vice president and daughter of Holocaust survivors, Miriam Rosenbloom, will share the background and goals of the nonprofit organization. Tom Glaser of Shelburne will share a presentation of his family's harrowing story of survival through the Holocaust. At the conclusion, participants will be invited to take part in Vermont Holocaust Memorial's Leaf Project, a memorial to the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

**Grange on the Green: Nick Carter
Thursday July 20, 5:30-7pm,
Charlotte Town Green**

Nick Carter will play original music as well as well-known folk music. Sponsored by ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings.

**‘Wily Wonka’
Thursdays-Sundays, through July 16**

The Valley Players will present the family-friendly musical Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka" at the Valley Players Theater in Waitsfield. Performances will be on Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 16, 4 p.m. Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka" follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whomever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. To purchase tickets or more information, go to valleyplayers.com.

**Extended exhibition
Through Friday, July 21**

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh is currently exhibiting 15 pictorial hooked rugs that chronicle significant African American women and events. The rugs are reproductions of a 1947 series of linocuts from artist Elizabeth Catlett's I am the Black Woman series. The exhibition has been extended through July 21. Rokeby is open 10-5 daily.

**Chasing Light exhibit
Friday, July 21-Sept. 2**

Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery is opening Chasing Light, oil paintings by David Smith, on July 21



Photo contributed

Don't miss Tour de Farms Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m. See below for more information.

with a reception 5-7 p.m. Smith's paintings are vividly patterned land and water that look askew as way to find special glimmers. Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery is located at 86 Falls Road in Shelburne Village. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For information call 802-985-3848 or write mail@fsgallery.com,

**Family Art Saturday
Saturday, July 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Get creative with your crew at the Burlington City Arts Center for a free make-and-take art activity inspired by our current exhibition, Hyunsuk Erickson: Thingumabob Society. Erickson will be on-hand to share an activity that uses materials and techniques from her playful mixed-media sculptural forms.

**Grange on the Green: Minced Oats
Thursday July 27, 5:30-7 p.m.**

Minced Oats will play neo-traditionalist Americana, bluegrass and folk music on the Charlotte Town Green. Sponsored by Point Bay Marina, ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings.

**Charlotte walks
Thursday, Aug. 10, 8:30-9:30 a.m.**

Join for Thompson's Point and Whiskey Bay walk at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot for Whiskey Bay at 1000 North Shore Road. The parking lot is on the non-lake side of road; drive slowly, it can be tricky to spot. We'll have someone standing visibly by the road to help you find us. Walk will be an about 3-mile loop of dirt roads and trails around Thompson's Point including North Shore Road and Flat Rock Road. Bring your bathing suit and towel for a dip in the lake afterwards. Whiskey Bay has free public access to Lake Champlain in Charlotte.

**Vergennes Day
Saturday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Head to the Vergennes City Park for the 41st annual Vergennes Day on Saturday, Aug. 26. With over 60 vendor booths in city park, there is fun for all ages. Come check out live music on the bandstand, pancake breakfast and bubble pit at the fire station, horse and wagon rides, Little City Road Race, Lions Club chicken barbecue, merchant sales and more.

**Growing young gardeners
Through Thursday, August 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. It is not required to attend each week. Best for ages 4-10 with a grown-up (or two). Each session is free; snack time and a craft project is included. To read more and see what to bring, see bgcvt.org/events.html and scroll down a bit.

**Tour de Farms
Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m.**

Registration is open for the Tour de Farms, one of Vermont's oldest cycling farm tours, returning to Shoreham for its 15th year of celebrating local food, the revenue raised support Addison County Relocalization Network's new food hub that facilitates the distribution of locally produced foods. The day of tasting products finishes at 4:30 p.m. at the Shoreham Apple Fest. The tour features a 30-mile route, as well as a family-friendly 10-mile route. Riders start at Shoreham Green 42 miles south of Burlington, off Route 22A. The terrain includes rolling hills with a mix of paved and dirt roads, so a mountain bike or road bike with wide tires is recommended. Register at tinyurl.com/2ytecchz.



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.



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

CEC Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 17, 7:00 p.m.

**Selectboard Special Meeting:
Discussion of Town Administrator
vs. Town Manager**
Tuesday, July 18, 6:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission:
Regular Meeting**
Thursday, July 20, 7 - 9 p.m.

Selectboard
Monday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.

**Development Review Board:
Regular Meeting**
Wednesday, July 26, 7 - 9:30 p.m.



Music At The Beach

July 19, 26 & August 2
VSO String Quartet

Picnicking at 5 p.m.
Music at 6 p.m.

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

GRANGE ON THE GREEN

Thursdays in July
5:30 – 7:00pm
Town Green
(rain location: Senior Center)

July 13: Will Patton Quartet
July 20: Nick Carter
July 27: Minced Oats

Hosted by the Charlotte Library and the Charlotte Grange with thanks to our Concert Series Sponsors: ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings

The Charlotte News is proud to support these events

Library News

Take time to smell the roses – and talk about books

Margaret Woodruff
Director

The library gardens are glorious. Take time to stop and smell the roses (and the other flowers that grow in the pollinator garden) as you walk up to the library porch.

And, be on the lookout for herbs growing in the raised beds behind the Quinlan Schoolhouse. A big thank you to Linda Hamilton, Karen Tuininga and the Library Garden Circle for taking good care of these beautiful spaces.

Book groups also abound this summer. If you're looking for lively discussion about a variety of literary topics, consider joining one of the groups listed below.

Have your own book group? Ask about the book group sets available for check out. Call the library for more details about book groups and book group resources.

Friends of the Library Book Sale Sunday, July 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

High quality books at bargain prices. Browse books and enjoy lu.lu Ice Cream.

Children's programs

Summer reading program begins

Create your own packet with the fun options for pick-up in the children's area of the library.

Make-it Monday Mondays, July 10-31, 1 p.m.

Monday afternoons in July are the perfect time for craft projects. Dabble in art, make sun catchers and dinosaur gardens, weave friendship bracelets and create rain sticks. Age 6 and up.

Young children's story time Tuesdays, July 11-25, 10 a.m.

No registration required.

Preschool free play Wednesdays, July 12-26, 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.

You can find a complete listing of all summer reading activities here: bit.ly/3qvavRQ.

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.

Garden Circle Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m.

Join the Garden Circle of volunteers who will tend the educational gardens around the library this year. Contact Garden Stewards Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org to sign up and join in the merry group work sessions this growing season.

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/bdnh86f.

Grange on the Green Thursday, July 13, 5:30-7 p.m.

Will Patton Quartet plays Roma jazz and Brazilian styles as well as straight up bebop and many original compositions on the town green. Sponsored by Cumbancha Music, ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings.

Mystery Book Group Monday, July 17, 10 a.m.

Join us to discuss the debut of Detective

Matthew Venn in "The Long Call" by Ann Cleeves. Copies available at the circulation desk.

Better Together Book Club: The School for Good Mothers Wednesday, July 19 at 7 p.m.

You're invited to join this open group that reads and discusses books related to parenthood. In "The School for Good Mothers" by Jessamine Chen, one lapse in judgement lands a young mother in a government reform program. The custody of her child hangs in the balance. Books are available at the circulation desk. Registration is appreciated by emailing susanna@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Library book discussion group Thursday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Join discussion of "Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk" by Kathleen Rooney via zoom at tinyurl.com/4ch2xzap. It's the last day of 1984, and 85-year-old Lillian Boxfish is about to take a walk. As she traverses a grittier Manhattan, a city anxious after an attack by a still-at-large subway vigilante, she encounters bartenders, bodega clerks, chauffeurs, security guards, bohemians, criminals, children, parents, and parents-to-be. While she strolls, Lillian recalls a long and eventful life that included a brief reign as the highest-paid advertising woman in America. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

Grange on the Green Thursday, July 20, 5:30-7 p.m.

Nick Carter will play original music as well as well-known folk music on the town green. Concert sponsored by ReArch Company and Otter Creek Awnings.

What's going well and what's not Friday, July 28 at 11:30 a.m.

Join fellow gardeners to share the good



news and the not-so-good news from your garden so far this year. Any surprises or discoveries? What are the implications for next year? Celebrate the good things and hopefully hear some suggestions for problems. Facilitated by seed library coordinators Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton. Register in advance for Zoom link at tinyurl.com/ycknez2s.

Library contact information:

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

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The next meeting takes place on Thursday, Sept. 7, at 6 p.m. online and in person. Please contact the library or visit the library website (charlottepubliclibrary.org) for more information.



Poohth of July

Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Around 100 Charlotters kicked off their Fourth of July celebrating that morning on the library porch and town green watching the Very Merry Theatre's production of Winnie-The-Pooh.

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www.CharlotteNewsVT.org

Senior Center News

The senior center is cool place to be in summer heat

Lori York
Director

The heat and humidity of summer have arrived. If the temperature feels overwhelming, the senior center is the perfect way to spend time inside with cool air conditioning. You can take art classes, play board and card games, engage in conversations, or exercise indoors. Alternatively, if summer is the time to soak up as much outdoor time, there are activities ranging from gentle walks, birding, kayaking and canoeing trips. 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.

Outdoor activities

Paddling on the Laplatte River Wednesday, July 19, 9:30 a.m.

Join Karen and Dean Tuininga for a paddling trip, Wednesday morning, July 19, on the Laplatte River. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. and 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. Free. Details will be sent to registered paddlers the evening before the trip.

Walking and gentle hiking group Thursday, July 20, Rokeby Museum Nature Trail

Enjoy the beauty of nature. Come walk at a gentle pace with other seniors. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Charlotte Senior Center. Please bring sunscreen, bug spray and water! Questions? Contact Penny Burman at 916-753-7279. Registration required. Free.

Missisquoi Bay and Rock River kayaking July 28

The July 28 trip will be paddling the Missisquoi Bay and Rock River in Highgate Spring. These kayak trips are second and fourth Friday mornings. The trips are for active women who share a love for exploring the many local lakes, ponds and rivers. Details about the trip will be sent out the week prior. For questions, contact Susan Hyde at susanfosterhyde@gmail.com. Registration is required through the Charlotte Senior Center database or by calling the senior center. Free.

Programs

“Locally Yours” CSA program Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.

The Senior Center is participating in the “Locally Yours” program, sponsored by Senator Sanders 2023 Earmark Grant. Produce from Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg will be dropped at the senior center weekly and participants (age 60 and over) will have access to fresh fruit and vegetables at no charge. The program is a first come, first serve situation, with the intention that one or two people do not take all of the delivered produce each week and that people only take what they will use. No registration required. Free.

Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, Aug. 3, 2-7 p.m.

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

Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

Pick up on Thursdays 10-11a.m. at the

Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is required by Monday for the Thursday meal. \$5 suggested meal donation but not required. To register, call 802-425-6345 or email meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

Art classes

Drawing for those who think they can’t draw Friday, July 21, 12:30-2p.m. & Monday, July 31, 1-2:30 p.m.

Learn that you can draw if you simply look at things differently. Plan to have fun sharing in this supportive, nonjudgmental class. Local artist Mickey Davis enjoys bringing out the innate hidden artist in others. Cost: By donation. Registration required.

Make and Take Garden Art Tuesday, July 11, 1-3 p.m. & Thursday, July 20, 2-4 p.m.

Make a ceramic and glass art flower for your garden. All supplies will be provided. The studio is at 2257 Fuller Mountain Road in North Ferrisburgh. No previous art background is necessary. This flower will need no watering or weeding and can stay outdoors in Vermont winters. Ages 6 and all the way up will have fun — a perfect intergenerational activity with your adult child or grandchild. Cost: \$40. Registration required.

Exercise classes

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

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

Essentrics Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30-9:20 a.m. & Fridays, 9:30-10:20 a.m.

An Essentrics session with Sherry Senior provides a full-body, weight-free workout with a dynamic combination of stretching and strengthening that works through all joints and releases tight muscles. Promotes improvement in flexibility, mobility and posture, as well as relief of pain. Please bring a mat. Cost: \$8 a class. No registration required.

Pilates Fitness Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

This Pilates class with Phyllis Bartling, for folks 55+, is designed to be challenging and safe. It includes upper-body strength work with hand weights and mat exercises while working core muscles to improve balance, strength and posture. Cost: \$8 a class. No registration required.

T’ai Chi practice Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon

T’ai Chi is an exercise program for mind and body training to help improve balance, flexibility, stability and overall health. This is not a class with instruction, but rather a practice for students familiar with the form. Free. No registration required.

Gentle yoga Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon

A gentle yoga class with Heidi Kvasnak that focuses on breath-led movement, building bone strength and improving mobility, balance and flexibility. Suggestions are given for adapting the practice. Please bring a blanket or pillow to sit on. Suitable for all levels. Cost: \$10 a class. No registration required.

Yoga strength building practice Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

An integrative practice with Heidi Kvasnak that builds strength and stability, while maintaining a sense of ease and



Photos by Lori York

Lin Kalson with produce provided weekly by Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg.



From left, Ron Ulmer, Gerri Bloomberg, Katie Franko, Mary Donnelly and Mickie Davis practice drawing in a Drawing For Those Who Think They Can’t class at the senior center.

spaciousness in both body and mind. The class will practice longer-held postures that strengthen muscles, bones and core, as well as breath-led flowing movement, including sun salutations. Prerequisite: Must be able to easily get down to and up from the floor with or without props. Cost: \$10/class. No registration required.

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.

Senior center contact info

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

Write Ingredients

Celebrate Tell an Old Joke Day at senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

The Charlotte Senior Center isn't open on July 15, so you'll have to celebrate Gummy Worm Day somewhere else.

And we can rest easy that on July 24 the center is going with American flag Jell-O, even though it's Tequila Day. After all, some bottles of this beverage are sold "with worm," but very different worms from the gummy kind.

The senior center suggests you can have great fun honoring July 24, which is also Tell an Old Joke Day, as you eat your chicken salad on croissant.

Let bygones be bygones on Sunday, July 23, Hot Dog Day.

"I devoured hot-dogs in Baltimore way back in 1886 and they ... contained precisely the same rubber, indigestible pseudo sausages that millions of Americans now eat, and they leaked the same flabby puerile mustard," said H. L. Mencken.

Nathan Handwerker, the founder of Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs, hired young men wearing white coats and stethoscopes to gather around his cart and eat his "dogs," to create an impression of purity and cleanliness.

With Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center, come eat chicken salad. There's no need to speculate on how long it would take your tablemates to eat a hot dog. Around this time of year, Joey "Jaws" Chestnut gets lots of publicity for his bone-jarring, stomach-wrenching food feats. Here's a gift article explaining the body type one needs for his kind of eating: wapo.st/3pz8sfB.

Chestnut assures reporters he's in good health but this article links to a study showing that by eating 19,200 hot dogs, he has lost 1.3 years of his life. That's just from hot dogs. He also holds records for eating Twinkies, pastrami sandwiches, ramen noodle cups, gumbo, mutton sandwiches, pierogi, tamales, boysenberry pie, shrimp cocktail and gyros.

In "Ultra-Processed People: The Science Behind Food That Isn't Food" Chris Van Tulleken, a practicing infectious diseases doctor, isn't concerned with how fast we eat but with what we eat. He offers an interesting, informative and even amusing book detailing the fact that almost all our staple foods are ultra-processed with contents not found in any kitchen. The real problem with the



many thousands of additives is that they are specifically engineered to be addictive so that we will eat more. And more.

In 1897, a LeRoy, N.Y., carpenter and cough syrup manufacturer and his wife added strawberry, raspberry, orange and lemon to granulated gelatin and sugar and trademarked a gelatin dessert called "Jell-O." You can visit The Jell-O Gallery Museum at jellogallery.org.

Not surprisingly, Jell-O does not appear in "The Escoffier Cook Book." But there, you'll find English bread pudding, French bread pudding, German bread pudding and Scotch bread pudding with cheese. I'm guessing that the Charlotte Senior Center kitchen won't be dishing up the German version (rye bread in Rhine wine, Moselle or beer).

An Egyptian dessert called "Om Ali" (Mother of Ali) is made with bread, milk or cream, raisins and almonds. An Indian dessert, "Shahi tukra" is made with bread fried in ghee, dipped in syrup flavored with saffron and rosewater, and covered with a cream sauce embedded with decorative slices of almond. In Cuba, the pudding is often served with guava marmalade and in Hungary, "máglyarakás" (bonfire) is baked with whipped egg white on top.

The Pudding Club in England was formed to preserve the great British pudding. There, they eat a light main course, followed by a Parade of Seven Traditional Puddings. Then, over coffee, they vote on their favorite pudding of the night. This club is located on the northern edge of the Cotswolds, a 15-minute drive from Stratford-Upon-Avon, so you can take in a play and then stuff yourself with pudding.

Looking for a song about a food connected with an upcoming meal at the Charlotte Senior Center, I tried to watch "Chicken." After a few seconds of watching a fowl dancing, I knew I needed to look further. Here's a golden oldie featuring another solo dancer from 1935: youtube.com/watch?v=Cm0O18DuIew.

Monday Munch July 17, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Assorted deli sandwiches, potato salad, chips and bread pudding.

Register for Thursday Grab-&-Go Meal sponsored by AgeWell at 802-425-6345 or meals@charlotteseniorcenter.org.

Locally Yours Thursday, July 20, 10-11 a.m.

Produce from Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg will be available at the senior

center weekly and participants (age 60 and over) will have access to fresh fruit and vegetables at no charge. Please take only what you will use, leaving the rest for other participants. No registration required. Free.

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

Beef steak with mushroom sauce, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, wheat roll, pumpkin and white chocolate chip cookie and milk. Suggested Age Well donation of \$5, but not required to receive a meal. Pay what you can, when you can. Remember to register by previous Monday.

Monday Munch July 24, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Chicken salad on croissant, green salad, potato chips and American flag Jell-O.

Locally Yours Thursday, July 27, 10-11 a.m.

Produce from Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg will be available at the senior center weekly and participants (age 60 and over) will have access to fresh fruit and vegetables at no charge. Please take only what you will use, leaving the rest for other participants. No registration required. Free.

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

Breaded chicken breast, mashed cauliflower, spinach, wheat roll, raisin and date cookie, and milk.

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