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The Charlotte News

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Bovine astronomy

Photo by Nick Janetti

Cows settle down for the night under the Milky Way, south of Prindle Road on Sept. 20.

Planning commission to receive outside help

Brett Yates
Contributor

The consulting firm DuBois & King will be arriving in town this fall to begin a nearly two-year process of re-envisioning Charlotte’s historic village centers.

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission will play a supervisory role, having won a \$75,000 grant to fund the project, which will also make use of a \$15,000 “bylaw modernization grant” that Charlotte received earlier this year.

Town planner Larry Lewack drafted the request for proposals that led the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to hire DuBois & King, which will work in conjunction with the Charlotte Planning Commission, starting with a meeting this Thursday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m.

According to Lewack, the consultants will provide “public engagement and support to understand if people in town really want what they said they wanted in the 2018 town plan, which was to direct our resources and create a regulatory framework that was more friendly to diverse development options” in East Charlotte and West Charlotte.

Lewack recalled that, two years ago, “by substantial margins,” local voters rejected a pair of articles that the planning commission had placed on the November ballot with the goal of enabling denser development in the heart of East Charlotte.

“And so, we realized that if we were going to bring forward anything like that in the future,” Lewack continued, “we really needed to take a couple of steps back and have a much deeper consultation and engagement with town residents about what they really want to see in our two historic village centers.”

Lewack acknowledged two existing planning studies for East Charlotte and West Charlotte from 2010 and 2002, respectively. But this time, he hopes to “involve a whole lot of folks in the community who typically don’t come to town hall” but may “have an interest in these issues and have something to contribute.”

DuBois & King will, in Lewack’s words, “coalesce that information to sort of summarize it and present it in a variety of different forms” before identifying potential changes to the zoning bylaws that would “facilitate the vision that people said that they wanted.” If all goes to plan, the consultants will subsequently help “educate voters” before Town Meeting Day in 2025.

While planners will consider the question

“We need to figure out what we want to do with the villages and then figure out what the next pieces are.”

— Charlie Pughe



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

Champlain Valley Union High principal Adam Bunting looks through plastic sleeves of slides in 14 file cabinets containing almost half a million photos Paul Boisvert donated to his alma mater from more than four decades of work as a photographer.

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Paul Boisvert ate eels, and he ended up with a 32-year career taking photos for The New York Times — and lots of other publications.

Boisvert’s father gave him a camera when he was 8 years old. He’s been taking pictures ever since.

Photography has been a constant in his life. Before cell phone photography, a camera was always a part of Boisvert’s wardrobe. For years, he never left home without a camera hanging around his neck.

And he was relentless about saving his photographs.

Half a million photographs and \$1 million in film and developing costs later, he’s donated all those pictures to his alma mater — Champlain Valley Union High.

Raised at Shelburne Farms

Boisvert grew up on Shelburne Farms. His grandmother moved there at 5 years old in 1917, when her father took a job at the farm. When his mother met his father in 1939, he moved to the farm and became the head of maintenance. Eventually, his father studied accounting and became the farm’s accountant.

Boisvert started working on the farm when he was in the fifth grade.

“My father believed in work the work

ethic. Nobody sits around on a free ride,” he said.

He started out making 25 cents an hour. By the time he was in the eighth grade he was making \$1 an hour and had made enough money that he owed \$96 in social security taxes.

High school photography

When Boisvert entered Champlain Valley Union, the school was just several years old and had an almost brand-new darkroom.

There he jumped into photography in a big way, taking pictures for the school newspaper and the yearbook. At CVU, Boisvert became involved with the DUO (Do Unto Others) program, which put students in real-world work experiences.

During his junior year, Boisvert put in 8-10 hours on Thursdays at the University of Vermont through the DUO program. He worked with university photographers, processing film, making prints and taking pictures of everything from group shots to sports to photos of school executives.

“I really learned a lot about photography in that year,” Boisvert said.

After his senior year at CVU, where his DUO assignment was taking pictures of other DUO participants at their job assignments, Boisvert went to the University of Vermont.

He only lasted for one year. Frustrated that he was required to take a beginning

photography course after having spent his junior year of high school handling all sorts of photographic duties for the university, he dropped out after his freshman year and started his own freelance photography business in 1974.

At first, Boisvert was working for colleges, taking promotional pictures, photographing weddings and shooting portraits. Eventually, he started sending pictures to magazines.

In 1976, he was thrilled when he got his first photograph published in Vermont Life Magazine, which was known for its photography. So, then he started submitting photos to all kinds of magazines, in particular sailing and ski magazines, two sports he was very active in himself.

“I eventually became an extreme ski photographer,” Boisvert said.

In those days most of the key photographers went out west for their craft, so Boisvert sort of had a monopoly in the Northeast.

Participation photography

Growing within feet of Lake Champlain on Shelburne Farms, he was, and is, an avid sailor, racing in such far flung places as Chicago, San Francisco, Miami, Annapolis, Maine and Ontario. He began taking pictures while he was racing sailboats and

Help decide future of The Charlotte News

John Quinney
Publisher and President

I am not writing today to ask for your money, but to ask for your thoughts.

As a nonprofit community newspaper, our readers (you!) are our single most reliable source of both funding and ideas, so we answer to you in more ways than one. We care what you think.

Tell us what you think by taking a few minutes to complete the survey at our website, charlottenewsvt.org

Right now, we want your input on the paper and website, as well as on what issues in Charlotte matter most to you. There are

also questions about our nonprofit business model. Does it work for you?

Your responses will help shape the future of The Charlotte News. Plus, we have some incentives for you. When you complete this short survey, you’ll be entered in a drawing on Oct. 15 to win one of five prizes kindly donated by Philo Ridge, Dick Stowe Firewood, Tenney’s Snack Bar & Bottle Redemption, Fat Cow Farm and Regan Outdoor Leadership.

Please share your thoughts by Oct. 15, and we will put the results on the website and in the paper on Oct. 19.

As our editor, Scooter MacMillan, puts it: “Since its founding this newspaper has

been part and parcel of Charlotte. By filling out our survey, you help keep this tradition alive.”

We have printed copies of the survey available if you would prefer to work with pen and paper instead of an online survey. I would be happy to put one in the mail for you. Contact me at 802-318-7189 or john@thecharlottenews.org and be sure to include your mailing address.

Thanks for your help!



CVU PHOTOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

became known for those photographs, which became sought after by publications which wanted photos taken from the perspective of someone engaged in the feverish activities of sailing.

One of his famous sailing photos came on a multi-day trip from Tampa to Miami in strong winds. The 90-foot boat was traveling at speeds up to 40 mph, when a big wind knocked it almost over. The boat didn’t capsize, but its sail was in the water as it skimmed along before coming back up.

“I grabbed the rail. With my other hand, I took a picture at that exact moment, the precise moment when the boat was in the water,” Boisvert said. “I would have fallen overboard if I didn’t grab the rail with one hand.”

He always was wearing at least one camera. In this situation, he was wearing two, under his rain gear, attached by bungee cords that would pull the camera back inside his raincoat next to his chest when he let them go.

That photo ran across two full pages side-by-side, to the edges.

The boat he was racing on was owned by the descendants of Huey P. Long, the infamous Louisiana politician who was the inspiration for “All the King’s Men.” The family loved the photo, so in addition to making a tidy sum from sailing publications, he made \$25,000 selling pictures of their boat racing to the Longs.

“They wanted copies of everything,” Boisvert said.

The New York Times break through

In 1983, he went to The New York Times to pitch his photography skills.

“I’m up to my ears in photographers. I’m up to my ankles in photographers with ideas,” the photography editor told him. “If you ever get a good idea for The New York Times, call me.”

Undeterred, Boisvert read that, after about a century of being illegal, commercial eel fishing was going to be allowed on Lake Champlain. The state had passed a law allowing commercial eel fishing in northern parts of the lake.

Eel fishing was a tradition among the Abenaki, and it was seen as a good way to increase employment opportunities for the tribe that was suffering high unemployment.

The New York Times loved the story and told Boisvert to pick up a reporter at the Burlington airport. He and the reporter spent time with the late Chief Homer St. Francis, but this wasn’t the interview Boisvert, the reporter or The New York Times wanted. They all wanted a story and photographs from the actual experience of eel fishing with the Abenaki. However, St. Francis would not let them go out on the lake with the tribe.

Boisvert took the reporter back to the airport and saw him off. Then he called St. Francis.

“I said, ‘Homer, come on. This is my big chance for The New York Times,’ Boisvert related. “He says, ‘OK, you come back up to Swanton, and I’ll cook you some eel. If you sit down and eat the eel, then you can



Paul Boisvert

“I didn’t want to die and see all my pictures end up in the trash.”

— Paul Boisvert

go fishing with the boys.”

For some reason, non-native residents of the United States turn up their noses at eel, even if they’ve been enjoying it before they knew what kind of fish they were eating.

“I ate it,” Boisvert said. “It was delicious. Fantastic. It’s a delicacy in Europe.”

The Abenaki fish for eels at night, so that night he went out fishing. It was right after sunset. He took amazing photos.

In demand at other publications

And his photography career got a major boost.

Over the intervening years, Boisvert estimates he had about 15,000 assignments for The New York Times, eventually working for at least 15 photo editors for different sections of The New York Times. So, besides the main photo desk, his assignments included shooting travel, real estate, food and business photos.

“I was in the paper almost every day,” Boisvert said. One week he did over 12 assignments for The New York Times.

Often one New York Times assignment led to more than five assignments for other publications. His food photography got him lots of assignments in publications like Bon Appétit, Gourmet, Cooking Light. For example, after a story about the budding production of sheep milk cheese, he got more than 10 calls to take pictures for stories about cheesemaking in Vermont.

In 1987, because of his skills as a food photographer, The Times sent him on an assignment to the New England Culinary Institute. And on that assignment, he met his future wife. Ellen McShane was vice-president of the school. In 2000, she became director of student services at the University of Vermont.

Included in the 14 file cabinets of his numbered photos that now reside at Champlain Valley Union High are lots of

photos of famous people, including such luminaries as authors John Irving and Saul Bellow, and actors Blythe Danner and her daughter Gwyneth Paltrow.

One of the most exciting assignments he ever had was photographing the Dalai Lama at Middlebury College in total silence.

“He was handing out bread,” Boisvert said. “Thousands of people were lined up to get bread. Not one peep was uttered by anybody.”

No more winter sports

Skiing, one of his greatest passions, Boisvert can’t enjoy any more. He is a vibrant, energetic man on the day we talked at a coffee shop in Shelburne, but this clearly hurts, maybe not physically, but it’s nonetheless painful.

One season, he and his friends skied every trail at all 18 Vermont ski areas. “When we would get to a ski area, we would get a trail map and we’d ski left to right, every single trail.”

Over the years, Boisvert did most of his skiing in Stowe and estimates he has skied Mount Mansfield over 1,000 times.

But no more. Six years ago, he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. The doctors told him he would probably be dead in five years.

“So, I was supposed to die last year, and last year I got COVID,” Boisvert said.

He was in the hospital for three months. The doctors told his wife to make funeral arrangements.

Boisvert is sure he would have died if he hadn’t had every COVID booster he could get before getting sick.

He places his hand on his throat and chokes himself. His voice comes out in a strained and painful whisper: “If I go out in the cold, this is what I sound like because I can’t breathe.”

For most of his life he has done almost every winter sport — downhill skiing, cross country skiing, extreme skiing, snowshoeing, skating, ice climbing — always with a camera. His website usstockphoto.com is filled with a selection of 35,000 photos from the 500,000 photos in his archives. So many of those photos were taken in the snow.

Now, he can’t walk from his home to his mailbox in cold weather. But he’s filled with energy on this warm fall day.

He’d sold his Shelburne home of 26 years the day before. He would go camping at Button Bay for the weekend with a group of guys he’s known for most of his life. Come the new week, he was headed for Florida before the Vermont cold set in.

But before he left, he’d made sure that CVU had the pride of the lions’ share of his photos, except the ones he still needed to sort through and organize.

“I didn’t want to die and see all my pictures end up in the trash,” he said, so he’s made sure the school has his photos and owns them lock, stock and digital barrel. His photos are no longer his property.

He hopes the school he loves makes lots of money off his photos. “I hope that they monetize this to death.”

Superintendent Rene Sanchez said, “We have to figure out the best way to do it while at the same time honoring his legacy.”

Principal Adam Bunting agreed and said accepting this graduate’s gift is a bit intimidating.

“In the first phone call I had with him, I was getting a little bit teary, just thinking about some of the challenges that he’s facing, but also what he’s leaving behind,” Bunting said.

Bunting plans to get a team of teachers together to discuss different ways the school might utilize the collection. Preliminary ideas include, not only getting business classes working on ways to make money that could fund other school projects, but also ways for students to be inspired by Boisvert’s work.

Boisvert wears a cap that says “Vacay Mode,” an appropriate chapeau for someone who’s in perpetual-vacation mode now.

His wife had already driven to Florida the week before. Their house was sold. He’d found a new home for a lifetime worth of photos. After a weekend of camping, he was headed down to join her.



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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Consistent with our mission, The Charlotte News publishes letters to the editor, opinion pieces and obituaries submitted by our readers. All such materials are subject to review and approval by the editor in accordance with the standards and requirements listed on our website at charlottenewsvt.org/about.

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

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Corrections

- There was an error in a story about a Thompson’s Point application in the Sept. 21 issue of the newspaper. JD Herlihy, vice-chair of the development review board, was the person who alleged the selectboard had made a decision about the project with incomplete information.
- A story about Jeff Hollender neglected to include that his wife Sheila Hollender was part of a family team that started Sustain Natural.

New Old Brick



Photo by Elizabeth Hunt

On the opening day of the new Old Brick Store, from left, students Eddie, Sam and Charlie Moore, Cecelia Scriver and Wylie Higgins get snacks on their way to school.

Former student cited for displaying BB gun at CVU football game

Auditi Guha
VTDigger

Police have cited a former student for allegedly displaying a BB gun during a football game Saturday afternoon at the Champlain Valley Union High School.

Hinesburg Police Chief Anthony Cambridge said the 17-year-old male from Hinesburg was cited for possession of a dangerous weapon on school property and giving false information to police. Police released the juvenile to his family while the investigation continues, Cambridge said.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the suspect may also be charged with criminal threatening, the chief said.

The juvenile, a former CVU student, “threateningly displayed” a BB gun during a boys varsity football game at the Hinesburg school, according to a districtwide email that Champlain Valley School District superintendent Rene Sanchez sent late Saturday afternoon.

Students who saw the spectator brandish the gun immediately alerted an administrator, who then notified the Hinesburg Police Department, according to the email.

“He showed a number of people the gun (which was) in his waistband and then he did point it, at least at one person, that I know of,” Cambridge told VTDigger on Monday.



Photo contributed
Champlain Valley Union High School

The incident occurred around 2:45 p.m., according to Cambridge, who said officers quickly arrived on the scene, met with the principal and located the juvenile with very little disruption.

Police asked the juvenile if he had the BB gun on him, and he said he didn’t have one, according to Cambridge. They later found it in a backpack that was associated with him or his girlfriend, the police chief said.

“Then he was cited, issued a trespass order to not come back to the school, taken back to the police department and then released to a family member,” Cambridge said.

In the districtwide email, Sanchez called it a “traumatic event” and said mental health professionals would be available at the school this week to support students.

“At this time, there is nothing new or additional to report,” he said in the email.

(This story originally appeared in VTDigger.)

Food shelf prepares for cool weather programs

Maj Eisinger
Contributor

This feels like a season of change and of preparation. Autumnal foliage first dapples the land, then deepens. Lines of migrating geese slice through our skies with a honking cacophony that marks their purposeful journey.

The food shelf also stays on course as we ready for winter. Our work continues with the welcome addition of Michael Yantachka to our board, as well as a budgetary increase of \$24,000 a year to meet the rising need for food and assistance.

We feel fortunate that the government shutdown, which would have threatened Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits and 3SquaresVT benefits, has been avoided for at least 45 days.

The distribution of kids’ winter clothes, headed by Charlotte Grange member Alicia Cooper, will occur on food shelf distribution Wednesday dates in October. Registration for holiday baskets begins in October as well. Holiday and Giving trees planned for the Charlotte Congregational Church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel will feature ornaments that include kids’ wishes and needs.

Beautiful floral arrangements provided, since July, by Hillary Maharam to families at the Charlotte, Shelburne and Burlington food shelves have been a source of delight. The generous donations from Michael and Janet Yantachka and Blake Hoberman of Pease Mountain Natural Foods have been appreciated. Venison from Jason Harvey, cucumbers from Waverly Purdum, as well as produce from the gardens of Arlene Marks and Steve Epstein and Charlotte Central School, have provided important fresh nutritional support.

For those who wish to donate electronically, the food shelf is working to put in place a convenient mechanism for online donations on our website.

To continue our work, please note that those who wish to volunteer will be warmly welcomed. Many hands make light work. Please contact Peggy Sharpe at ckmj@comcast.net if you are interested in volunteering.

For many years the Congregational Church has provided space to us in their



basement. We are still actively searching for a new home, hoping to find a first-floor space of about 600 square feet with room for parking and receipt of large food orders. Email Peggy Sharpe, food shelf secretary, at ckmj@comcast.net if you have any leads.

The Charlotte Food Shelf remains committed to providing dignified access to healthy food as well as assistance to those in need. Remember, if you or someone you know in Charlotte or North Ferrisburgh is facing utility shut-off or an unexpected hardship, help is available. All requests and grants are kept private and are available by simply calling 802-425-3252 or by filling out a request form. Request forms are available during food shelf open hours or on our website at charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf.

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

For emergency food, if you cannot come to the food shelf due to COVID symptoms or want information about the food shelf, call 802-425-3252. Donations are appreciated, tax deductible and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445.

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Commentary

Old building might usher in the future of East Charlotte

Peter Joslin
Contributor

If you want to meet someone who is bullish about the future of East Charlotte, look no further than Jon Maguire. At a recent site visit with Maguire, his entrepreneurial vigor was clearly present. He is energetic and, perhaps most importantly, invested in the future of the east village. I first wrote about Maguire and his project in The Charlotte News in January 2023.

He is the proud owner of 15.4 acres on the corner of Spear Street and Hinesburg Road, known to locals as Baptist Corners, which includes the historic 1810 Sheehan house. His project includes adaptive reuse of the house as a restaurant, a new structure for commercial space with a residential unit above, plans for 20 units of senior housing in the southwest corner of the property and one new house.

Maguire says the Sheehan house will be a “true historical preservation,” adding that he is working with Vermont Historical Preservation. This is not Maguire’s first time at this rodeo. He completed the historic preservation of a similar house in Winooski a number of years ago.

When I visited in January, Maguire’s project was in its infancy and he had yet to have a sketch plan review with the development review board. During my recent visit, a few weeks ago, progress abounded; the back section of the historic structure was demolished and replaced by an excavated area, ready for a new foundation.

Preparations are also under way to elevate the existing house by 2 feet. This will provide space for the restaurant’s kitchen.

The development review board unanimously approved the preliminary decision of Maguire’s major three-lot subdivision on July 26. Charlotte’s land-use regulations stipulate all development in the village districts must be major subdivisions,

therefore, Maguire must submit a final plan in response to the development review board’s preliminary decision.

Maguire’s goal is for the restaurant to open in 2024 and begin work on the commercial and residential space, senior housing and house, sometime in 2025.

Maguire was quick to point out that working with the development review board and the conservation commission has been a positive experience. I asked about the neighbors’ opinions about the project, and he said it’s been positive.

The ideas behind this project have some history. Clark Hinsdale III contemplated developing senior housing and adaptive reuse of the Sheehan house at this site in the past. For those not familiar with Hinsdale, he was, until a few years ago, a long-time Charlotte resident, responsible for many developments in town, as well as the conservation of a significant amount of land in Charlotte.

I asked Hinsdale about Maguire’s project and he said he was “very pleased.” The property was not for sale and Maguire approached him. His initial interest was the tavern but he liked the broader vision and pursued it.

Hinsdale said he has been supporting Maguire’s efforts “wherever possible.”

In the past, Hinsdale had considered other projects in the east village on land which abuts Hinseburg Road, but has since sold it.

“Ideas have a life cycle as do people. I figured the time for me to do any of my plans for East Charlotte had come and gone,” Hinsdale said.

While walking the site, Maguire and I talked about the challenges of building moderately priced housing in Charlotte, specifically in the village districts. He believes there are developers interested in smaller homes on smaller lots. He thinks pre-fabricated or modular homes are a way to keep costs down.

Maguire also thinks there is development



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Jon Maguire stands in front of the building usually referred to as the Sheehan house, which he is renovating into a restaurant in East Charlotte.

potential of the Hancock house and property which recently went on the market. It includes 13.46 acres of land, all within the village district and is located on Spear Street, just south of the intersection of Jackson Hill Road.

Charlie Pughe, chair of the planning commission, sees the potential of modest income housing differently. He recognizes the need for “workforce housing” or “starter homes,” but believes it is very difficult to achieve in Charlotte due to land costs, lack of municipal infrastructure and developers who are focused on profit.

He thinks developers are reluctant to build a moderately priced house when they can build one for a market value of 800K or more, regardless of the lot size. Kwiniasa Ridge is a good example of this. It also begs the question as to what is economically viable in the village and what exactly is a moderately priced home today and is it realistically “workforce housing.”

It comes down to the political will of

the town. Pughe said, “Are our villages sustainable?”

I asked Hinsdale what changes he thought are necessary to the land-use regulations to encourage commercial and residential growth in the village districts. He said: “The community has rejected our health center, a gas station where there was a gas station, so perhaps we ought to be honest about our future and have our Town Plan and land-use regulations reflect the reality of what we do and don’t want.”

I said it sounded like he thinks there isn’t the will to change and encourage modest development in the village districts, and Hinsdale agreed.

Perhaps Maguire’s project at Baptist Corners will indicate otherwise; the start of the revitalization of the East Village.

(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.)

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Around Town

Celebrating cousins

The Gaults hold a first cousin reunion every four or five years at various locations around the United States. This year the reunion was held in Charlotte Sept. 18-23.

The plan had been to see the fall leaves, but the leaves weren't showing yet. However, the first cousins wore T-shirts in different fall colors.

The Gault first cousins were all born in Oklahoma with Cherokee heritage, but now live all over in such places as Port Angeles (Washington), San Francisco, Oklahoma, Florida, New York City, Oregon, Arizona and of course Vermont.

The cousins were treated to trips to such sites as Shelburne Farms, Shelburne Museum, the Charlotte Ferry, Mt. Philo and Burlington.



Linda née Gault Gilbert, far left, and her Gault first cousins at Shelburne Farms. She tried to get her cousins to sing 'Moonlight in Vermont,' but the group decided singing talent wasn't in their genes.

Congratulations

Jordan Fondacaro Weith, a graduate of both Charlotte Central School and Champlain Valley High, was awarded her PhD in clinical psychology from Kent State University, with a specialization in children and adolescence, in August. She previously graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Vermont Honors College in 2016 and has recently begun a fellowship at Akron Children's Hospital.

Condolences

John Paul Lavigne, a lifelong Vermonter and resident of Charlotte since 1968, passed away at the University of Vermont Medical Center on Sept. 28, 2023, surrounded by his family, due to a sudden illness.

John was born Nov. 27, 1945, fourth child of Germaine (Begin) Lavigne and Eugene Lavigne of Burlington, formerly of Quebec. He grew up



John Lavigne

on Hayward Street in Burlington, graduated from Burlington High School in 1965, then went on to serve six years in the Vermont National Guard.

John loved driving and found a career getting to do just that. He was a driver for several local oil companies. His favorite part, in addition to getting to spend time driving, was getting to know his customers. He then went on to drive for Nabisco, where he enjoyed sampling and sharing the products with family and friends. After retiring from Nabisco, he went on to work for Country Home Products where he again, enjoyed meeting and connecting with people. After finally retiring from work, he then went on to become a long-time volunteer with the Charlotte Food Shelf which brought him great purpose and great friends.

Married in 1980 to Susan Harvey, they built a life together at their home in Charlotte, and their beloved camp on Monkton Pond. In 1983 they welcomed their first child (Kristine) and began their adventure together as parents, welcoming

their second child in 1986 (Josh). Family life was full of togetherness, nature, silliness, exploring, and time spent together.

In 2011 John became a peperc for the first time with the arrival of his first grandchild, which gave him a new role in life that he lovingly embraced. He was blessed to have a total of four grandchildren with him on earth, Kinsey, Sawyer, Rowen and Abel, and two grandchildren that we know he is getting to hug in heaven, Ryker and Baby Lavigne.

His hobbies have included gardening, canoeing, horseshoes, tinkering and puttering in his garage on repair projects, feeding the birds, trying to keep the squirrels out of his feeders, baking sweet treats and being a good landlord to his growing flock of purple martins.

John is survived by his wife Susan Lavigne, his children: Kristine Reynolds (Nicholas Reynolds), and Josh Lavigne (Dawn Duell); his grandchildren Kinsey and Rowen Reynolds, and Sawyer and Abel Lavigne; his sisters Jane (Lavigne), Guerin (his twin) (Armand Guerin) and Theresa

Neilsen, all of Largo, FL. He is predeceased by his sister, Louise Ragis and her husband Ronald Ragis, and two grandchildren Ryker Reynolds and Baby Lavigne.

Visiting hours will be held Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, 4-7 p.m. at the Corbin and Palmer Shelburne Funeral Home, 209 Falls Road, Shelburne, VT. Funeral Services will be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church, 72 Church St., Shelburne, VT, on Saturday Oct. 14, 2023, at 11 a.m., followed immediately by lunch in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Charlotte Food Shelf, PO Box 83, Charlotte, VT 05445 or online at charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf.

Nancy J. Preston Sabin, a remarkable woman of determination, compassion and unwavering dedication, passed away on Sept. 27, 2023, at the age of 84. Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, on April 9, 1939, to Roger and Doris Preston, Nancy's life was a testament to her heart, resilience, and commitment to serving her community.

Nancy's life journey was marked by her unrelenting pursuit of perseverance, independence, education and service. She chose a unique path by not completing high school, opting instead to obtain her GED later in life, driven by her deep desire to pursue a career in social services. Her mother once offered her a tempting trip to Europe with a best friend as an incentive to finish high school, but Nancy's heart was already taken by love, and she chose the path of marriage.

Nancy's life was intertwined with the military, as she proudly served as an Air Force wife to the late SSGT Robert Quenneville, traveling the world alongside



Nancy Sabin

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 6

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of bringing water and sewer systems to Charlotte, it won't be "the first conversation we want to have," planning commission chair Charlie Pughe said. "We need to figure out what we want to do with the villages and then figure out what the next pieces are."

Charlotte officials intend to rewrite the town plan in 2025 for approval in 2026. Pughe believes that the upcoming conversations about the village centers will ultimately inform townwide priorities for land use, including, for example, forest conservation.

"Our town plan has been based largely on a farming community," he said. "My view is that trying to continue that as our vision of what Charlotte's going to be in the future is kind of futile because we aren't doing that even today."

Pughe noted that outreach by DuBois & King will complement, rather than replace, another public engagement process called Community Heart & Soul, led by the Orton Family Foundation. He characterized the former project as "more technical."

"I think we're going to try to build some community with Community Heart & Soul," Pughe said, "and then we'll be using that community cohesion or collective group to then move into doing some brainstorming and things about what we think the town wants to be in the future."

Per Lewack, this will include "a formal design charrette process and a lot of informal conversations, which might include a number of meetings in different settings, focus groups." He emphasized DuBois & King's expertise.

"They've been through this before," Lewack said. "They have presented a really excellent example of a project that they did for the village of Hyde Park, which has a lot of parallels to what we're doing here in Charlotte."

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Report from the Legislature

Having fun with ranked choice voting

Rep. Chea Waters Evans
State Representative

We had some visitors to the House Government Operations and Military Affairs committee this past spring. They were in town from Utah and Colorado to talk about ranked choice voting, and to illustrate their points in a way they thought Vermonters could understand. They had us vote for our favorite Ben & Jerry's flavor, which was totally relatable and I appreciated it.

Ranked choice voting is currently part of a bill from the Vermont Senate called S.32 which would allow towns to use the system only for local elections starting in 2024. It would eventually phase the system in for presidential primaries across the state in 2028. It's a slow roll-out.

The whole thing with our expert guest witnesses started with a bad taste in my mouth (I know, sorry) because one of the candidates was Chunky Monkey. I'll go out on a political limb here and say it's disgusting, and I'm willing to debate anyone who wants to throw down over it. Anything else, I respect and appreciate your thoughts and opinions, but I draw the line at banana-flavored ice cream.

Ranked choice voting, which we also call RCV, is a voting system that allows voters to rank their choices and then winnows them down until there's a clear majority winner. Let's say you like Chunky Monkey the most. You are wrong, but I'm not going to tell you how to vote. Your other options for best ice cream ever are Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, Cherry Garcia, and Phish Food. If we used ranked choice voting, your ballot might rank like this:

Chunky Monkey
Cherry Garcia



Phish Food
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

In real life, this system would work well for a selectboard race, for instance, or a city council, if there are multiple candidates for one position or one board. If, say, Chunky Monkey won at least 50 percent of the vote plus one, then Chunky Monkey would officially be the best ice cream ever. If, however, it didn't get a clear majority of the votes, then the flavor (or candidate) that received the fewest number of first-place votes would be removed from the race.

In this case, let's say Cookie Dough is the least common favorite. We'd get rid of Cookie Dough from everyone's ballot and then tabulate again, moving the second choice up to first on the ballots of everyone who had initially chosen Cookie Dough as their number one. In a regular election, if you voted for Cookie Dough, your ballot would just be out. In a ranked choice voting election, your second choice would

then be your first choice. After tabulating that round, if there's no clear over 50 percent winner, the second least-popular candidate would then be removed and we'd keep going until there's a clear winner of the majority.

I've lost you, haven't I.

It can hurt your brain a little bit if you think too much about it, but we listened to a lot of people talking about this, and it really does make sense to me and allows for more voices to be heard. Unfortunately, it also seems like the people who are going to be most bothered by it are the town clerks and their election-night volunteers, but I'm confident that the secretary of state's office will offer a lot of support and education in the years and months leading up to its implementation, if the bill goes through this coming year.

The downsides to ranked choice voting is that it's admittedly a little confusing at first, and like any system change in the government, it will probably cost some time and money to implement. I think the part about confusion is especially valid. I know many people worry about secure elections, and the only way this is all going to work at all is if people trust the election system and have confidence that their vote will be counted fairly and securely. It's going to take some clear explanation and training to make sure, should this system be implemented, that it works for the voters. That's the whole point.

I'm actually willing to hear your thoughts on Chunky Monkey, but I'm pretty sure my mind is made up. Feel free to email at cevans@leg.state.vt.us or text or call me at 917-887-8231 any time.

AROUND TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

her family. Her family background was equally impressive, with her father holding the prestigious position of vice president of GE International.

Nancy made the difficult decision to return to Vermont as a divorced mom with her four children to be closer to her family, facing challenges of raising them on a chamber maid's salary. Undeterred by the obstacles, she returned to school to further her education, taking classes at the University of Vermont. She encountered a hurdle when she felt that some of the required religion classes did not relate to her degree and chose not to earn her last three credits to finish. Yet, her determination and drive led to her work as the parent coordinator of Burlington Day Care (because she was "real," with no words held back with parents, Dr. Julie Lepeschicin encouraged her to further her education) and director of Ceta for OEO, where she forged a close friendship with the late Sandra Dragon, who served as her mentor.

Nancy's remarkable career culminated at the Joyal Training Center, where she tirelessly assisted individuals facing challenges in finding employment. It was at the Joyal Training Center that she met her late husband, Jim Sabin, finding love amid her dedicated service.

Proud of her heritage, Nancy celebrated her family's legacy as fifth-generation original settlers of Charlotte. She cherished the knowledge that her grandchildren will continue to call this area home.

In her later years, Nancy immersed herself within the fabric of Charlotte, owning a Needlework's, a craft supply store, and actively participating in local governance. She filled her calendar with selectboard meetings, diligently ensuring that procedures and "Robert's Rules" were followed. She was known to drive to private meetings, making certain that no decisions were made without her or the townspeople's knowledge. Her dedication extended to her involvement with the Charlotte Grange, and she once held town auditor position.

"Mamma" Nancy's commitment to her community earned her recognition in the Burlington Free Press where she was featured multiple times as their Super Senior of the

week. Her tireless efforts on behalf of migrant farmers in Vermont, who she affectionately referred to as "Her Boys," left an indelible mark on those she served. She went above and beyond, often driving hundreds of miles to ensure everyone had access to medical appointments, livable wages, delivered groceries and clothing, and found numerous employment opportunities for those who sought her help, even at the most inconvenient hours of the night.

In her final years, Nancy was fortunate to receive the best, in-home loving care and companionship of her devoted longtime friend and caregiver, Norma Guzman, along with the support of Doris Brace. Their unwavering dedication and friendship provided Nancy with comfort, companionship, and a sense of security during her later stages of life.

Nancy's life was a testament to the enduring power of not taking no for an answer, speaking her mind in circumstances when no one else would, not afraid to challenge the rule when she thought it was for the good of others, standing up for those who couldn't or wouldn't speak for themselves and love of a clearance rack. She will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those she leaves behind.

Nancy leaves behind a legacy of love and service through her loving family, including Valerie and Rob Mullin, Neil and Karen Quenneville, Nina Badger and partner Bob Wahl, Victor Quenneville and Shelly Cyr; grandchildren Derek and Chelsea Coombs, their children Henry and Holden; Ryan Coombs and fiancé Andrea; Bryce Mullin; Jeremy and Laura Quenneville, their children Lilly and Sophi. Danielle Murray; Jenn and Chris Bergeron, their children Eelin and Rao; Crystal Kinsman, partner Leon with children Milo and Theo; Todd and Jess Badger, their daughter Ruby; Mat Badger and partner Hailey; Cobi Badger, partner Alysia and Father Todd Badger Sr., Sheena Goyette, daughter Nevaeh; Lance Quenneville; Monica Quenneville, children Olivia and Dominic; Hailey Quenneville, fiancée Dave.

Nancy's life will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, 4-7 p.m., Ready Funeral Home in Burlington and a funeral service on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m., Charlotte Congregational Church.

In lieu of flowers: Amy's Armoire 114 North Main Street Suite 2, Barre, VT 05641.

CVSD COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUM

Join us!
Wednesday,
October 25,
6:00 pm at CVU

See the full schedule of upcoming
budget-related board meetings
on the website.
<https://www.cvsdvt.org/budget>

The Champlain Valley School District welcomes
input from ALL members of the CVSD
community as we embark on the budget
development process for the 2024-2025 budget!

Tractor parade returning to East Charlotte

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

After a one-year hiatus, the tractor parade is returning to East Charlotte. At its meeting on Monday, the selectboard decided to make the East Charlotte Tractor Parade an official town event this year.

The tribute to Charlotte farmers will run 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8, with the parade beginning at 1 p.m.

The parade will start at 3238 Spear Street about a half mile south of the intersection of Spear Street and Hinesburg Road. The tractors will head north on Spear Street and at the intersection will turn east and travel down Hinesburg Road to Bean Road. At Bean Road the parade will turn right and head south to Prindle Road where

it will travel back to Spear Street and back to its starting point.

There will be local vendors selling a variety of goods; barn animals; face painting; food; and treats. And there will be signs indicating where to park. Dogs are not welcome at the event.

“I really expect if the weather’s as good as it probably should be that there’ll be kickball games out in the field or croquet,” Spear said.

She predicted there will be at least 60 tractors participating in the celebration of Charlotte’s agricultural roots.

This is “a practice year,” board chair Jim Faulkner said, Spear has bigger plans for subsequent years.

The board left open the possibility of the tractor parade becoming a permanently official town event.

Community Roundup

Golf balls rained for rescue squads

The Rotary Club of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg held its annual Golf Ball Drop and Long Drive Contest on Sept. 15.

The Shelburne Fire Department stepped up to the plate (or should we say “pin”) by lending their ladder truck for this event. A cascade of more than 900 balls rained down at The Kwini Club Practice Facility on Shelburne Road.

The Closest to the Pin Golf Ball Drop winners were:

- 1. Leta Finch — Shelburne
- 2. Gary Nelson — Jacksonville, Fla.
- 3. Dorrice Hammer — Shelburne.

Farthest from Pin winner was Gerry Lawrence of Shelburne.

In the Longest Drive Contest, the winner was Ben Comai. Emily Roth won in the women-under-60 category, and Jessica Brumsted won the women-over-60 category.

More than \$8,000 was raised for the fire and rescue departments of the three towns.

Submissions being accepted for writing prize

Green Mountain Power and Vermont Magazine are encouraging writers to get their entries ready for one of the state’s top literary contests, the Vermont Writer’s Prize. Entries are due on January 1, 2024. Winners are selected in prose and poetry, and each winner receives \$1,250 and their works will be published in Vermont Magazine’s Summer 2024 issue. Submissions can be essays, short stories or poems that focus on “Vermont – Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values.”



Photo by Denis Barton

The Rotary Club of Charlotte-Shelburne-Hinesburg’s annual Golf Ball Drop on Sept. 15 was a success, raising more than \$8,000 for the three towns fire and rescue departments.

“Each year we receive so many thoughtful works that show a deep connection to this amazing state. What Vermont means to you is different for everyone, and honoring your Vermont experience through creative writing is what this is all about,” said Kristin Carlson, a judge of the writing prize and vice president at Green Mountain Power.

Entries are being accepted now, and the deadline is Jan. 1, 2024. They must be unpublished, and poems have a 40-line limit, and prose entries must be less than 1,500 words long. Individuals may submit only one work. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. Employees of Vermont Magazine or Green Mountain Power and previous winners are ineligible. More details, including how to submit, are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/2zkw523d>.

Court gratitude



Courtesy photo

A group of pickleball players gathered on Sunday at the town beach courts to express their feelings about the renovation.

Hi! Neighbor

Caitlin Herr: Saving and delivering lives

Phyl Newbeck
Contributor

Growing up, Caitlin Herr looked at the amount of time her parents spent volunteering for rescue services and felt absolutely no desire to enter the field, but one incident led to a change of heart.

Herr’s mother was driving her to school when she had to change direction because there was an explosion at a local wood mill. She took two patients to the hospital and asked Herr, then a teenager, to put pressure on an arterial bleed.

“I thought it was the coolest thing I’d ever done,” Herr said, “and I was hooked.”

This year marks Herr’s 10th anniversary with the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. She has spent the last three of those years as Battalion Chief of the rescue squad.

Herr started in the field with the Underhill Jericho Fire Department where her mother and stepfather served, but her true interest was in rescue services which, at the time, didn’t accept teenagers.

“Because of my constant badgering, Essex came up with a junior program,” she recalled, “and I was able to leave firefighting for health care.”

Herr started working in Charlotte in 2013 on a per diem basis but became full-time shortly thereafter.

In 2020, she was appointed battalion chief. There are currently 26 people on the rescue side of the organization including volunteers, per diem and full-time workers.

Herr noted that people don’t need to have a lot of medical training to volunteer. “We educate you from the ground up,” she said.

Herr said one requirement for being a member of the rescue squad is the ability to multitask. Another key is having situational awareness. Some basic tasks performed by the group are bandaging and providing CPR. Advanced EMTs can also insert IVs, provide appropriate medication and perform EKGs in the field. Those who, like Herr, have achieved paramedic certification can interpret the EKGs and treat heart conditions like atrial fibrillation and supraventricular tachycardia with medication or — as a last resort — electricity.

Herr notes that one important aspect of having paramedics is the ability to provide pain medication. A hypothetical patient with a fractured leg on top of Mt. Philo would be in significantly more pain if there wasn’t a paramedic in the ambulance.

“Probably one of the most important things we do is pain control for people with injuries,” Herr said. “That can make all the difference.”

Sometimes rescue work can be depressing, so Herr relishes the opportunity to bring new lives into the world. The crew has delivered

four babies in the last five years, usually in the new parents’ home. Often they are called to the homes of prospective parents who seem most prepared. They have birth plans and go-bags, but the newborns have other plans.

One downside to the work is that rescues don’t always fall within the parameters of a 12-hour shift. “You never plan anything for the end of a shift,” Herr said. “If you’re supposed to finish at 7 p.m., you know better than to make dinner reservations for 7:30.”

Herr said that within the Charlotte Fire and Rescue there is no sexism but sometimes people from other organizations will ask to speak to her battalion chief, not recognizing that’s her. On some calls, even if she is the first one in the door, people will direct their questions to one of her male colleagues.

Recently, Herr went on a call with a female colleague. The wife of the male patient fretted that two women wouldn’t be able to lift him. Herr’s colleague is a power lifter, who probably could have carried the man by herself.

“My mother made me feel more than adequate for this work,” Herr said. “She had to go through her share of trials, and I’ve had some, but I feel like I’ve had a lot less thanks to her, and hopefully, the next generation will have even less.”

Herr hopes more people will volunteer and possibly become full-time members



Courtesy photo

Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Caitlin Herr enjoys spending her free time with her rescue dog Luna.

of the service. “It’s rewarding, especially when patients thank you, and there’s a real adrenaline rush,” she said. “If you can lift over 50 pounds and want to learn about medicine, it’s a great place to be.”

Herr loves working in Charlotte because it’s an active community and she gets to meet a diverse group of people.

“I feel like this is what I was meant to do,” she said. “Some days it can be quite stressful, but I haven’t come up with anything that beats what I do.”

Stronger Together

More than 1,000 migrant workers critical to VT dairy

Sally Wadhams
Charlotte Grange

There’s no doubt that a critical thread of being stronger together in Vermont and nationwide is our relationship with our local and national food systems. Most of us are now well aware that those food systems rely on a virtual battalion of migrant workers.

In Vermont, the labor of more than 1,000 migrant workers from Latin America is key to sustaining our state’s dairy industry. Isolated in rural settings, these workers often go unnoticed and struggle to access even the most basic community resources which most

of the rest of us can take for granted.

In Vermont, even with scores of dairy farms closing their doors, we still provide as much as 60 percent of all the milk in New England. But in order to produce the milk we drink and the cheese we love, cows have to be milked every 12 hours. This daily cycle can blast off at an alarm-rattling 5 a.m., only to repeat all over again at 5 p.m. In between milkings are feedings, vet treatments, manure management, equipment repair and crop planting and harvesting. On dairy farms of all sizes this is a 365-day-a-year chase.

According to the VT Farmworker Solidarity Project:

- Approximately half of Vermont’s milk comes from the labor of undocumented workers, and the Vermont farmers who employ these migrant workers consistently state they could not survive without them.
- Vermont’s migrant farmworkers do pay taxes, not only federal and state income taxes, but also social security taxes and sales taxes from which they will never receive any direct benefits. Yet, there is no available legal path for undocumented immigrants to work on Vermont dairy farms.

Burlington-based Migrant Justice’s heroic work in support of Vermont’s farmworker community continues and includes the decade-long Milk with Dignity program, as well as ongoing robust activism. Another example of support is the state’s Vermont Migrant Education Program, which provides a bridge connecting farm workers and their children to various educational, community and health services.

Right next door to us, Addison County activists work to support migrant farmers with a strong network that includes the Open Door Clinic and a Farmworker Housing Repair Program. The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury works with other groups to try to meet migrants’ language, legal, banking, shopping, transportation, health and housing needs.

The Charlotte Grange supports and believes in these programs and others that are led with humanity, dignity and integrity. It’s part of our mission to honor our agricultural roots and help build a resilient future for all.

We’d like to invite everyone reading this to join us in a clothing drive for local migrant farmworkers. For the second year, we are working with our friends at Addison Allies to round up clothing here in Charlotte. Since 2018 the Addison Allies Network has worked to build an inclusive, stronger and more diverse community by providing services and social integration for both migrant farmworkers and immigrants living in Addison County.

The clothing drive will be held Oct. 12 and 15, 8-10 a.m. each day, with clothing drop-offs at the Charlotte Grange Hall at 2858 Spear Street. Specific needs will be posted on Front Porch Forum and at the Charlotte Grange’s website. To learn more about the clothing drive, to volunteer to help or to learn more about the organizations mentioned in this piece, visit charlottegrange.org.

We hope you can help us work in support of these workers who help keep Vermont’s farms growing and milk flowing. We’re already saying “thank you.”

For information on this and other programs of Charlotte Grange, see charlottegrange.org.

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Sports

Defense rules in CVU football so far this year

Scooter MacMillan
Editor

Hopefully, any CVU football players reading The Charlotte News have stopped reading this story before now. Champlain Valley Union High coach Rahn Fleming would rather this story about his team didn’t start this way. He doesn’t want his players thinking about this statistic: In the last three games, the Redhawks have outscored their opponents 131-7.

“We don’t want to let that become a dominant thought because it leads to a lack of humility, and a lack of humility is going to lead to a lack of preparation. Lack of preparation is going to lead to loss,” Fleming said.

The coach credits the defensive dominance to a good strong anchor in the play of junior Sean Kennedy, senior Connor Simons, junior Josh Quad and senior Will Kearney.

“Those four guys fill three spots on the offensive line very reliably,” Fleming said, a statement that could win an award — if they gave awards for understatement.

Sophomore Stuart Allard and junior Daniel Tuiqere have supplied strong play in the middle of the defense.

On the outside of the line are two players Fleming has nicknamed with names he took from Homer’s “Odyssey” — Scylla, who was a six-headed serpent in the epic, and Charybdis, who was a dark whirlpool that devoured any ships that came near her.

When Fleming asked sophomore Dylan Terricciano and freshman Orion Yates which one wanted to be Scylla and which one wanted to be Charybdis, they didn’t know who he was talking about.

“Have you ever read any Homer?” Fleming said he asked the two, who have been flying around, shutting down the outside of the defensive line, in spite of their age. “They looked at me like I was talking about ‘The Simpsons.’”

The coach takes pleasure in teaching his players about more than football.

CVU 54, St. Johnsbury 7

The Hilltoppers traveled to Hinesburg on Saturday, Sept. 23, and had a long drive back to the eastern side of the state.

The Redhawks’ defensive prowess led to five St. Johnsbury turnovers. Junior Caleb Scrodin, Terricciano and Kearney recovered

fumbles that resulted in CVU touchdowns in the third quarter.

Senior Michael Dunbar and junior Dylan Frere both had interceptions.

Junior Anderson McEnaney scored on an 84-yard kick return and on a 25-yard run.

When St. Johnsbury started the game by scoring on the first possession of the game, Fleming said he wasn’t nervous. And as events proved, he didn’t have any reason to be.

The following kickoff was the one McEnaney returned for a touchdown.

“We were right back in it, and we never looked back,” Fleming said.

Frere’s interception came with less than 3 minutes left in the first half. Five plays later senior quarterback Ollie Cheer hit senior Brian Rutherford for an 11-yard score.

The Redhawks went into halftime leading 40-7.

Cheer finished 8-for-17 with 129 yards and four touchdowns.

CVU 28, Essex 0

The Redhawks played another home game on this past Saturday, Sept. 30, against the Essex Hornets.

The game started looking like it might be a real nail-biter.

“We traded punts all first quarter. They were three and out, then we were three and out,” Fleming said. “We were punting back and forth.”

The first quarter ended with the teams knotted at 0-0.

That changed in the second quarter, when the Redhawks scored three times to end the half at 21-0.

CVU got on the scoreboard after a drive that started at their own 1-yard line. The Redhawks worked the ball down the field and senior Jacob Bose dove across the goal line from the 1-yard line to cap the 99-yard drive.

Bose ended with 14 carries for 90 yards and two touchdowns.

Cheer threw the ball for 109 yards and ran it for 24 yards, accumulating touchdowns by both passing and running.

Fleming was pleased to get a good many players game experience because of his confidence in his defense. His players didn’t let him down. He’s hopeful that experience will pay dividends in upcoming games.

Rutland comes to town this Saturday, Oct. 7, for a 1 p.m. contest.

Fall run



Photos by Lee Krohn

Bill Dysart of Charlotte, right, came in second in his age group in the Apple Harvest 10K.



David McNally, left, was one of several Charlotters who ran in Saturday morning’s annual Apple Harvest 10K.

Education

Kicking off college road trips: Tar Heels vs. Blue Devils

Margo Bartsch
College Essay Coach

It’s college road trip season. At the end of August in 100-degree heat, visiting Charlotte, North Carolina, captured the back-to-school buzz. The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Tar Heels and the Duke University Blue Devils are historic rivals and NCAA powerhouses that are separated by just a 20-minute drive.

Driving from Burlington to Charlotte is around 14 hours, or a two-hour direct flight. It is important for high school students to visit college campuses to feel the campus pulse and community. Both universities have highly selective admissions criteria. Their well-rounded reputations include exceptional learning opportunities and athletic programs.

Tobacco Road is a 12-mile stretch that connects the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University. The competition between the two colleges includes the basketball court. In their first matchup in 1920, the Tar Heels dominated the Blue Devils 36-25. Since the colleges are close, the outpouring of fans is an excuse to keep the competition alive.

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is a state university with nearly 19,000 undergraduates. It is 730 acres and divided into north, middle and south campus. It was established in 1789 as the first public

university in America. Since 1982, North Carolina law requires that 82 percent of the students be from in-state.

Driving through the gates takes nearly five minutes to Keenan Stadium which was built in 1888 and holds 50,000 football fans. Carolina Blue is everywhere: Tar Heels banners and logos on T-shirts are printed in a specific Pantone blue color to represent the brand.

The Tar Heels compete in the ACC Division 1 Conference. The NCAA basketball team has been Conference Champions 39 times in the regular season and qualified 26 times for tournaments. Competing in the NCAA Tournaments for 52 years, they won six Championships and played in 21 Final Four games.

Many buildings are named after prominent figures. Hill Hall music center was originally known as the Carnegie Library, endowed by Andrew Carnegie. It was expanded by the philanthropic support of John Sprunt Hill.

The campus history is deeply rooted in the south. The Virtual Museum of North Carolina Archeology explains that the university remained open during the Civil War. By the end of the war, only around a dozen students were enrolled. Also, Cameron Avenue, running through campus, was a dirt road until it was paved in 1927. The trivia of living history is

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- \$30 gift certificate from Tenny's Snack Bar & Bottle Redemption
- Dinner for four at Philo Ridge
- \$100 gift certificate from Fat Cow Farm
- One-hour kayaking, cycling or cross-country ski clinic.



TAKE A PHOTO OF THE QR CODE AND GET STARTED.

Naomi Strada
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

The Charlotte Central School open house and PTO potluck was joyful with classrooms welcoming parents and filled with learning examples. Students shared their routines.

The staff is grateful to members of the PTO for contributing to the potluck.

Some special events this week include:

- Talent show and skits performed by the fifth grades during Friday Fun.
- Grade 3 taking a walking field trip to Philo Ridge Farm.
- Picture day was filled with smiles. If students missed getting their photo taken, there will be a makeup or retake day in the next month or so.
- The new Lego League had its first practice. A few spots are still available. Email Tim Holcomb if interested at tholcomb@cvsdvt.org.
- The kindergarten classes made a delicious-smelling batch of applesauce.

Hydroponic flex farm

The Charlotte Central School food service staff have an exciting addition to the school cafeteria — a hydroponic flex farm in use.

This flex farm implements vertical, hydroponic technology and may be able to grow more than 394 pounds of produce annually while also being portable and only needing a standard electrical outlet. Lettuce, basil and cilantro are currently being grown in the hydroponic flex farm and will be used in school meals for students and staff.

Also, students are able to see the plants as they grow and observe the changes each day. Thanks to the food service staff for educating students on sustainable growing practices.

Substitutes needed

The recent beautiful weather has been perfect for getting kids outside and moving. Even with some sickness traveling through the faculty, the school has kept the learning going. Staff from all around the building have slid in to cover classes for ailing personnel or to lend a hand during lunch and recess duties.

If anyone is interested in becoming a

substitute teacher, there is a tremendous need. Please reach out to Naomi Strada (nstrada@cvsdvt.org or 802-425-6600) for details.

Middle school personalization clubs

This year, the fifth-eighth grade teams have taken personalization to an exceptional level. By investigating a new passion, pathways are created for transferable skills and lifelong learning (communication, cooperation, creation, wellness and community are areas of personalization).

On Wednesdays, students will have time to work with a variety of teachers in mixed grade groupings to explore a new hobby, talent or interest. Over the next several weeks, students will explore one of their interests that could include fly fishing, yearbook and photography, strength and agility training, beaded-jewelry making, mindfulness, writing, chess, Dungeons and Dragons, outdoor exploration or some middle schoolers will support learning in the kindergarten-fourth grade classrooms.

School safety

The safety procedures Charlotte Central

School follows align with guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education, a new Vermont statute and the Champlain Valley School District.

The fire drill and run-hide-fight practice are framed to educate and support staff and students with steps that are developmentally appropriate and emotionally safe.

Charlotte Central School relies on a team of educators and community members on the School Safety Team. There are first responders who are prepared for a full scope of emergencies to help the school plan and train.

Meetings are held as a chance for staff to work on their collective understanding of emergency response, so there is coordination between school officials and first responders, if the need were to arise.

If you are a member of our Charlotte community, who works in law enforcement or as a first responder, and are interested in joining the school team, please reach out to Jen Roth and get on the communication list at jroth@cvsdvt.org.

peppered throughout campus. Duke University is just a 20-minute drive north. Duke is a private school with nearly 7,000 undergraduates. The last week of August was move-in day with cars from New Jersey, New York and North Carolina. Students and parents wore swag from sweatshirts to caps. They looked like a pep rally of proud Blue Devils.

Duke competes in the ACC Division 1 Conference. The team holds the fourth most all-time wins of any NCAA men's basketball team. Duke won five NCAA Championships, competed in 11 Championship games (third all-time) and played in 17 Final Four games.

The stately grey buildings are made of Duke

stone. Since the 1920s, the distinct stone is blasted from a quarry located at Duke Forest. More than 100 buildings are built with the stone in deep blues, rich brown, dusty greys and fiery ochres, as explained in Duke Today.

Entering though the gate, undergraduate housing and buildings are concentrated on the west campus around Duke Chapel. This makes a big place feel much smaller. The graduate schools for business and engineering are on the outskirts of the gate.

Duke has 8,600 acres on three contiguous sub-campuses in Durham and a marine lab in Beaufort, N.C. Everything is big: six library branches, many athletic fields and complexes, and 34 on-campus dining locations.

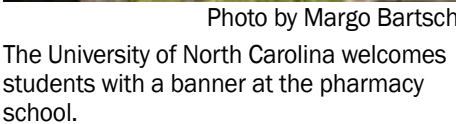
More than 60 percent of Duke's campus is covered in green. Southern moss, magnolias, willow oaks and loblolly pines make the

university feel like a quiet community. It is tucked away from Durham, the fourth largest city in North Carolina.

Visiting colleges that are near one another can provide a nuanced comparison of the history each holds. Be sure to register for the Admissions Information Session and Tour. Stop by the athletic facilities to visualize the college experience.

Bring a notebook to capture your impressions in developing your college list and reflecting in your essays. Before you know it, in around five months, March Madness might feature the Tar Heels and Blue Devils rivalry.

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



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Weed’s in the Garden

Bulbs: There’s so many choices, so little garden space

Joan Weed
Contributor

Buying spring bulbs for me is a lot like approaching a salad buffet in a restaurant. You want a little bit of everything, just to see how it tastes. Perhaps you’ll discover something new to you and something you’ll definitely want more of. However, sometimes we take more than we can use or deal with.

While perusing my favorite bulb catalogue, McClure & Zimmerman, I keep finding more and more must-haves, forgetting that I am now officially 85. It becomes a struggle to find enough holes in my garden to place everything and it’s cold out there. Gloves are often needed.

When spring arrives, I am thrilled that I sallied forth and got everything in the ground. First of all, I’ve forgotten exactly what’s coming up where and when the blooms appear. I am thrilled with the display. I do keep a list and also notes of what is planted where.

Through the years I return to my favorites. Mostly I am ordering tulips as they are least likely to return another year. But a new narcissus or daffodil will catch my eye on occasion as well.

Daffodils will last for years in the garden and may only need division occasionally. Mine have proven to be carefree and many remain from when we moved in, 27 years ago now. I also am drawn to minor bulbs which tend to return and often are transported to new spots, by critters I assume. Scilla, muscari, various bluebells. I love Camassia which comes in lovely blue shades as well as white. The tall accent spikes tend to appear late in the spring.

The earliest bulbs to appear, of course, are snowflakes and snowdrops (Leucojum and Galanthus). I have a patch easily visible from an upstairs window, and I



Cummins

anxiously look amidst the melting snow for signs of them.

About the same time, in a bed closer to the back door, are my Iris reticulata. Short in stature and delicate but hardier than you’d guess. They withstand a late snow shower. My favorite is ‘Katharine Hodgkin’, a mere 5 inches of pale blue with yellow accents. You’ll find others in shades of purple and yellow as well.

My collection of daffodils runs the gamut of single trumpets of bright yellow to doubles with fluffy petals and shades of orange, peach, and even lean towards pink. My favorites in this category are ‘Thalia’ in pure white with two or three blooms to a stem and a lovely welcomed fragrance.

The tiny supermarket offerings of tete-a-tete or cheerfulness are worth buying and enjoying, but then drying in an onion bag and planting in fall with your other



Photos by Joan Weed

Thinking apricot beauty

bulbs. They will return and surprise the forgetful among us. Another one I love for its simplicity is Narcissus poeticus recurvus, also called pheasant’s eye. Other poeticus daffodils have been renamed Actaea. Both of these tend to be the very last to bloom. The blooms are pure white except for the central red and yellow “eye.”

When choosing tulips, I personally like to keep roughly the same palette, adding each year so that my favorite scheme carries on. I rarely choose red or yellow and focus on purples, peach, ivory and pink with simple blooms.

However, your liking might be double blooms or the striking red tulip called king’s blood, or blushing apeldoorn in yellow feathered with orange. Mrs. J.T. Scheepers is purest yellow. There are several fringed tulips such as swan wings, blue heron or my favorite, cummins in

lavender. Angelique is a gorgeous double-pink treasure.

The lily-shaped tulips with pointed petals add a nice diversion for the eye and come in many shades. I love plain ivory. Of the large Darwin hybrids, menton is my favorite. Looking carefully, you’ll see pink, orange and yellow shades blended so skillfully by nature. These are meant to go into arrangements. Queen of the night is nearly black and really shows up against my gray house.

As far as planting goes, the size of a bulb determines the depth for planting. So large double daffodils might go as deep as 6-8 inches but snowdrops can be pushed in a few inches. One trick for when you’ve overbought and run out of time is to plant a large pot with large bulbs near the bottom and layer smaller ones up with soil covering each layer. Keep in a cold shed or garage. I usually add some snow for moisture when I think of it during the winter. As it warms up in spring, bring out your already planted containers for accents by the front door. You can still enjoy the emergence of your favorites.

When planting in my garden beds, I like to cluster the bulbs in groups of five or 10. My eye shudders at soldiers in a row or a mish-mosh of colors and shapes. Each group surrounded by greenery shows off its attributes best.

You needn’t order from catalogues or online, as our local nurseries and hardware stores have already got bulbs in stock. It’s best to buy early for the best choice. Of course, there is usually more diversity online but many of the above-mentioned selections can be purchased locally.

Try a few at least. Plant with a child. They will have forgotten by spring, but you will be there to remind them and to hunt together for their emergence. You will be happy you did.

Sacred Hunter

Christmas comes in October for waterfowl hunters

Bradley Carleton
Contributor

For us obsessed waterfowl hunters, Christmas happens this Saturday. It is opening day for ducks on Lake Champlain.

I guess as we get older the presents evolve into an appreciation of just being present for our most passionate moments. I’ve always been an adrenaline junkie and liked many youthful pursuits that meant engaging in something dangerous.

As a competitive freestyle skier, I got my rush from hurtling down a mogul field and catapulting myself off the bumps into the air, contorting my body in what I believed to be acrobatic postures, and more importantly, gaining recognition from the people on the chairlift, whistling and yelling encouragement with each death-defying trick.

Later, I discovered the same rush standing on an off-Broadway stage and feeling so alive that my whole body tingled with the energy of being watched while I was in character.

When it was finally time to settle down and act like a grown-up, I researched all the less dangerous sports, like polo and being a stockbroker in New York City. All of this was based on a self-image that needed constant affirmation that my life was interesting.

When I was 23 years old, I found myself living somewhere I didn’t want to be in New Canaan, Conn., and in my desperation, I found an image in a magazine of two duck hunters in an impossibly difficult and dangerous situation, facing a tremendous north wind in a small craft. The images in the painting by Chet Reneson of Lyme, Conn., pulled me into the scene. I saw in the scene, these two men, facing certain demise, hanging on to a duck blind on stilts that had blown over and were pressed up against a weedbed that was the only windbreak protecting them from the ominous waves ripping foam off the crests of

the waves as they swept across the bay.

And yet, here were these two figures, with wide grins etched into their windburned faces. One of them pointing to the ducks cupping their wings to settle into their decoys that had washed up against the side of the blind. These men were embracing life in the face of desperate conditions. And all they cared about in that moment were the flock of bluebills with dark legs dangling as they prepared to pitch into the calmer pool of water behind the blind.

These men were laughing, fixated on a singular passion. This is what I was seeking in my life. I made a choice that I had to seek out this lifestyle. And so, it began.

First, in the delta of the Housatonic River outside of Bridgeport, Conn., in the Charles Wheeler Refuge. My hunting partner was selected from a friendship I’d made at Vermont Academy, and we proceeded to buy our first boat, a homemade steel flatbottom with about 10 inches of freeboard and a Sears Gamefisher 7.5hp outboard that had a habit of stalling in waves that snuck up behind her when she wasn’t pushing fast enough.

Those first 10 years, we met with many episodes that should have put us both in a watery grave. And how did we handle it? We laughed and sang “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,” not out of disrespect for those fallen maritime mariners, but because we felt more alive every time we succeeded in cheating death.

Over time, I fell in love with the cold north wind spraying the foam from the waves’ crests slapping me in the face. Eventually, I returned to Vermont and found the true meaning of this existential search for life’s meaning.

I built my own duck boat in the Barnegat Bay sneak boat style after reading Gordon MacQuarrie’s “Armistice Day Storm of 1940” and how the few duck hunters to have survived the record-breaking blizzard had



Courtesy photo

Reaping the rewards of braving the elements for October duck hunting.

been using Barnegat sneak boat-style boats.

The same style as in the Reneson painting. I was becoming one of those two characters in the painting titled “The Baygunners.”

I found a new partner, John Leshner of Burlington, and he became my closest friend and confidant for the next 25 years. He’s the kind of guy that, although he teases me about having a death wish to die duck hunting, I can count on to save us both if we should get into an untenable situation.

Twenty years ago, John introduced me to a group of men who shared this unexplainable passion for hunting waterfowl that I had now buried deep in my core. The group of men (and women now) was formed to assist helping the widow of a most gregarious and ebullient gentleman hunter with the cost of college for his children. His name was Norbert Buchmayr, and the organization, in order that his name be honored by his peers and friends, was titled the Norbert Buchmayr Society, and we, as members, are the friends

of the Norbert Buchmayr Society.

The Buchmayr name is renowned for its contribution to the New England sporting community, and everyone in the hunting industry respects the name as royalty. Norbert’s brother, Siggie, and his nephew, Scott, have carried on the tradition of honor and gentlemanly sport for the last 42 years, of which I, at the invitation and sponsorship from John and Siggie, have attended for the past 20 years.

It’s a terrific Friday each September where all the members shoot 100 rounds of sporting clays, culminating in a shoot-off for the title of Top Gun and then retreat to a wonderful dinner at a restaurant on the edge of the bay on the Greenwich-Darien, Conn., border to attend an auction to raise money for young people to go to college to study outdoor degrees.

Now I know, this column may have taken a different direction from my original intention, but to circle back to the childlike anticipation of a Christmas in October, John and I will be headed out Saturday morning around 4 a.m. across the dark windy bay in his sneak boat, with the spray from the waves splashing in our faces, and the first nip of north wind stinging our skin.

We will hunker down in our cattail-covered, stilt blind, and as the sun wrestles with the earth and the blackened night begins to grow into a shade of dark purple, we will rise to the sound of whistling wings, turn our faces into the cold wind, grinning like two blazing idiots who know the true meaning of life.

(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.

CHARLOTTE

Tractor Parade

Sunday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The East Charlotte Tractor Parade is back after a break last year. The parade will start at 1 p.m. at Green Mountain Hay at 3238 Spear Street about half a mile from the intersection of Spear Street and Hinesburg Road. It will travel north down Spear Street to the intersection of Hinesburg Road where it will head east to Bean Road. There the parade will turn south down Prindle Road back to Spear Street where it will head north and back to the farm. There will be local vendors selling a variety of goods; barn animals; face painting; food; and treats. No dogs. Follow signs to parking.

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Walks: Pease Mountain

Thursday Oct. 12, 8:30-10 a.m.

Join a walk at Pease Mountain at the rear of the bus parking lot of Charlotte Central School (to the far west of the school by the skating rink). David Ziegelman of the Charlotte Trails Committee will guide our group up Pease Mountain. This walk should take more than an hour. Charlotte Walks happen every second Thursday, meeting at a different trailhead at 8:30 a.m.

Cinderella opera

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 13 & 14 7:30 & 6 p.m.

Barn Opera at 1386 Pearl Street in Brandon presents a kid-centric, family-friendly production of Rossini's "La Cenerentola" (or "Cinderella"). Ticket information at barnopera.com/tickets. For more information email artistic director Joshua Collier at collier@barnopera.com.

Craft fair

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Champlain Valley High Craft Fair will feature 150 handcrafters and their crafts; food trucks including ice cream, kettle corn and a sausage shack; and a raffle. Free.

Girls on the Run benefit

Saturday, Oct. 14, 6-9 p.m.

Girls on the Run Vermont will host its annual fall benefit, the Sneaker Soirée, on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Burlington Beer Company from 6-9 p.m. Suggested attire is semi-formal, and of course, your favorite sneakers. A silent auction will include getaways, lift tickets, spa treatments, yoga packages and artwork. Tickets at gotrvt.org/sneaker-soiree. The funds raised help ensure girls can participate regardless of financial barriers.

Illustrated marble industry tour

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Henry Sheldon Museum is presenting a lecture about the marble industry in western New England, including Middlebury, by historians Glenn Andres and William Hosley at the Ilsley Public Library. Tickets are \$35 for public and \$25 for Sheldon Museum members. Tickets and information at henrysheldonmuseum.org.



Charlotte Tractor Parade 2018.

Photo by Anna Cyr

www.charlottenews.org/events or 802-388-2117.

Music of Bach

Sunday, Oct. 15, 3 p.m.

Capital City Concerts presents J.S. Bach concert on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Burlington. The works performed will include Bach's Keyboard Concerto in D minor and Double Concerto for two violins, as well as vocal arias, and the Cello Suite No. 4 in E-flat major. Tickets (\$15-\$30) are available at www.capitalcityconcerts.org and at the door.

CHARLOTTE

Solar eclipse

Sunday, Oct. 15, 12:12 p.m.

The moon will take a little bite out of the sun in Vermont beginning at 12:12 p.m. and reaching its maximum partial blocking at 1:19 p.m. The whole lunar-solar display should be over by 2:26 p.m. For those in the western United States, in a 125-mile wide path stretching from Texas to Oregon, the event will pull a Johnny Cash — in other words, it will display as a ring of fire with the moon smack dab in the middle of the sun.

Mary Cassatt film

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.

The Architecture + Design film series continues with Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman at Contois Auditorium in the Burlington City Hall. The film is a portrait of the radical impressionist painter who shaped her career around depicting the lives of women. Carolyn Bauer, curator at Shelburne Museum, will give a special introduction on Cassatt's connections to Electra Havemeyer Webb.

CHARLOTTE

Book launch

Thursday, Oct. 19, 5-8 p.m.

Split Rock Tree Farm is hosting a book launch and signing for a new children's book, "Hope Beneath the Tree," by Kristen Vincent of Shelburne, in conjunction with the organization Hope Beneath the Tree which connects children of incarcerated

parents with gift-givers in the community.

CHARLOTTE

Parent Coaching from

Conflict to Cohesion

Wednesdays, Oct. 11-Nov. 16, 6-8 p.m.

Marigold Farm at 151 Prindle Road in Charlotte is hosting a parent coaching group. This class is for parents and caregivers who want to cultivate a relationship with their young ones that feels fun, sustainable and respectful. Participants will learn skills to improve communication and strengthen the family system through straightforward, actionable steps. To learn more or register visit marigoldfarm.org/upcoming-classesworkshops.

Youth Environmental Summit

Friday, Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

You must register by Oct. 16 for the Youth Environmental Summit, an annual conference for middle and high school students to learn about environmental issues and get involved in local communities. Through hands-on workshops, action-inspiring discussions, networking with environmental professionals and like-minded peers, the mission of the event is to prepare youth for leadership on environmental issues. For sixth grade through seniors, the program is free and at the Barre Civic Center. Register at tinyurl.com/yeyrvvn4.

Youth rowing race

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-noon

Cheer on local high school and middle school rowing crews in the annual youth rowing race hosted by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes. The race starts at the foot of the Vergennes Falls and goes down and back via Otter Creek. Many crews compete in the race and in an annual costume contest. Watch and cheer from Vergennes Falls Park or along Otter Creek.

Halloween art activity

Saturday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get ready for Halloween at Family Art Saturday. Drop into the BCA Center fourth-floor education studio on Church Street in Burlington for a free, intergenerational art activity inspired by the current exhibition, Terry Ekasala: Layers of Time. Kids, caregivers, students and adults will explore the power of process as they make their own abstract masterpieces, using watercolors, pastels and colored pencils. Come in your Halloween costume while you create your own curious creatures.



Town of Charlotte

MEETINGS

Visit charlottevt.org for more information.

Planning Commission:

Regular meeting

Thursday, October 5, 7 - 9 p.m.

No Selectboard meeting

Monday, October 9

Development Review Board:

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Regular meeting

Thursday, October 19, 7 - 9 p.m.

CHARLOTTE PROPERTY TRANSFERS: SEPTEMBER 2023

September

Sept. 6 Daniel & Nicolina Baldwin to Gevry Farms III LLC 420 Drinkwater Road \$165,500 8.04 acres. Open land only.

Sept. 11 5697 Ethan Allen Highway LLC to Ashley Wils & Tyler Joles 5697 Ethan Allen Highway \$371,000 .96 acres with mobile home

Sept. 18 Richard H. Eyre TRE to Daniel & Anna Chang 957 Whalley Rd. \$1,900,000 5.62 acres with dwelling

Sept.18 Jean F Melby Revocable Trust to Hunter Dickinson & Amanda Blanchard 736 Lime Kiln Rd. with dwelling \$785,000 10.0 acres

Sept. 22 Mitchell Shifrin TRE 2019 Mitchell B. Shifrin Rev. Trust to David B. & Meghan R. Ketterling Lot 4 Zoe Lane \$219,000 4.0 acres

Sept. 25 Brett Leonard & Molly Raftery to Lloyd K.III & Nicola M. Townsend 7427 Spear St. with dwelling \$899,000 2.02 acres

Sept. 25 Scott T. Brayman Rev. Trust Scott Brayman TRE to Gerard Williams 251 Tamarack Rd. \$930,000 36.45 acres. Open land.

Sept. 28 Clark Hinsdale III to Christopher R. & Elizabeth C. Snyder Spear Street \$100,000 1.16 acres. Open land.

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



Library News

Grateful for the Friends of the Charlotte Library’s efforts

Margaret Woodruff
Director

We are so grateful to the Friends of the Charlotte Library for the support they provide. Without their grants, programs such as Summer Reading and resources such as our digital collections would be diminished if not non-existent. This active group provides key funding for these extras. If you’re interested in more information, please contact friends@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Halloween is on the horizon. We’ll be hosting the annual pumpkin-carving party on Oct. 28. Join us for “Pumpkins, Pianos and Poems” from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the library porch.

Children’s programs

Preschool story time Tuesdays, September, 10 a.m.

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

Preschool play time Wednesdays, September, 10 a.m.

Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. Exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks or Play-Doh — these are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning at the Charlotte Library. Stay tuned for details about upcoming fall programs.

Kindergarten-first grade story time Tuesdays, Sept. 26, 3 p.m.

Extend the kindergarten and first-grade day with story time fun at the Charlotte Library. Students can ride the blue school bus from Charlotte Central School. They will be met at the bus stop and escorted across the street to the library. Limited availability. Registration required email youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Coding club Wednesdays, through Oct. 18, 2:15-3:30 p.m.

Hack Club, a global organization helping teenagers to code, is hosting a six-week coding club at the Charlotte Library. The club will run 2:15-3:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Snacks will be provided. Any child between the seventh-twelfth grade is welcome, no prior experience is required. If this sounds interesting to you, email nila@hackclub.com and include the name of your child, their grade and whether they’ve had any coding experience.

Programs for adults

Special Events Get Started with Gmail Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Create a Gmail account and learn how to do basic email functions, such as sending, receiving, replying and deleting email. Please bring a cell phone (it is needed to complete Gmail signup). Laptops and snacks provided. Participants will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card from a local business. Free. Space is limited; registration required. Register online or by calling 802-425-3864.

ter online or by calling 802-425-3864.

Artist talk Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

Landa Townsend shares the vision and the craft of her exhibit “Dragonfly Habitat at the Edges of Weatherhead Hollow Pond.” The prints highlight the non-toxic and sustainable Japanese woodblock printmaking technique. Made possible by funding from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Cooking book club Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m.

Explore the varieties of American cooking and culture. Select a recipe that strikes your fancy and taste buds. Books include “The Sioux Chef,” “The Immigrant Cookbook,” “Aloha Kitchen,” “Jubilee,” “Homegrown” and “Forgotten Drinks of Colonial America.” Then bring that dish to share with others for an evening of eating and discussion about the geographic and historical range of American cuisine. Books are available at the library circulation desk.

Internet browsing basics Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1-2 p.m.

Build skills and get comfortable using a web browser, performing searches and navigating websites in this hands-on workshop. Learn helpful terminology and practice with other learners in a supportive environment. Laptops and snacks provided. Participants will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card from a local business. Free. Limited space, registration required by calling 802-425-6345. Supported by AT&T and The Public Library Association.

Recurring programs

Book chat Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Meet each week to discuss new books, old books and books we might have missed. Each week, 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 tend the educational gardens around the library. Contact garden stewards Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org to join the merry work sessions.

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.

Mystery book group Monday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m.

“All Systems Red” by Martha Wells is the story of a corporate-dominated spacefaring future where planetary missions must be approved by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety. But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn’t a primary concern. Copies available at the circulation desk.

Thursday night book group Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, Pulitzer Prize-winner Geraldine Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history in “Horse.” Copies available at the circulation desk. Join on Zoom at https://tinyurl.com/4ch2xzap.

Writing art into poetry Sunday, Oct. 22, 2:30 p.m.

Join JC Wayne, to explore the theme of “under the surface” by writing poetry in response to the library’s current exhibit of sustainable art by Landa Townsend. Townsend will get us started by sharing her story and some of the materials and technique used to create her Japanese woodcut prints. For adults, teens and tweens. Sign up by email at margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org.

Better together book club Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

An open group discussion of books related to parenthood. “Good Inside” by Becky Kennedy offers perspective-shifting parenting principles and troubleshooting for specific scenarios, including sibling rivalry, separation anxiety, tantrums and more. Copies available at the circulation desk.

Men’s Book Group: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.

“Educated” by Tara Westover is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join the Zoom discussion at https://tinyurl.com/29steja5.

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 on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The next meeting takes place this Thursday, Oct. 5, online and in person. Please contact the library or visit the library website (charlottepubliclibrary.org) for more information.

Playing house



Photo by Susan Fitzpatrick

Jim Fitzpatrick built a storybook wood house on Flat Rock Road from ash trees that were cut down on Thompson’s Point last year.

Senior Center News

Celebrate ‘Packed-tober,’ a month full of programming

Lori York
Director

October is another packed month of programming at the senior center. There is a new Tai Chi movement class and the return of evening meditation with Charlie Nardozzi. There is an afternoon author discussion on The Long Grief Journey and an evening presentation about Green Energy — the Greening of Energy Electric Cars and the Rise of the Lithium-ion Battery. New this month will be a lunch-and-learn about reading and understanding the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and a presentation about transitioning to senior housing.

Programs

Introduction to tai chi
Mondays, Oct. 9-30, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Join Kristin Borquist for a four-week tai chi movement series. Rather than learning the tai chi set, each class explores one of the movement principles of tai chi that you can integrate into your daily life and all your other activities. For questions, email kristin@thaibodyworkvt.com. \$40 for the four-week session or \$10 per drop-in class. Registration recommended.

Meditation
Wednesdays, Oct. 18-Nov. 15, 5-6 p.m.
As the days shorten and the weather turns cooler, it’s a great time to start meditating again. Come join Charlie Nardozzi for this five-week meditation series. No experience necessary. The meditation class will be broadcast live via Zoom (and recorded). Even if you miss a class, everyone who signs up will get the recording each week. \$50 for the five-week session. Registration and payment required.

Presentations

Lunch & Learn: How to read your medicare summary notice (MSN)
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 12:30-2 p.m.
Medicare summary notices, or MSNs, are monthly statements from Medicare that detail medical expenses and reimbursements. These are important documents, but it can be difficult to read and even a little bit intimidating to open and really take a look. Join Vermont Senior Medicare Patrol for this lunch and learn on how to read your Medicare summary notices. Learn how to break down the information simply and explore how to be protected from Medicare fraud, errors and abuse. Cost: \$5 for the lunch.

Transitioning to a senior living community
Thursday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.
Transitioning from a long-time home to a senior living community can be emotionally challenging, particularly when it comes to letting go of belongings. Join Alicia Fleming, Founder & Owner / Golden Guide Senior Living Advisor, as she discusses home-based, person-centered solutions, resources to help remove obstacles and how to manage emotional ties with greater ease. Registration recommended. Cost: Free. Light refreshments provided.

The “Greening” of Energy: Electric Cars and the Rise of the Lithium-ion Battery
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
Join The “Greening” of Energy: Electric Cars and the Rise of the Lithium-ion Battery, Paul Wagenhofer’s presentation on his personal views on “green energy.” Wagenhofer has spent his 40-year career as a geophysicist in oil and gas exploration. With the current global warming crisis, it becomes necessary to re-think the use of energy and the need to develop mitigating and practical solutions to the warming situation. Free.

Internet browsing basics
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1-2 p.m.
Build skills and get comfortable using a web browser, performing searches and navigating websites in this hands-on workshop. Learn helpful terminology and practice with other learners in a supportive environment. Laptops and snacks provided. Registration required. Free. Supported by AT&T and the Public Library Association.

‘The Long Grief Journey’
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m.
Grief can be messy and does not follow a specific timeline. Join co-authors Pamela Blair and Bradie Hansen as they discuss their book, “The Long Grief Journey.” This book is a resource that covers the challenges that long-term griever encounter and discusses finding hope again after death. Registration recommended. Free.

Programs

AARP Smart Driver course
Thursday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
The AARP Smart Driver course is designed especially for drivers 50 and older. It will help you refresh your driving skills and may even help save on auto insurance. AARP members can take the course at a discounted rate. Please plan to bring lunch. Checks should be made out to AARP. Cost: \$25/\$20 for AARP members. Register by Monday, Oct. 16.

Art exhibit: Playing with Sticks
Check out this unique art show where botanical materials from Vermont gardens, fields and woods are given prominence by artist Alice Trageser, who is a Charlotte gardener and retired art teacher. There is an artist reception on Friday, Oct. 20, 4-6 p.m.

Alzheimer’s caregivers support group
Thursday, Oct. 12, 5-6 p.m.
Are you caring for someone with Alzheimer’s? Do you know someone who is? Please join the monthly Caregiver Support Group on the second Thursday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The meetings provide a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. For more information or questions email Susan Cartwright at scartwrightasg@gmail.com.

Meals

Menus are posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

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

Men’s breakfast
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7-9:30 a.m.
On the second Thursday of the month, the men gather for breakfast and conversation. This month, Ken Albert will talk about vineyards and winemaking. Afterwards, for those interested, there will be a tour of the Shelburne Vineyard and winery. Registration required by Tuesday for the Thursday breakfast. Suggested donation: \$6.



Photo by Lori York
From left, Janet Morrison, Sue Foley, Carol Geske and Andy Hodgkin volunteer for the Monday cooking team preparing lunch for 50 seniors.

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

Senior center info:
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. Programs include weekly lunches, daily exercise classes and many opportunities to connect through board and card games and art and language programming. If you haven’t been to the Senior Center, please stop by and visit. 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.

Lori York, director, lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte
802-425-6345
charlotteseniorcentervt.org



Photo by Kristin Borquist
New at the senior center is Introduction to Tai Chi Movement for Daily Life with Kristin Borquist.

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.

TALK TO US
WIN BIG PRIZES!

TAKE A PHOTO OF THE
QR CODE AND GET STARTED.

Write Ingredients

Put on a sweater and enjoy fall at the senior center

Susan Ohanian
Contributor

Tian Tian recently celebrated his 26th birthday at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C.

A special panda-friendly fruitsicle cake was made by the zoo's department of nutrition science. Commissary keepers crafted the cake from frozen diluted apple and pineapple juices and "frosted" it with a mixture of mashed sweet potatoes, mashed carrots and honey. They decorated the tiers with apples, pears, bananas, sweet potatoes, carrots and bamboo sprigs. You can watch Tian Tian enjoy his birthday treat at <https://tinyurl.com/5xav5wta>.

This will be Tian Tian's last birthday at the National Zoological Park, and officials organized Panda Palooza to say "good-bye." The nine-day extravaganza served as a fond farewell to the three giant pandas: Tian Tian, Mei Xiang and their 3-year-old son Xiao Qi Ji.

These D.C. icons were on loan from China and will soon be headed back.

As people in Washington say "farewell pandas," the Charlotte Senior Center invites you to come on in and say "hello autumn" to friends and neighbors.

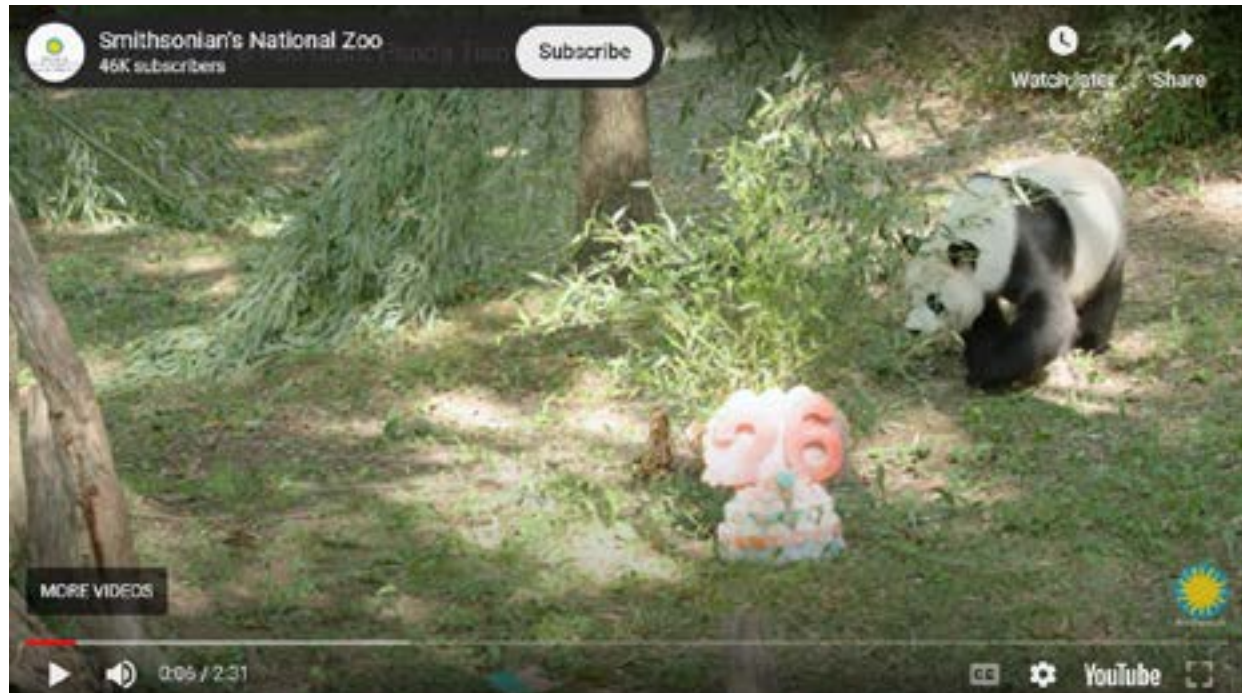
Certainly, this is a special time of year. From fall fashions of the 1890s to lots of recipes, to how to read leaves, to whether or not to rake leaves, to the five best places to see beautiful fall foliage in 2023, "autumn" rates 38,587 entries at The New York Times.

The newspaper of record missed its chance: Charlotte is not listed in that article of autumnal places to visit, but we know that all we have to do is look out the window. We also know that those leaf-peeper buses will soon be crowding our roads.

Harvest soup at the Charlotte Senior Center is filled with Cucurbita. But don't let that scare you. Cucurbita is Latin for "gourd," and at Monday Munch that gourd is butternut squash combined with lots of other good vegetables.

The Cucurbita are native to the Andes and Meso America, and are among the earliest of cultivated plants. Experts say that some sites in Mexico are around 10,000 years old. To say that butternut squash is venerable is to put it mildly. Specifically, the butternut squash originated in Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico and Venezuela thousands of years ago.

Although the word "squash" comes from the Narragansett Native American word askutasquash, which means "eaten raw or uncooked," be assured that the Harvest Soup at the Charlotte Senior Center will be well



Tian Tian's approaches the special panda-friendly fruitsicle cake made by the zoo's department of nutrition science. This will be the panda's last birthday at the National Zoological Park.

cooked.

Harvest Soup is a potage, from the French potager, meaning "vegetable plot" or "soup garden," and yes, when you come to Monday Munch you will enjoy a veritable garden in your soup bowl. So put on a sweater and come welcome the pot at the Charlotte Senior Center: It's soup season. And there's much more on the menu, so come on over.

Monday Munch

Oct. 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cape Cod salad, harvest soup and apple crisp.

Register for Thursday's Age Well Grab & Go Meal by email: (meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org) or phone (802-425-6345).

Age Well restaurant tickets

Stop by the Charlotte Senior Center to talk with our Age Well representative Kerry Batres about the restaurant ticket program that can be used for meals at participating restaurants.

Age Well meal pickup

Thursday, Oct. 12, 10-11 a.m.

Chicken cacciatore, wheat rotini pasta, peas & carrots, wheat bread and pumpkin cookie.

Men's Breakfast

Thursday, Oct. 12, 7-9 a.m.

On the second Thursday of each month, men gather for breakfast and conversation. This month, Ken Albert will talk on vineyards and winemaking. After a quick clean-up, those

interested can drive to Shelburne Vineyard for a tour of the vineyard and winery.

Please register for the Men's Breakfast through our database at charlotteseniorcentervt.org/registration or call the senior center at 802-425-6345. Suggested donation: \$6.

If you are interested in speaking at a future Men's Breakfast, contact Jim Hyde at james.hyde@tufts.edu.

Monday Munch

Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Menu to be announced.

Age Well meal pickup

Thursday, Oct. 19, 10-11 a.m.

Pork cutlet with peppers & onions in sauce, mashed cauliflower, beets, wheat roll and applesauce.

Please note that the people who prepare these meals and the people who clean up the mess of all those dishes are volunteers. They enjoy what they do and they encourage you to come check it out as a volunteer yourself.

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