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# The Charlotte News

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | Volume 66 Number 10



## Horsing around

Photo by Lewis Mudge

Thayer Mudge, son of current selectboard member Lewis Mudge, riding in the rain at the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge.



## New owner says Old Brick Store ‘belongs to the community’

Meryl Hartmann  
Community News Service

After three months of renovating and putting on the finishing touches, new owner Jolene Kao has reopened the doors of the Old Brick Store, and the first day was one to remember.

Kao, who bought the store in July, is a second-generation Taiwanese immigrant, and opening day, Sept. 29, coincided with her “favorite Chinese holiday,” the Mid-Autumn Festival, which made it even more special.

What else made the day so special was her surprise at the turnout. She had thought it would be a “really quiet, soft opening,” having only told “a handful of neighbors.”

But instead a chatty inflow of locals poured in. Kao remembered how “exciting” it was “after three months of being closed” to see the space as she had always wanted, “full of life.”

“I’ve been wanting a place like this for like 10 years,” she said in a recent interview. “I grew up in a family business and a family restaurant.”

In buying the historic Charlotte store, she had wanted to replicate part of her upbringing — but in her own way.

“My parents’ restaurant is a big, sit-down, full-service Chinese restaurant,” she said. This store, in her mind, would be “a little bit more intimate.”

If you walked up the old wooden steps on Ferry Road and into the front door in recent weeks, you probably noticed a fresh stack of sugary Shelburne Farms apple cider donuts at the front counter, the previous store owners’ fall tradition Kao wanted to continue.

Kao’s mindset coming into owning the store was “not to take away from the things people are used to but add to them and put my own touches,” she said.

During the three months of renovations, she wanted to keep the old charm of a building so iconic in town.

So, the new additions aim to highlight its history. Lights in the shelves both show off



Photo by Lee Krohn

There’s been a store on the site of the Old Brick Store since at least 1818.

the products for sale and spotlight the old brickwork inside.

Kao said she wanted to create a place for people to come to and feel welcomed in, just as she found in Charlotte when she moved to town with her family this past year from New York.

“My partner Pete and I are constantly looking at each other and saying this is the best decision we’ve ever made — second to having our daughter,” she said. “But really, it’s about the community we’ve found here.”

She added, “Everybody is so welcoming and kind.”

Charlotters also live the kind of lifestyle she was looking for. “People just take their time to savor things more,” she said, adding later, “I feel really lucky that I’ve been able to find a really lovely staff. All really beautiful humans.”

She sees herself, really, as just the latest steward of the building. “Like it doesn’t

SEE **OLD BRICK STORE** PAGE 2

## Don’t Forget to Vote

Please remember to vote this Tuesday, Nov. 7. The polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Or, you can pick up a ballot at the Charlotte Town Hall.

There are just two articles on the ballot. There’s information about the ballot articles on the town website at <https://tinyurl.com/4kea7bsp>.

## Shade cast at plan for shade tree preservation

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

The Charlotte Selectboard meeting began on Monday with chair Jim Faulkner sharing the news that the state police had apprehended someone in connection with a rash of thefts and vehicles broken into over the weekend of Oct. 14-15.

Police also have the name of another person who is alleged to have been involved with the crime spree, he said.

“The state police were actually overwhelmed by the number of calls they got in different locations,” Faulkner said. “They did the best that they could to respond to it at the time.”

By the way, the public comments section of selectboard meetings has been moved toward the beginning meetings so that people who have something to say don’t have to wait through the meeting for an opportunity to have their say. The selectboard attempts to have times set for when items on the agenda will be discussed, but with discussions that run over or are shorter than expected, the times are a moving target. The hope is that having the public comments at the top of the meeting will make it more convenient.

### Shade tree plan postponed

Tree commissioner Mark Dillenbeck came with a shade tree plan he had hoped the board would approve at that night’s

SEE **SELECTBOARD** PAGE 3

# Survey results show support and room for growth

Bill Regan  
Board of Directors

The Charlotte News is all about community, and this community came through when we asked about the issues facing this town, and how the paper is covering them.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who responded to our survey about the issues, the paper and the future for this town. Nearly 200 people, to be precise, which means we have an extremely high confidence level that the results reflect the views of our entire readership.

Folks were generous with their write-in comments, which added important detail and context to their answers.

The board and staff are analyzing the survey results now and deciding how your views will shape the paper and website. In the meantime, we want to share these findings with you, as we promised when we began this process.

Respondents were overwhelmingly happy with the current mix of articles (84 percent), and they offered dozens of

opinions on topics we cover too frequently or too infrequently, as well as additional story ideas to explore. For example, one reader said, “I would like to know more about local businesses in our town.” Another wrote, “There is very little, if any, coverage of what the planning commission is up to.”

Of course, many of these suggestions are particular to the individual respondent. For instance, we heard from some who usually read the outdoors and gardening articles and some who usually skip them. Nonetheless, a few themes emerged from the write-in suggestions.

- Many Charlotters want fewer “soft” articles and more “hard” coverage of the news, especially town government.

- Quite a few people are uninterested in school sports, although some acknowledge that parents with school-aged children may feel differently.

- Generally, respondents enjoy profiles of

fellow Charlotters, pieces on town history and information about upcoming events. There is interest in more stories on farming, long-time residents, younger people, people doing key jobs in our community and local businesses.

We asked how people read The Charlotte News because we want to know how important the hardcopy version of the paper is to our readers, particularly because printing and mailing are two of our biggest expenses.

- Nearly half of respondents say they read the paper both online and in print.

Almost 43 percent read only the hardcopy version while 8 percent read it only online.

- When we asked if you would read the paper if it were available only online, almost 90 percent said they would. Ten percent said they would never read the paper online.

Slightly more than half of respondents had no opinion on whether The Charlotte



SEE **SURVEY RESULTS** PAGE 2



OLD BRICK STORE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

really feel like it’s mine, but that it belongs to the community,” she said.

Kyle Mariboe, who comes to Charlotte seasonally with his family, has “seen a lot of different iterations” of the Old Brick Store as well. Mariboe was in the store recently, his first time in the revamped building. He said the space felt “inviting and friendly.”

Charlotte Historical Society member Molly King, who grew up in town summering at Thompson’s Point, has her own history with the Old Brick Store. In 1878, she said, her great-grandfather, Sydney E. Russell, owned the store, and it got passed down in the family until the 1980s.

She remembers hearing conversations when she was a kid about how the store had begun to change so much especially from when they, the adults, were kids. The transformation of the store over the years and through the different owners is something that King grew up with.

“It evolved from when you could go get a bucket, you could go get a pair of galoshes there, you could go get cleaning supplies, shoes — you could get everything you needed there, and then it started to get more towards food,” she said, describing a deli and a pizza shop.



Photo by Lee Krohn

Customers inside the Old Brick Store in Charlotte on a recent day.

According to a 2007 article written by Frank Thorton in The Charlotte News, no one knows for sure when a store first opened at the Four Corners. The first records of a store there come from 1818, when a store owned by Nathaniel Stone stood on that site, Thornton wrote.

An owner or two later, in 1840, that store burned down, and “the present building, a brick Greek Revival-style commercial

building with granite lintels, was built in 1840-41,” according to the article.

*(Meryl Hartmann reported this story on assignment for The Charlotte News. The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.)*

SURVEY RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

percent say they would give between \$1 and \$100 annually, and 18 percent would give more. Fewer than 14 percent are unwilling to donate.

Just under 80 percent of respondents say they are willing to pay for some form of The Charlotte News — hardcopy, online, or both — if it becomes impossible to continue providing the paper for free. Still, over 21 percent say they would not pay for the paper in any form:

- For those willing to pay to keep the paper in operation, two-thirds replied that they would pay between \$1 and \$10 a month, with an additional 11 percent willing to pay more.
- Almost 12 percent said they would not pay any amount for the paper. It is unclear why this figure differs from the 21 percent mentioned above.

We concluded the survey with a few demographic questions. Our town tracks with the rest of Vermont by trending older: More than 75 percent of respondents are 61 or older while less than 20 percent are more middle-aged:

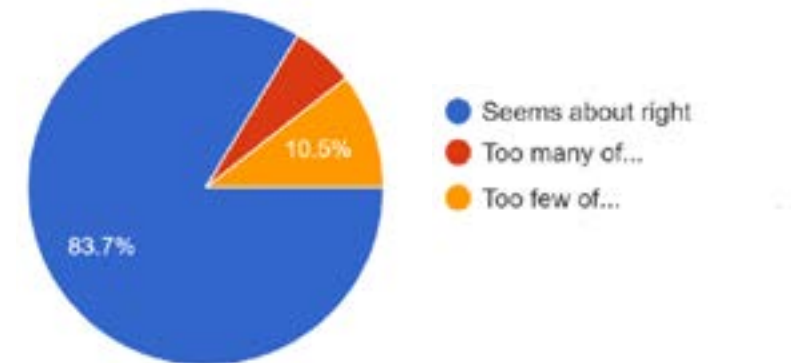
- We had only one respondent under age 20, and we applaud her for her civic engagement and constructive suggestions.
- Most respondents — over 60 percent — are long-time residents and over three-quarters are permanent residents. Nearly 20 percent have lived here for fewer than 10 years.

We will continue to keep you, our readers, informed on how we factor the survey results into the paper’s content and management. We welcome a continued dialogue with readers on how to make our paper even better — more responsive and more relevant — to your lives.

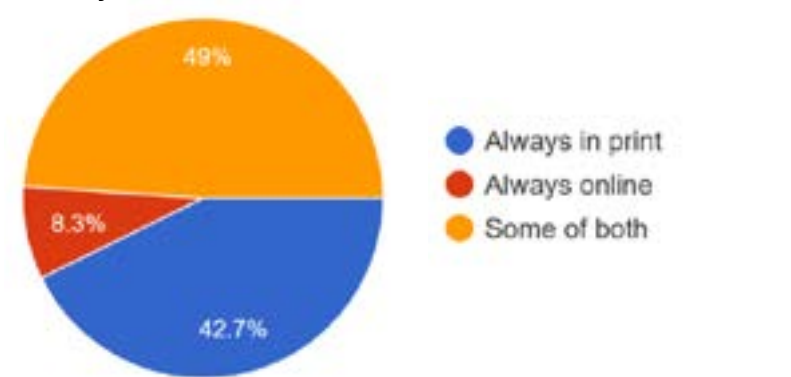
We wish to reiterate our thanks to all who completed the survey and congratulations to the five people who won prizes in a random drawing designed to encourage participation. A final thanks to these Charlotte businesses for their generosity in offering the prizes:

- Richard Stowe — a \$100 discount on a cord of firewood from R.H. Stowe Firewood
- Richard Tenney’s — a \$30 gift certificate from Tenny’s Snack Bar & Bottle Redemption
- Diana McCargo and Peter Swift — a \$250 gift certificate from Philo Ridge Farm
- Peter Trono — a \$100 gift certificate from Fat Cow Farm
- Bill Regan — a one-hour kayaking, cycling, or cross-country ski clinic from Regan Leadership LLC.

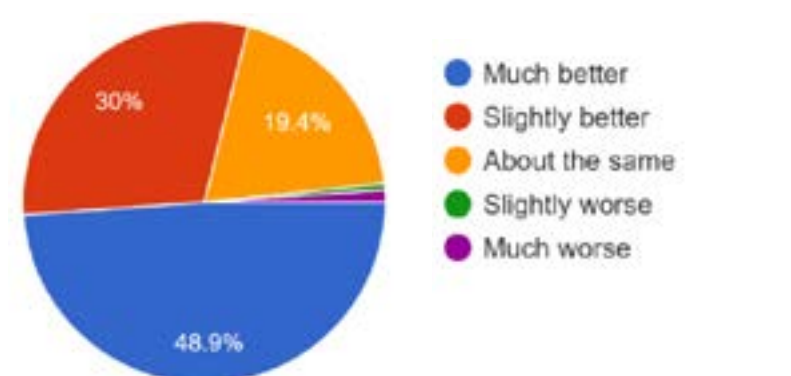
The Charlotte News currently provides a mix of stories and reporting on town and state government, local businesses, farming, schools, sports, town history, nature, recreation and profiles of Charlotters. The paper also provides offerings from town organizations like the library, senior center, recreation department and fire and rescue services. What do you think about the current mix?



How do you read The Charlotte News?



The Charlotte News has taken several steps in the past couple of years to improve the quality of our reporting and the layout and design of the newspaper and website. How do you think we are doing on these issues?



At present, The Charlotte News is free, thanks to advertising revenue, generous donations from Charlotters and small grants. In the future, if The Charlotte News had no choice but to ask readers to pay, how would you respond?



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

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

**Editorial independence**  
The editor makes final decisions on 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.

**Code of Ethics**  
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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Individuals associated with The Charlotte News may engage in public discussion on issues in Charlotte, including at selectboard and other Town meetings, and on Front Porch Forum. They may also work or volunteer for organizations in Charlotte, including private businesses, the Town government, and nonprofits. When engaging in public discussions, they are expressing personal or organizational views and not necessarily the views of The Charlotte News, its staff, board of directors, or volunteers. Individuals who write opinion pieces for the paper will have their role at The Charlotte News identified, and the piece will be clearly labeled as their personal commentary.

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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](http://charlottenewsvt.org/about).

Send submissions, questions, photos, etcetera to [scooter@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:scooter@thecharlottenews.org)

**Editorial Staff**  
**Editor:** Scooter MacMillan ([scooter@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:scooter@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Production Manager:** Anna Cyr ([anna@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:anna@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Proofreaders:** Mike & Janet Yantachka, Katherine Arthaud

**Business Staff**  
**Ad manager:** Susie Therrien ([ads@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:ads@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Bookkeeper:** Susan Jones ([billing@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:billing@thecharlottenews.org))

**Board Members**  
**Publisher & Board Chair:** John Quinney ([john@thecharlottenews.org](http://john@thecharlottenews.org))  
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# Letters to the Editor

## Vote yes on Article 1

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7, we have an opportunity to address climate change, further the energy goals in our town plan and lock in long-term savings on the town’s electricity bills, simply by voting yes on Article 1. Article 1 asks voters to authorize the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of the town garage for a cost of \$282,510 (\$197,757 after a federal rebate). This system will produce 94 percent of the energy required to power our town buildings: the library, senior center, town hall, garage, and fire and rescue. The town garage is designed with a geothermal energy system and, like the library, does not require fossil fuels for heating and cooling.

For the first 10 years, the combined cost for loan payments and electricity will be only slightly more than what the town currently pays for electricity alone; after that we’ll save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the project’s estimated lifetime of 35 to 40 years. For more information on costs and returns, see the FAQs published in the Oct. 19 edition of this newspaper and on the town’s website.

Our current town plan, approved by the voters on Nov. 5, 2019, includes the statement: “Charlotte will encourage greater use of renewables within municipal buildings.” A yes vote on Article 1 takes care of that requirement.

These days, the costs of climate change are being felt closer to home. A yes vote on Article 1 shows our commitment to addressing climate change by reducing fossil fuel use in our town buildings. As a town, we would be matching the commitment of more than 270 Charlotters who have added solar to their homes and landscapes.

Vermont’s energy plan calls for “90 percent renewable by 2050,” and for each town to do its fair share. Here in Charlotte, we have a long way to go, but approving solar for the town garage is a significant step. I am grateful to the hardworking volunteers on our energy committee and selectboard who have provided us with this opportunity.

Join me in voting yes on Article 1 on Nov. 7.  
John Quinney  
Charlotte

*(John Quinney is publisher of The Charlotte News and chair of the board of directors. The opinions expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the board or the newspaper.)*

## Dean Bloch says goodbye and thanks to Charlotte

Dear Charlotte Residents:

I feel incredibly lucky to have found a job and a town in April of 1999 that has fit me so well, I haven’t wanted to leave! First as Town Planner, then as Selectboard Assistant, and then as Town Administrator, I have tried to ascertain and then implement the “will” of town residents – and I feel proud of what we have accomplished together over the past 24 and a half years.

Charlotte has incredible beauty — what a great place to come to work everyday! But it’s really all of you that have made this job a real joy. Working with so many wonderful, thoughtful, intelligent, caring and hard-working people has inspired me to do my very best. I have certainly grown during my time here. Thank you for all you have given me.

I’ve also had the good fortune to have worked with skilled, diligent and dedicated staff, who I have also learned from, and who have helped the town accomplish its goals.

I am both comforted and excited on your behalf knowing that Nate Bareham will be taking over the reins of the position of Town Administrator. You are in good hands.

Please come say “so long” to me and “hello” to Nate on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 5-7 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. We hope to see you there, but if you’re not able to make it, you’re welcome to stop by the town office before the end of the month.

Thank you, and cheers,  
Dean Bloch

## Vote for garage solar panels helps environment, saves money

To the Editor:

Between now and Nov. 7 Charlotters will be voting on two articles concerning town policies. I am writing in support of Article 1, to approve the financing of solar panels on the town garage. Because of the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress last year, municipalities are now eligible for the same renewable energy rebate that individual homeowners receive. This makes the adoption of photovoltaic solar panels to supply Charlotte’s electrical energy needs extremely cost effective.

The solar panels will provide 94 percent of the electricity used by town buildings, including the town hall, the library, the senior center, the town garage and the fire station. The \$282,510 cost will be offset by a 30 percent federal rebate reducing the cost to \$197,757. Because of an extremely favorable 2 percent annual interest rate from the Vermont Bond Bank, this investment will be paid off in 10 years with annual payments about what Charlotte is currently paying for its electricity. For a minimal increase in annual spending over 10 years, Charlotte will reap huge reductions in spending for decades beyond.

Almost everyone will agree that climate change is an existential threat to our way of life. The town garage has been designed to be fossil fuel-free and energy efficient using geothermal energy for heating. The solar project will further reduce Charlotte’s contribution to fossil fuel-driven CO2 emissions that drive climate change. It is a win-win proposition that will not only be good for the environment but will save Charlotte taxpayers money as well.

Vote YES on Article 1.  
Mike Yantachka  
Charlotte  
*(Mike Yantachka is a former state Representative from Charlotte.)*

# SELECTBOARD

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meeting. Despite a public hearing, articles in the newspaper and posts in social media, Dillenbeck said he had gotten what he characterized as “eleventh hour questions and objections from Charles Russell” about the plan.

According to the proposed Charlotte shade tree plan, it was created to respond to changes Vermont made in 2020 to statutes concerning tree wardens. Charlotte’s plan is intended to preserve shade trees on town lands and right of ways by formulating a formal policy on planting and maintaining trees in these areas consistent with the amended state statutes.

Some of Russell’s concerns were wordsmithing changes that Dillenbeck agreed with, such as changing wording that said, when the town is planting trees on private property, the town “should seek” permission from the owner. Russell suggested it was better for the plan to require permission.

Dillenbeck said he and Russell had discussed the shade tree plan just an hour and half before this selectboard meeting. In the 90 minutes since that conversation, he had been thinking about it and felt “this has been on the public docket for quite a long time now.”

Initially, before the long discussion that followed, he requested that the selectboard vote on the proposed plan.

One of Russell’s primary objections was a procedural issue. He said that the statute requires for the “legislative body,” which is the selectboard, to hold a hearing on the issue. Although there was a hearing on the shade tree plan on Sept. 12, and Faulkner and Frank Tenney were present, it wasn’t a selectboard hearing, he said.

Russell also felt the proposed plan was unclear about whether the tree warden was required to determine if all the trees on public ways or town lands were “critical to the art, culture, history and aesthetics of the municipality.”

“I have an objection to that. Any kind of any sapling all of a sudden becomes a shade tree,” he said.

As an example, Russell admitted he had been negligent for a couple of years in maintaining a 500-foot stretch of fence keeping in his cattle. Saplings have grown up through this fence, some of which are almost 2 inches in diameter.

“By this plan, I’d have to get written permission from the tree warden to cut those saplings. That doesn’t make common sense,” Russell said. “I think there should be an ag exemption or a common-sense exception.”

He said landowners should not have to get

permission to cut in the right of way in front of their homes.

Selectboard member Kelly Devine said the 14-page plan seemed long and recommended modifying the plan so the language “isn’t so prescribed for tree removal in the right of away.”

Dillenbeck said the proposed plan is better for tree health, while including provisions for maintaining views.

The plan is not designed to keep property owners from cutting saplings in their right of way. Dillenbeck said that, if a tree warden tries to prevent the mowing of 1-inch saplings, “then you probably want to find a new tree warden.”

The conservation commission supports the shade tree plan, said its chair Maggie Citarella. That commission sent a letter to the selectboard conveying its support, and she came to the selectboard to reiterate that support.

The meeting on Sept. 12 was held with the knowledge of the selectboard and with two members of the selectboard in attendance, so Dillenbeck felt that did fulfill the statute’s requirements for a hearing on the shade tree plan.

However, Faulkner said his and Tenney’s attendance was not delegated by the selectboard, and they were not authorized representatives of the board at that meeting.

The group working on the shade tree plan has made a sincere and robust effort to be transparent, Dillenbeck said. The plan has been on the town website for a long time, in addition to a couple of articles in the newspaper and posts on social media.

“We’ve been trying to get people’s attention and some people are just coming to this at the very last minute. That’s regrettable, but it’s not a lack of trying,” he said.

Ultimately, Dillenbeck agreed that moving the meeting back would give him and Russell time “to hammer out any changes” to the plan. The selectboard decided to have the hearing, and possibly vote, on the revised shade tree plan at its Dec. 11 meeting.

“I know this is frustrating, and I apologize,” said board member Lewis Mudge. “There’s a lot of work that’s been put into it.”

## Town garage update

The selectboard meeting was bookended with good news from Faulkner. As the meeting wound down, during the time allotted for selectboard updates, he said that, despite some setbacks during the construction of the new town garage, things are proceeding nicely now.

“We’re getting real close to the end of it,” Faulkner said. “I suspect we’ll be in there in about two weeks.”

## CORRECTION

An article in the Oct. 19 edition of the newspaper about the planning commission considering looser land-use regulations, particularly regarding Thompson’s Point, erroneously characterized comments made by conservation commission member Claudia Mucklow.

## NEXT PUBLICATION DATES



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# Commentary

## New Charlotte trail section open

Bill Regan  
Contributor

The Charlotte Trails Committee is pleased to announce the completion of a new section of trail. The project — a combination of gravel pathway through woods and boardwalk over a wetland buffer — allows users to follow the Village Loop Trail from the Old Lantern area north to Ferry Road, near where the old health center was located at 527 Ferry Road.

A rough trail has long existed there, but parts were nearly unusable because of persistent mud and heavy growth of invasive plants like buckthorn and honeysuckle.

This project took about two years to complete because of a complex series of steps required to delineate the wetland area, secure a state wetland permit, have a trail-building company design the trail, and then go through the town bidding process to hire an experienced trail builder.

The winning contractor, Hermit Woods Trail Builders, bid about half of what other contractors bid. The price was further reduced because trails committee volunteers donated well over 30 hours of sweat equity to help clear the trail’s path.

We encourage folks to explore the new trail section. Please park at the Village Loop Trail parking area next to Greenbush Road at the Old Lantern.

We also ask that you be respectful of our neighbors by staying on the trail, keeping dogs under control, and cleaning up after pets. Please be careful on the boardwalk portion since it is elevated above the surrounding mud.

The trail is marked by yellow signs and blazes, which the trails committee

plans to augment now that construction is complete.

The trails committee would like to thank the property owners who over the years granted easements for the Village Loop Trail (and all town trails!) and for the great support we received from neighbors along the path’s way.

We would also like to thank Hugh “Junior” Lewis for helping to haul gravel, topsoil and hay for mulching. Kudos to Bob Hymans for coming out and helping with the buckthorn.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the selectboard for backing the project and to all the Charlotte residents who support trails at the ballot box, through year-end donations and by their overwhelmingly positive messages to us in private and public forums.

Although the trail now terminates at Ferry Road, the Town Plan, as endorsed by voters in 2019, calls for the trail to continue to the town beach. The exact routing and pace of that work are to be determined by voters and the selectboard, but a scoping study, completed in 2021 with public input and available on the town website at <https://tinyurl.com/yaav36vv>, looked into many different options.

The trails committee seeks your continued support as we work to provide an off-street alternative for recreation and transportation that fosters community and connects our village centers and major town amenities.

*(Bill Regan is chair of the Charlotte Trails Committee and a member of The Charlotte News board of directors. The opinions expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the board or the newspaper.)*



Photo by Bill Regan

From left, Stephen Hale, Richard Hendrickson (both members of the Charlotte Trails Committee) and Lynne Hale walk the newly created section of the Town Loop Trail.



## Food Shelf News

# The food shelf community remembers John Lavigne

Maj Eisinger  
Charlotte Food Shelf

As we head into this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to and mourn the passing of our dear friend and longtime volunteer, John Lavigne.

John had a warm heart; he was a friendly face, welcoming families for over 15 years.

When we think of John, the words kind, caring, generous, reliable and friend come to mind, as do memories of his eagerness and devotion to do good for others. The families and volunteers within our food shelf community loved John: his calm, smiling presence; his endless enthusiasm for perfect execution of multiple tasks; and his unique ability to bring calm and hope to difficult situations.

John had an amazing work ethic and was our “go-to guy” for many jobs, including countless hours spent at food distribution, defrosting our massive freezer, unloading large food bank orders, managing monthly produce pickup, recycling hundreds of boxes,

distributing holiday baskets and serving on the assistance committee.

We remember how he organized volunteers to stack wood for a senior in our community.

As a bird lover, we remember how John would call other like-minded friends to tell them of a bird seed sale.

As the emergency contact person for those suddenly out of food, we remember how John would happily drop whatever he was doing when called and unlock the doors to help a family obtain critically needed food.

He had a wonderful gift of gab and an impish sense of humor. Even during the pandemic when we all wore masks, we could still sense John’s smile. We miss him and know that John’s memory and loving spirit lives on in the food shelf that he helped sustain.

**Announcements**

Thanksgiving basket pick up for registered families is Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-noon.

The Charlotte Food Shelf remains committed to helping those in need, as well



Photo by Karen Doris

John Lavigne will be long remembered and sorely missed by Charlotte Food Shelf volunteers.

as dignified access to healthy food. 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 the website at [charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf](http://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 Charlotte Congregational Church.

For emergency food, please call 802-425-3252. If you cannot come to the food shelf due to COVID symptoms or want more information, call 802-425-3252.

Monetary donations are appreciated, tax deductible and can be addressed to: Charlotte Food Shelf, Inc., P.O. Box 83, Charlotte VT 05445, or submitted electronically using the new Paypal link on our website at [charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf](http://charlotteucc.org/charlotte-food-shelf).

*(The tribute to John Lavigne included memories from other food shelf volunteers.)*

## Artist awards announced to share histories of Lake Champlain Basin

Contributed

Clemmons Family Farm has announced the two winners of its new artist-in-residence program — Winosha Steele and William Ransom.

The program is called UnderWater, UnderGround: Black/Indigenous Creatives Historize Charlotte, Vermont’s Sea Change. The artists were selected from a competitive process open to artists in Vermont, New York and Quebec who self-identify as bearers of African-American, African Diaspora or Afro-indigenous cultures.

In a release, the Clemmons Family Farm said the purpose of the UnderWater, UnderGround artist residency program is to lift up the past, present and future experiences of the peoples of the African diaspora who reside or resided in the Lake Champlain Basin area. This program will support Steele and Ransom in researching and creating works concerning the history, cultures and geography of the area.

Ransom is primarily a sculptor whose work originates at the intersection of his material engagement and his investigations into personal history, collective history and agricultural experience. Ransom was born and raised on a Vermont dairy farm and his work is informed by his early experiences with the cycles and rhythms of the natural world.

Balance has always played an important role in his work, suggesting flux, movement, things in a state of becoming or diminishing. The forces brought to bear on the material pull into focus the tensions of our world’s current state and the ever-present potential for flare-up or collapse, the release said.



William Ransom

Ransom received his bachelor’s in sculpture from Bennington College and master’s in sculpture from Claremont Graduate University.

His work has been exhibited in Los Angeles, New York, Albany, Minnesota and at the Brattleboro Museum. Most recently his solo show “HoldUp/UpHold” was at NE Sculpture in Minneapolis.

Winosha Steele, a Caribbean artist living in New York, incorporates her identity and passion fearlessly into her work, the release said. She creates her pieces with flamboyance, aiming to establish a connection between the viewer and the artwork. Steele believes that the concept of nuances produced in her work create meaningful conversations and deeper understanding of the world. Drawing inspiration from her Antiguan heritage,



Winosha Steele

Steele’s art is boundary-pushing, yet deeply personal. Her desire to expand her artistic horizon and emphasize racial correlation, however radical, stems from being a small islander.

Despite her experience in sculpture, chalk pastels and a variety of paints, oil paint fascinates Steele the most, offering the freedom to bring her visions to life.

Steele received her bachelor’s from SUNY Plattsburgh and has exhibited in numerous local and regional exhibitions in New York.

The residency will run through December 2024, and each artist will receive \$7,500, logistical support, art supplies, transportation assistance, occasional lodging and studio space on the historic Clemmons farm. One of the subjects of the artists’ research will be the 11,500-year-old skeleton of a Beluga whale, which was discovered in 1849, 10

feet underground and 2 miles south of the Clemmons farm.

The artists will make field trips to the beluga whale historic marker in Charlotte, the University of Vermont’s Perkins Museum where the whale skeleton is on exhibit and Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Conn., where they will see live beluga whales.

Ransom and Steele will also research the history of the Underground Railroad in the area by visiting the historic McNeil homesteads in Charlotte, Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vermont, and the North Star Underground Railroad Museum in Ausable Chasm, New York. The ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain will be another base for the artists’ research on the ecology of the area. Finally, the two artists will explore more contemporary stories of Black Vermonters who moved to make their homes in the state during the Great Migration and over the past several decades.

Creative outputs of Ransom and Steele’s artist residencies will include works-in-progress, artist talks and presentations, and co-creation art workshops for surrounding communities and visitors to the Clemmons farm. An UnderWater, UnderGround multimedia art exhibit created by the two artists will be installed at the Clemmons farm and open to the public in Fall 2024.

Clemmons Family Farm’s UnderWater, UnderGround artist-in-residence program is funded in part by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and, in part, by grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Report from the Legislature

# Take care of yourselves, your kids, your loved ones

Chea Waters Evans  
State Representative

First, the past couple weeks have been hideous.

War in Israel and Gaza, concern for our Jewish friends, break-ins and car thefts in our normally peaceful town, the looming government shutdown while the U.S. House figures out how to manage itself and another deadly shooting, this time close to home in a way that makes us all pause and wonder not if it’s going to happen here, but when.

It’s a lot. I encourage everyone to check in on yourselves, your kids and your loved ones, and make sure they’re doing OK. If you or anyone you know is in crisis, you can text the letters “VT” to the number 741741, and you’ll immediately be in touch with a crisis counselor. The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline can be reached by calling 211 or by texting 988.

It’s not easy to find a therapist or counselor in Vermont right now. Like many other industries, the unemployment rate is low and the workforce shortage is high. Luckily, there are many reputable online therapy options that allow you to talk to a counselor either by phone or video chat. Finding help for kids is tougher. School guidance counselors can offer some support, and maybe help bridge the gap until a better solution is found.

One thing we’re working on in the Legislature is a bill to approve interstate compacts for social workers. This would

definitely alleviate some of the burden on current mental health workers in the state and would provide a workforce boost for the profession. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed, and the governor signed, an interstate counseling compact to help achieve this goal.

Nerd time: A compact is a statutory agreement between states that recognizes licenses for a profession that would let them work across state lines. In this case, counselors, and hopefully in the future it will also include social workers. These compacts and the licenses are managed by the state’s Office of Professional Regulation. They’re very strictly regulated — it’s not like you can wander into Vermont with a piece of paper that says, “I swear I was a counselor in Iowa” and get a license. There’s a process.

The benefits of licensing compacts are numerous. Not only do they allow people to more easily practice in Vermont if they move, or want to move, here, but they allow easier telehealth visits, access for counselors who practice online from out of state and allow military spouses and partners to quickly pick up their careers if they are transferred.

I’m hopeful that all these smaller steps we take — the child care bill, the HOME Act, interstate compacts for mental health professionals and others — make life better for all of us in Vermont.

I urge you to take care of yourselves and your neighbors, and as always, please be in touch with me any time. I



heard from one constituent this past week who was quite frustrated with a government issue, and I did have to tell him that unfortunately, I’ve learned that government can be effective and helpful and change-making, but I haven’t seen it move quickly yet.

I’ll do my best on that front, but I don’t want to make any political promises I can’t keep. My number is 917-887-8231 and my email is [cevans@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cevans@leg.state.vt.us) if you need anything at all.

### Housekeeping items

The Green Mountain Care Board is looking for public input on the health care system in Vermont. I know we all have a lot to say and a lot of thoughts about this. If you’d like to attend the local Zoom meeting, there’s a community meeting on

Friday, Nov. 3, 4-6 p.m. To register, go [bit.ly/47eyJ34to](https://bit.ly/47eyJ34to); there is also a call-in option: 888-475-4499; meeting ID: 99773972190; passcode: 750587. You can also share your thoughts with the board ahead of time through this form: [bit.ly/47e3ftw](https://bit.ly/47e3ftw).

I’ve been a Meals on Wheels volunteer for years through Age Well, which is a terrific and essential organization. They’re looking for volunteers, not only for Meals on Wheels but for other stuff, too.

Here’s what they need: “Age Well is seeking 100 new volunteers to provide regular social interaction and assistance to seniors in their homes. Help older Vermonters by volunteering in your community for any of the following: providing friendly visits, going grocery shopping, running errands, assisting with medical appointments, organizing, bill paying, providing respite to caregivers, delivering Meals on Wheels, doing minor home repairs and more.

“Time commitment is based on your availability — it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (Monday-Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.) Volunteers tell us that they feel an incredible sense of satisfaction and reward seeing the impact they have on those they support. Contact our volunteer department at 802-662-5249 or [volunteer@agewellvt.org](mailto:volunteer@agewellvt.org) for more information and to sign up.”

*(Chea Waters Evans, a Democrat, represents Charlotte and Hinesburg in the Chittenden-5 House district.)*



## Red sky at morning

Photo by Lane Morrison  
The view from Lake Road overlooking farm fields to Camel’s Hump on Tuesday morning.



# Stronger Together

## Honeybees have a democracy that humans should have

Linda Hamilton  
Stronger Together

This summer a swarm of honeybees set up housekeeping in the space between the screened porch ceiling and flooring of the deck above.

Fortunately, their entrance is to the outside and not into the porch or my house, so we have been quietly getting along. I don’t know how much they know about me, but I have been learning a lot about them.

I know I cannot let them stay where they are and keep expanding their hive inside the structure of the house, potentially for decades. Honeybees are our precious allies, so I want them to remain safe. But how to remove and relocate them before a black bear finds their store of honey so inviting they rip a way in? Yikes!

Thankfully, two experienced local beekeepers responded to my call for help. Later this fall, after the bees have stocked a winter’s supply of honey, we hope to cut out the section of deck floor they are probably attached to and transport the whole hive to a more permanent home elsewhere in Charlotte. Fingers crossed this works.

Meanwhile, I’ve been reading up on honeybees. Especially interesting sources are local naturalist Mary Holland’s book “Naturally Curious” and bee behavior specialist Tom Seeley’s “Honeybee Democracy.”

There are probably tens of thousands of bees living here in a dynamic cooperative family with an egg-laying queen at the center of everything. They are European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*), brought to North America by early colonists for honey and beeswax production. Since then, they have not only spread in the wild but are also carefully tended by countless backyard and small-scale commercial beekeepers for honey, beeswax or their unsurpassed ability to pollinate flowering plants as they collect the sweet nectar and pollen they need.

Pollination of a plant’s flowers is what makes possible the production of fruits and seeds and the next generation of those plants. It happens when a pollen grain, produced in the male part of a flower (anther), is moved to the female part (stigma), enabling the combination of their genetic material (fertilization). This can happen through self-pollination, wind and water pollination, or through the action of creatures seeking food moving within the flower and from bloom to bloom. Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. Honeybees are the absolute champions of pollination.

It is sobering to recognize how much depends on pollination. The natural plant and animal communities we depend on for life support, as well as at least 1,200 of our common agricultural crops would cease to exist without pollination. These include not only many fruits, vegetables and nuts which are key nutritionally to our diet, but also plants producing oils, medicines, spices, beverages, fibers and other non-edible raw materials. Pollinators are our quiet, behind the scenes, hugely important natural allies.

The primary pollinators for some 50 popular fruit and vegetable crops in this country are honeybees. While many small and medium-size farms and orchards provide homes and protection for honeybees near their crops, many large-scale operations simply bring them in as temporary workers.

Special businesses provide temporary hives of honeybees when and where needed across the country, in the number



Adobe stock photo

required to get a large-scale job done. According to the organization Pollinator Partnership, free honeybee labor is currently responsible for upwards of \$5.4 billion in U.S. agricultural productivity annually.

But back to the honeybees at my house. Why and how did they choose to settle here? To my eye, there are many inviting tree cavities in the woods nearby, so why not there? I’ve learned that it comes down to honeybee democracy.

Each hive is a family of siblings (mostly female worker bees and some male drones who have limited roles) and a mother-queen. Although the queen’s role is powerful, she does not make all the decisions. Believe it or not, honeybees operate as a democracy.

Specialists have confirmed that a colony of tens of thousands of individuals share information primarily through movements, and function both as individuals and as one super-organism. This is observed when individual worker bees report to others the location of food sources, using a coded dance which describes direction relative to the sun and distance. Group decision-making comes into play particularly when part of the colony needs to move to a new home.

In early summer, it is not unusual for a hive to sense their quarters have become cramped or for other reasons the time is right to send the queen off with part of the colony to establish a new hive. Drones have the job of scouting the location. They travel separately for long distances across the landscape, looking for sites with the protection and food sources needed.

When a drone finds a spot that looks good, he returns to the colony and dances a report. Worker bees who are enthusiastic will repeat the dance of that individual. After several drone reports have come in, the competition gets serious. Drones assert their proposed site by dancing again, and workers vote by joining in or not. This is repeated until a clear majority of workers support the same site.

This is democracy at its best because the final decision is made by the group based on lots of relevant information gathering from many sources by many individuals, and it is considered until more than half the effected individuals are convinced to support one option. When that happens, the colony commits to the choice.

There is much more to learn about honeybees, but these two points deeply impressed and made me love even the ones inconveniently located in my porch. Honeybees make possible probably one in three bites of food I eat, and they have figured out how to make democracy work for the benefit of their whole community more smoothly than people have.

*(For information about Charlotte Grange, see [charlottegrange.org](http://charlottegrange.org).)*



Vermont

Lakeside businesses eye water quality impact from floods

Alissa Frame  
Community News Service

Vermonters saw firsthand how intense rainfall within those fateful 48 hours in July broke records, homes, farms and lives. At the bottom of it all sat Lake Champlain, a trough for the floodwater barreling down its shores.

Over the course of a seven-day period around the floods this summer, hundreds of metric tons of phosphorus poured into Lake Champlain, explained Matthew Vaughan, chief scientist at the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

“We had something like 60-70 percent of the annual (phosphorus) TMDL allocation go down in one week,” Vaughan said, using a term for the regulated total maximum load of nutrients that can enter the lake daily.

Too many nutrients essentially equals a delicious feast for bacteria in the water. The combination of readily available food and calm, sunny periods conjures up ideal conditions for cyanobacteria blooms, which can produce toxins harmful to humans and pets. The same conditions beachgoers love help produce cyanobacteria that often close the beaches along Lake Champlain.

The effect of cyanobacteria on water quality concerns local businesses, too, and the seeming increase in extreme rainfall has those lake-reliant groups planning for the future.

“We rely on that water for training, and if those beaches are closed because of the quality of the water, that really impacts us,” said Robert Wilczynski, co-owner and instructor trainer at the Waterfront Diving Center in Burlington. “We have to go a great distance to get any kind of water that allows us to go in and do the training safely.”

The increased trend in alarming weather events is so noticeable that Wilczynski said he’s considering training people in confined water, like pools, rather than in the lake, even though pools in the area “are very scarce.”

The need to rent facilities means increased

costs, conflicting with the center’s aim to keep services affordable for customers.

The Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, right off the lakeside bike path in Burlington, has faced a similar set of concerns.

Cyanobacteria blooms disrupt boat launching, and “in the event that the blooms are more pervasive, we’ve run our programs from keelboats only,” said Owen Milne, executive director of the center, referring to boats designed to stay stable and keep folks out of the water.

Milne said the July flood and cyanobacteria blooms alone did not necessarily have a drastic impact on the center’s operations; he estimates around 12 days this year required adjustments because of water quality concerns.

The killer, he said, was the rain itself.

This summer was dominated by rainy days, so intuitively people stayed home instead of heading out for a day of sailing. What did this mean for Milne’s center? “Our earned revenue from sailboat rental services was about 50 percent lower than in previous years,” he said.

Still, both the Waterfront Diving Center and the Community Sailing Center are looking to the future with an optimistic eye keenly aware of continued weather impacts. That is to say: they believe in their adaptability and resilience.

“We are the last, I believe, scuba shop in the state,” Wilczynski said. “Some groups have been diving together for many, many years.”

“It’s a community that we’ve fostered, and I don’t really see that community going away,” he said.

Wilczynski acknowledged the center will need to evolve to meet the challenges of climate change. Pivoting to indoor water training when conditions necessitate will be one of such adaptations.

The Community Sailing Center recently took a step that its leaders hope will improve



Lake Champlain and the Burlington waterfront. Courtesy photo

their operations in the face of environmental challenges like cyanobacteria blooms.

Late last month, the center broke ground on a more robust waterfront facility. The update will place docks farther out into the water, Milne explained. “Doing so will enable us to have greater flexibility for (launching) boats on those days when there are cyanobacteria blooms closer to shore.”

While he doesn’t welcome climate change and its impacts, Milne tries to stay optimistic about it all. At least, he reckoned, it could mean extended recreation seasons ahead.

Businesses are not the only entities with an eye toward resilience.

Mae Kate Campbell, an associate scientist with the Lake Champlain Basin Program, explained how “a lot of the work that we do focuses on reducing further phosphorus inputs into the lake.”

The program, a congressionally-designated initiative to conserve Lake Champlain and its neighboring ecosystem, funds projects that

help capture stormwater runoff, ultimately lessening the amount of excess nutrients in the lake.

Campbell said researchers are wrapping up a program-funded study exploring the emerging topic of how to address legacy phosphorus. That’s phosphorus already present in the lake, either suspended in the water column or bound up in sediment.

The study investigated four techniques in Missisquoi Bay, each with the potential to reduce phosphorus: dredging, circulation, oxygenation and phosphorus inactivation.

“So that’s exciting research to see, and something we’ll definitely be releasing some more information on in the coming months,” said Campbell.

*(The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.)*

Community Roundup

**Grants for up to \$100,000 for maple producers and processors**

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is accepting applications for the new maple agriculture development grants program.

This one-time funding is intended to help develop, grow and sustain maple businesses throughout the state. With over \$540,000 in available funds allocated by the state Legislature in the 2024 fiscal budget, the Maple ADG program represents the largest-ever state investment in Vermont maple operations.

Maple operations can apply for \$15,000 to \$100,000 in funds, with no match requirement. All Vermont-based maple producers and processors are eligible.

To apply, producers should visit the Agency of Agriculture website at <https://tinyurl.com/53cteyjj> for more information and to download the request for applications. Applications close Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 11:59 p.m. Questions about maple agriculture development grants should be directed to program coordinator Madison Berry at 802-622-4626 or [madison.berry@vermont.gov](mailto:madison.berry@vermont.gov).

**Opportunities for volunteers through Volunteer Connection**

United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers. To learn more about the opportunities below and others, visit <https://tinyurl.com/46s6h84e>:

- ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain is seeking activity facilitators, age 16 and older, to guide guests through hands-on problem-solving activities by asking questions and encouraging guests to think like engineers. Facilitators help guests explore the engineering design and scientific processes and empower them to solve problems and think like scientists and engineers. It requires a minimum four-month commitment with at least one three-hour shift a week. Volunteers receive free admission to ECHO and a discount at the ECHO gift shop. Contact [volunteer@echovermont.org](mailto:volunteer@echovermont.org).
- HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors) is preparing for the holiday season and providing at least 1,500 Chittenden County seniors with things like grocery gift cards and a food resource list.

Volunteers are needed to call seniors to confirm mailing addresses during the month of November. Training will be provided. Contact Jess Hyman at 802-598-3139 or at [jessicahyman@gmail.com](mailto:jessicahyman@gmail.com).

- Feeding Chittenden is looking for volunteers to help stock shelves, fridges and freezers for the grocery distribution program, prepare and serve breakfast and lunch for the hot meal program, help clients sign in to receive groceries, unload and record food donations as they are delivered, and more. Contact Ansley Laev at 802-829-5797 or at [alaev@cvoeo.org](mailto:alaev@cvoeo.org).
- COTS Daystation is looking for volunteers to provide lunch to guests at its North Avenue location. Volunteers may use the Daystation kitchen to heat up or assemble meals or do a cookout on the patio. This is a great family or group activity. Contact [romyt@cotsonline.org](mailto:romyt@cotsonline.org).



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73 Charlotte Road, Hinesburg, Vermont

**Beyond the Peaks student film festival returns for fifth year**

The fifth annual Beyond the Peaks student film festival, intended to nurture creativity and amplify the voices of young filmmakers across the region, has been announced.

Inspired by the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, a special award has been added for the 2023-24 festival — the “Light and Shadow” award. Filmmakers are encouraged to interpret this theme innovatively, whether by documenting the eclipse, experimenting with high-contrast black-and-white visuals or interweaving light and dark elements to enhance plot, characters or settings.

It is free to participate, and the top three winners will receive a cash prize of up to \$1,000 and video supplies. Video submissions will be due April 30 and a



# Sports

## Redhawks gets rematch with Burr & Burton in semifinals

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Champlain Valley began its football schedule this year with its lone blemish on the season, a 38-28 loss to Burr and Burton Academy.

Now, the No. 3 Redhawks have an opportunity to avenge that setback with a rematch at No. 2 Burr and Burton in Manchester this Saturday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m.

After that opening game, CVU has won the rest of the way and outscoring its opponents 308-35. The Redhawks have a perfect (5-0) record at home, dominating the scoreboard 209-7 in Hinesburg with wins over Essex, Burlington-South Burlington, Rutland, St. Johnsbury and Essex again in the playoffs.

However impressive those stats may be, it doesn't mean a lot in the playoffs. As assistant coach Sam Fontaine said, "When it comes to playoffs, everything becomes different. Records don't matter. You can't take a play for granted."

### CVU 21, Middlebury 14

The Redhawks ended the regular season in much the same way it ended the whole season last year, playing the Middlebury Tigers.

"Our goal was for our defense to cause their offense to go three and out to start the game," said coach Rahn Fleming.

Mission accomplished. Twice. Middlebury managed less than 5 yards on its first two possessions. And the Redhawks managed to score twice to open the game with a 14-0 lead.

Just before the first quarter ended, Middlebury got on the scoreboard to pull back to 14-7.

CVU's early lead could have been much more than that but the Redhawks scored three apparent touchdowns only to have them nullified by penalties.

Ollie Cheer hit wide receiver Billy Bates sprinting down the field. As Brian Rutherford sprinted to provide blocking, he appeared to block a Tiger defender in the back.

It was a call Fleming disagreed with, while understanding how it was difficult for the official to see from his angle of perspective

that it was a legitimate block and not in the back.

"A couple of plays later Jacob Bose disappeared into a sea of defenders and popped up on the other side, but without his helmet, and he crossed the goal line," Fleming said.

Because the officials could not see who pulled Bose's helmet off, they had to call it back.

"We had to score three times to get one touchdown," Fleming said, adding that his team didn't get disheartened by the scoring reversals, instead: "We decided we will put the ball in the end zone as many times as we have to."

He admitted: "There's probably not a coach on the planet that agrees with a penalty when it's called."

Cheer threaded a remarkable 5-yard pass through a forest of linebackers to Jacob Armstrong, who fell into the end zone for the Redhawks' third score. It was Armstrong's second touchdown of the night.

Middlebury managed to make the outcome tight late in the game when a CVU snap sailed over the punter's head, and the Tiger's recovered the ball inside the 20-yard line. They managed to score in two plays to pull within a touchdown at 21-14.

With less than 3 and a half minutes remaining, the Redhawks were able to hang on for the win.

Since the game was a rematch from last year's title game, the Tigers might have come into the contest with a chip on their shoulders and carrying a grudge, but Fleming said the game didn't feel like there was any holdover from the previous year.

"Both teams were playing good clean football," he said. In a state where "the list of teams is short and the memories are long" it was important for both teams to keep their minds in the game.

### No. 3 CVU 45, No. 6 Essex 0

Champlain Valley's first game of the playoffs was a rematch from earlier this year against the Essex Hornets. The Redhawks dominated Essex 28-0 in the first contest on Sept. 30.

In the bonus season a month later, the Redhawks stung the Hornets even worse,



Photo by Al Frey

Left, senior Asher Vaughn, No. 28, tallied 10 carries for 77 yards with rushing touchdowns from 4 and 26 yards out Champlain Valley's first round playoff game, a 45-0 win this past Saturday, Oct. 28, over the Essex Hornets.

initiating its playoff quest with a 45-0 drubbing this past Saturday, Oct. 28.

"We wanted that game to be a demonstration of who we are to ourselves," Fleming said. He felt like his team did that, "scoring early and scoring often."

The morning of the game it rained hard but the precipitation stopped before kickoff. The coach said he saw players on both teams slipping a few times, but players didn't seem to have trouble with the ball slipping out of their hands. That's one of the blessings of not having to play in the rain — it's so much easier to keep the ball dry.

Asher Vaughn seems to have recovered from an injury to his hamstring. The injury may have helped his running back, Fleming said. He appears to have modified his running style.

"He's less prone to running over people and is looking for the open space," Fleming said, reveling in Vaughn's ability to accelerate when he finds the merest sliver of daylight.

Vaughn finished with 10 carries for 77 yards. He rushed for touchdowns from 26

yards out and from 4 yards.

Fleming also reveled in his whole team's play — offense, defense and special teams — conceding that they didn't play flawless ball, but they came close.

Looking forward to the Burr and Burton rematch for all the marbles this Saturday, Fleming said, "Our intention is to go to Manchester and bring home what we left there in the first game, but of course intentions don't mean anything without actions."

For most of this week, the team has practices scheduled at the Shelburne Field House and at Virtue Field at the University of Vermont because those both have artificial turf like the Redhawks will play on at Burr and Burton.

But for their last practice on Friday, the team will be back practicing on the grass at CVU. Fleming wants his seniors to have one last chance to play on their home field.

If they win at Manchester, their final game will be on the field at Rutland High in the state title game on Nov. 11.

## ROUNDUP

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

culminating showcase will take place in June.

More information is at [mountainlake.org/beyondthepeaks](http://mountainlake.org/beyondthepeaks).

### Emerge Vermont announces local candidate training

Emerge Vermont, an organization for recruiting and training Democratic women to run for office, will hold its regional training program for women interested in running for local office.

Emerge Vermont Local is a half-day training that provides skills and tools to enable Democratic women to run successful campaigns for school boards, selectboards, city councils and village trustee boards on Town Meeting Day.

"Fewer than a third of selectboard members in Vermont are women," said Elaine Haney, executive director of Emerge Vermont. "Our selectboards and school boards are the connection between our communities and the decision-making that affects our daily lives," Haney said.

The first three locations and dates for the

training are 11 a.m-3 p.m. in Woodstock on Nov. 4, 1-5 p.m. in Essex Junction on Nov. 18 and in Manchester on Dec. 16. Registration is open for all three sessions and additional locations and dates will be added soon. The cost of participation is \$35 per person. Those interested can learn more at [vt.emergeamerica.org/emerge-vermont-local](http://vt.emergeamerica.org/emerge-vermont-local).

Emerge Vermont Local is different from the organization's more comprehensive candidate training program. Emerge Vermont's deeper focus on local elections is intended to address not just representation of women in local government, but also the

issues that are discussed at the table. "Moms, young women, women of color and LGBTQ+ people are not participating nearly enough in the decisions that affect our communities and our lives," said Haney. "It's not just representation. Important issues like our school curriculums, homelessness, addiction, public safety, spending and so much more are topics of discussion for both selectboards and school boards. It's essential that Democratic women are at the local government table."



Hi! Neighbor

Joyce Cameron: A helping hand for animals and their humans

Phyl Newbeck  
Contributor

Joyce Cameron, the president and CEO of the Chittenden County Humane Society, never envisioned a career in animal welfare, but in retrospect, it seems like a natural fit. As a child she used to bring home stray animals and beg her parents to let her keep them. Cameron shares her home with a Humane Society alumni cat named Poco. “If I could, I’d have a house full of dogs and cats,” she said. “It’s an occupational hazard.” Cameron has been at Chittenden County Humane Society since 2018. She has always been drawn to what she describes as mission-driven work and felt that her previous leadership experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors, as well as a strong desire to help animals and animal lovers, prepared her for the position. Prior to taking the job, Cameron was the executive director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, director of development and community relations for the Greater Burlington YMCA and executive director of the Kelly Brush Foundation. Cameron said there was a steep rise in animal adoptions during the first part of the COVID pandemic. “People found solace and comfort in the human-animal bond,” she said. Unfortunately, the organization is currently seeing a rise in strays and surrendered animals. Cameron said the Humane Society tries to provide people with

resources so that those affected by difficult life circumstances don’t have to surrender their beloved pets. This help is extended to all pet owners, not just ones who have adopted shelter animals. Spring and summer are the busiest times at the shelter. The non-profit finds homes for approximately 1,300 animals each year with at least 25,000 people visiting the South Burlington facility on an annual basis. While there may be fewer incoming animals in fall and winter, the shelter is very busy throughout the year with programs like their low-cost community pet clinic and their humane education program for children, which always has a waitlist for applicants. For the last 15 years, Cameron has served as guardian ad litem, advocating for abused or neglected children through the legal system and believes the need for people to serve in that capacity has grown exponentially. She hopes others consider volunteering. “It is simultaneously one of the hardest and most wonderful volunteer experiences I’ve ever had,” she said Cameron has lived in Charlotte for 39 years and has volunteered locally throughout that time. She started with the Charlotte Children’s Center board which led to her becoming chair of the Charlotte Central School Board. She brought Kids Voting Vermont to the school. They set up mock voting booths and were visited by Sen. Jim Jeffords wearing an elephant costume, then-Representative Bernie Sanders and Secretary of State



Photo by Kelly Schultz  
Joyce Cameron enjoys the company of Humane Society residents including Barrett.

Deborah Markowitz, all of whom talked about the importance of voting. Cameron has also served as a student mentor and environmental learning for the future volunteer. She was part of the school system’s superintendent search and teacher negotiations committees and has been a substitute teacher at Champlain Valley Union High.

Cameron’s son Will passed away in 2013. He had worked at Mt. Philo after graduating from the University of Vermont, so in his honor, the family set up the Vermont Parks Forever Mt. Philo Fund which provides money for an internship program for youth who are interested in environmental stewardship and want to connect with nature and practice public service. “It is heartening for me to witness the young interns that have gone through this successful program year after year on this magical hill that Charlotters call their own,” Cameron said. In her limited spare time, Cameron bikes, hikes, plays racquet sports, meditates, supports other mothers who have lost children, reads, gardens, cooks, travels and takes part in local and statewide efforts to curb the scourge of addiction. “I love Charlotte’s sense of community, it’s rural nature, our eclectic demographic, and the fact that you can disagree with your neighbor on just about everything but still find commonality sharing a cup of joe and a laugh with one another,” she said. Animal welfare can be unpredictable and tough work, but she finds her job to be very rewarding. “Fortunately, the programs and services that we provide and the impact that we hear that we make on animals and their families keep us motivated and engaged,” Cameron said, “Of course, our work would not be possible without the unwavering support from our donors and volunteers.”

Education

Instruction, parenting and fun at Charlotte Central School

Naomi Strada  
(Condensed by Tom Scatchard)

Connection Night sponsored by the PTO, administrators reflected on the instructional changes over the last couple of years, highlighting the innovative ways educators strive to meet the needs of every student. There are many opportunities for community members to help with this mission. People, who have one hour a week to be a mentor, can contact Charlotte Central School mentor coordinator Kate Rooney at krooney@cvsdvt.org. Those interested in supporting a lunch-recess rotation, can contact the PTO grade representatives or officers.

**PebbleGo**  
Library exploratory classes have been practicing their digital literacy skills with PebbleGo. PebbleGo can be accessed from school, home or on the go — anywhere with an internet connection. PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next are nonfiction databases

geared toward the needs of kindergarten-fifth graders. Alongside the school collection of print materials, these digital tools help students learn foundational research skills and provide critical early-reader supports like audio voice overs and text highlighting. Contact Heidi Huestis for a username and password if you would like to explore these digital tools at home. **Halloween at Charlotte Central**  
Several years ago, Charlotte Central School moved away from celebrating Halloween during the school day to maintain a calm routine focused on learning and social activities that are accessible and inclusive for all students. This year the student-body gathered to see Woody Kepple and Rob Crites as they performed their new show at Charlotte Central School. Their show is music, physical comedy, circus-centric and works for all ages. The school was fortunate to see this

performance before it is performed at the Rockefeller Arts Center in Fredonia on Nov. 4. **Screen-time struggles**  
ParentIN CVSD is billed as a “Free Webinar for Caregivers & Educators: Teens, Social Media & Mental Health.” Those interested in participating may virtually join ParentIN CVSD at 7 p.m., Nov. 16, as host Erin Walsh of Spark and Stitch Institute presents a live webinar addressing screen-time struggles with science and understanding. Walsh will explore questions like:  
• What is the impact of social media and gaming on mental health?  
• Is technology connecting young people or isolating them?  
• Is internet, gaming or phone addiction real?  
• What do kids need from parents as they navigate online risks and opportunities?  
The live event is free and ticketed. Register today at bphc.link/erinwalsh.

**Fall sports**  
Congratulations to the fall athletes and coaches who have taken love for a sport and created an unprecedented experience. Players have approached the season of soccer and cross country with camaraderie and physical and social wellness. The focus of this season was on lessons of fun, mentorship, flexibility and individualized-goal setting. **Fire safety**  
Members of the Charlotte Vounteer Fire and Rescue Service joined kindergarten-fourth grade students to teach about fire safety. Robert Caldwell and Carol Blanshine connected adults that work in the school building with their roles in keeping Charlotte safe. For ideas on what families could talk about during Fire Prevention Week, go to nfpa.org and click on the Fire Prevention Week section.

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Community

Where, oh Wear, are Chittenden County’s lost animals?

Camila Van Order González  
Community News Service

When her 10-year-old cat, Geno, went missing in June 2022, Susie Snow of Williston turned to social media for help. Immediately, someone gave her a name to call: Sue Wear, vigilante pet sleuth.

Wear, a South Burlington resident, designed Snow a flier and advised her to put clothes and cat food outside her door.

But as months went by and the weather got colder, Snow was losing hope. “I had given up,” she said. “I had given away all of his stuff — litter box, toys, everything.”

Then came the night of Oct. 2, 2022, when Snow noticed a couple of missed calls from Wear. She dialed back. “I just sent you pictures of a cat that’s been hanging around a house in South Burlington,” Wear told Snow, who scrolled through the photos and recognized the orange and white face looking back at her.

“That’s definitely him,” she recalled telling Wear. Four months gone and five pounds lost later, Geno was brought home, safe.

For the last decade Wear and several pals have worked to reunite families with their furry friends. When a pet goes missing, searching for it can be difficult and lonely. Wear can help.

Wear’s main tools are game cameras and cage traps made specifically for gently catching dogs and cats. She sets up a game camera where the pet was last seen that sends a notification to her phone when it detects movement. If she sees the missing pet in question there, she’ll then set up one of her many Tru Catch pet traps, which come in a variety of sizes and close quietly so as to not disturb the animal. The traps are easy to use, important when she is lending them to a frazzled family.

Geno was an indoor cat, as are most of the cats Wear works to bring home. When indoor cats get out, they tend to get spooked and hide, before romping about between midnight and 4 a.m.

In those early morning hours is what Wear calls a “crappy game of patience,” in which she and the owner wait for a notification from the game camera.

“If it’s an inside cat, they’re not that far away,” said Joan Myers, who has worked with Wear. “You just got to be patient, until they can come out from being so terrified. And she holds (your) hand through the whole process and gives you that support you so badly need.”

“There is no feeling like when you lose an animal, either to death or you lose them outside and you can’t find them,” Myers said. “It’s just a horrible feeling.”

The first time Wear did this kind of volunteer work, she was grieving.

“It’s funny, today is actually 10 years since I lost one of my prior dogs,” said Wear on a late September day this year. “Right after she passed away, there was a lost dog in my neighborhood.”

Something told her she should help. As she drove around, searching for the dog, she noticed somebody from Essex doing just the same thing. It was a woman named Michele Rennie, who is now one of Wear’s best friends.

“That’s how I got into it,” Wear said. “I think I was looking for something, just because I was sad about my dog ... After that, Michele and I worked on a couple of lost dogs with some other friends that we made.”

Over the years, Wear has widened her network of friends who help out on missing pet cases. They are active on Vermont-based missing pet Facebook groups. Her



Photo by Camila Van Order González

Sue Wear and her foster cat, Petey.

community-oriented method tends to be successful — through these networks she can connect a report of a found animal back to an owner’s report of a missing pet. Although they joked about it, Wear and her friends never gave their group an official name. They prefer to keep it low-key, independent.

Myers has been cat-sitting for a living for about seven years. She met Wear in 2021 and has been friends with her since. When her clients’ cats go missing, she makes sure to contact Wear. “I’ll say, ‘Have you heard about this one?’ And most of them, she has.”

“I have never met anybody like her,” Myers said. “My gosh, this woman has such a heart of compassion for missing animals.

She goes out of her way and she never charges anybody. ... She works with people one-on-one and stays right with them until the cat (or dog) is found.”

When Myers’ daughter found a stray cat that they could not take in, Myers reached out to Wear. “Bring it right over to my house,” Wear told her. “I’ll take care of it until we can get to the Humane Society and see what we can do.”

*(The Community News Service is a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.)*

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# Calendar of Events

Please send event listings to [calendar@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:calendar@thecharlottenews.org) at least three weeks in advance.

**University of Vermont concert**  
**Friday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Kaki King and Treya Lam will perform at the University of Vermont’s recital hall at 384 South Prospect Street. King is known as one of the world’s great contemporary guitarists. She has also served as a mentor to many young artists, including Lam, who is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. Their evocative voice recalls Nina Simone and Andrew Bird.

**Shelburne Museum holiday auction**  
**Sunday, Nov. 5, 8 a.m.- Sunday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.**

Shelburne Museum’s holiday fundraising virtual auction opens on Nov. 5. The auction offers more than 100 giftable items ranging from one-of-a-kind experiences on the museum grounds, unique made-in-Vermont products and favorites from the Museum store. The auction opens on the museum’s website at [shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org) on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 8 a.m. and runs through Sunday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m.

**Women in cyber conference**  
**Friday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.**

Champlain College and our Women in Cybersecurity Leadership Council invite you to attend the Women in Cyber Summit at the college’s Center for Communication and Creative Media, 375 Maple Street, Burlington. This event is designed for high school students to seasoned professionals who want to learn more about cybersecurity, pursue a degree, enter the field or connect with others who appreciate technology. It is free and open to the public. Register by Oct. 27 at [tinyurl.com/2nn3brae](http://tinyurl.com/2nn3brae).

**Vets Town Hall**  
**Sunday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m.**

There will be a community forum aiming to increase understanding and connections between local veterans and the community at large at the McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael’s College in Colchester. This is one of five Vets Town Halls throughout the state in early November. Others are in Bradford, Brattleboro, Rutland and South Royalton. At the events veterans are invited to speak for up to 10 minutes about what their service means to them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are free and nonpolitical, and all perspectives are valued. “Having an opportunity to gather with community members assists with the reintegration process and makes it possible for us to move beyond a narrative of conflict by honoring and sharing our stories,” says Jon Turner, Vets Town Hall board member and



Photo by Lewis Mudge


A goodly group of gourd artists showed up to sculpt winter squash at the library on Saturday morning. Their creations were gathered in the traditional presentation of the seasonal sculpture to entice trick-or-treaters. Leslie Mudge danced with the pumpkins. The pumpkins were like: “Whaaat?”

emcee at the Colchester town hall.

**‘Newsies The Musical’**  
**Friday-Sunday, Nov. 10- 12**  
Champlain Valley Union High theater presents Disney’s “Newsies The Musical” at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10-12. The musical covers the historical newsboys strike in New York City and is appropriate for the family. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for students at [ticketsource.us/cvutheater](http://ticketsource.us/cvutheater).

**Holiday Trains**  
**Nov. 24-Jan. 13, 1-3:30 p.m.**  
Middlebury’s Henry Sheldon Museum presents Holiday Trains: 30 Years Rolling Down the Tracks, a model train layout that

stands three levels high, with two tracks running Lionel O gauge trains and the upper track running HO trains. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the train layout, there will be an exhibition featuring a display tracing the history of the model trains at the Sheldon during the holiday season. This year the trains will be operating 1-3:30 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday. For more information visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117. On Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the museum is having a free open house with the model trains running, the annual holiday trees and wreaths raffle on view and more.



**Town of Charlotte**

**MEETINGS**

**Visit [charlottetv.org](http://charlottetv.org) for more information.**

**Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thursday, Nov. 2,  
5:30-7 p.m.

**Trails Committee**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Development Review Board**  
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m.

**Veterans Day observed**  
**(Town Office closed)**  
Friday, Nov. 10



## Gardening

# Autumn is here, time to prepare fruit trees for winter

Deborah J. Benoit  
University of Vermont Extension

Autumn is well underway. The leaves are falling, and it’s time to put the garden to bed in anticipation of the coming season. If you have fruit trees in your garden, especially young ones, preparing them for winter weather can help ensure that you’ll have healthy, productive trees in the spring.

Winter-prep tasks aren’t difficult or time consuming. First, remove any remaining fruit still on the tree. Unripe fruit can be added to the compost pile if there is no sign of disease or pests.

Once that’s done, clean up around the tree, removing both accumulated leaves and fallen fruit. If you skip this task, pests and disease can overwinter in the debris. Fallen fruit can attract deer or other foraging animals that can damage the tree by nibbling on its branches and bark.

While pruning of fruit trees should wait until late winter when the tree is fully dormant, you can remove damaged branches at this time. Excess pruning in the fall can encourage new growth, which will be unlikely to survive, and can use resources stored by the tree for the winter.

As a precautionary step, wrap the trunk of young trees with a trunk guard to protect the tender bark from rabbits and mice. The trunk guard should be tall enough to reach above the depth of the anticipated snowfall and a bit below the surface of the ground. Young trees, in particular those less than 2 years old, are at risk of potential girdling of the trunk.

Girdling is when the bark is damaged around the full circumference of the tree, usually by a small animal during winter or,



Photo by Deborah J. Benoit

Placing trunk guards around the trunks of young fruit trees will protect the tender bark and prevent girdling by rabbits and mice.

during the growing season, due to trimming too close to the trunk. Often winter damage is not visible until the snow recedes in the spring.

There’s nothing so disappointing as discovering that critters have been feeding on the bark at the base of the tree. If only partially girdled, the tree can often repair itself, but if the damage encircles the trunk, this will result in the tree’s demise.

As an alternative to store-bought trunk wraps, a homemade trunk guard can be fashioned from a rectangle of quarter-inch hardware cloth. Fasten it with wire or zip ties into a closed tube encircling the trunk. Be sure that the tube is wide enough to avoid rubbing against the bark. Using a stake or two can help stabilize the tube to keep it from coming into contact with the trunk.

For more mature trees, consider painting the trunk with a coat of white interior latex paint (mix 50-50 with water) to help prevent sunscald and cracking of the bark by winter’s



Photo by Richard Barnard/Pixabay

Homeowners should clean up around fruit trees before winter, removing both accumulated leaves and fallen fruit to prevent pests and disease from overwintering in the debris. Fallen fruit also can attract deer and other foraging animals that can damage the tree by nibbling on its branches and bark.

sun reflecting off the snow’s surface and extreme freeze-and-thaw cycles. Do not use exterior latex or oil-based paint for this purpose.

Once the tree is prepared for winter, add a fresh layer of mulch around it. The mulch will help insulate the roots from freezing/thawing when winter temperatures fluctuate.

When applying mulch around the tree, be sure to leave a circle several inches away from the trunk as a no-mulch zone. A “mulch volcano” (mulch piled against the trunk) can damage the bark and lead to rot and disease.

Finally, continue to follow any watering

routine you have in place, being sure that the fruit tree is adequately watered as winter approaches, until it is fully dormant. Don’t, however, fertilize your fruit trees in the fall. That’s one task that should wait until spring arrives.

For more information on caring for fruit trees and many other gardening topics, see [go.uvm.edu/garden-resources](http://go.uvm.edu/garden-resources).

*(Deborah J. Benoit is a University of Vermont Extension master gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.)*

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# Library News

## Library helps with getting unstuck in stick season

Margaret Woodruff  
Director

Stick Season is here. Vermonters joke about having more than four seasons. Stick season is one of those seasons. It starts somewhere between fall and winter; and “sticks” around from about late October to early December.

It is the time of year after the last leaves of the deciduous trees have fallen and before measurable snow. It is a time between the summer and winter sports. The days are getting shorter, nights longer. A time before the ground is frozen solid.

The library is embracing stick season this year. Check out its “Stick Season” book list at <https://tinyurl.com/3r43bmy8> and pick up a Take & Make kit to create your own stick people. Both can help to offset these dark days before the snow flies.

### News about Hoopla

Those who have used this digital streaming platform already know how handy it is for reading, listening and watching on your mobile device. For the past year and a half, grant funding helped to pay for this service. The end of the grant means the number of borrows has changed to four borrows per month. The library is grateful to the Friends of the Charlotte Library for continuing to fund this program.

### Children’s programs

#### Preschool story time

**Tuesdays, Nov. 7, 14 & 28**

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

#### Preschool play time

**Wednesdays, Nov. 8, 15 & 29**

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.



### Programs for adults

#### Special Events

##### Wendell book discussion

**Monday, Nov. 6, 2-3 p.m.**

A discussion on the writings of Wendell Berry led by Ron Miller.

#### Thursday book group

**Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.**

A book of great ambition, Sarah M. Broom’s “The Yellow House” tells of 100 years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of one of America’s most mythologized cities. This is the story of a mother’s struggle against a house’s entropy and of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. “The Yellow House” expands the map of New Orleans to include the stories of its lesser known natives, guided deftly by one of its native daughters, to demonstrate how enduring drives of clan, pride and familial love resist and defy erasure. Copies available at the library circulation desk. Join on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/58jc4td5>.

#### Mystery book group

**Monday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.**

Visit the library and visit 1921 Bombay in “The Widows of Malabar Hill.” Perveen Mistry, the daughter of a respected Zoroastrian family, has just joined her father’s law firm, becoming one of the first female lawyers in India. Armed with a legal education from Oxford, Mistry also has a tragic personal history that makes her especially devoted to championing women’s rights. Mistry Law is handling the will of Omar Farid, a



Courtesy photo

Making friends with stick people at the library can help to offset the dark days of stick season.

wealthy Muslim mill owner who has left three widows behind. But as Perveen goes through the papers, she notices something strange: all three have signed over their inheritance to a charity. What will they live on if they forfeit what their husband left them? Perveen is suspicious. Copies available at the circulation desk.

### 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.

#### Crochet & knit night

**Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.**

Claudia Marshall is your host for a casual weekly session of crocheting and chatting, knitting and catching up. Bring your project or start a new one with yarn and needles available at the library, along with plenty of books to instruct and inspire. For teens and adults.

### Short story selections

**First & third Wednesdays, 1 p.m.**

Join library director Margaret Woodruff online to share and discuss short stories old and new. The reading list will include a variety of authors, and one or two stories will be featured each session. Copies of the stories are available at the library circulation desk or via email. Join us on Zoom at us at <https://tinyurl.com/kmk5paaa>.

### Library contact information:

Margaret Woodruff, director  
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian  
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864

Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto: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, Nov. 2, online and in person. Please contact the library or visit the library website ([charlottepubliclibrary.org](http://charlottepubliclibrary.org)) for more information.

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## Senior Center News

# Share the blessing of gratitude during November

Lori York  
Director

The month of November is about gratitude. On Friday, Nov. 10, in gratitude for the veterans who serve this country and protect and defend our rights, the senior center will host events to honor veterans for their courage, strength and dedication. Thanksgiving also focuses on gratitude and Age Well will share its gratitude with a sit-down Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 15 at the senior center. And year-round, there is gratitude for the senior center volunteers, who make it possible to provide the center’s wide variety of programming.

### Honoring veterans

#### Vietnam pinning ceremony Friday, Nov. 10, 11a.m.

Please join Robert Stock, veterans outreach specialist in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, who will be leading a pinning ceremony. The United States Congress established the 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War in 2012. As part of this commemoration there will be recognition of the service, valor and sacrifice of Veterans and their survivors. All veterans who served during the period 1955-75 and their survivors, are eligible for pinning. It is not necessary to have actually served in Vietnam; it is honoring all who served during that period. Registration suggested but not required to be included in the pinning ceremony.

#### Veterans Day lunch Friday, Nov. 10, noon

A complimentary lunch will be provided by the Residence at Shelburne Bay at the senior center for all veterans and a guest. Registration is required as space is limited. To register, call the senior center at 802-425-6345.

#### Quilts of Valor dedication ceremony Friday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m.

Join the Quilts of Valor dedication ceremony to honor service members and living veterans. This ceremony is open to all. More about Quilts of Valor at qovf.org. Their mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Are you a service member or veteran interested in receiving a Quilt of Valor in the future? Contact Ruth Whitaker: 802-985-2950.

### Programs

#### November artist exhibit

This month’s exhibit is a collection of watercolor, ink and mixed media drawings celebrating birds, avians and raptors by artist Peter E. Hertz whose fascination with birds, particularly raptors, started early. Following the hawk migration with his dad in a motor glider and rehabbing birds of prey during years in Kenya in the mid-70s offered proximity and inspiration for his first serious set of paintings for a coffee table book with a world-renowned raptor specialist. Since moving back to his home in Charlotte in 2023, he’s been painting more local aerial subjects. For those interested in seeing a portfolio of Hertz’s work, visit bearpawarts.com.

#### Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group Thursday, Nov. 9, 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 additional information or questions contact Susan Cartwright: scartwrightasg@gmail.com.

#### Charlotte Senior Center Friends meeting Friday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m.

Join us to hear the highlights of this past year and what is being planned moving forward. An update of the senior center’s financial position will be given, any questions will be answered and the election of board members will take place.

#### Chat with Chea Monday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m.

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

#### Detect & prevent Medicare fraud Thursday, Nov. 16, 1-2 p.m.

The most effective way to stop Medicare fraud from occurring is to prevent it from happening in the first place. A presenter from Vermont Senior Medicare Patrol (vtsmp.org) will show Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers how to prevent, detect and report fraud, errors and abuse. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration recommended. Cost: Free

#### Tips and Tricks for iPhones & iPads Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1-2 p.m.

Interested in getting the most out of your iPhone or iPad? Learn some tips and tricks, including security considerations, how to install and delete apps and settings to improve privacy and customize your device to meet visual, physical, motion or hearing needs. Supported by AT&T and The Public Library Association. Registration suggested. Cost: Free

#### Birding expedition Wednesday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.

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

#### Lindy six-count dance Wednesdays, Nov. 15, 29 & Dec. 6, 1-2 p.m.

Interested in learning to dance? Join Carol Ann Spaid in this three-week session on the Lindy six-count dance. Lindy six-count lessons build on essential skills of leading, following and dance frame. No experience needed. Wear soft-soled shoes and bring your love of dance. For questions, email carolspaid@gmail.com. Registration required. \$15 per class or \$40 for the series.

#### Holiday origami Tuesdays, 12:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 7-21

Making origami activates the brain. In these classes, you will be folding paper and fabric into trees, stars, birds and ornaments for the holidays. Directions for some of the models will be included so that you may teach them to friends and family. Registration required. \$10 for each session, includes materials.

#### Meals

Menus are posted on the website at charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

#### Age Well Thanksgiving meal Wednesday Nov.15, Noon.

Join the festive Thanksgiving dinner provided by Age Well. This will be a sit-down meal complete with roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, dinner roll and pumpkin pie with cream for dessert. Registration and \$5 lunch donation by Thursday, Nov. 9. You will need to have a current completed Age Well registration form on file.



Photo by Lori York  
Ruth Whitaker with the display Quilt of Valor from the 2022 Veterans Day Lunch at the senior center.



Photo by Kathy Quesnel  
From left, Susan Hyde, Magdalena Naylor and Rosalie Joyce prep a Monday lunch.

#### Monday lunches

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

#### Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

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

#### 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  
Jenn Lawson, volunteer coordinator, jlawson@charlotteseniorcentervt.org  
212 Ferry Road, Charlotte  
802-425-6345  
charlotteseniorcentervt.org  
Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.

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## Two special sit-down meals coming in November

Susan Ohanian  
Contributor

Note: there are two special Senior Center sit-down meals in November. Both of these meals require advance registration and volunteer servers are needed.

For a great inspirational and fun read about the critical assistance provided by volunteers, read “The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes Who Created the Oxford English Dictionary.” As the New York Times review puts it, this group included “explorers, suffragists, murderers and ordinary citizens ... a wide range of gloriously colorful people who worked on this project as an act of service or pleasure.”

Sarah Ogilvie, the author, was about to leave her job at the Oxford English Dictionary when she discovered the address book of James Murray, the longest-serving editor and a remarkable man whose learning certainly didn't end when poverty forced him to leave school at age 14.

I read this book as a splendid sequel to Simon Winchester's “The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary.” But you needn't read Winchester to appreciate this new one, which is just an exceptional read.

### Monday Munch

**Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Crustless quiche, apple salad, pumpkin cake with cream cheese frosting and cranberry seltzer.

### Veterans Day Lunch

**Friday, Nov. 10, noon**

A complimentary lunch will be provided by the Residence at Shelburne Bay for all veterans and a guest. Registration is required. Call 802-425-6345 or contact [meals@charlotteseniorcenter.org](mailto:meals@charlotteseniorcenter.org).

### Monday Munch

**Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Autumn vegetable soup, salad and apple cake.

### Age Well sit-down Thanksgiving meal Wednesday, Nov. 15

Roast turkey with gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, dinner roll and pumpkin pie with cream. NOTE: This is a sit-down meal requiring advance registration. The two rooms will be filled with tables, and volunteer servers are needed to distribute meals, not to mention the clean-up crew. This is a busy and fun occasion, so give volunteering a try. There will be good food for you, too.



Also note that November's two Monday Munches feature apples. According to “On Food and Cooking: The Science and Lore of the Kitchen” by Harold McGee, “apple trees are especially hardy and are probably the most widely distributed fruit trees on the planet.” Of 35 species, the one giving us most of our eating apples probably originated in the mountains of Kazakhstan. Writers of the Greek epics referred to apples, and the Romans introduced this fruit to the rest of Europe.

By now, there are several thousand named apple varieties. According to the Vermont Fruit Tree Growers Association, Vermont's oldest agricultural trade organization, formed in 1896 as the Vermont State Horticultural Society, each year Vermont growers produce around 1,000,000 bushels (or about 40 million pounds) of apples. Vermont orchards grow more than 150 varieties, with about 50 percent being McIntosh.

The Vermont Fruit Tree Growers Association provides a fascinating chart on apple varieties: where they originated, which is best for eating fresh, best for cooking, best for making cider. On this site you will find “New England's hands-down favorite for pies” and lots more information at [vermontapples.org/all-about-apples](http://vermontapples.org/all-about-apples).

Apples aren't featured in “Recipes for Murder: 66 Dishes that Celebrate the Mysteries of Agatha Christie, but we find one small shredded apple in the Middle-Eastern turkey stuffing from her novel, “They Came to Baghdad.”

This novel features not Poirot nor Miss Marple, but Victoria Jones, a young woman yearning for adventure. She finds it in Baghdad, which Christie makes the meeting place for a secret summit of superpowers worried about the development of a clandestine, very dangerous weapon. A wounded spy dies in Jones' room and the tale takes off.

Although Miss Marple might have felt misplaced in Baghdad, Christie was well-suited. She went on digs with her second husband, an archaeologist, and they maintained a house in Baghdad for years. Certainly, she

had the background to give Victoria Jones adventures.

Christie was also well qualified to give her heroine a fancy meal featuring Middle Eastern Turkey Stuffing at the high-end Tio Hotel located on the banks of the Tigris. The turkey stuffing at the Charlotte Senior Center's Nov. 15 Thanksgiving meal, provided by Age Well, surely won't be Eastern turkey, but New England style — and delicious. Christie offered foie gras on the side. Age Well offers diners cranberry sauce.

A very popular song during World War II, “Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree” seems especially relevant for eating at the Charlotte Senior Center in November. You can find versions by Les Brown, Benny Goodman, Henry James, the Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Carol Channing and many more. But here's an unusual surprise: Robert Mitchum singing it (maybe not laudable, but certainly unusual): [youtube.com/watch?v=m2Wm9JfvCec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2Wm9JfvCec).

Actually, he is featured singing in a number of films in which he was the star.

Here are the Andrews Sisters: [youtube.com/watch?v=5IVgGiUjsb8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IVgGiUjsb8).

Glenn Miller: [youtube.com/watch?v=uSPHfbHy2Bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSPHfbHy2Bw).

Bing Crosby: [youtube.com/watch?v=ZRcRc6PDaxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRcRc6PDaxA).

Reminder: Reaching out to the community, the Charlotte Senior Center donates books to the Little Free Library at the Grange. You can reach out to the Charlotte Senior Center by getting a copy of “The Dictionary People” at The Flying Pig, partners in this effort to get books for kids, and then taking the book's message to heart by volunteering, Stop by, and they will fill you in on the many possibilities.

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