

## Small town veterinarian — big time heart

*Late Albert Moraska  
selected for Vermont  
Agricultural Hall of Fame*

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Sue Moraska once tried to read “All Creatures Great and Small,” but put it down.

The book, the first in a series about an English country veterinarian’s experiences treating farm animals and dealing with their owners, was too much like her own life.

“It was just my everyday life,” she said.

For 25 years, Moraska, the daughter of longtime Charlotte veterinarian Albert Moraska, worked with her father. He has recently been inducted into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame in the Lifetime Achievement category.

Sue Moraska said her father’s red pickup truck was his office, and he loved traveling around northwestern Vermont treating animals. Although there was an office at their home on Spear Street, north of Hinesburg Road, it was used for medical supplies, for the tools a country veterinarian needs and taking care of office work. Not



Courtesy photo

The late Albert Moraska at the Champlain Valley Fair. He was known for mentoring so many young people.

so much for tending animals.

“He went to the animals,” Sue Moraska said, although sometimes smaller animals like goats, sheep or pets were brought to their home.

For more than four decades, Albert Moraska went to treat primarily farm animals, and along the way, he made lots of friends

and formed lots of bonds. So, many of the farms he visited considered him family.

She said often when her father made a farm call, lots of people would be watching him ministering to the animals. Not only would the farm family come over, lots of times the neighbors would come

over to say “hi” to her father, who most knew as Doc.

“This category recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the advancement, improvement, or development of Vermont agriculture over the course of their long career.

SEE **MORASKA** PAGE 2

## Town planner running for Burlington House seat

*If Larry Lewack is elected,  
it won’t interfere with his  
work because he plans  
to retire in December*

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Town planner Larry Lewack is a candidate for the state House of Representatives for Burlington’s Chittenden 13 district seat.

He said campaigning for office for the Aug. 13 statewide party primary election will not interfere with his work as town planner because he works a four-day week with Fridays off. He plans to do a lot of canvassing, knocking on doors on his day off, on weekends or after work around dinner time when people are home.

If he is elected in the general election on Nov. 5, his duties as a state representative will not interfere with his duties in Charlotte because he plans to retire as town planner in December and the new legislative session will begin in January, Lewack said.

There are four candidates for the two-member district, so if he is one of the two candidates elected in the primary, his campaigning will be much less intensive after that. With no Republican candidates for the seat, the Democratic nominee’s prospect of winning the open seat in the general election would be all but assured.

Even if a write-in candidate from the other party comes along, no Republican has won in the Chittenden 13 district during the 30 years Lewack has lived there, he said, and maybe longer. He lives in the Five Sisters neighborhood in Burlington’s South End.

As of an interview on June 5, Lewack said he had not talked to selectboard members about his plans to run for the House. As long as he doesn’t do anything that takes away from fulfilling his work duties, he feels it’s not a concern and is his own business.

There had not been any public announcement of his plan to step down as town planner, but he has told his work colleagues and “it’s common knowledge within town hall.”

This will not be Lewack’s first foray into the political rodeo. Before

SEE **LEWACK** PAGE 3

## Charlotte town employees look to unionize

Bret Yates  
Contributor

Municipal employees in Charlotte may soon have a union. A publicly posted petition at the town hall proposes a new collective bargaining unit consisting of 10 “non-management/non-supervisory” workers, represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The Charlotte Selectboard discussed the matter with an attorney during an executive session on June 10. It resumed its public meeting without taking any action.

The Vermont Labor Relations Board certifies public-sector unions. AFSCME Council 93 requested an election in Charlotte on the basis that, as of March 22, a majority of the workers in the proposed unit had submitted signed authorization cards.

Starting on July 1, however, a new state law will allow Vermont’s

public sector to unionize more quickly and easily, using a process known popularly as “card check.” Under Act 117, the Vermont Labor Relations Board will have the ability to certify a union based on workers’ signatures alone, without subsequently conducting an election. Charlotte’s employees appear already to have satisfied the updated requirements.

The town planner, the zoning administrator, the planning and zoning assistant, the assistant town clerk, the volunteer coordinator at the Charlotte Senior Center, and five staffers at the Charlotte Library would comprise the bargaining unit.

An organized workforce could potentially constrain local officials’ recent efforts to cut spending on labor. Since the voters’ rejection of the initial municipal budget proposal at Town Meeting Day last year, the employee health plan has come under particular scrutiny.

At the last selectboard meeting, Kelly Devine and Lewis Mudge

mentioned that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont had pitched a new benefits package for town employees. They’ve scheduled a conversation with a representative from the insurer.

“We were definitely looking to reduce the number of options of plans that are offered to streamline things administratively,” Devine said.

“The savings is not necessarily going to come from the plan switch, although it will, but it will also come from the costs and the ratio of costs that are paid for by employees in the town as well,” Mudge added. “We will be presenting this to the town employees, and then we will have an open discussion about it.”

### Office coming to 251 Ferry Road

A local businessman wants to turn a dilapidated four-bedroom home in the West Village just west of the post office into an office building for 15 employees. On June 10, the Charlotte Selectboard

approved a preliminary wastewater application for the development.

The house previously used a private septic tank, buried beneath a portion of the property that the developer intends now to begin using — incompatibly, per state regulations — as a parking lot. According to a civil engineer, the proximity of protected wetlands and of neighboring wells rule out other locations for the placement of a new on-site wastewater system, necessitating a connection to Charlotte’s public sewer.

Mike Dunbar purchased 251 Ferry Road in 2022. The president of Middlebury Fence, he also owns Charlotte Crossings, a commercial building on Route 7. A previous effort to convert the long-abandoned residential site failed three years ago when, amid opposition from townspeople and self-reported financial strain, the Charlotte Family Health Center gave up on a plan to relocate there.



# CVU returning to state title game Saturday

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

As the regular season came to a close, the Champlain Valley Union High baseball team was not able to hang onto its No. 1 ranking in Division 1, so unlike last year the Redhawks did not get the advantage of beginning the postseason with a bye in the first round.

But having to play a full slate of playoff games did not stop the Redhawks and now the team is back in the state title game at Centennial Field in Burlington on Saturday at a time to be announced where it will face South Burlington.

The game will give the Redhawks a third chance to defeat the Wolves, which has swapped the No. 1 and No. 2 rankings with CVU during the season and beaten them twice.

The Redhawks touted a 12-1 record until it faced South Burlington on June 28, and in the rematch the Wolves prevailed again. But still the Redhawks held the No. 1 ranking.

But then two more losses dropped the team to 12-4. CVU entered the postseason ranked No. 2 with Mount Anthony at No.3 and Burr & Burton at No. 4, both sporting 13-3 records, according to the Vermont Principals' Association.

## Colchester 1, CVU 0

On Thursday, May 30, Champlain Valley traveled to Colchester for a game that turned into a low-scoring, pitching duel.

CVU's starting pitcher Aaron LaRose gave the Redhawks six strong innings, allowing four hits and walking just one, but he gave up the game's one-and-only run in the second inning.

With two outs, Rishon Robenstein hit a single to right field that scored Jackson Pecor from second to give the Lakers all the offense they would need.

Colchester's Zach Davis took the win from

the mound, giving up a hit, striking out eight and walking five.

LaRose and Riley McDade got CVU's only hits in the game.

## St. Johnsbury 3, CVU 0

The Redhawks were able to find their missing bats on Saturday, June 1, outhitting St. Johnsbury seven to five, but unfortunately, they couldn't find the plate, falling to a third shutout in three games.

This game was after most other schools had finished the regular season, as it was a makeup of a game rained out earlier in the season.

In the top of the second inning, a Redhawk error put Cage Thompson on base and Landon Robinson scored.

With Rex Hauser on first, Jason Mitchell Jr. homered to put the Hilltoppers up 3-0.

For CVU, Elise Berger threw for four innings, giving up three hits and the three runs. She struck out four and walked one. Stephen Rickert pitched three innings in relief, giving up two hits, striking out four and walking one.

The Hilltoppers got five innings on the mound from Thompson, who gave up four hits, struck out four and walked one.

Besides their scoring woes, the Redhawks did not have their usual adept fielding skills, committing five errors.

## CVU 6, Rice 0

Despite the sports trope that it's difficult to beat the same team three times in a season, Champlain Valley prevailed over Rice Memorial for a third time Tuesday, June 4, in the first round of the Division 1 baseball playoffs.

The shutout win propelled the Redhawks into the second round, and another home field matchup on Friday, June 7, against Brattleboro.

No. 11 Brattleboro won the right Hinesburg

trip thanks to a 2-1 win over No. 6 St. Johnsbury on Tuesday.

CVU had beaten Rice 8-4 at its home field on April 25 and 13-3 at CVU on May 23.

The Redhawks jumped out to an early lead in the second. With one out, LaRose hit a ground ball that was caught, but he was safe when the first baseman dropped the ball while trying to make the tag.

LaRose subsequently stole second and third and then scored on a wild pitch. John Deyo doubled to drive in Andrew Nunziata.

A Travis Stroh triple scored Deyo to put the Redhawks up 3-0.

In the fourth, CVU added another run when Russell Willoughby scored from third on a passed ball.

A nifty Deyo line drive to left field, scored Calvin Steele to add another run in the bottom of the fifth and put the Redhawks up 5-0.

Two wild pitches with Stroh at the plate moved Deyo to third and then home to add another run for the final score of 6-0.

The top of the sixth inning featured two spectacular catches by Stephen Rickert, getting out two batters in a row.

"He just goes out and gets it. That's the mentality we've got to show each and every inning — that we want the ball," coach Nicky Elderton said of Rickert's fielding. "You know, he's a captain for a reason."

Elderton also had praise for Rickert's and LaRose's performances on the mound.

Rickert pitched the first four innings, giving up no runs and only two hits, while striking out seven and walking one. LaRose pitched the final three innings and kept the shutout intact. He gave up a hit, struck out three and walked four.

Deyo led CVU offensively with two hits in four trips to the plate.

The Redhawks continued their aggressive

SEE **CVU BASEBALL** PAGE 3

# MORASKA

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nominees shall have played an active role in Vermont agriculture for at least 30 years," says a description from the hall of fame at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex.

The organization's website (vtgallhof fame.org/about) says that since 2002 more than 90 farmers, producers and "people who support Vermont's working landscape" have been inducted into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame.

"Thanks for the good news," said Charles Russell, upon hearing of Moraska's inclusion in the hall of fame. The former Charlotte Selectboard member and current chair of the development review board added, "He was a great guy."

Russell told a story about how once in bad winter weather, Albert Moraska slid off the road and into a field. He paid a tow-truck operator \$2,500 to get his truck pulled back up to the road.

It was a pity because there were lots of farmers with tractors in the area who would have gladly pulled him out for free if they had known, Russell said.

In the hall of fame description of Doc's many contributions in other fields besides large-animal veterinary medicine, it notes that he was chair of the Charlotte Planning Commission for 22 years.

He volunteered as a life member of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association and chaired the Large Animal Education Program, according to the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Mary and Onan Whitcomb of North Williston Cattle Company headed up the nominating effort to get Moraska into the hall of fame.

"Dr. Moraska was an outstanding veterinarian, a dedicated mentor to young people interested in agriculture and veterinary careers and a great friend to people and animals throughout Vermont," Mary Whitcomb said. "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award."

When she and her husband told other farmers they were nominating Moraska for the state hall of fame, more than 50 said they wanted to be part of the effort and their names are listed on the application.

The Whitcombs' daughter is one of the many young people mentored by Doc Moraska. When she was younger, Rebecca Allen went with him on calls to farms many times. Now, she is a large animal veterinarian.

Once, Moraska showed up late to a vet call at the Whitcombs' farm. Mary Whitcomb learned his tardiness was because on the way he had stopped at the home of a family in Shelburne who had adopted two children from Russia. Among Doc's talents, besides

taking care of large animals, was speaking Russian and, by the way, German. He had stopped to help the family with translation.

"He just gave so much to so many people," Whitcomb said. "Every farmer I spoke to has had a 'Doc story.'"

Some of the Doc stories she heard "would make you laugh and some would bring you to tears," she said. "And I could relate to all of them."

There were stories about him going out at 3 a.m. on New Year Eve to deliver a calf.

Sue Moraska said there were so many times when her father would have been out all night on a call, yet the next morning when he went back out, people would never know, because he was happy and upbeat. Even if the previous call had a terrible outcome, Doc had an amazing ability to regroup and leave the sadness behind. Every call was a new call.

A man once told Sue Moraska that, when he was a little boy growing up on a farm, he couldn't wait for her dad to come. After Doc finished treating the animals, he would always scrub and disinfect his boots so that he didn't carry any contagious germs with him. The man said that Doc would wash his boots, too.

"He said, 'That meant the world to me,'" Sue Moraska said. "All these little things he did that meant big things."



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- Reporting on how other towns have addressed challenges similar to our own.

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CVU BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

base-running approach, stealing six bases. Willoughby stole half of that total and LaRose added two.

Almost every time a hitter reached base, CVU brought in a courtesy runner. This is part of the team’s strategy for base running, so that as often as feasible, there’s a fresh runner, not winded and eager to steal.

“We got caught a couple of times stealing. We knew that might happen with a lefty on the mound, but that was the game plan, and we stuck to it,” Elderton said.

At least for this game, CVU appeared to have solved its spate of fielding mishaps, playing error-free ball against Rice.

Before the three-game-shutout skid, the Redhawks had done very well in the error department. For the first 13 games of the season, the team averaged less than 1.6 errors a game. During the three loses, the Redhawks committed 10 errors, an average of more than 3.3 errors a game.

CVU 10, Brattleboro 0

It was just what the Redhawk coaches had ordered on Friday June 7, when No. 11 Brattleboro visited CVU for a quarterfinal matchup — Champlain Valley jumped out to a lead in the first inning and went onto to a decisive win over the Bears.

Rickert got the scoring going when he knocked a sacrifice fly to right field to score Deyo.

With two outs, Declan Cummings hit

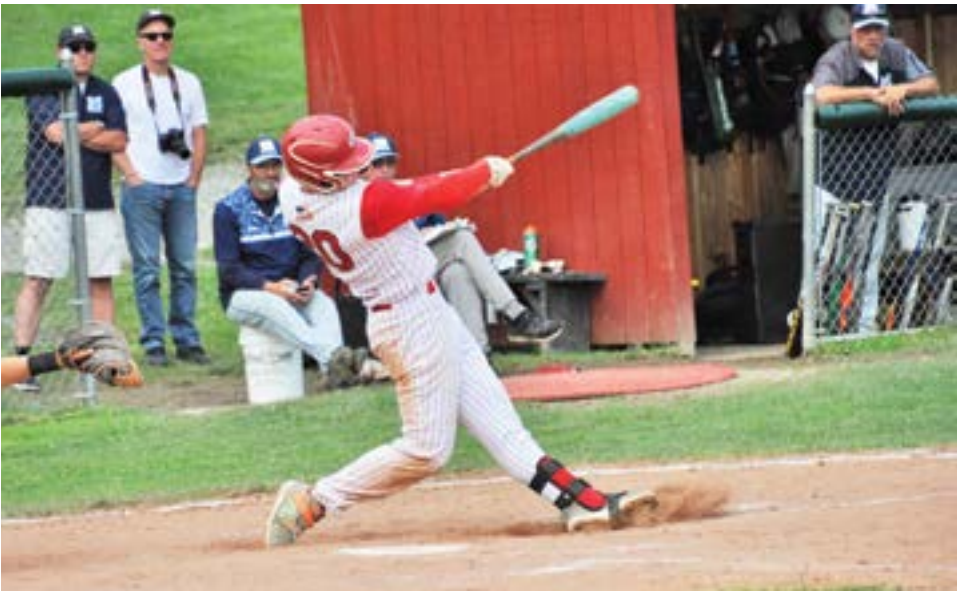


Photo by Judy Stroh

Russell Willoughby launches the Redhawks iinto the state title game on Saturday with a drive to bring home Calvin Steele for a 2-1 win over Mount Mansfield on Tuesday.

into a fielder’s choice that scored Stroh and Willoughby.

Stroh continued the scoring in the second when he hit a double that brought home Steele. Stroh crossed the plate himself on a Willoughby single that made the score 5-0.

Willoughby returned the favor in the fourth, hitting a double that scored Stroh and Deyo. Later in that frame, Cummings hit a hard grounder to center field that scored Willoughby and Rickert, putting CVU up 9-0.

In the fifth inning, Stroh hit a walk-off ball that bounced off the center field fence that ended the game via the mercy rule with two

outs.

Stroh was a formidable presence at the plate, going 3-for-3 with a double, a single and the winning fly that looked the whole time as if it was going over the fence, until it didn’t.

The win was also enhanced by error-free play by the Redhawks.

LaRose threw four innings for CVU, giving up three hits, walking two and striking out nine. Berger came on in relief but only had a

SEE CVU BASEBALL PAGE 7

LEWACK

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he moved to Burlington, he lived in Winooski from 1985-94. In the mid 1980s, he was a member of the zoning board there and then the planning commission.

In the interest of full disclosure, I realized in the middle of this interview that I lived in the district Lewack is running for.



Larry Lewack

Because of his experience in public service and involvement in statewide issues, Lewack decided to run for one of the two house seats Winooski had at that time, losing in 1986 and 1988.

In his first campaign, “I was running against two well-established incumbents and got smoked,” Lewack said. “The second time out, I was running for an open seat, and I came within 36 votes of winning that primary.”

Before becoming a municipal employee in small Vermont towns, Lewack worked for several small nonprofit organizations in several positions. He worked as a fundraiser, then in direct services for people with disabilities and was promoted to program director at a couple of those jobs.

“It was mostly just low-salary kinds of positions. but very personally fulfilling because I felt like I was making a difference in the world,” Lewack said.

He feels it is ironic that when he ran for the House almost 40 years ago, his main issue was tax reform and now school tax reform is back on the front burner with so many school budgets being voted down.

This was before the state supreme court ruled that Vermont needed to amend the way that school property taxes were collected,

so that there was more equity between poor and wealthy school districts. In response, the legislature passed Act 60 that fundamentally changed the way Vermont pays for public education.

“Before we had any type of equalizing legislation in place at the state level, school districts were 100 percent on their own. If you went to school or taught school in a low-income town, your students and your schools were shabby and underfunded, and students had really limited access to educational opportunity,” Lewack said. “If you went to school in a wealthy school district, it was the exact opposite with gold-plated everything in your schools.”

The big issue he is running on is tax reform, which he believes the legislature “kind of bailed on” in this past term.

He feels like, every time tax reform that would put a higher tax on people with considerable wealth is proposed in the legislature, it is rebuffed by lobbyists who argue that the wealthy will leave Vermont if that happens.

“That’s not happened in Massachusetts or anywhere else where that type of tax has been adopted. It’s really more about getting people to pay their fair share,” Lewack said. “We do not have a graduated tax system in Vermont for income taxes.”

Vermont had a graduated income tax enacted under the administration of Gov. Richard Snelling, Lewack said, a very Republican governor.

Snelling was governor for three terms from 1977-1985. He was reelected in 1990 and served from January 1991 until his death in August 1991. During his short final term, Snelling worked with Democrats to enact the largest tax increase in Vermont history to help the state get out of the world-wide recession of the late 1980s.

The graduated income tax sunsetted, and

the state hasn’t had one since.

“That was the core message that I espoused during my unsuccessful legislative campaigns in the 1980s, and I think it has new relevance and urgency today. That’s going to be my number one issue as I go door to door in this campaign,” Lewack said.

He also plans to campaign on both landlord and tenant rights so that tenants aren’t “getting screwed,” who are paying their rent on time, and landlords aren’t “been shafted,” who don’t have an equitable means for evicting tenants with legitimate cause for months.

Tiff Bluemle is the incumbent in the Chittenden 13 district, and Lewack thinks she has been doing a good job and will probably have a lock on being reelected. So, he essentially sees the race as being between himself and the other two candidates — Bram Kleppner and Dale Azaria — for the only open seat in the district.

Although Lewack says both of those are credible candidates, he likes his chances, particularly in light of his experience. Lewack is running as a Democrat, but he has been very active, and still is, in the Progressive Party. He is on the steering committee for the Burlington Progressives and was a co-founder of the Vermont Progressive Party back in the 1980s.

He said he was on the staff for Bernie Sanders’ first successful campaign for Congress.

“Those are my values, but I have worked politically through and with the Democratic Party,” Lewack said.

His work for the Democratic Party goes back to when he was a 16-year-old campaign volunteer in the Washington, D.C., area, canvassing, putting up signs and helping one of his neighbors get elected to the Maryland legislature.

Around Town

Congratulations

**Cole Boffa** of Charlotte graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s in industrial design from James Madison University in May and was named to the president’s list for the spring semester.

**Mercedes Murphy** of Charlotte, who is majoring in business administration, was named to the dean’s list at Middle Tennessee State University for the spring semester.

**Jakob Holm** of Charlotte was named to the dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s College of Agricultural & Life Science for the spring semester.

**Genevieve Trono** of the Charlotte Library was awarded a certificate of public librarianship at the Vermont Department of Libraries’ 129th annual Vermont Library Association conference in Killington on May 20.

Meghan Metzler

of Charlotte has joined the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation as its vice president and chief financial officer. Metzler has a background in accounting, auditing and regulatory compliance. She is also chair of the Champlain Valley School District board.



Meghan Metzler

**Ashley Berliner** of Charlotte graduated from the Snelling Center for Government on June 1. She is director of Medicaid policy at the Department of Vermont Health Access.



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# Vermont’s biggest garage sale?

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

To say Wake Robin’s Red Tag Sale has grown by leaps and bounds over the 25-something years it’s been held is misleading. It has grown by monstrous vaults and gargantuan gambols.

It was promoted on social media as “one of the largest garage sales in Vermont.”

“One of”? It’s hard to imagine another garage sale that is even half as big. For one thing, the garage it is held in, under a building at Wake Robin, is massive, like Walmart massive.

And the line to get in went on for just short of forever. If you arrived 10 minutes before the 9 a.m. opening this past Saturday, you were parking at the guard booth, about half a mile away. (And by “you” I mean me.)

When I left after spending about an hour at the sale, cars were parked all the way to Bostwick Road and along that thoroughfare at least a quarter of a mile both east and west of the entrance to the senior living facility.

But people were still streaming in and finding a plethora of bargains remaining at the sale. There was an abundance of great deals on books, furniture, housewares, tools, china, glass, linens, jewelry, collectible, toys, games, baskets, lamps, art, electronics, sporting goods, frames, gardening stuff, bric-a-brac, holiday items and, believe it or not, more.

Sarah Meyers, one of coordinators of the sale, said the first year the Red Tag Sale was held the volunteers made \$6,000. Although it was impossible to say how much they would make this year, last year they made \$28,000, and this year was even bigger.

There were about 200 volunteers working on the sale, the other coordinator Judy Crouse said. Meyers said there were actually just 198 volunteers. (This newspaper appreciates accuracy.)

“We use the money in two ways. One is to pay for our activities for residents, and that’s about half of it. The other half is all the stuff that’s left over, that we give to charity,” Meyers said. “We also provide an outlet for

less-fortunate families to come and shop.”

She said one sort of weird thing about the sale was “Barbie Bonanza,” tables filled with the pink figurines that have inspired years of play and a major hit movie. Someone had donated 200 Barbie dolls.

Ira White had come from Ferrisburgh. He’s an electrician and had a couple of extension cords draped over his arm he had scored at the sale.

John Hammer, formerly of Charlotte and now of Wake Robin (and emeritus member of this newspaper’s board) was working the art table where they had sold a painting by a well-known African artist for \$200. It sold quickly, he said.

Suzi LaRonde of Shelburne had found a painting of the Charlotte Town Beach that she liked.

Alison Crouse, an independent filmmaker from Philadelphia, had come from Pennsylvania with a crew of seven, counting herself, to film a documentary about Wake Robin’s sale. So, she had two three-person film crews, each with a camera and, as the director, she was running from camera to camera, coordinating things. Except when she was interrupted by a nosy reporter.

Crouse and her crew had been coming to Wake Robin from Philadelphia monthly since October to film as donations were collected. Her mother Judy Crouse was the other coordinator of the sale, and Alison had heard about the sale from her parents, who are residents.

“I’m interested, not just in the event of the tag sale, but what it means, what kind of meaning we put in objects, what it means to own objects, what it means to love objects, what it means to buy objects, and do we think about: Who used to own them? And when did they become ours?” Alison Crouse said.

There were lots of objects becoming possessions for Crouse and crew to film. Over the months, they had been able to film people bringing objects to donate. They had been able to film those same objects as they were bought and became someone else’s objects on Saturday.



Photos by Scooter MacMillan

The line to get in the Wake Robin Red Tag Sale was at least a half-mile long.



Alison Crouse directs a documentary film about Wake Robin’s massive sale.

“It’s really interesting to see what people are attracted to,” Crouse said.

She expects to produce a 20-minute film, which could become longer if she finds grants after showing the initial version of the documentary.

Crouse said they started filming at 6:45 a.m. There were already people in line then.

She had interviewed a group of people that only know each other because of the tag sale. “They come every year, and they eat breakfast at the garage door,” Crouse said. “Every year, that’s how they know each other.”


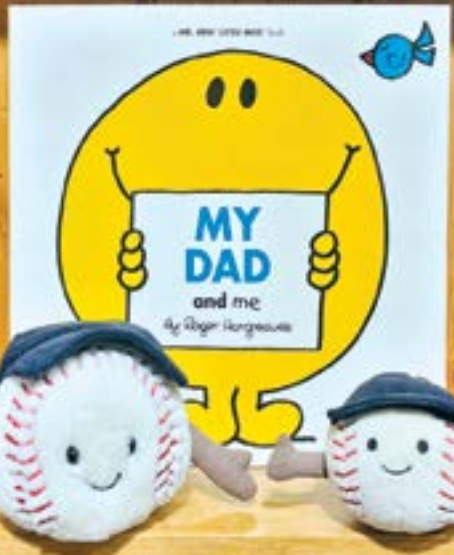


# Music At The Beach


Wednesdays  
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# Report from the Legislature

## Knee healing while speculating on the veto session

Chea Waters Evans  
Representative

When the speaker of the House gaveled out at the end of the regular session, she didn't gavel us out forever — we made plans to be back in the State House on June 17 with the assumption that Governor Phil Scott would veto some bills and that the legislature would come back to potentially override those vetoes.

Veto he did, so back we go next week. Governor Scott has vetoed more bills than any other governor in Vermont's history. I admire his dedication to shooting down the General Assembly's ideas without coming up with any of his own — although he did come up with one cockamamie education financing idea earlier in the spring that experts, including his own administration, acknowledged wasn't a well-thought-out or reasonable plan. (If you remember, it was basically borrowing money from ourselves to pay back later, which doesn't really make sense in the least.)

So, here's what we're going to vote on next week in the hopes that we have enough votes to override his vetoes. We need two-thirds of the Legislature's vote in order to do so. I know some people get annoyed by the Democrat supermajority, but I do want to point out a couple things that are interesting and should make you feel a little better about the supermajority's ability to override a veto from the governor.

First, the supermajority is elected by



Chea Waters Evans, Representative

Vermonters. Democrats didn't get together and decide to take over the Legislature; each representative and each senator has the same number of constituents, and the people of Vermont vote for those people on the same days. Who knows what will happen this time around, but last election, voters overwhelmingly chose Democrats, which is why there's a supermajority.

Second, within each party there are people with really different points of view. There are Democrats who are pretty conservative, and there are Republicans who are pretty liberal, and there are people who fall all along that line in between. We all represent different

communities that have different needs, so my votes that reflect the will of Charlotte and Hinesburg voters can be very different from the votes of a Democrat from another part of the state. For this reason, a veto override on any given bill isn't a sure thing. We left two bills off the table last year during the veto session because we didn't have the votes, and I'm sure there will be some this year that don't make it all the way.

Before I go through the list of bills we're voting on next week, or at least the ones I know about by Monday evening, I'm excited to share that two bills I worked on a lot this session — H626, the animal welfare bill, of which I was the lead sponsor, and H875, the government ethics bill, that I did a lot of work on with my committee — were both signed into law today. Well, the governor didn't sign the ethics bill, but he let it slide through without his signature. Who would have thought: a politician that doesn't like an ethics bill? I'm proud of the work we did and grateful to some of my Charlotte constituents who showed up to testify on both of these bills.

So far, the governor vetoed the following bills:

- The big one is H887, also known as the yield bill, also known as the bill that's raising everyone's taxes to pay for education. Before a bill comes to the floor of the two chambers for votes, it's already been debated

and discussed. Often, during the process of making sure they have enough votes to clear the House or Senate, legislators who craft bills will realize that they don't have enough votes and then will make adjustments to reach a compromise. There are also amendments offered on the floor, which we vote on. A bill doesn't just plop down out of nowhere and get voted through without a lot of compromise and discussion — the more controversial bills even more so.

- The yield bill found a way to pay for all the school budgets (which are decided locally, not by the legislature) in the state. It offers funds for people who receive income credits on their property tax bills, includes funding to lower everyone's property tax bill by buying down some of that cost, and importantly, sets up a commission that will work on coming up with a new way to pay for public education, which we obviously really need.

- We will also vote, if there's support, to override H706, which will phase out and prohibit neonicotinoid pesticides; H289, the Renewable Energy Standard bill; H72, which establishes pilot programs for two Overdose Prevention Sites; and H645, which expands restorative justice programs around the state.

Let me know what you think — I had a knee replacement a couple weeks ago, so I'm literally sitting around. Call or text or email: 917-887-8231 or [cevans@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cevans@leg.state.vt.us).

## Letter to the Editor

### Ban on flavored vape veto makes no sense

To the Editor:

Phil Scott's logic to veto the ban on flavored vapes makes no sense. There are all types of products that we, either as a state or a nation, ban, mandate or regulate. So, if we as Vermonters decide that flavored vapes are unsafe, unhealthy, damage to such an extent minors in the state, to the point that it is not worth allowing them to be sold, then vapes would be in the same category as many toxins, pesticides or other drugs, toys that contain lead, etc.

That we allow marijuana to be sold in regulated fashion is in no way contradictory, and it seems disingenuous to suppose so. Is the

idea that we should allow anything smokable to be sold in the state? Are all things smoked equal, like meth or crack or candy cigarettes? This is simply a question of what Vermont's value as a state. We allow mifepristone to be sold and some states don't. As a democratic state, we, like all states, can choose how we want to live.

Phil Scott's priorities are protecting large companies and protecting profits of store owners. The second of these should not be at the cost of a nicotine addiction epidemic of teenagers. The first of these is just not a priority of most Vermonters, leaving the governor in a position he seems to be with increasing frequency on many issues confronting Vermonters today: out of step.

Joshua May  
Charlotte

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The Charlotte News

## Education

# Work place changing to meet Gen Z expectations

Margo Bartsch  
Contributor

With high school and college graduations behind us, what is the future for Generation Z (zoomers) students and graduates (born 1997 to 2012) who are about to hit the job market?

These zoomers represent 20 percent of the U.S. population or 64.6 million people. By 2030, they are expected to power 20 percent of the workforce.

There are three zoomer work trends that define their relationship with work: increasing participation and presence in the workforce; balancing work and personal well-being; and incorporating technology to increase work-life flexibility.

First, this April, The Economist reported that the number of zoomers working full time is about to overtake the number of full-time working baby boomers (born 1946 to 1964), who are retiring from their careers. In the U.S., zoomers are holding positions of power with 6,000 chief executives and 1,000 politicians. Their voting bloc can shift future policies within business, government and the world.

With the increased cost of attending college, zoomers in the U.S. and Britain have been prioritizing education and experiences that lead to immediate employment. There is a trend away from liberal arts majors and toward engineering and economics to devel-

op workforce skills.

Also, vocational jobs are growing as a popular choice instead of college (or to gain experience before college) to work in a range of sectors and earn higher pay. This week's Wall Street Journal included a feature story titled, "Gen Z Plumbers and Construction Workers #BlueCollarCool." It profiles one electrician with 2.2 million followers on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook watching her work.

Pop culture also illustrates the zoomers' growth in the job market. The song, "good 4 u" by Olivia Rodrigo, laments that a former boyfriend's "career is really taking off." In Beyonce's song, "Break My Soul," she sings, "I just quit my job" to highlight the chance to leave a dead-end job and make more money elsewhere.

Increasing wages and job opportunities is coined "the young person's premium." Hourly pay growth in the U.S. grew 13 percent among 16- to 24-year-olds, compared with 6 percent for workers ages 25-54, according to The Economist. In fact, the American Enterprise Institute, a public policy research organization, explains that zoomers, with many coming into the workforce during the pandemic, are much better off than millennials (born 1981-1996) at their same age, who entered the job market during the 2008 global financial crisis.

Regarding work-life balance, zoomers are redefining how they work and what work

should be. They are focused on personal well-being, as an integral factor to their career goals. Avoiding burnout is a priority that many zoomers are aiming to refine.

Zoomers are pushing back against the prior generation's social forces and established work dynamics. The Economist explains the concept "quiet quitting," as normalizing minimal effort to avoid getting fired. Also, U.S. News Money details the term, "bare minimum Monday," as slowly starting the workweek to avoid burnout from what many believe is an unrealistic workload to tackle throughout the week.

A recent paper published by the International Monetary Fund explains that zoomers want to work fewer hours than their older counterparts. The Economist compared the changes in Americans' commitment to work (ages 15-24) over a 15-year span. In 2022, zoomers spent 25 percent less time on "working and on work-related activities," compared to their 2007 Millennial counterparts.

Also, the role of working women has noticeable differences between millennials and zoomers in both professional and social environments. The Economist contrasts the millennial term, "girl boss," as an attitude to play and conquer within the typical corporate male world. Comparatively, the Gen Z term, "snail girls," illustrates the priority to slowly add responsibility that allows for more time to focus on self-care.

This past December, The Wall Street Journal wrote a feature story titled, "Stay-at-Home-Girlfriends are Having a Moment" (acronym SAHG), that prioritizes less working and more self-care. The article includes the phrase "zillennial finance" that does not stigmatize being financially dependent on someone else.

Finally, Fortune reported in June that 70 percent of zoomers prefer flexible work schedules. Zoomers are comfortable with remote and hybrid work as part of their professional interactions, having grown up with social media and pandemic Zoom learning. They incorporate technology and use artificial intelligence as integral to working both individually and with groups.

There is even a new real estate trend addressing zoomers' influence on work. Offices are being designed with new technologies that build community. The architectural and engineering firm, Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, explains that fostering teamwork incorporates interactive physical spaces, augmented reality and virtual reality.

Zoomers are crafting work to drive their needs.

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

# Gratitude, celebrations and graduation at Charlotte Central School

Naomi Strada  
(Summarized by Tom Scatchard)

Throughout the year, the Champlain Valley School District schools have embraced the vision: "We are a learning community focused on growth and belonging for all."

In this spirit, the Charlotte Central School staff and administration appreciate the partnership and collaboration that makes the Charlotte Central School learning experience. Thanks to the caregivers and community members who volunteer their time, their passions and their expertise to enrich the school day for every student. The mentors, the extra hands at recess and in the cafeteria, and the volunteers supporting special projects

are all crucial to meeting individual needs and enriching experiences for learners.

On June 7, the eighth graders received carnations from the kindergarten students in the school's Carnation Ceremony. During this all-school meeting, a video was shown capturing some memories of the kindergarten and eighth grade partnership.

The Champlain Valley Union Rise program brought former Charlotte Central School graduates to the school to support learners. Some CVU students were in classrooms helping students and teachers.

The Charlotte Central School PTO recently dispersed grant funds for many enrichment opportunities in classrooms, and the school is incredibly grateful for this support — both

the fundraising and the ways the organization helps teachers.

The Charlotte Central School Fun Run & Spring Potluck is a tradition at Charlotte Central School. The event is not only a great community event, but also a fundraiser.

During the potluck, the PTO will raffle off baskets. This year, students will receive 10 tickets to put towards the raffle baskets of their choice. Raffle tickets will not be sold. Instead, families are asked to contribute towards the raffle.

### Graduation

Charlotte Central School eighth-grade graduation is Thursday, June 13. Please note the change in times:

- 5:30 p.m., family connection time in the multi-purpose room
- 6 p.m., parents and guests move to the gymnasium
- 6:15 p.m., procession of graduates.

### Summer construction at Charlotte Central School

Projects for this summer include:

- Install sprinkler lines on the second floor and finish the installation in the multi-purpose room, the stage and the gym.

- Demolish and remodel the seventh and eighth grade restrooms.
- Complete the updated electrical system, moving all primary connections to the new mechanical room and connect the generator.
- A state grant to address stormwater will include perimeter drains being added at the front of the building. This project may include removing the play castle and outdoor stage and replacing the basketball courts. The plans will be finalized after the bids are evaluated.
- Paint and carpet first-floor rooms. The scope of this work is still being determined.

### Free summer meals

Free summer meal boxes for children 18 and under start on Monday, June 24. The meal boxes can be ordered using the form on the menu section of the cvsdt.org website.

Meals will need to be ordered for children each week for the following week.

All meal boxes must be picked up at St. Jude's Church on Route 116 in Hinesburg on Mondays, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., or until all are gone. Meal boxes may only be picked up by children, their parents or guardians.

If there are questions or concerns, email Scott Wagner at swagner@cvsdt.org.



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**CVU BASEBALL**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

chance to pitch for one inning, thanks to the mercy-shortened victory. In her lone inning on the mound, Berger gave up a hit, a walk and struck out one.

**CVU 2, Mount Mansfield 1**

This Tuesday, June 11, the Redhawks notched their second walk-off win in a row, but by a very different and more traditional route than their previous game.

This Redhawks' walk-off semifinal win came after a nail-biter contest that ran to eight innings.

Rickert was the king of the hill on this day. He took the mound to begin the game and didn't relinquish that promontory for the rest of the way. Rickert gave up Mount Mansfield's lone run and six hits but he struck out 14.

Langdon Hazen kept the mound for the Cougars for seven and a third innings, but had to give it up when he exceeded the pitch count in the final frame. Hazen struck out seven.

The Redhawks got on the board in the bottom of the fourth, when Willoughby scored on a wild pitch.

In the top of the fifth, Mount Mansfield tied the game up at 1-all, when Caleb Murphy singled to score Owen Labor.

LaRose initiated a double play in the sixth inning that proved to be a significant point in the game, prohibiting a score and appearing to inspire the Redhawks. With one out and runners on second and third, the Cougars' Jack Lorenzini knocked a fly down the right field line that LaRose caught and made a magnificent throw from the outfield to Steele at home plate. The Redhawks catcher upheld his part of the bargain, making a dramatic tag out at home.

LaRose said he makes that throw in practice all the time, but in a game, no so much, until Tuesday evening. "When you get one, it's so nice," he said after the game's conclusion, reviling in the win.

Of course, the most significant play of the game was Willoughby's walk-off hit to score Stroh from second and end the game with one out in the eighth.

"It was one of the most exciting high school baseball games I've ever been a part of or seen," said coach Elderton, in the midst of the post-game jubilation. "They're going to remember this for the rest of their lives."


**Tedding time**



Photos by Lee Krohn

It's recently been tedding time along Spear Street. The equipment above that conjures up science fiction associations is towed behind a tractor for tedding hay or spinning the cut hay in rows to help it dry before baling. Below, seagulls supervise.





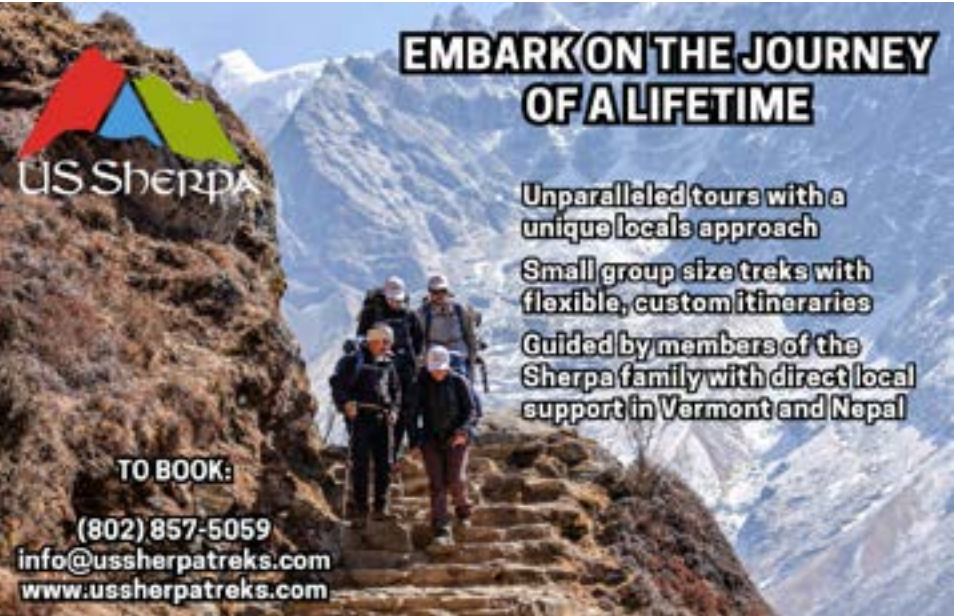
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## Into the Woods

# Stepping down as county forester, publishing book

Ethan Tapper  
Contributor

As I write this, I’m finishing up my last couple weeks as the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. My last day in this role will be May 31, marking eight years to the day since I started this job in 2016.

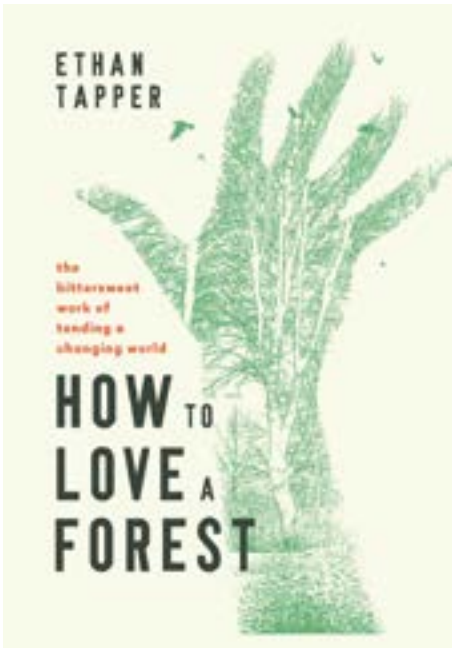
Over the last eight years I’ve met thousands of you in the woods, led hundreds of public events and written more than 70 articles for a dozen community newspapers. I’ve written forest management plans for the Andrews Community Forest, the Westford Town Lands, the Catamount Community Forest, the Huntington Community Forest, the Huntington Town Forest, the Milton Town Forest, the Indian Brook Conservation Area and the Carse Addition to the Hinesburg Town Forest.

I’ve been humbled to receive several honors and distinctions, most recently as the National Outstanding Inspector of the Year for the American Tree Farm System. Serving as the Chittenden County Forester has been a massive honor and a dream come true — and now it’s time for me to do something else.

For six years, I woke up every morning at 5 a.m. and wrote for an hour before heading to work in the woods. Gradually, these writings became a book called “How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World,” which will be coming out in September. I was inspired to write “How to Love a Forest” by my work as a forester, as well as by my experience caring for my own 175-acre parcel, “Bear Island,” that I bought in 2017.

I found that there were lots of books about forests and other ecosystems and the threats that they face, but none about what we actually do about it: what it means to love an ecosystem in a world of young, simple, degraded forests in a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, in a changed and changing world. Bear Island became a catalyst for the book, a forest that had every problem that a forest could have. I had to ask myself if it would be a greater kindness to Bear Island to leave it to suffer alone or to do everything in my power to make it healthy again.

In a world in which many people believe that loving forests means simply leaving them alone, “How to Love a Forest” proffers a more complex vision: that in this moment truly caring for forests means taking action to protect them, and that the actions we must take will often be as counterintuitive, uncomfortable and bittersweet as cutting a tree to make a forest healthy again. “How to Love a Forest” is a reimagining of forests and our relationship to them that is beautiful and hopeful and empowering. You can pre-order “How to Love a Forest” anywhere that books are sold or at [ethantapper.com/book](http://ethantapper.com/book). Pre-ordering really helps, so please pre-order



if you can.

I will also be starting my own consulting forestry company, Bear Island Forestry. Bear Island Forestry will provide consulting forestry services to private landowners, advising landowners, writing forest management plans and overseeing forest management projects. Bear Island Forestry’s work will be grounded in the principles of ecological forestry: managing forests for biodiversity, ecological integrity and resilience above all else. I will also be consulting with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and companies to incorporate these principles into their work, as well as to improve their communication around ecosystem management projects. Learn more about Bear Island Forestry at [bearislandforestry.com](http://bearislandforestry.com)

Finally, I will be continuing to do public speaking, social media, public education and outreach. I am very active on Instagram, using the handle @HowToLoveAForest, as well as on YouTube and TikTok (also at @HowToLoveAForest) and Facebook. You can stay apprised of what I’m up to by signing up for my email list at [ethantapper.com](http://ethantapper.com).

My hope is that this career shift will allow me to effect a larger change in our understanding of forests and what it means to care for them, building a larger platform from which to advocate for forests, responsible forest stewardship, and conservation. I hope that you will follow along, pre-order the book, and that you’ll be hearing from me soon.

*(Ethan Tapper is a forester and author from Bolton. Ethan previously served as the Chittenden County Forester, before leaving to start his own business, Bear Island Forestry. Learn more about Ethan and pre-order “How to Love a Forest” at [ethantapper.com](http://ethantapper.com). Learn more about Bear Island Forestry at [bearislandforestry.com](http://bearislandforestry.com). Follow Ethan on Instagram at @[howtoloveforest](https://www.instagram.com/howtoloveforest).)*



# Gardening

## Building habitat for bees

Bonnie Kirn Donahue  
University of Vermont Extension

Bees are critically important pollinators to support and protect. Along with other insects, bees are essential components of agriculture by pollinating fruits, vegetables and other crops.

Pollinator habitat is declining as a result of large-scale agriculture and urbanization. This trend destroys natural bee habitats like grasslands and prairies, replacing them with crops, lawns and impervious surfaces. While this is our reality, there are lots of things that each of us can do to build habitat for bees.

First, consider reducing the amount you mow. Mowing less means that flowering plants have the opportunity to establish and bloom, which provides more food for pollinators.

I also suggest getting comfortable with lawns looking a little higher and less kempt. The expectation that lawns be mowed short is a social construct, and it is worth considering how this concept serves us today.

One small way to challenge this is to only mow the areas that you really want to use. Another idea is to mow around areas in the lawn that have flowers growing. This will allow pollinators like bees to feed on them. You can cut that spot next week.

Next, embrace weeds. Flowers like dandelions, clover, milkweed and goldenrod get a bad reputation as being “weeds” or a nuisance. In fact, weeds are just plants that are unwanted in a given area.

Native flowering plants, including milkweed, goldenrod and many others, provide important food sources and energy for native bees and insects. Allowing them to grow among other intentionally planted species is a great way to help out.

Planting native, flowering plants is another way to support bees. Try to maximize the amount of time flowers are in bloom by selecting multiple species that flower from early spring to late fall.

Another good idea is to grow plants with hollow stems. Plants such as



Photos by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Postponing, or not mowing at all, around lawn areas with flowers in bloom will help create habitat and food for bees.

goldenrod, joe pye weed, milkweed, elderberry and ornamental grasses have hollow, pithy stems that some bees use to lay eggs in to overwinter.

Plan ahead for fall and test leaving the dead stems and twigs of these plants and others through the winter, and cut them back the following spring. This practice will help baby bee larvae survive the winter.

While some bees nest in hollow stems, others lay their eggs in the ground or in dead wood. Instead of clearing and manicuring our lawns and gardens completely of dead material, think about areas where you can leave dead wood, decaying leaves or even small areas of exposed soil.

Bees and other pollinators also need access to water. I like to place a shallow dish of water in my garden beds with a few rocks that rise just above the surface of the water for pollinators to perch on. Just like a bird bath, bees and other insects will be grateful for this local source of water.

You can buy or build bee houses to place near your garden. Check out this in-depth resource from University of Michigan Extension for more information: [go.uvm.edu/bee-hotels](https://go.uvm.edu/bee-hotels).

Finally, to celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 17-23), consider learning more about bees and their preferred habitats. On June 22, a consortium of organizations and businesses called the



A number of different species of flowers suitable for Vermont gardens, including the purple coneflower, provide important food sources and energy for native bees and insects.

Vermont Pollinator Working Group has planned a daylong event with expert presentations and resources on native bees and pollinator habitats at the University of Vermont Horticultural Research Center in South Burlington. Learn more at [pollinatorcelebrationday.rsvpify.com](https://pollinatorcelebrationday.rsvpify.com).

Each of us can try little changes in our personal and community gardens to build and support bee and pollinator habitat. Which idea will you try out this year?  
*(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.)*



# Correcting soil compaction in lawns

Bonnie Kirn Donahue  
University of Vermont Extension

The summer months are a time when many of us enjoy lawns. From playing sports to picnicking, lawns can be an important part of our summer experience. With all this activity, lawns can be sensitive to overuse, and soil compaction may become an issue.

What is soil compaction? Soil compaction is when the amount of pore space in the soil is reduced when particles of soil are forced together. This commonly occurs when lawns have a lot of foot traffic or are driven over with vehicles.

When soil is compacted, soil and plant health decreases. Plants need oxygen to spread out their roots, respire, take up nutrients and grow.

Air pockets in the soil also help water infiltrate into the ground. Compacted soil means that it is more difficult for water to infiltrate and foster plant growth, increasing stormwater runoff and pollutants running into nearby rivers, ponds and lakes.

You will know if your soil is compacted if it looks hard and cracked and is difficult to dig. There may be areas with standing water or places where sediment has collected. Plants like turfgrass may be sparse, discolored or struggling to survive.

How can you avoid or correct soil compaction and have healthy, usable lawns?

One way is to avoid driving over lawns as much as possible. If this must happen, giving the lawn and soil some time to recover without additional compression can help. If possible, avoid driving on lawns when the soil is wet, as this can make compaction worse.

You can create small holes in the surface of the soil using a pitchfork or aerator. The holes allow air and water to infiltrate into the ground easier. An aerator is a machine that creates holes by extracting small soil cores. If you have ever wondered why there are little holes in sports fields and see little cores of soil, this was likely done with an aerator.

Another way to avoid compaction is to increase the amount of organic matter in your soil. Leaving grass clippings or leaf mulch (after being chopped fine by a lawn mower) over time provides necessary nutrients and organic matter that feeds the soil and breaks down to create more air space.

Additionally, lawn areas can be lightly topdressed with compost, sand or a combination. Apply about a one-fourth to one-half inch layer over the turf area and gently rake into the soil. For larger projects, and if possible, you may want to consider renting specialized equipment or hiring a landscape



Photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

When lawns receive a lot of foot or vehicle traffic, soil may become compacted, which affects the health of plants, which need oxygen to spread out their roots, respire, take up nutrients and grow.

contractor to help.

Raising the blade of your lawnmower deck also can help. According to Lake Champlain’s Lawn to Lake initiative ([lawn-tolake.org/](http://lawn-tolake.org/)), keeping grass height at least 3 inches tall will promote longer roots, which can help combat soil compaction while stemming stormwater runoff and resist drought and weed pressure.

Looking for more information about cor-

recting soil compaction? Check out “Combating Soil Compaction” ([go.uvm.edu/compaction](http://go.uvm.edu/compaction)) from the University of Delaware for more ideas. Or contact the University of Vermont Extension master gardener help-line at [go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion](http://go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion) for more advice.

*(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension master gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.)*

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# Climate Change

## Busy hurricane season ahead; Red Cross says get ready now



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill/National Guard

The aftermath of Hurricane Irene in Pittsfield on Sept. 2, 2011.

Jennifer Costa  
Red Cross

June 1 marked the start of the Atlantic hurricane season. Northern New England residents should prepare for an extremely active hurricane season as the climate crisis threatens to upend more communities. The best defense during an emergency is to be prepared and the American Red Cross advises everyone to get ready now.

Forecasters warn that the combination of warm sea temperatures and the arrival of La Nina conditions could mean more named storms and an above-average probability for landfall in the U.S.

“With warmer sea surface temperatures, we are getting more intense storms that are building faster,” said Daniel Gilford, a climate scientist with Climate Central. “Also, as the temperature of the atmosphere warms, the tropics expand.

That means hurricanes can move further north, and regions like the New England coast, that wouldn’t have gotten very many historic hurricanes, are seeing a small uptick in the numbers of storms that reach the region. We expect this trend to continue over time with the climate crisis.”

The number of billion-dollar disasters in the U.S. has increased 85 percent in just the last decade as disasters grow in frequency and intensity. People across the country are feeling the impact as an estimated 2.5 million were forced from their homes by weather-related disasters in 2023 — with more than a third displaced for longer than a month.

“Today, the Red Cross is responding to more large disasters — almost twice as many — than we did a decade ago,” said John Montes, regional disaster officer, Red Cross Northern New England Region.

SEE **HURRICANE** PAGE 12

## Hello kitty



Photo by Lee Krohn

A bona fide barn cat stands at the door of its agricultural outbuilding.

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David Maille | Untitled | oil & metal leaf on pine

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Rain Date: Sunday, July 14

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Grilling by Fortin's Lawncare & Snowplowing

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Send questions to [billandeva@gmavt.net](mailto:billandeva@gmavt.net)



The Charlotte News is proud to support this event.



# Rain on the horizon



Photo by Lee Krohn

One of the treasures of a late May bike ride on Greenbush Road might be a vision of weather in the Adirondacks.

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# HURRICANE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

“This growing need for help means we need more volunteers trained and ready to support families facing their darkest moments. Additionally, it’s critical for residents right here in Vermont to make and practice their emergency plans now.”

Comprising 90 percent of the Red Cross workforce, volunteers are continuously providing shelter, comfort, hot meals, health services and recovery support to families in need across the country. In the last year, the Red Cross of Northern New England saw 549 volunteer deployments — a five-year high and nearly four times the deployments compared to 2019. These Red Cross volunteers supported disasters at home, including historic flooding events in Vermont and Maine, several large-scale, multi-family fires and a mass casualty response. They also deployed outside our region to support a variety of disasters like Hurricane Idalia, Typhoon Mawar, wildfires in California and Hawaii, and tornadoes in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

## Volunteer today

The Red Cross is seeking new volunteers who are team-oriented and want to make an immediate difference. Visit [redcross.org/volunteertoday](https://redcross.org/volunteertoday) to sign up. Free online training will be provided, and there is a critical need for these positions:

- Local disaster action team volunteers help families in need by providing food, lodging, comfort, recovery assistance and other support.
- Shelter services volunteers support the day-to-day activities in an emergency shelter for those forced from their homes by disasters.
- As a disaster health or mental health services volunteer, you can use your professional skills as a licensed healthcare provider to deliver hands-on care to people in shelters.

## Prepare your household

With the increasing risk of climate-driven disasters, help keep your family safe by getting prepared today. Information about being prepared at [redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html](https://redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html).

Build an emergency kit with bottled water, non-perishable food, a flashlight and battery-powered radio (<https://tinyurl.com/y9re9689>). Also include medications, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers and emergency contact information.

Make an evacuation plan (<https://tinyurl.com/5n6tnjjz>) with what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and if you must evacuate. Make sure to coordinate with your child’s school, your work and your community’s emergency plans — and don’t forget your pets.

Know how to stay informed (<https://tinyurl.com/4raf9tks>) by finding out how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.

Plus, download the free Red Cross First Aid app, so you’ll know what to do if emergency help is delayed, and the free emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and more safety tips. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to [redcross.org/apps](https://redcross.org/apps).



# Community Roundup

## Academy explores the natural world

Whether you are considering a career in a natural resources-related field or just have an interest in “walking on Vermont’s wild side,” the 2024 Natural Resources Management Academy, July 12-14, may just be the opportunity for you.

If you are entering the seventh-eleventh grade in the fall, you are invited to participate in this year’s academy to network with natural resources professionals, meet like-minded peers, learn more about Vermont’s forests, wildlife, ecosystems and enjoy traditional camp activities. Enrollment in 4-H is not required, nor is residency in Vermont.

The academy, which is co-sponsored by University of Vermont Extension 4-H and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be held at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake in Woodbury. The registration fee is \$130, which includes all meals, snacks, workshops, activities and two nights’ lodging in rustic cabins.

Registrations will be accepted until tomorrow, June 14, or all spots are filled. To register, visit [go.uvm.edu/nrma2024](http://go.uvm.edu/nrma2024).

The program is jam-packed with hands-on activities including workshops on the biogeochemistry of Buck Lake, fish health, using camera traps for science and storytelling, natural resource planning and zoning and food waste, climate change and the role of microorganisms. You also will hone your compass and mapping skills on a canoe scavenger hunt.

The weekend includes plenty of opportunities for fun from a nature hike to a fish fry and evening campfires with s’mores. During your free time, you can fish, swim, canoe or just hang out with new-found friends.

The academy concludes with cake and a graduation ceremony, which families are welcome to attend at no charge.

If questions, contact Amy Miller at [amy.miller@uvm.edu](mailto:amy.miller@uvm.edu) or 802-656-7580. To request interpretation, translation assistance or a disability-related accommodation, contact her by June 14.

## Fence-building workshop offered for farmers

A full-day workshop for farmers on electric and high-tensile fencing systems for livestock will be held June 25 in Randolph Center on the Vermont State University campus at the Red School House, 46 East Randolph Commons.

The workshop begins at 10 a.m. for the classroom session, which will be followed by lunch and a hands-on fence-building session that runs until 4 p.m.

Registration is \$15 per person, which covers the program and lunch. To register, go to [go.uvm.edu/livestockfencing](http://go.uvm.edu/livestockfencing).

Heather Gooden, for Gallagher, a leading



supplier of electric fence products, will talk about various fencing options to determine which is best for different operations. She also will discuss fencing components such as energizer selection, wire selection for electrified and non-electrified systems and proper grounding. By the end of the workshop, participants will understand the difference between “hot” and “hot ground” systems and have working knowledge of power fence system resistance and conductivity, how to troubleshoot and common issues to avoid, among other related topics.

For more information, call Jascha Pick at 802-380-4275. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please call by June 4.

## Consider volunteering for one of these opportunities

The United Way’s Volunteer Connection site is set up to help connect agencies and volunteers at [unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com](http://unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com).

Here are some of United Way’s volunteering opportunities:

- Make dreams come true at Camp DREAM, a year-round adventure camp welcoming children and families from low-income households offered at no cost. They are in need of up to 50 volunteers to help maintain and build their outdoor adventure base. Contact [mfoote@dreamprogram.org](mailto:mfoote@dreamprogram.org).

- Spectrum Youth and Family Services invites volunteers to make a difference in the lives of young people in the community by mentoring a youth at Spectrum or donating a meal at one of the drop-in centers. Plan on enough food for 25-30 servings. They are also looking for youth ages 18-26 with tutoring experience to help out in their Resource Space for multicultural and New American youth. Contact [rmajoya@spectrumvt.org](mailto:rmajoya@spectrumvt.org).

- Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources (C.I.D.E.R.) is seeking outdoor work volunteers to assist senior and disabled Grand Isle County residents with seasonal chores such as spring cleanup, garden planting & maintenance, lawn mowing, leaf raking, and snow shoveling. There may also be some light repairs. Volunteers can work regularly or on a one-time, as-needed basis. Contact [resource@cidervt.org](mailto:resource@cidervt.org).

- Green Mountain Transit has instituted a new program, Ride Together, dedicated to providing community members with short-term, focused instruction on how to ride the city bus, specifically GMT’s fixed route public system. Ride Together volunteers provide classroom instruction including topics such as reading bus schedules, planning and making bus trips, using the transit app, paying the fare, using bike racks, etc. Volunteers also provide field instruction to put classroom lessons into practice. Flexible scheduling and free training from GMT. Volunteers will receive free bus passes to use when fares resume. Contact 802-540-6873, Ext. 550, or email [ridetogether@ridegmt.com](mailto:ridetogether@ridegmt.com).

- The Guardian Ad Litem Program serves the thousands of Vermont children who are part of proceedings in the family

court division. Many are victims of abuse or neglect, accused of delinquent acts or are simply lost. The court experience is confusing and scarring to these young people, and they need someone to help them understand what is happening. The program ensures that every court has trained volunteers to serve as caring and independent child advocates to advocate for children involved in court cases. Judges appoint a guardian ad litem who will make recommendations to the court in the child’s best interests in and out of court until the case is over. Training and support are provided to help volunteers make a difference in a child’s life. Contact [janice.santiago@vrmont.gov](mailto:janice.santiago@vrmont.gov).

## State dairy workers’ housing, employment rights handbook

An updated handbook provides information on employment and housing rights for migrant dairy workers in Vermont.

The guide, available online and in print in English and Spanish, was developed by Vermont Law and Graduate School’s Center for Agriculture and Food

Systems in partnership with Migrant Justice, a Vermont-based human rights organization founded and led by immigrant farmworkers.

The handbook addresses topics including housing safety and privacy, wages, workplace safety and medical care, and underage workers.

Farmworkers face some of the most dangerous working conditions in the country, and lack of access to justice can magnify the risks.

“Accessing legal information can be difficult for migrant workers on Vermont’s dairy farms,” said Center for Agriculture and Food System’s senior research fellow Emily Spiegel. “We are proud to partner with Migrant Justice to help workers understand their rights.”

The guide also includes resource lists for both workers and farm employers. To read the guide online in English or Spanish, visit [bit.ly/vtdairyworkershandbook](http://bit.ly/vtdairyworkershandbook).

## Happy birthday, Mt. Philo



Photo by Kit Anderson

Judy Chaves, shown by boulder on Mt. Philo, will speak at the Charlotte Library about and celebrate the 100th birthday of Mt. Philo State Park, Vermont’s first state park. Chaves periodically leads hikes on the mountain and is the author of “Secrets of Mount Philo,” one of the Vermont Historical Society’s biggest-selling books.



# Charlotte History

## Map raises question: Was Charlotte once most of Vermont?

Dan Cole  
Contributor

Was our town once an entire county?

In the accompanying map from 1777, Vermont, then known as the Hampshire Grants, is divided into four counties: Charlotte County was the northwest quadrant; Albany County was the southwest quadrant; Gloucester County was the northeast quadrant; Cumberland County was the southeast quadrant.

At that time our town was chartered as “Charlotta,” the German name for King George III’s bride, while the county was likely the English variant of Charlotte. Prior to 1783, our town had no permanent residents, so the naming appears coincidental; but what happened to this county configuration?

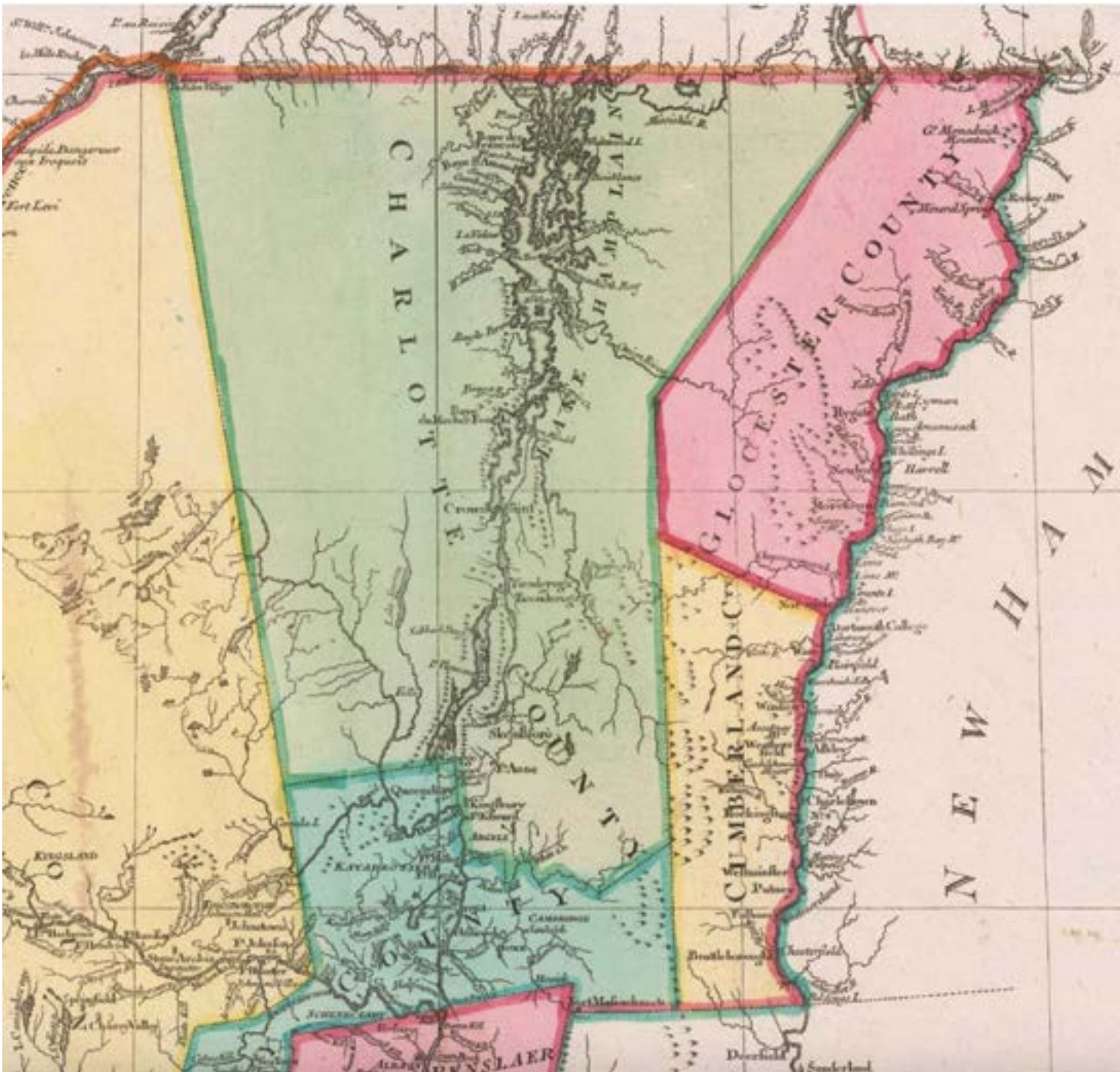
Vermont (and Charlotte) began life as the Hampshire Grants, but the problem was that the Grants were actually in a far-flung corner of territory considered part of New York by that state at that time.

The Duke of York’s charter of 1664 had established the boundaries of the northern colonies. From Lake Champlain east to the Connecticut River, what is now known as Vermont, was claimed by the Colony of New York, but New Hampshire colonial Gov. Benning Wentworth used the charter’s vague language to begin accepting applications for land grants beyond the river extending beyond the Connecticut into what would become Vermont soon after being appointed to office in 1741.

The September 1760 surrender of the city of Montreal heralded the eventual end of the French and Indian War that had begun in 1754. With the defeat of French forces in the North Country and Canada, Wentworth boldly seized the initiative to begin accepting grant applications all the way to Lake Champlain. Charlotte, Ferrisburgh and Hinesburgh received their Grants in 1762, with Burlington and Shelburne following in 1763. During any other period in the region’s history Wentworth’s land grants would probably never have been sustained.

In October 1760, the death of King George II threw the British government into chaos due to the shifting alliances and political intrigue swirling around the accession of young King George III. In 1763, Delaware Chief Pontiac, concerned by the rise of British power, its treaty abrogations and subsequent incursions into tribal lands, united several Indigenous nations and rebelled. The war did not end until 1765 and was effectively a British defeat.

Despite cessation of hostilities in this area, the war between Britain and France was ongoing in Europe, the West Indies, Africa and India. Shifting alliances and political intrigue in Europe brought Spain in on the side of the French, spreading the war to the Philippines. The impact on the British economy and the necessity of raising troops for their world war demanded the immediate attention of the British government to issues greater than contested land grants in a New World wilderness. The Stamp Act and new tea taxes caused violent colonial upheavals



This map from 1777 shows what would become Vermont divided into four counties, with the largest by far being Charlotte County.

that forced the political focus away from boundary disputes. In addition, the movement of documents back and forth, along with the requisite hearings, took years, causing significant delays for any potential resolution to be proposed, much less decided.

During the hostilities in the North Country, New York authorities became aware of settlements that had been made in areas New York claimed. Wentworth had made 138 grants in total west from the Connecticut River to the mountains and north from the Massachusetts border to Lake Champlain. New York politics generally separated the eastern Hampshire Grants (civilized) from the western Hampshire Grants (wild frontier). General Burgoyne referred to the western Grants as being populated “with the most active, rebellious and hardy race of men on the continent.”

In the western Grants, settlement of the various towns tended to be by family groups that were generally poor, but close knit. Ethan Allen and his extended family arrived in Arlington, Vt., (chartered 1761) where the hopes for the Allen families’ fortunes were invested in land speculation in the western Grants that were being threatened by New York opposition to the validity of the Grants.

In Albany County, Sheriff Henry Ten Eyck publicly travelled through the Grants, but was ordered to secretly record the names of the settlers. New York’s Gov. Cadwallader Colden then falsified their signatures on a petition to George III that requested their lands be transferred to New York jurisdiction. The New York administration subsequently ordered all residents to deliver up their New Hampshire lands and re-purchase New York titles. When the settlers of the western Grants were disinclined to do so, New York authorities proceeded to re-grant the land. This threatened financial ruin to Allen and would mean desolation for the hardscrabble pioneers who would lose everything they had.

While settlers in the western Grants were to be dispossessed, those in the eastern Grants were allowed to purchase New York titles at half-price. A petition was sent to George III and the Privy Council about these circumstances that resulted in a “cease and desist” proclamation in 1767, ordering New York to halt the practice and await further adjudication; but New York’s Governor at the time, Sir Henry Moore, refused to acknowledge it, probably on the advice of Colden.

Ethan Allen was elected to represent the interests of the settlers to protest the New York eviction writs through the courts; however in 1770 at the Court in Albany, the judge refused to allow any patents, grants or charters brought by Allen and Connecticut barrister Jared Ingersoll to be introduced in evidence. This demonstrated that attempts to work within the system were doomed to fail and that New York authorities were untrustworthy. Knowing



# Feast for the eyes



Photos by Alexandra Z. Lazar

With all of the sunshine recently, Alexandra Lazar has been spending a lot of the time in the garden with her family. She said, because of all of the wildlife, her family tends to plant more flowers than food.

## HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

that Allen spoke for all, he was offered bribes to withdraw his opposition to New York’s policies, which he summarily rejected.

Upon his return to Bennington, settlers organized to fight for their rights, electing Ethan Allen as Colonel. They soon became a terror to New York authorities and surveyors. New York soon put a bounty on his head, along with other leaders of the resistance. Allen responded that they would happily take on all who tried to collect the reward and placed a reciprocal bounty on the heads of the New York authorities.

On May 16, 1771, North Carolina Colonial Gov. William Tryon had brutally suppressed a revolt by the Regulators at the Battle of Alamance. Tryon then had several of the ringleaders executed without trial. The Regulators were a group of poor settlers organized in a similar fashion as Allen and the Boys, who voiced strikingly comparable grievances. Shortly after Alamance, Tryon was installed as New York’s governor with the expectation that he could accomplish the same results against the protestors in the Grants. Governor Tryon promised to drive Allen and his impromptu militia into the Green Mountains, and the Green Mountain Boys were officially born.

On July 19, 1771, under orders from Tryon, Albany County Sheriff Henry Ten Eyck led a 750-man detachment from Albany, N.Y., to James Breckenridge’s house in Bennington to evict him forcibly. It can only be conjectured whether his orders were also to provoke a confrontation with the Green Mountain Boys and defeat them in battle. Allen and 300 men raced to secure positions that threatened to assault the posse on its arrival. When confronted by entrenched lines covered by an unknown number of combatants, Ten Eyck demurred on proceeding with the eviction and retreated to New York without firing a shot. The Green Mountain Boys allowed their peaceful withdrawal.

Two of Breckenridge’s sons, Jonathan and Francis, would later move to Charlotte.

In Arlington, Vt., on March 21, 1772, about 50 New York bounty hunters wounded and captured Remember Baker, Ethan Allen’s cousin, and hurried to get him to Albany. During the mêlée, Baker’s wife attempted to intervene and was slashed with a sword and seriously wounded. Ten Green Mountain Boys mounted up and raced after them, intercepting them near a crossroads about 30 miles away. Thinking that they were about to be attacked by a larger force, the Yorkers ran for their lives and Baker was rescued.

Many threats and intimidations occurred (with a few settlers being killed); but beginning in 1775 at Boston and on Lexington Green, greater events would take precedence. Vermont (from the French *verde mont*, meaning “green mountain”) would form itself into an independent republic in 1777, then become the 14th state in 1791. New York’s grand scheme for the Hampshire Grants would come to naught, and their map become an historical curiosity.

*(Dan Cole is president of the Charlotte Historical Society.)*



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# Weed’s in the Garden

## Stretch your design wings with a visit to another garden

Joan Weed  
Contributor

Do you sometimes feel you could use some inspiration in your garden design? Years of haphazard placement of plants you “just must have” can make for an untamed jungle.

Some day trips to gardens in our area might be the answer. There are retail nurseries which make a point of displaying offerings to an advantage as well as featuring even more “gotta haves.”

Then there are some organizations which feature niche gardens or research collections. We’re fortunate to be near a university with a fantastic horticultural program. With that comes display gardens of studied plants. The University of Vermont Horticultural Farm (Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington) is a place to see a variety of species of lilacs, apples, rhododendrons and azaleas being researched. They also offer lectures and workdays for the public. The farm is generally open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. You can become a Friend of the Hort Farm to receive notifications of special events. They even have a CSA.

On the retail side, Horsford, a long-established Charlotte nursery, has upped its design game lately, offering visions to give you ideas. A self-guided tour will show you gardens laid out to enjoy the designs as well as individual plants. In summer, artists are invited to give classes in botanical painting.

Another nursery with a huge variety of exceptional offerings is Rockydale Nursery in Bristol. Many unusual shrubs, perennials and trees are laid out so you can wander and enjoy. Rock cliffs form a backdrop for the lovely gardens. Occasional seating is offered also.

In Morrisville are the legendary Cady Falls Gardens. After last year’s disastrous

floods, Don and Lela Avery have decided to stop commerce. However, for this very last season they are offering visits to view their layouts and rare plants. Open every day 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There is still time to visit before the nursery is closed finally. It’s open by donation. Worth the drive.

Not far from Cady Falls is Perennial Pleasures, a retail nursery in East Hardwick which also offers a delightful English cream tea for \$26. The grounds are planted with old-fashioned perennials surrounding a traditional home. Reservations can be made at 802-472-5104. Books and gifts are sold as well.

Closer to home are the magnificent Shelburne Farms Gardens, recreating the garden beds of an earlier, elegant age. The gardens may be visited from May-October from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. It’s free but donations are encouraged. Come early for dinner or brunch in the inn and walk among the display gardens.

Shelburne Museum plants fresh display gardens each year but also features its fabulous lilac and peony collections. One can see all this when visiting the museum with a paid ticket or take advantage of Free First Fridays 5-7 p.m.

If you care to venture farther afield, the Montreal Botanical Gardens are amazing. They’re open every day from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets are \$17. The gardens have 22,000 varieties of plants, themed gardens and 10 greenhouses.

Consider joining the Vermont Hardy Plant Club at \$10 a year. Members are invited to tour other members’ private gardens, many not seen by the general public. In the winter, interesting speaking programs are offered by knowledgeable plant people. To join email Robin Worn at [hardyplantclubvt@gmail.com](mailto:hardyplantclubvt@gmail.com).

Both Middlebury and Burlington have active garden clubs and welcome new



Horsford Gardens and Nursery

members from the area. This is another opportunity to visit private gardens and hear interesting speakers to inspire you.

Off-season when I am aching to smell warm soil and see green, I often head over to Gardener’s Supply in Williston. In the depths of winter, you can grab a bite to eat at the intimate lunch spot, sit near the fountain and stroll among the tropical plants

and orchids.

Gardeners are life learners and the above will supply the knowledge and pleasure we yearn for.

Sometimes we need to spread our design wings and see what others are doing.

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# Our Local Feast

## A chilled soup to celebrate the strawberry moon

Dorothy Read  
Contributor

What a delight, to find that first, perfect sweet strawberry of the season. They have arrived, and berry season in my book marks the real beginning of summer. It's a wonderful day when we can buy them by the pound and not the ounce. Or pick our own big box of them, even better.

We've a world of possibilities. Strawberry shortcake? A must, of course. We'll make jam, pies and strawberry scones. Perhaps some crêpes filled with lightly sugared sliced berries, or a decadent but easy strawberries romanoff. Rose and strawberry sangria?

But how about adding yet another local delight and create a chilled strawberry soup using wine from our area? We went to a wine tasting at the Charlotte Village Winery recently and sampled a unique wine made from blueberries rather than grapes. Although I expected sweet, the wine was dry and quite flavorful. It tasted like grapes.

My friend Ray gave me the basic recipe for the strawberry soup years ago, a perfect starter for a summer dinner. I added my own touches — the vanilla bean and black pepper — and created variations over time. You can also garnish with a plant-based yogurt, whipped cream, sour cream or even crème fraîche. Or, drizzle with a bit of balsamic vinegar.

His recipe called for a dry red like a merlot, and that's how I usually make it. But I loved the idea of using a local blueberry wine with the berries, and it worked beautifully.

You can use any red you like, just keep it on the dry side since the rest of the soup ingredients are sweet. Next time, I'll use the iapetus figure 3 from Shelburne Vineyard, a dry rosé with a lovely effervescence. So many wonderful wines



Photos by Dorothy Grover-Read

Strawberry soup is enhanced with the addition of a dry blueberry wine made right here in town. You can also use other dry red wines, or mix up the fruits with what is in season.

from which to choose.

This chilled soup is fresh and delicious and really beautiful to look at as well. Perfect to serve when the strawberry moon looms above us next week, so invite some friends and celebrate the season. For a special touch, chill little clear glass bowls so that they are frosted when filled.

### Summer soup of strawberries, wine

In a food processor or food mill, purée:

- 1 quart of fresh strawberries
  - seeds from one split vanilla bean
- Process until smooth and set aside.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- vanilla pod.

Bring to a boil and simmer until the sugar is dissolved, just a few minutes. Cool.

Once the syrup is cool, add it to the strawberries along with:

- grated zest of a lemon



Local strawberries are sweet, deeply colored throughout and intensely flavorful. When these jewels are in abundance, you can think about making jams and pies, and even strawberry soup.

- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- a few grinds of black pepper.

Refrigerate for at least an hour, along with 1 1/3 cup of your red wine of choice and your serving dishes, too.

When ready to serve, stir the wine into the berry mixture, fill the chilled bowls and swirl in a teaspoon or so of the yogurt or cream on top.

### Variations

This soup is not as sweet as other berry soups because of the addition of the wine and the lower sugar count. Use this recipe with the same proportions for any number of summer berry and fruit soups. If you use blackberries or raspberries with really large seeds, you will want to strain the pureed mixture before continuing.

To make this non-alcoholic, simply use a tart cranberry juice rather than wine.

Peaches or apricots, when they are in

season, combined with a dry white wine and cream are excellent. A mixed berry soup with a merlot, full of flavor. Even muskmelon and prosecco will delight.

### Rose and strawberry sangria

There are strawberries, and rose bushes are dripping with color and fragrance. Put the two together, and you'll have a refreshing summer drink.

Simple and tasty. Combine a bottle of rosé wine, 1/3 cup rose simple syrup (below), 1 cup strawberries, and 1/2 teaspoon of rose water in a large pitcher. Stir, add some ice, some lemon slices and chill for at least a few hours. Serve in chilled glasses garnished with a few rose petals.

**Rose simple syrup:** To make the rose simple syrup, combine 1 cup rose petals (organic, from your garden or begged from a friend's, but nothing from the florist), 1 cup sugar, 1 cup water. Mix well and bring to a simmer until the sugar is dissolved. Let sit overnight, then strain and place in a bottle and refrigerate.



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**Planning Commission Meeting**  
Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.

**Regular Selectboard Meeting**  
Monday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.

**Charlotte Conservation  
Commission Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m.

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Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.



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## On Books

# Walking in the woods and then reading ‘North Woods’

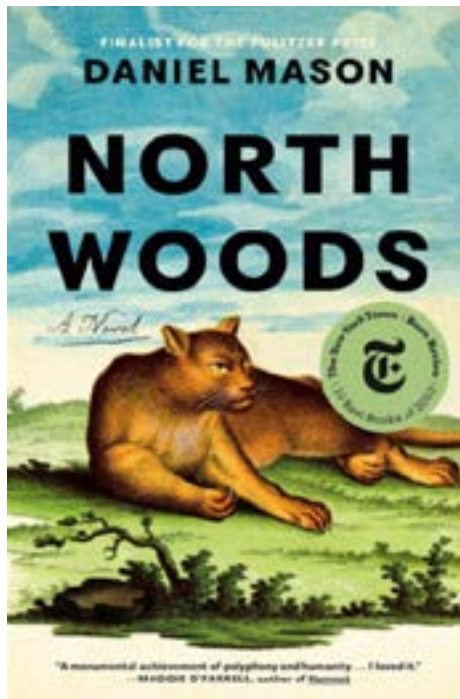
Katherine Arthaud  
Contributor

The other day, while walking with my dogs on a path in the woods, I had this thought that the trees, grass, flowers, rocks, birds, bears, etc. have a life that goes on whether we humans are present or not, or have anything to do with it or say about it. Nights pass, owls hoot, stars shine, grass grows, a limb falls and crashes through the underbrush. A whole life, a whole world, with no human witnesses. I guess this isn’t really an original thought at all, though it did strike me as so at the time, giving me pause on my afternoon ramble.

We’ve all heard the phrase, “If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?” A kind of thought experiment, a Zen koan kind of reflection, it’s a phrase mistakenly attributed to George Berkeley (1685-1753), an Anglo-Irish philosopher whose main claim to fame was a theory he termed “immaterialism” (later known as “subjective idealism”) which denies the existence of material substance, contending that familiar objects like teapots, chipmunks, toothbrushes, ice buckets and the like are ideas perceived by the mind which do not exist without being perceived.

Material substance aside, “If a tree falls in a forest...” is close to the kind of rumination I was having that day on the path. As far as the sound a tree may or may not make if you and I are not there to hear it, I would assume that yes, sure, there’s a sound. Maybe a bear hears it or a bird. And in the absence of any ears at all ... well ... what I am getting at in a very roundabout way here is that there is this whole life that goes on out there in the woods and beneath the surface of the lake and up on the tops of mountains that is its own, apart from our human witnessing of it. For some reason, this sort of blew me away as I walked along pondering it.

And then, not long after my woodland musing, I picked up “North Woods” by Daniel Mason, a book that vividly and painstakingly conveys and evokes that sense of life beyond human life, time beyond our measuring of it, nature beyond



our witness and exploitation of it. For instance: “During its brief existence, the spore has never left its host tree. Shaped like a blunt spindle, bisected by a thin septum like the scoring on a pill, it has lived forever in the damp depths of its chamber, arranged with its brethren in orderly rosettes. Release, therefore, when the west wind comes sweeping sheets of spores off of the ruined forest, brings about a transformation that is nothing less than ecstasy. Loose, tumbling, it rises above the death around it, departs its host’s crown, skims the canopy, swirls through the tugging eddies of a waving summer pine, and is sucked into the sky.”

This is absolutely one of the best books I have read all year, maybe in several years. It takes on history, succession, ghosts, botany, memory, destiny, biology, and in its own unique and patchwork way, opens up doors to ideas like ... well, ideas like the one about the tree falling out in the forest when no one is around to hear it, as well as the passage of time, our legacies as finite human lives on this planet, passions, war, love, jealousy. It’s epic in its scope. And the writing is gorgeous, intelligent and searching.

The novel begins in colonial New England in “the freshness of June,” with a runaway couple, “chased from the village by its people, following deer path through the forest, the valleys, the fern groves, and the quaking bogs.” “They were Nature’s wards now,” the running-away man informs the running-away woman; “they had crossed into a Realm.” “North they went, to the north woods, and then toward sun-fall, trespassing like fire.”

The book’s beginning conjures up the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve, their bliss and their banishment — the book is full of references to apples — yet these two runaways are no innocents. We are told briefly that he was a troublemaker back in England; she was to have been married to a minister twice her age, a widower. But they manage to escape their Puritan village and run away together, “a comet lighting the heavens in the direction of their flight,” into the wilderness of western Massachusetts, hotly pursued by “solemn men ... with harquebuses cocked in their elbows.”

But, as it turns out, we don’t spend much time with these two fugitives, though their story is compelling and somewhat mysterious (definitely left me wanting more). Instead, we are spun — airlifted and blown like dandelion fluff on the breeze — into the future of the land the fleeing pair claim, with “a wide, flat stone” pried from the earth “laid gently in the soil,” as home.

As time rolls on, one early inhabitant of the place is Charles Osgood, a man obsessed with apples and a genius at growing them. (Lots of apple details and descriptions, folks.) And then, his rather odd and socially isolated daughters, Alice and Mary, twins joined at the hip (not literally) and more complicated than they look, whose lives end tragically and whose ghosts do a bit of haunting later on. And then there is an abolitionist, a landscape painter secretly in love with another man, a rich businessman intent on converting the property into a deluxe resort for hunters ... oh, and his schizophrenic grandson. The list goes on.

The house that gets built early on, on the spot where the original pair laid their wide, flat stone, goes through many metamorphoses “all the while serving as a not-quite-silent witness to the lives — and deaths — of its occupants,” writes Rand Richard Cooper in the New York Times, who goes on to describe “North Woods” as “a hodgepodge narrative, brazenly disjointed in time, perspective and form. Letters, poems and song lyrics, diary entries, medical case notes, real-estate listing, vintage botanical illustrations, pages of an almanac, modern-day nature photographs, a true-crime detective story, an address to a historical society: Mason stuffs all this (and more!) into his bulging scrapbook of a novel.”

I loved this book. Magical, wise, funny, thought-provoking, multivalent, meditative, a little kooky, highly compelling. From the frontispiece: “... to build a fire on Ararat with the remnants of the ark” (Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The American Notebooks”). Perfect.

Highly recommend. Hard to describe. Hard to put down. Brilliant. A plus plus.



# Green Mountain Bicycle Club rides for the rest of the month



Adobe stock photo

Contributed

5505 or edmc32@gmail.com

Here is the Green Mountain Bicycle Club’s rides for the rest of June. Please remember these important things about riding with the club:

- All riders must fill out one waiver of liability per season.
- Although it isn’t mandatory, we ask cyclists to sign up online prior to doing a Green Mountain Bicycle Club ride.
- All riders must wear helmets and obey the rules of the road. Please do not ride two abreast if there is traffic in either direction.
- In the event of inclement weather, ride leaders will notify those who have signed up in advance and post to the listserv if the ride is being cancelled no later than two hours before the start of the ride.
- Riders below the age of 18 must have a signed waiver from a parent.
- E indicates an easy ride, M is for moderate, and S is for strenuous.
- Rides begin promptly 15 minutes after the meeting time.
- All riders should carry some basic tools including a pump or CO2 cartridge, tire levers and a spare tube or patch kit.
- Social rides are more leisurely versions of the mapped ride — usually the shorter route — with longer food breaks. Always contact the social ride leader before the ride to make sure those versions of the ride are taking place.

All riders are required to sign our annual waiver which is available at thegmbc.com. We also request, but do not require, cyclists to sign up for each individual ride so our ride leaders know how many people to expect.

**Date: Sunday, June 16**

**Ride: Hinesburg Hollow** — This route travels south through Huntington via the beautiful Hinesburg Hollow Road. The short route is 25 miles (M) and returns to Williston via North Road (and a little bit of dirt) while the long route is 47 miles (M/S) and continues through North Ferrisburgh to the lake and back through Hinesburg.

**Meeting Time:** 8:45 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Williston Central School by the tennis courts

**Leader:** Tom Kennedy — 802-735-5359 or etomkennedy@gmail.com

**Co-Leader:** Ed McSweeney — 802-522-

**Date: Saturday, June 22**

**Ride: MUP Ride #2**, a mostly unpaved ride

**Meeting Time:** 9:15 a.m.

Meeting Place: Charlotte Central School  
Ride: Mostly unpaved roads in the Charlotte area including Guinea, Drinkwater and Roscoe Roads.

**Leader:** William Regan — 571-730-8160 or william.regan.802@gmail.com

**Co-Leader:** Brian Howard — 802-304-0610 or bjhowd@gmail.com

**Date: Sunday, June 23**

**Ride: Way to Weybridge** — 64 mile (M) rolling hills from Shelburne through Vergennes and on to Weybridge. There are a number of food options in Vergennes for either the outgoing or return trip or both.

**Meeting Time:** 8:45 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Shelburne Village Shopping Center

**Leader:** Allan Kunigis — 802-324-9958 or akunigis@gmail.com

**Co-leader:** Matt Kuivinen — 802-881-9045 or mattkui@earthlink.net

**Date: Saturday, June 29**

**Ride: Gravel** — Texas Hill, Dugway, Duxbury loop. The 43-mile ride starts with a fairly big climb followed by a downhill out to Duxbury and North Road out to Waterbury.

**Meeting Time:** 9:15 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Either North Road turnaround or Iroquois Trucking on Mechanicsville Road.

**Leader:** Brian Howard — 802-304-0610 or bjhowd@gmail.com

**Date: Sunday, June 30**

**Ride: Rouse’s Point Rouser** — The mostly flat 60-mile (M) loop heads up from Grand Isle over the Rouse’s Point Bridge and down through scenic, low-traffic, lakeside roads in New York and returns via the Grand Isle Ferry. The short ride (50 miles — E/M) circles Isle LaMotte and returns on the Vermont side.

**Meeting Time:** 8:45 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** Grand Isle Ferry parking lot. Those coming from the Burlington area might consider carpooling.

**Leader:** Matt Kuivinen — 802-881-9045 or mattkui@earthlink.net

**Co-Leader:** Ed McSweeney — 802-522-5505 or edmc32@gmail.com



# Calendar

Send us your events 2 weeks in advance to: [news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)

**Yoga at Adam’s Berry Farm  
Thursday, June 13, 9-10 a.m.**

Yoga classes will be taught at Adam’s Berry Farm on Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., beginning June 13 and going through Sept. 5, rain or shine. There’s a suggested donation of \$10-20, which goes to the Charlotte Land Trust. The class is for all levels. Wear comfortable clothes, bring a water bottle, mat and props. Mats and props available upon request. Preregistration not needed. More info at [lynn.alpeter@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.alpeter@gmail.com).

**Sheep & Wool Day  
Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
Rokeby Museum’s Sheep & Wool Day celebrates Vermont’s wooly heritage. This is a family-friendly event with sheep petting from Hands & Heart Farm, kids’ crafts, historic spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations from A Revolutionary Press, an instrument petting zoo from the Vermont Folk Life Center, farm tours and more. There will be food vendors, including Fairy Tale Farm’s sheep milk gelato and James Beard Award semifinalist A Taste of Abyssinia. The museum is partnering with the Vergennes Food Shelf, so visitors who donate a non-perishable food item will receive half off admission.

**Dig Deep Vermont concert  
Saturday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
Country music singer Jamie Lee Thurston will perform a benefit concert at Snow Farm Vineyard & Distillery in South Hero to support the Dig Deep Vermont campaign and the more than 350 Vermont family farms devastated from flooding and severe weather in 2023.

**Past presidential election controversies  
Sunday, June 16, 2 p.m.**  
Doug Slaybaugh, emeritus professor of history at St. Michael’s College, will give a talk called “When a Presidential Election Led to Civil War (and Three Times it Almost Did)” at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. With threats of civil war if our current presidential election doesn’t go a certain way, Slaybaugh will examine the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 that led to the Civil War, which resulted in over 700,000 deaths. He will analyze the elections of 1800, 1824 and 1876 which threatened similar results.

**Age Well luncheon  
Tuesday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.**  
St. Catherine of Siena and Age Well are offering a luncheon for anyone 60 or older in the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, 72 Church Street, in Shelburne. The check-in time is 11:30 a.m. and the meal will be served at noon. There is a \$5 suggested donation. The menu is roast beef au jus, cheddar mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, dinner roll with margarine cup, strawberry short cake with cream and milk. Register by June 12. Call 802-662-5283 or email [kbatres@agewellvt.org](mailto:kbatres@agewellvt.org). Tickets are also available at the Age Well Office, 875 Roosevelt Highway, Suite 210, Colchester. Restaurant tickets will be available for distribution for a suggested \$5 donation.



Courtesy photo

Rokeby Museum’s Sheep & Wool Day celebrates Vermont’s wooly heritage with sheep petting, kids’ crafts, spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations, farm tours and more on June 15.

**Criterion practice  
Tuesdays, June 18 & July 9, 6 p.m.**  
The Green Mountain Bicycle Club will sponsor practice criteriums at Watertown Hill in Colchester on Tuesdays, June 18 and July 9. Those with lower or no ranking ride for 35 minutes starting at 6 p.m. This is a great way for novices to try their race legs. Faster racers, who are ranked Category 1, 2 or 3, race for 45 minutes starting at 6:45 p.m. Practice criteriums are different from other races in that cyclists ride for a specified time and are scored on how many laps they complete. The entry fee is \$10 and \$5 for juniors and full-time college students. No race license is needed. Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. and closes 10 minutes before the start of the race. For information email [andre.sturm@earthlink.net](mailto:andre.sturm@earthlink.net).

**Juneteenth at Rokeby Museum  
Wednesday, June 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
In celebration of Juneteenth, the Rokeby Museum will be free. The historic house will be open for self-guided tours from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. There are no public guided tours on this day.

**Charlotte Walks  
Friday, June 21, 8:30 a.m.**  
Every third Friday the Charlotte Grange meets for a walk at 8:30 a.m. Walks generally last about an hour and will be led at an adult walking pace. On June 21, the walk starts at the Quinlan Bridge pollinator garden, meeting with pollinator gardener extraordinaire Julie Parker-Dickerson. Then, the group will walk a half mile down Lewis Creek Road to the homestead of Tai Dinnan to tour her extensive vegetable and perennial gardens and enjoy iced tea on the terrace before walking back to the bridge. Visit [charlottegrange.org](http://charlottegrange.org) to learn the meet-up location each month. Sign up in advance if you’d like to be contacted if weather changes plans by emailing [charlottegrangevt@gmail.com](mailto:charlottegrangevt@gmail.com).

**Barbacoa  
Friday, June 21, 7:30-9 p.m.**  
Barbacoa will perform in Burlington’ City Hall Park, playing original surf rock inspired by artists like Link Wray and the Ventures and songs from the early decades of rock and roll.

**HOPE for TomorROW  
Saturday, June 22, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and Project HOePpnEr are holding the sixth annual rowathon to raise awareness about teen suicide. No prior rowing experience is needed to join this event and row in a fun 2-mile course. The museum provides four- and six-oar rowing gigs and life jackets, as well as an experienced coxswain leading each boat for \$25. You can register as an individual, team or as a “virtual” rower and cheer the fun from shore. Project HOePpnEr is a 501(c)3 charity created by Joe and Sue Hoepfner after they lost their 17-year-old son Paul to suicide in 2018. To register visit [secure.qgiv.com/event/h4t2024](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/h4t2024).

**Railroad art exhibit opens  
Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
Shelburne Museum presents All Aboard: The Railroad in American Art, 1840-1955, an exhibition exploring depictions of trains in American visual culture during the rapid industrialization and expansion of the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibition will be on view through Oct. 20. All Aboard explores how the railroad fundamentally changed the fabric of American life, moving people and products between growing metropolitan centers along the East Coast of the United States as well as westward, toward the Pacific Ocean. Notable among the artists in the exhibition is Vermont’s own Charles Heyde (1822–1892) and his Steam Train in North Williston, Vermont, ca. 1856.

**Family Art  
Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Get creative and make art together at a drop-in artmaking activity inspired by Burlington City Arts’ summer exhibitions. The art activity will be outdoors in City Hall Park patio. Family art events at BCA will also be on July 27 and Aug. 24.

**Grange on the Green  
Thursday, June 27, 5:30 p.m.**  
This summer’s first Grange on the Green takes place on June 27 with the Will Patton Quartet playing various styles of music including Brazilian and bebop.

**Bird monitoring walk  
Saturdays, June 29 & July 27, 7:30 a.m.**  
Join the monthly monitoring walk to

record birds on the Birds of Vermont Museum’s property. Please bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free, suggested donation \$5-\$15. Register at [sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum](https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum).

**Butterfly and bug walk  
Saturday, July 6, 10 a.m.–noon**  
Beetles, butterflies and so much more. Join Vermont Entomological Society naturalists and entomologists for an exploratory stroll on the Birds of Vermont Museum grounds. Bring magnifying glasses and an insect net if you have one. Binoculars can be helpful. Do bring your water bottle and dress for outdoors. Pack a lunch and picnic after the walk. Register at [sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum](https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum). Free but donations welcome.

**Charlotte Beach Party  
Saturday, July 13, 5 p.m.**  
The annual town party will be at the Charlotte Town Beach. It is a pot luck picnic with dinner served at 6 p.m. Please bring an item to share, your own utensils and beverages, and carry out all of your trash. No dogs, and free parking after 4 p.m. There will be local products courtesy of burgers from Fat Cow Farm, salad from Stony Loam, dessert from Adam’s Berry Farm, Stones Throw Pizza and, courtesy of Elizabeth Moore of Ridgeline Real Estate, gelato from Backyard Bistro. As in the past, Fortin’s Lawn care & Landscaping will be grilling and the Mystic Party Band will be performing. Questions: [billandeva@gmavt.net](mailto:billandeva@gmavt.net). The rain date is the next day, Sunday, July 14.

**Grange on the Green  
Thursday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.**  
Nick Carter and Carol Wise will perform on the Charlotte Town Green as part of the Grange on the Green summer series. They will be playing originals as well as well-known folk music.

**Music at the Beach  
Wednesday, July 24, 5 p.m.**  
Picnicking before the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Skylark perform at the Charlotte Town Beach begins at 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 24. The music starts at 6 p.m. It’s free with a season beach or a paid day pass. If it rains the concert will shift to the Charlotte Senior Center. Questions: [billandeva@gmavt.net](mailto:billandeva@gmavt.net).

**Grange on the Green  
Thursday, July 25, 5:30 p.m.**  
The final Grange on the Green concert will feature Forest Station & Friends playing lively bluegrass music.

**Farm Stand Together  
Sunday, July 28, 1-3 p.m.**  
Farm Stand Together is holding a family event at Adam’s Berry Farm on July 28. There will be Americana music from Shady Rill, balloon artist Big Blue Trunk, face painting, baked goods and drinks for sale (proceeds support Farm Stand Together), a raffle for a hand-stitched tote from New Duds and pick-your-own blueberries and popsicles for sale from Adam’s Berry Farm. Farm Stand Together distributes \$40,000 via gift cards to 300 food-insecure families to use for buying goods at 13 farm stands in order to eliminate barriers to food choice.



# Library News

## S.220 affirms essential role of libraries in culture, education

Margaret Woodruff  
Director

On Monday, June 4, Gov. Scott signed S.220, “an act related to public libraries.”

Originating from the recommendations of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont Final Report and championed by senators Martine Gulick and Ruth Hardy, this legislation is an affirmation of the essential role that libraries play in the cultural and educational landscape of Vermont.

Key features of the new law include:

- The act mandates that library policies align with the First Amendment and anti-discrimination laws, ensuring libraries remain safe havens for free speech, inquiry and discovery.
- Amends laws related to criminal threats to provide stronger legal protections for libraries, ensuring they remain secure and welcoming spaces for all Vermonters.
- Supports high standards of library services through the creation of model policies and ongoing professional development.

“We are excited for the new legislation and the measures included that will allow Vermont librarians to continue their work, contributing to stronger and more resilient communities in our state,” said Margaret Woodruff, Charlotte Library director, who is also chair of the Vermont Library Association Government Relations & Advocacy Committee.

### Books for the book sale

The Friends of the Library will be collecting books for the porch book sale that’s 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on July 14 at:

- Tuesday, June 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 26, 4-7 p.m.
- Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 9, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, 4-7 p.m.
- Thursday, July 11, 3-5 p.m.

Please drop off books only at the times above.

Bring gently used, recent or classic books to the back door of the library adjacent to the Program Room. The library doesn’t accept mass paperback books (the small ones), text books, reference books, older cookbooks or older travel books. Current cookbooks and travel books are accepted. Donations are limited to two boxes or bags per person.

If you have questions email Marie Norwood at [marie.norwood@norwoodhome.net](mailto:marie.norwood@norwoodhome.net).

### Juneteenth celebration

The library and the Clemmons Family Farm will celebrate Juneteenth 10:30 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, June 19.

Join Lydia Clemmons and Kia’Rae Hanron for a morning of storytelling and art that’s good for all ages. There will be Juneteenth-inspired refreshments as well as books to browse, coloring pages and a word search.

### Community mural making 10:30 a.m.-noon

Kia’Rae Hanron will facilitate the painting of a collective mural for all ages on the library porch. Brainstorm ideas, paint and connect with others around themes and ideas of Juneteenth, such as liberation, freedom and looking to the future. The completed mural will be displayed at the library.

### How Great-grandma Margie Ran Away 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Clemmons Family Farm President, Lydia Clemmons, will tell a story about her great-grandma Margie, who escaped from the plantation in Louisiana where she was still working as an enslaved cook, more than 40 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

### Sumer reading

The Summer Reading Kick-Off with the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences is Wednesday, June 26, 1 p.m.

### Children’s programs

#### Preschool story time Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m.

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

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

Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. We’ll be exploring the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks, play dough. These are a few of the open-ended projects planned for Wednesday morning play-based learning at the Charlotte Library.

#### Babytime Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., & the first Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Babytime is an unstructured hour at the library for parents, caregivers and babies so they can play and chat during the dark winter months. Explore books and toys and general conversation every Thursday morning in the young children’s area. Ages birth to 18 months.

#### Let’s LEGO Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Drop-in for LEGO free play. There will be loads of LEGO bricks out along with some books and prompts for inspiration. For all ages. Please note children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Music with Chris Monday, June 24, 10 a.m.

Music on the library porch with Chris Gribnau. All ages encouraged to attend.

### Programs for adults

#### Stillwater meditation Saturdays, 9 a.m.

Poetry and meditation are offered freely and in person to the Charlotte community. Come for quiet reflection, contemplation and gentle meditation instruction. Respect for all beings and faiths is a foundational quality of our time together. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome.

#### Mystery book group Monday, June 17, 10 a.m.

In “The Shape of Water,” Silvio Lupanello, a big-shot in Vigàta, is found dead in his car with his pants around his knees. The car happens to be parked in a part of town used by prostitutes and drug dealers, and as the news of his death spreads, the rumors begin. Enter Salvo Montalbano, Vigàta’s most respected detective. With his characteristic

mix of humor, cynicism, compassion and love of good food, Montalbano battles against the powerful and corrupt who are determined to block his path to the real killer. Copies available at the circulation desk.

#### Mount Philo’s 100th birthday Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.

Celebrate Mount Philo’s 100th birthday with Judy Chavez and learn the story of the amazing act of generosity that created Mount Philo State Park and started the entire Vermont State Park system. Chaves is the author of “Secrets of Mount Philo: A guide to the history of Vermont’s first state park.” There will be historic photos and maps, chill-inducing then-and-now comparisons, turn-of-the-last-century writings and a cast of admirable characters.

#### Better Together book club Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m.

Consider joining this open group that discusses books related to parenthood. In “I’ll Show Myself Out,” New York Times bestselling author and Emmy Award-winning writer and producer Jessi Klein’s second collection, she hilariously explodes the cultural myths and impossible expectations around motherhood and explore the humiliations, poignancies and possibilities of midlife. Copies available at the circulation desk. The audiobook is available on Hoopla. Registration appreciated, but not required at [susanna@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:susanna@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

#### Library garden tour Thursday, June 20, 6 p.m.

Visit the library garden with University of Vermont Extension master gardener Karen Tuininga for a tour of the beautiful and fragrant pollinator garden and the rain garden. No registration required and all are welcome. Bring a friend. Refreshments will be provided.

#### Make Music Day Friday, June 21, 4-8 p.m.

Join local musicians on the library porch for tunes, songs and simple dances from various Northern European traditions.

#### Men’s Book Group Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

The group will be discussing “Oath and Honor” by Liz Cheney. In the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump and many around him, including certain other elected Republican officials, intentionally breached their oath to the Constitution. They ignored the rulings of dozens of courts, plotted to overturn a lawful election and provoked a violent attack on our Capitol. Cheney, one of the few Republican officials to take a stand against these efforts, witnessed the attack firsthand, and then helped lead the Congressional Select Committee investigation into how it happened. Join the discussion at <https://tinyurl.com/bde3bktn>. Copies available at the library circulation desk.

#### Grange on the Green Thursday, June 27, 5:30-7 p.m.

The Will Patton Quartet will play jazz and Brazilian styles as well as straight-up bebop and original compositions on the Charlotte Town Green. The rain location is the Charlotte Senior Center. Sponsored by Cumbancha and concert series sponsors Otter Creek Awnings and Shearer Audi-VW-Acura.



#### Thursday book club Thursday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.

Oil is king of East Texas during the darkest years of the Great Depression. In “Stormy Weather,” the Stoddard girls know no life but an itinerant one, trailing their father from town to town as he searches for work on the pipelines and derricks; that is, when he’s not spending his meager earnings at gambling joints, race tracks and dance halls. And in every small town in which the windblown family settles, mother Elizabeth does her best to make each sparse house they inhabit a home. Copies available at the circulation desk.

#### Irish music Saturday, June 29, 1 p.m.

Enjoy old time and Irish music performed by Zachary DeFranco. He’ll take time to discuss the instrument history as well as the history of the tunes being played.

### 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, 5-6:30 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 Wednesdays, June 19, 1 p.m.

Join library director Margaret Woodruff to discuss short stories old and new on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/9c398wyy>.

#### Library Garden Circle Fridays, 8:30-10 a.m.

The Garden Circle of volunteers who tend the library’s educational gardens would love to have you join the Friday morning group work. Experienced and new gardeners welcome. Come every time or as often as you can. Sign up at [seeds@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:seeds@charlottepubliclibrary.org), and you’ll be contacted if plans change due to weather, etc. Coordinated by garden stewards Karen Tuininga and Linda Hamilton.



# Senior Center News

## Indoor or outdoors — the senior center has you covered

Lori York  
Director

With summer weather arriving, it is time to participate in outdoor activities. Consider learning to play pickleball for seniors, a women's kayak trip or joining the gentle walking or hiking group.

The senior center also has plenty of indoor activities to try out, whether it is a watercolor workshop for beginners, learning Italian, participating in an exercise class, joining a card or board game group or making new friends at the weekly Monday lunch.

### Community events

#### June artist exhibit

Following the advice of one of her teachers, Judy Tuttle has chosen to include water as a subject in almost all her paintings. In her exhibit at the senior center, My Water World, her waterscapes include oceans and lakes, rivers, ponds and puddles done in watercolor, pastel or oil.

#### Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, June 20, 2-7 p.m.

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

### Outdoor activities

#### Women's kayak trips Second & fourth Friday mornings

These kayak trips are for active women who share a love for exploring Vermont's many local lakes, ponds and rivers. Trips listed are tentative, dependent on water and weather conditions. To register your interest, please send email directly to Susan Hyde at [susanfosterhyde@gmail.com](mailto:susanfosterhyde@gmail.com) to be placed on a master list of paddlers. Free. Registration required. On **Friday, June 14**, the group will paddle at South Slang in Ferrisburg. On **June 28**, the trip will be on Upper Otter Creek past Middlebury.

#### Merrymac Farm Sanctuary Wednesday, June 19, 1 p.m.

Merrymac Farm Sanctuary became a formalized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the Spring of 2023. It has grown from a handful of folks to a village of incredible volunteers, visitors, and donors. It provides a permanent, happy home to over 130 homeless or otherwise abandoned farm animals. The rescues include horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, pigs, turkeys, chickens, ducks, and bunnies. Era, the Founder/Director, and Mari, Assistant Director, will be sharing what they do as a sanctuary, a couple of animal stories, and talk about how you can get involved. Free. Registration is recommended.

#### Learn pickleball for seniors Saturday, June 22, 10-11 a.m.

Curious about pickleball? Playing pickleball allows you to work on your balance, agility, reflexes, and hand-eye coordination without putting excessive strains on your body. Pickleball is a wonderful alternative for older players who used to play tennis, but have physical limitations

such as hip, shoulder, knee, or other joint problems. Bring folding chairs to watch how pickleball is played. Afterward, there will be the opportunity to try out pickleball. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Paddles will be provided. If you enjoy the sport, the Charlotte Library has pickleball supplies that can be checked out. Questions? Call or text at 802-425-4567. Free but registration required.

#### Walking or gentle hiking Thursday, June 27, 9 a.m.

Enjoy the beauty of Nature. Come walk at a gentle pace with other seniors. The group will meet each month for a congenial non-strenuous walk. Location to be determined based on conditions of the local walks. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at Charlotte Senior Center. Questions? Contact Penny Burman at 916-753-7279. Cost: Free. Registration appreciated.

### Indoor activities

#### Italian for Beginners II Fridays, June 14-July 19, 10-11 a.m.

Have you taken Italian in the past? Are you interested in continuing your study of Italian? Join this Beginner Level II class to explore the beauty of the Italian language and culture. If you have questions about whether this class is the correct level, email Nicole Librandi at [nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com](mailto:nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com). Cost: \$60. Registration and payment required by June 13.

#### Beginner watercolor workshop Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

If you've always wanted to try watercolor but were too intimidated, this is the class for you. This month Ginny will demonstrate a variety of ways to paint trees in the landscape- there will be plenty of time to practice and create a chart to take home for future reference. Class limit 10 students. For more information about Ginny Joyner, please check out her website: [ginnyjoyner.com](http://ginnyjoyner.com). Cost: \$40 plus \$6 supply fee. Registration and payment required by June 12. The supply fee is paid directly to the instructor.

#### Backgammon league Tuesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

Backgammon is a tactical table game with a 5,000-year history. The group welcomes players at all levels. If you have questions, please contact Jonathan at [jonathanhart1@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanhart1@gmail.com). Cost: \$3. No registration required.

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

Join Heidi Kvasnak for an integrative practice that builds strength and stability while maintaining a sense of ease and spaciousness in both body and mind. You will practice longer-held postures that strengthen muscles, bones and core, as well as breath-led flowing movement, including sun salutations. Prerequisite: Must be able to easily get down and up from the floor with or without props. Cost \$10 a class. No registration required.

#### Shape-note singing Sunday, June 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Traditional a capella, four-part harmony sung for the joy of singing, not as a practice for performance. Search "sacred harp" on



Photos by Lori York

Founder and longtime Charlotte resident, Jim Lampman and Allyson Myers, director of marketing & customer experience, provide an informative and tasty presentation at the senior center on June 6.



The weekly lunches always provide an opportunity for great conversation.

YouTube for examples, then come and sing. Introduction to shape notes and scales is recommended and offered 30 minutes before each fourth Sunday singing. The first hour will be sacred harp singing and the second hour will be singing from an alternate shape note book. Books will be provided. Email Kerry Cullinan at [kcolynxvt@gmail.com](mailto:kcolynxvt@gmail.com) with questions. Free. No registration required.

### Meals

Menus are posted on the website at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).

#### Monday lunches

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

#### Weekly Age Well Grab & Go meals

New day for pickup starting in June. Pick up on Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Registration is required by Monday by 8 a.m. for the Wednesday meal. \$5 suggested donation but not required. To register, call 802-425-6345 or email [meals@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto: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. Interested in receiving a weekly reminder about what is happening? Sign up for the email newsletters at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://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](mailto:lyork@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)  
Tracy Brown, coordinator,  
[tbrown@charlotteseniorcentervt.org](mailto:tbrown@charlotteseniorcentervt.org)  
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802-425-6345  
[charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org)

Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at [charlotteseniorcentervt.org](http://charlotteseniorcentervt.org).



The secrets of peeling hard-boiled eggs are revealed

Susan Ohanian  
Contributor

When I’m not reading books about Trump for my own upcoming third book on him, I seem to be reading about food. My latest find is the extraordinary: “The Editor: How Publishing Legend Judith Jones Shaped Culture in America” by Sara B. Franklin. Besides rescuing Anne Frank’s book from the slag heap, editing with Anne Tyler, John Updike and a zillion others, she was instrumental in bringing M.F.K. Fisher and Julia Child to the nation’s attention.

I have a small personal story about each of these two culinary masters. As a student in Aix-en-Provence, I earned pocket money by typing up manuscripts for a very nice woman with lousy penmanship. I went bike riding with her daughters, and she took us all to the opera.

From my typing I noted that she seemed to care a whole lot about food. Years later when I subscribed to The New Yorker, I felt abashed to read essays by M.F.K. Fisher. Now, I say, open her “Serve It Forth” to any page and you will find an amusing anecdote and a trenchant observation about eaters and their habits.

Her short chapter “Let the Sky Rain Potatoes” has it all — the good, the bad, the ugly and the wondrous. Reading it all these years after it was written, I connect with the May 29 New York Times headline: “Hold the French Fries! Paris Olympics Chart a New Gastronomic Course.”

The subtitle offers explanation: “The environment will come first as France tries to revitalize the global image of its cuisine.” In the 45,000 meals served to Olympic athletes each day, there will be no French fries and no foie gras, but there will be plenty of vegetarian hot dogs and quinoa muesli.

As an aside, here’s free access to an article about what makes a potato an Idaho potato, along with apple names, onion names and so on: <https://tinyurl.com/yhwrr6ed>.

“The Editor” also shows how Jones helped Julia Child shape our culture. My very small connection with Julia speaks to what a very caring and helpful

person she was. With grants from the National Science Foundation and the Exxon Education Foundation, I looked at the national efforts to “reinvent” how mathematics was taught in the lower elementary grades.

This meant visiting public school classrooms in 22 states. As the paper I wrote for the National Science Foundation turned into a book, I decided to include adult attitudes about mathematics. I contacted every CEO I could think of as well as famous people such as Julia Child, asking two questions: “How did you feel about math in school?” and “How do you use math in your current life?”

Most CEOs couldn’t be bothered to answer. I was especially annoyed that IBM chief Lou Gerstner, who put his name to national standards for schools and a for-profit computer program that claimed to teach children to read, didn’t have the time to answer two questions about math. Julia Child sent a handwritten reply, telling me how much she hated math in school and saying that of course specific math skills are useful in changing quantities in recipes.

Child Magazine selected my resulting book, “Garbage Pizza, Patchwork Quilts and Math Magic,” as one of the “10 best of the year” for parents while CEOs continued to rant about the need for standards in schools. I also wrote a couple of books featuring their rants.

You can visit Child’s kitchen. She donated it to the Smithsonian in 2001. See it at [americanhistory.si.edu/press/factsheets/julia-childs-kitchen](http://americanhistory.si.edu/press/factsheets/julia-childs-kitchen).

Open “Bravetart: Iconic American Desserts,” a James Beard Foundation Award Winner by Stella Parks, and you will find yellow cake. Parks points out that egg whites were the workhorse of 19th century desserts, leaving a surplus of yolks. In 1857, the Edgefield Advertiser published a recipe that began, “Take the yolks of one dozen eggs.”

I have no idea how many yolks will be in the Monday Munch yellow cake: Just know you are eating an iconic dessert.

Those deviled eggs on the menu bring back memories of the terror suffered by my cooking team in the senior center kitchen years ago. With deviled eggs on our menu, a generous farmer donated a zillion eggs



Courtesy of the Smithsonian

Julia Child’s home kitchen, with its hundreds of tools, appliances and furnishings, serves as the opening story of Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History’s exhibition on food history.

“fresh from the hens.”

Those eggs were impossible to peel. An experienced chef who ran a kitchen in Shelburne and dropped by to help our team said he’d never encountered any eggs that difficult. Later, we heard that really, really fresh eggs are harder to peel than older ones.

- Since then, I’ve found lots of advice for peeling eggs:
- Before boiling, use a thumbtack to make a tiny hole at the top of the egg
  - Don’t boil too long
  - Don’t boil, put eggs in a colander and steam them
  - Put boiled eggs in ice water
  - Roll boiled egg back and forth on hard surface, cracking shell
  - Buy an egg peeler at Amazon
  - Say a few Hail Marys
  - Send \$10 to Trump
  - Use old eggs.

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

White chicken chili, cornbread, greens with tomatoes, cucumbers, shredded carrots and homemade dessert.

Monday Munch, June 24

Chicken Caesar salad, deviled eggs, bread, beverage and yellow cake.