

# The Charlotte News

September 5, 2024 *Your nonprofit community news source since 1958* Vol. 67, No. 06

## Charlotte pulls together — again!

Claudia Marshall and John Quinney

Here at The Charlotte News, we'd like to pause to express our gratitude — and to briefly take you behind the scenes at the newspaper and website to explain why we're grateful.

Not everyone knows that we are a nonprofit organization with only one full-time and three part-time employees. It costs about \$6,000 to put out each issue of the newspaper and to keep the website up to date. We get things done with the efforts of dozens of volunteers and donors who do everything from writing stories to paying the bills. We pull together to make it happen, and we couldn't do it without you. Literally. And we've been doing it — together — for 66 years.

Although we are an affluent community, the paper doesn't have an endowment or a friend writing big checks. It's grassroots supporters like you who make this nonprofit newspaper possible ... and somehow it works.

Our newspaper and website are humble, yes, but vital to the Charlotte community; our supporters are vital to "The Charlotte News."

So, as we pause today, we say thanks again for coming together. For coming through. And for recognizing the value of this community newspaper.

We wrapped up our Annual Fund campaign last Saturday having exceeded our goal and raised just over \$26,000. This allows us to put out another eight newspapers and to mail them free of charge to all 1,840 households in Charlotte. A huge thank you to the 200 Charlotters who made donations.

It's never too late to get on board. You may send a check to P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or make a donation anytime on our secure website at [charlottenewsvt.org](http://charlottenewsvt.org).

If you have given, please accept our deepest thanks for joining together with this community to make the magic happen!

*(Claudia Marshall and John Quinney are members of the newspaper's fundraising committee.)*

## Charlotte fire and rescue prepared for **TROUBLED WATERS** — and more



Courtesy photo  
Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service's Marine 3 is a defender class response boat, capable of 45 knots and handling 4-to-6-foot waves.

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

With more than three weeks of summer still left, the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue boat has already been called out for 12 incidents. That's not the only time the volunteers have been on the waters of Lake Champlain.

Robert Caldwell, marine specialist with the fire department and treasurer for the fire and rescue service board, said the fire and rescue service tries to get on the water six to eight hours a week for training.

Caldwell took this reporter and two

other volunteers with the fire and rescue service out on a beautiful Sunday to show what the department's defender class response boat is like and discuss and demonstrate some of their rescue procedures.

Just after boarding, one of the first things to get communicated is that pointing out the blatantly obvious is emphasized on a craft like the Charlotte Fire Rescue Marine 3. Clear and direct communication is critical.

Marine 3 can move. It is capable of going 45 knots, or faster than 50 mph. Going at 40 knots, which was plenty fast for this reporter, the boat skims across the surface faster than a scalded

cat, and every little wave translates into a big bump. Going at that speed, the waves, and the bumps, come fast and furious.

Every time Caldwell makes the littlest turn, he shouts it out, so his passengers expect it and hold on, even though they are already holding on.

"We have a rule on the boat that, no matter who's at the helm, if you see something, don't assume that the helmsman or the coxswain sees it," he says.

Going across the lake, John Quade, practices his command of the obvious,

**TROUBLED WATERS** continued on page 2

## Selectboard votes for culverts to fix Spear Street flood damage

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

Replacing the Spear Street bridge over Muddy Hollow Brook is proving to be at least as difficult, expensive and time consuming as was predicted immediately after Hurricane Beryl washed it away in early July — if not more so.

A selectboard discussion about construction options that had been planned to last for 20 minutes this past Monday night, Aug. 26, lasted

for more than an hour and half.

The town's conundrum came down to a decision about whether to replace the one 10-foot culvert pipe, that had served where Spear Street crosses the brook since before 1972, with two 10-foot culvert pipes — or whether to build an actual bridge.

The lengthy deliberations over the decision were warranted because this is not an easy decision. And the choice about which solution the town would go with

had to be made fast.

Chris Hunt, Vermont Agency of Transportation project manager, told the board that constructing a bridge at the site would take three years and cost about \$3 million. If the town responded quickly, Hunt was relatively confident the state had a single-lane temporary bridge it would loan the town for three years while a bridge was built.

Typically, the town would be on the hook for 10 percent of that cost, or approximately \$300,000.

If the town fixes the washed-out brook crossing with the 10-foot diameter culvert pipes that have already been ordered, delivered and are waiting on the side of Spear Street just south of where a huge ravine divides Spear Street in two, the state will pay for all the cost of the culvert solution, which is also predicted to be \$300,000.

But Charlotte needs to make the decision to proceed with the culvert

**SELECTBOARD** continued on page 3



# TROUBLED WATERS Continued from page 1

shouting out the approach of every craft as soon as he sees it, even if it’s far in the distance.

Caldwell acknowledges his appreciation of Quade’s warnings, even if he’s already seen the threat. You should never assume that the person steering has seen what you’re seeing. The lake isn’t a road with vehicles just traveling in two directions; craft are coming from all directions, particularly on a beautiful day like this that’s perfect for water recreation.

Quade recently moved to Charlotte from Missouri with his wife and two young sons. He joined CVFRS in January after attending an event at the fire station. It’s something he had thought of doing before, but in Missouri he would have been required to take at least three months off from work to train — for a volunteer position.

Marine 3 is the second of two craft Charlotte’s department has. Marine 2 is a much smaller Zodiac rigid inflatable boat that generally stays at the fire and rescue building. Marine 2 is towed by trailer and can quickly get to lake access points besides Thompson’s Point.

The defender class response boat is the result of the 9/11 attacks. It was built by the federal government in case water bodies like Lake Champlain needed to be defended.

These boats had a shelf life of 10 years by U.S. government standards, so a bit after 2011, these boats were auctioned off by the federal government to municipalities. Charlotte fire and rescue purchased this boat with a donation, so it wasn’t paid for by town taxes.

The boat originally was outfitted with machine guns in the bow and stern. Now, the guns are gone, but the metal mounts remain, making a great, sturdy place for a recklessly standing reporter to hang onto, while trying to interview and photograph at the same time.

With a full crew the boat weighs almost 10,000 pounds and can handle 4-to-6-foot waves, Caldwell said.

In other words, Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service can respond to emergencies in very rough conditions.

Besides constant communication on the boat, the volunteers on the boat are constantly communicating with other agencies. In an emergency, the crew would be talking to Shelburne dispatch, but on this beautiful day, Marine 3 is not a concern for them. However, those on duty at the Burlington Coast Guard station are regularly checking in to see where the boat is, in case something comes up.

Mutual aid is the name of the game on the lake, maybe even more so than on land. Any time Charlotte’s rescue boat is called out for an emergency, Shelburne’s fire boat is called as well — and vice versa.

Shelburne handles dispatch for 38 agencies from Lake Champlain Islands to Addison County. Caldwell should know because he has been working as an emergency service dispatcher for Shelburne dispatch. Now, he’s going to work for the Vermont State Police.

Charlotte has 9 miles of coastline on Lake Champlain, but the Coast Guard



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Above: David Caldwell pilots the fire and rescue service’s rescue boat, Marine 3, on a training cruise on Sunday.

Station in Burlington responds to incidents up and down the lake and across to the New York shore.

After retiring from a career in the Canadian Coast Guard, Caldwell studied at St. Lawrence University, and ended up there with a job in alumni relations. This was his entry point into higher education administration. He eventually became the vice president of Champlain College where he worked in finance and marketing communications.

Coast Guard, educational finance — Caldwell’s work experiences fit very well with the CVFRS.

When a call comes for a lake emergency, Caldwell can be at Marine 3 at Thompson’s Point Marina in three minutes. Except for winter, the boat is always in the water tied up at the dock, so they are ready to go as soon as rescuers arrive.

Charlotte rescue volunteers have a sophisticated text app. When they get a notice of a potential emergency, they can click on a link that will show everyone else who is on that network if they can respond and where. It includes a narrative that describes the incident they are being summoned to.

All the volunteers immediately know who else is responding, so they will know who will be in the boat helping deal with whatever situation they find.

In the case of a medical emergency, there would be two people responding in an ambulance. One of them will go out with the boat, while the other waits on shore.

“We train a lot for hypothermia. Cold water immersion is a big issue,” Caldwell said.



Courtesy photo

Right: Members of the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service practice getting emergency medical technician Tim Hwang into the boat during patient recovery and transfer exercises.

When the water is 60 degrees, people can suffer from hypothermia, and the lake can be that cold even when the air temperature is 80 degrees, he said.

The types of calls they respond to include boats that are taking on water, boats that have hit an island in the dark, missing people, boat fires.

Caldwell said, “Most often boat fires happen when you’re at the dock or out, having turned off your engine and anchored.”

If you haven’t blown out your engine compartment properly before starting, gas fumes may catch fire, he said. Marine 3 can capture a burning boat with a grappling hook and tow it to a safer area.

Libby Manning, who is in her senior

TROUBLED WATERS continued on page 3



## Mission Statement

To engage and inform Charlotte and nearby communities by:

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

## Editorial independence

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

## Code of Ethics

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

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

## Disclaimer

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

## Letters, Opinions and Obituaries

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

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

## Editorial Staff

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

## Business Staff

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

## Board Members

**Board Chair:** Bill Regan ([bill@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:bill@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Treasurer:** Margery McCracken ([treasurer@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:treasurer@thecharlottenews.org))  
**Secretary:** Meredith Moses  
**Board members:** Claudia Marshall, Peter Joslin, John Quinney, Dave Speidel, Andrew Zehner, Vince Crockenberg (emeritus), John Hammer (emeritus)  
**Technical advisor:** Melissa Mendelsohn, Orchard Road Computers

**Website:** [charlottenewsvt.org](http://charlottenewsvt.org)

## Subscription Information

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

## Postmaster/Send address changes to:

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

Copyright © 2024 TCN, Inc., dba The Charlotte News.  
Member of the New England Newspaper and Press Association, LION Publishers, Institute for Nonprofit News and the Vermont Press Association.

Support local nonprofit reporting. Donate Today!





## Goodnight sun



Photo by Claudia Pfaff

Goodnight sun, goodnight lake, goodnight good dog who contemplates the wake.

## TROUBLED WATERS

Continued from page 2

year at Champlain Valley Union High, is a cadet. As soon as she turns 18, she plans to get her emergency medical certification and attend the fire academy.

Two years ago, her father suffered an aortic dissection; in effect his heart had exploded. Manning was so impressed by the efficiency and knowledge of the EMTs who responded that she decided she wanted to train and join CVFRS.

“I would like to be the person that is capable and knows what to do in a panic situation,” she said. “I went into it just feeling like it would be a good confidence booster for me, but now it’s something I want to pursue for the rest of my life.”

Manning has tried to recruit other CVU students to join the fire and rescue service’s cadet program. There are currently four students that are part of CVFRS, but the department would like to have more.

In the fall of 2025, Manning plans to attend a college, hopefully Dartmouth, where she can be part of a rescue service while she’s in school.

The rescue service volunteers are happy to go out for calls where it turns out everything is OK, though there are calls that have them scratching their heads. For example, a couple of weeks ago they got a call from someone who had waited an hour after seeing what they thought was an overturned kayak floating in the lake. When the volunteers got to the scene it was a floating log. They did move it out of the middle of the lake.

They get frustrating calls from people who have run out of gas and called fire and rescue rather than calling a neighbor or friend. There is no charge for the wacky or frivolous calls — at least not to those who make the calls. Those calls are paid for by taxes.

Caldwell thinks one of the keys to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue growing as a stronger organization is becoming more visible. “We have a marketing issue. We’re not telling our



Courtesy photo

Rescue workers practice getting Libby Manning into a gurney from the fire and rescue boat and to an emergency vehicle at the Converse Bay Fish and Wildlife lake access point.

story enough,” he said.

As a consequence, as Marine 3 cruises past the ferries, other boats and docks, we wave at everyone. The department is looking to be involved more, showing people that they are on the lake.

“I think we want to create a pathway where there’s more involvement,” Caldwell said.

He thinks that people don’t have much awareness of all the things the Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service can do to help people in emergencies. For example, he thinks few know that in an emergency Charlotte residents don’t have to drive all the way to the hospital themselves.

“They don’t have to go to the hospital. They can just go down to the Charlotte fire department and get hospital-level emergency department care,” he said. “They don’t know that.”

He’s looking for ways to tell them.

## SELECTBOARD

Continued from page 1

solution quickly to get that state money.

Normally, the town would have to pay for all the cost of repairing Spear Street at Muddy Hollow Brook, but the state will pay for this with emergency funding. But the emergency funding goes away April 7, so the work must be completed by then.

Because of Vermont winters, it is unlikely repairs can happen after fall. Hunt said it effectively means the deadline for installing culverts is the beginning of November, not April.

“My warning to you will be that we need to proceed as quickly as possible, in terms of getting a contractor on board. Everyone’s busy,” Hunt said. “Anything that’s not done within the emergency period will be 100 percent on the town.”

However, Dave Matthews, principal engineer with Civil Engineering Associates of South Burlington, gave a much lower estimate for building a bridge. His estimate was that a free-standing concrete bridge would cost approximately \$810,000.

Also, the board needed to consider the long-term costs of the two options.

The culverts are predicted to last 75 years, Marshall said. A bridge should last for 100 years.

Maintenance of the twin culverts option would be almost \$13,000 a year, or about \$554,000 over 100 years at today’s prices. Maintenance of a bridge would be about \$11,400 a year, or \$492,000 over 100 years.

In response to a question from board member Kelly Devine, Marshall confirmed that his analysis put the total lifetime cost of the culvert solution at \$1.28 million and the total lifetime cost of a bridge at \$1.302 million. That means the difference in the total costs of the two options is about \$22,000.

Devine said she was concerned about the culvert option because indications are that extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. She was surprised culverts were an option to fix the problem because she felt

the “tenor” coming from the state was that it wanted “to stop spending money to fix things and then having to spend it again.”

“The issue of businesses that are south of that bridge is a considerable concern,” said Peter Joslin, who was watching the meeting via Zoom. “I’m guessing that, even if there’s a temporary bridge, people would tend to avoid it, so I think that’s something that’s really important for the selectboard to consider.”

Chair Jim Faulkner said he was hearing people asking why the selectboard hadn’t done anything about the damage yet. “I think we’ve got to go forward,” he said.

In addition to the businesses at the corner of Spear Street and Hinesburg Road that are hurting with the road closed, Carrie Spear mentioned, via Zoom, other businesses like Adam’s Berry Farm, and that having a temporary bridge for three years would be a problem for fire and rescue vehicles.

“There are an amazing amount of people who use Spear Street going to the hospital from the southern end of Vermont,” Spear said.

Also joining the discussion via Zoom was state Rep. Chea Waters Evans, who said she was concerned about going with culverts to fix the problem because the road to her house was fixed five years ago, and now it’s washed away again. She supported putting in a bridge.

“This is not going to be the last flood,” Evans said. “These hundred-year events look like they’ll be coming yearly.”

Board member Frank Tenney said the culvert that washed out had lasted 50 years, and it was just one pipe that wasn’t reinforced with concrete, as would be the case now.

Eventually, the board voted 4-1, with Devine casting the lone nay vote, to apply to the state for permission to fix the problem with culverts.

Another twist to the complicated situation is that the state may not approve the culvert application, but Hunt appeared cautiously optimistic it would be approved.



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

Spear Street at Muddy Hollow Brook has been impassable since Hurricane Beryl in early July.



## NEXT PUBLICATION DATES

**SEPT. 19**

Copy Deadline: Sept. 13

Ad Deadline: Sept. 13

**OCT. 3**

Copy Deadline: Sept. 27

Ad Deadline: Sept. 27

**TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:**  
ads@thecharlottenews.org

**SEND YOUR CHARLOTTE NEWS TO:**  
news@thecharlottenews.org



# Around Town

## Condolences

**Lydia Beatrice (Monroe) Clemmons** died on Aug. 16. Born on June 22, 1923, in Ringgold, Louisiana, Lydia was the eldest daughter of Howard and Lucille Monroe.

Shortly after Lydia’s birth, Howard and Lucille moved to Smackover, Arkansas where the Monroe family lived until Lydia was 14 years old. Lydia was proud of her southern roots, her loving family and the community in which she was raised. She was particularly proud of the quality education she received at a small, segregated schoolhouse where her teachers ensured each student achieved excellence. When Howard and Lucille migrated to Harvey, Illinois outside of Chicago and enrolled their children in the public school, Lydia was so well prepared that she skipped the eighth grade and entered the local Thornton Township High School where she was one of only a few Black students.

Lydia excelled in school and went on to receive her nursing degree at Loyola University in Chicago. After her graduation, she maintained her roots in, and love for, Chicago by working as a public health nurse and then at Provident Hospital where she



Lydia Clemmons

was trained as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. To this day, those who had Lydia as their nurse anesthetist when she practiced at the Degoesbriand and Mary Fletcher hospitals in Burlington still remember her fondly, remarking on her great skill and compassion.

Lydia’s love of Chicago was often reflected in her stories about legendary jazz musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday, whom she saw perform in the local clubs. She shared memories of being able to go out on late curfew nights when in nursing school. The head teacher was not concerned about Lydia and her roommate’s late nights because they were quiet, well mannered and good students. In the last few years of her life, Lydia continued listening to those legendary jazz singers and gospel music daily.

Lydia eventually moved to Madison, Wisconsin where she met her husband, Jackson Joshua Walter Clemmons. She and “Jack” married in Harvey, Illinois at her mom’s house in 1952. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where Jack attended Case Western Reserve University and their first two children, son, Jackson Joshua and daughter, Lydia Grace, were born. Jack was offered various positions across the country but chose the University of Vermont in Burlington. Lydia and Jack bought a house in Charlotte, Vermont where the family began to grow; three more daughters were born, Laura Barbara, Jocelyn Melvina and Naomi Lucille. When her parents retired to Los

Angeles, California, Lydia still maintained her remarkably close relationship with them. Lydia relished the summers that her parents would come and stay in Charlotte, and when she would take her children to visit their grandparents in Los Angeles. There, they connected with cousins, her sister, aunts, uncles and other extended family members. She, her sister Odessa and her parents demonstrated the essence of family commitment and love, supporting each other through life’s difficulties.

Lydia carried the values of family commitment and love to her life in Charlotte, embodying it in everything she did for her children. Like her mother, she was an exceptional seamstress, sewing many of her children’s clothes including winter jackets, school bags and even luggage from the Frost Line kits. Lydia maintained a very large garden, rising early in the morning, her favorite time of the day, to weed and harvest vegetables before heading off to work. Lydia canned a tremendous amount of what was grown in the garden, as well as canning pears and apples from the nearby fruit trees. She even made homemade soap from the lard of pigs raised on the property. Being an exceptional cook, Lydia’s homemade donuts, pizza, gumbo, New York-style cheesecake, bread, English muffins and corn fritters leave lasting memories. As the years passed, and she stopped gardening, Lydia continued to get up early to enjoy the quiet morning hours.

Lydia was active in her community, supporting the establishment of the Charlotte

Chapter of the Vermont League of Women Voters and leading 4-H with the mothers of her daughters’ close friends who became her close friends. Lydia’s diverse interests continued to grow, driven by her curious mind. In 1983, after returning home from a six-week work trip to Tanzania with Jack, Lydia started Authentica African Imports on their property in Charlotte. While constantly researching each piece of art, an activity she loved, her most favorite and cherished pastime was long walks with her dear friend and neighbor, Joan Braun.

As Lydia continued through her life, her commitment to learning was ever present. Not only did she encourage her children to further their education, but she also pursued her own by becoming knowledgeable in alternative approaches to health and wellbeing and trained to become a master reiki practitioner.

Starting from her early days in Arkansas, Lydia was a deeply religious and spiritual being. She always wanted her children to have a religious foundation, thus each child attended church until they received their Bible. Lydia also enthusiastically encouraged the children to attend summer Bible school. Lydia was very involved in the Charlotte Congregational Church, becoming a deacon, and after a time, became a Jehovah’s Witness for many years.

Lydia extended her love, commitment and involvement to each of her twelve grandchildren. These moments were so

**AROUND TOWN** continued on page 5

**TRANSFORM YOUR LANDSCAPE WITH LIGHTING & AUDIO**

**CHURCH HILL LANDSCAPES**

## LIGHTS

Come home to warmth and light year-round with the addition of high-performance, durable landscape lighting. Our team works with you to add functional and artful lighting to illuminate your gardens, patios, pool decks and entryways.

We offer:

- Landscape lighting design services
- Home demos of outdoor lighting
- Custom installation
- Year-round lighting support services

## SOUND

We help bring the enjoyment of beautiful sound to outdoor living spaces. Our experts create a custom outdoor audio experience with high-quality, weatherproof speakers designed to stand alone or connect to existing home audio.

We offer:

- Outdoor audio design services
- Home demos of outdoor audio
- Custom installation
- Integration with existing home-audio systems
- Year-round sound support services

Invite us to help you create memorable evenings in the garden with lights and sound. Schedule a home demo today.

802.425.5222  
info@churchhilllandscapes.com • www.churchhilllandscapes.com



# AROUND TOWN

Continued from page 4

cherished that each of them have unique and special memories of their time with her. Lydia will always be remembered for her never-ending kindness. She was always offering unconditional love, always welcoming and always present — to such an extent that her son-in-law Peter (Young) called her the Dalai Mama. This endearing name is the essence of who Lydia was to all who knew her. Lydia Beatrice Monroe Clemmons (aka Dalai Mama or Big Lydia) leaves behind her husband Jackson Clemmons of 72 years of marriage, their five children and 12 grandchildren. She also leaves two first cousins in Tampa, one of whom is her namesake and goddaughter, Little Lydia Gail, a cousin in Oakland, Calif., and several other cousins across the country to cherish her memories.

**Richard Charles Cunningham**, 84, of Charlotte, Vermont, died on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, at The Arbors in Shelburne, Vermont, with family at his bedside.

He was born on Dec. 26, 1939, in Addison, Vermont. His parents, Eldred Dudley Warfield Cunningham and Lilah Dorothy LaRose Delorme, raised him and his seven siblings in Vergennes, Vermont.



Richard Cunningham

Richard graduated from Vergennes High School, Class of ’59, the last class to graduate from the old high school. He joined the 101st Airborne Division serving as a paratrooper, making 13 jumps while stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany, for two years.

Richard had several careers during his lifetime including woodworking and carpentry. He owned a rubbish business in Vergennes. He served on the Vergennes City Council and as Vergennes Water Commissioner. Richard’s final career for 25 years was in Marine Surveying, after graduating from Chapman’s School of Seamanship in Stuart, Florida. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and Vermont Antique Boat Association.

His first marriage was while stationed at Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia. His next marriage was to Claire Marie Adams of Vergennes. They raised two daughters, Ragan Ann and Leigh, both of Vergennes. Leigh has two sons, Nicolas Isaac Cormier Cunningham and Matthias Christopher Cormier and partner Laura Matushzak. Richard’s great-grandson Killiam James Cunningham is the son of Nicolas and Kaitlin Cusson Cunningham.

On July 4, 1980, he married Harriet Stone Patrick, “Happy,” of Charlotte. Together they enjoyed 40 plus years of projects restoring several historic homes in Charlotte, travel and gatherings with friends and family. Richard was so happy at the helm of his boat with Happy at his side, whether exploring the Erie Canal or heading south on the Intracoastal Waterway. He surely loved his daughters, grandsons and great-grandson.

Richard is survived by Happy and his

daughters, grandchildren and great-grandson. He also leaves sister Lucille Nelson of Sharon, Connecticut; brother David and his partner Cathy Sargent Monroe of Waltham, Vermont; sister-in-law Claire Chamberlain Cunningham of Vergennes; sister Kim Delorme Laughner; and his two stepsons, Adam Boyd Dantzscher of St. George, Vermont; Robert Christopher Dantzscher and Cyndie Coffrin of Monroe, Washington; Adam’s daughter Meridith Anne Dantzscher of Malden, Massachusetts; Christopher’s two sons, Corbin Casey Dantzscher of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Casey Christopher Dantzscher of Surprise, Arizona, and daughter Cassandra Caitlin Dantzscher of Monroe, Washington; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Richard was predeceased by his brother Eldred Jr., sister-in-law Arlene LaFlam, brother Leonard, sister Rosaline and her husband Laurence Casey and sister Beverly and her husband Floyd Peck.

The Cunningham and Patrick families would like to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to The Arbors for the wonderful care Richard received for almost two years and to Hospice, who were there when they were needed.

There will be a reception of remembrance for Richard at the Vergennes Opera House on Main Street on Sept. 28, 2024, from 3 to 5 pm. Richard is finally coming home.

Cremation services by Ready Funeral Home.

**David Paul Fortin**, 60, of Enosburg Falls, Vt., passed away at home with his family by

his side Aug. 19, 2024. David was an avid NASCAR fan and loved to hunt, sugar and fish. David served in the army.

He is survived by his wife and soulmate Sharon Fortin; mother Laura Brean; father Paul Fortin and his wife Mary; mother-in-law Cecile Russin; siblings Kevin Fortin, Brian Fortin and wife Melissa; Christopher Fortin and wife Becky; Jill Fortin and partner Mike; sister-in-law Jeanne; brothers-in-law Kevin, Rusty and Keith; children Melissa Dupaw, Jason Colebaugh, Jasmine Noel and husband Shawn, Shane Dupaw and partner Peach, and Elizabeth Watts and husband David. David loved his grandchildren Shyann, Dakota, Lexi, Saige, Kayden, Sawyer, Hunter, Sophia, Blake and Grace, long-time best friend Richard Lamonda and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

David is predeceased by his maternal grandparents George and Ethel Bennett, paternal grandparents Rene and Muriel Fortin, uncle Furburt, aunt Liza, brother-in-law Brian Russin and father-in-law Clifford Russin.

Special thanks to Dr. Babbs at Cold Hollow and the University of Vermont for his care.

Celebration of life will be held at St. Patricks Church in Fairfield, VT on Sept. 7, 2024, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, his family would like donations to be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

## Congratulations

**Sophia Kehr** of Charlotte graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Hartwick College in May.

# Letter to the Editor

## Support John Rogers for lieutenant governor

To the Editor:

While living in Wolcott, I had the pleasure of having John Rogers, who is now running for lieutenant governor, serve as my state senator. During this time, I corresponded with him on numerous occasions regarding legislation. Although we may not have always seen eye-to-eye on every issue, John always made the time, even if it meant a phone call, to listen to my concerns.

Rogers is a true leader who I believe Vermont needs. On day one, he will roll up his sleeves and listen to all Vermonters as individuals, not just members of a

political party. Rogers has a long history of advocating for the “Vermont View;” I feel that’s an approach focused on bettering the state for the sake of all Vermonters, rather than serving special interests, lobbyists or any one political party.

Key areas Rogers can lead important discussions and drive positive change include cleaning our waterways, rethinking fiscal responsibilities, spurring responsible housing developments that don’t continue polluting our waterways and advancing environmental conservation.

I encourage you to reach out to Rogers directly with any questions you may have. He will be sure to respond.

Jeremy Ayotte  
Fletcher

# Hi! Neighbor

## For Osler, the energy answer is blowing in the wind

Phyl Newbeck  
Contributor

When Evan Osler took his two daughters, aged 5 and 8, to Fenway Park this summer, he was returning to his roots. Osler grew up in Cambridge, Mass., and spent five summers as a food vendor there. He estimates he sold hot dogs at almost 300 games.

The wind can influence how far a ball is hit at Fenway but that's not the reason Osler ended up in the renewable energy field, concentrating on wind projects. "I focused on it because it was the nexus of a lot of things I find fascinating," he said.

Osler started his career with a small Vermont consulting firm called Vermont Environmental Research Associates. They had a hand in Vermont's first wind project in Searsburg, as well as what is now called Kingdom Community Wind. They also assisted with projects on Georgia Mountain and in Deerfield.

From there, Osler moved to NRG where he spent 11 years. “I’ve learned a lot from some very experienced people,” he said. “The fore-parents of renewable energy are in Vermont and there is a vast knowledge base here.”

Osler is currently employed by Deriva Energy which develops, owns and operates renewable energy projects across the

country. They purchased Catamount Energy, which was based in Rutland, but they do not have projects in Vermont or anywhere else in New England.

Osler focuses on the wind side of the business which covers the U.S. from the mid-Atlantic to the Intermountain West, with an emphasis on Texas and Wyoming. He said Deriva prefers large-scale projects, which explains the lack of a New England footprint. “We want to go where communities want wind power,” he said. “We invest in communities, and we’ve been a good neighbor.” Osler said the company has built over three gigawatts of operating wind and is currently engaging in “repowering,” which involves swapping existing technology for more efficient, newer models.

In his spare time, you can find Osler on skis or on a bike. His father was a serious cyclist and after watching a few of his races, Osler was hooked.

“One of the most terrifying things you can do on a bike is race,” he said. “I was never great at racing, but I was able to hang in there.”

Osler prefers mountain races despite finding them challenging. He said his best results were on courses with rolling hills.

“There’s nothing quite like racing up and down the Middlebury Gap,” he said.

When he was younger, Osler traveled

across the Northeast and New York for races. These days, there are fewer racing opportunities, and having two children keeps him closer to home.

Osler described hill climbs as safer and lower stress than other bike races. In 2009, he began racing for the Green Mountain Bicycle Club race team which was affiliated first with Catamount Family Center and then Synergy Fitness. In 2013, he switched to the 1K2GO team but is currently unaffiliated. He has been taking part in at least one leg of the Green Mountain Stage Race since 2008 and has recently added gravel bike racing to his repertoire.

Osler's other outdoor passion is skiing. A ski racer in his youth, he quickly realized that he was more interested in going beyond the groomed trails, and now he is mostly focused on backcountry skiing. He noted that this interest preceded the existence of good gear for the sport and its burgeoning popularity.

One of Osler's recent accomplishments was building a rope tow for skiing in his backyard. "It's 10 feet of vertical," he said, "but that's enough for some turns and a jump." The rope tow is completely electric so on a sunny winter day, it runs off Osler's solar array.

Osler has been a resident of Charlotte since 2017. He said that because of their busy schedules and young children, he and his wife have not been able to be as active in the community as they would like.



Photo by Elizabeth Watson  
Evan Osler is a strong advocate for  
renewal energy.

“We feel very privileged to be part of this community,” he said. This year, both of his daughters will be attending Charlotte Central School.

He believes that among other renewable energy options, wind has stood the test of time, adding that the current trend towards using heat pumps works well with wind.

"I continue to believe wind will be a useful part of our energy portfolio," he said. "Wind often blows when the sun isn't out so it's complementary to solar."

# SCHEDULE YOUR SUMMER 2024 ROOF REPLACEMENT TODAY.

Call 802-526-6564

Receive a same day estimate

Have your roof replaced  
in one day



**SEND US YOUR  
SPORTS  
PHOTOS**

**news@thecharlottenews.org**

# The Charlotte News





# Neither snow nor heat stops bike trek to Vancouver

Charlotte Oliver  
Community News Service

Stopping for dinner in a small town where everyone knew each other's names, Nick Vanderkloot and his buddy Robert Vernimmen got plenty of stares — then questions about their spandex shorts and clip-in bike shoes.

It was one of many towns the duo saw this summer where “the only thing that was there was a bar,” Vanderkloot said. But, he pointed out, “some of those places were the best.”

So goes the story of the cyclists' two-wheeled trek, starting in Vermont, stretching across the northern U.S. and ending in Canada. The pair ventured from Charlotte on May 6, pedaling west through several states and one province before heading north to Vancouver, where they celebrated with family and flew back. In just over two months they covered an average 60 to 70 miles a day — pushing through snow in Yellowstone and 100-degree heat in the Rockies.

Vanderkloot, who lives in Charlotte, only took up cycling in earnest after moving to Vermont a couple years ago. But being originally from the Netherlands, where he said people bike everywhere, he thinks it has always been in his DNA.

Now the 67-year-old calls himself a “smelly biker” and thinks of the whole thing as “very special.”

At the beginning of the adventure, he and Vernimmen, a friend from Luxembourg who

flew out to join Vanderkloot, crossed the U.S.-Canada border for the first time near Niagara Falls, biking across Ontario until reaching Michigan near the Erie Canal.

“Being Dutch, I wanted to go to Holland, Michigan,” Vanderkloot said, chuckling. The city was founded in the 1800s by Dutch Calvinist separatists. Before the trip, Vanderkloot learned the Holland Museum had two old paintings featuring relatives of his from the Netherlands. When he finally saw them in person, he was surprised by how well they had been maintained over the years.

The duo would end long days alternating between motels, camping and staying with strangers through a website called Warm Showers (warmshowers.org), which lets hosts share their homes with cyclists for a night.

In what Vanderkloot called a “chance happening,” one family from the website hosted the pair on Father's Day and invited the two men to a celebration with 25 grandkids. During the festivities the pair met a “half-cowboy,” he said, who “recited cowboy poetry” for them.

The two conquered their hardest climb in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming on a hot day. Rolling into town after their descent through dramatic canyon walls, they noticed “everyone was wearing a Stetson hat. We looked at each other and felt less than manly,” Vanderkloot said.

He found it most rewarding to meet people with different cultural and political backgrounds who were “so kind and

generous.”

His wife, Angeline, sees how the trip changed him. “I think he learned a lot about different parts of our country. I don't think he's ever seen it in such a real way,” she said.

In Wisdom, Montana, the cyclists dined in a woman's garage she had converted into a restaurant. “She cooks right in front of you,” said Vanderkloot, and her family members take orders with pen and paper.

Vanderkloot said locals told him the owner, an immigrant from Mexico, had started serving food in her garage after her husband died as a way to make up for lost income. People in town rallied to encourage her to make a real restaurant out of the operation, and they have turned out to support it ever since.

Vanderkloot left his wallet and passport on a shelf outside the garage, he said, and only realized the next morning. He came back to find them untouched, charmed by the kindness and trust.

“I lived vicariously through him. And it was actually amazing to hear his stories,” said Angeline, adding that her husband called every night.

For now, he is happy to entertain himself



Photos courtesy of Nick Vanderkloot

From left, Nick Vanderkloot and Robert Vernimmen in front of Niagara Falls in early

by catching up on the hardcover books left behind for his trip.

“I need a bit of time to digest it a little bit,” he said. “It's so much of a blur.”

*(Via Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship, on assignment for The Charlotte News.)*

# The fix is in — Repair Café returns Saturday, Sept. 21

Cathy Hunter  
Contributor

Start collecting your broken stuff for the fall Repair Café.

Sustainable Charlotte is sponsoring the next Repair Café Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Charlotte Congregational Church.

The Repair Café is a four-hour community party of talented local folks who volunteer their skills to repair your broken stuff. Register your items at [sustainablecharlottevt.org/events](https://sustainablecharlottevt.org/events). You can get almost anything, except for a broken heart, fixed for free.

Participants can also watch and learn as the handy folks do their magic. In addition to fixing, we hope to:

- promote and teach the lost art of repair to all ages
- keep perfectly good stuff out of the landfill
- build our town’s sense of community by working together to meet each other’s needs.

In the past we have had repairers fix the following:

- lamps—replace switches and cords, tighten wobbly bases
- jewelry (no soldering), replace watch batteries, fix watch bands,
- replace eyeglass screws

- repair furniture, cuckoo clocks, dolls, favorite toys (wooden, metal or plastic)
- troubleshoot or repair small appliances, electronics, radios, fans, heaters, (de)humidifiers
- sharpen garden tools, replace wooden handles, repair electric trimmers
- sharpen knives, scissors, axes
- mend clothing by hand or sewing machine; repair holey knits; adjust sewing machines
- replace zippers
- bike repair

There will be used tools available for people to browse and take home.

We are always looking for new volunteer repairers to add to our crew. Do you have a repair or creative skill you want to offer? We could really use some more people who sew as well as knife and tool sharpeners.

Email Jamey Gerlaugh, the Repair Café coordinator, at [info@sustainablecharlottevt.org](mailto:info@sustainablecharlottevt.org) if you have a skill you’d like to share.



Courtesy photos

LEFT: Pamela Powell watches as Paul Southworth fixes her bike.  
RIGHT: From left, Dean Tuininga works on something for Mischul Brownstone.

There is no charge for our repairers’ labor. If your repair requires new part(s), you are responsible for buying those parts beforehand and bringing them. Sustainable Charlotte asks attendees, if able, to bring a

food or monetary donation to the Charlotte Food Shelf. Home-baked goods, chili, soups and drinks will be available by donation.



**SEND US YOUR  
SPORTS  
PHOTOS**

[news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)

**The Charlotte News**



**Hooray!!!  
Its back to  
School time!**



**JAMIE TWO-COATS'  
TOY SHOP**

54 FALLS ROAD | MON-FRI 10-5, SAT-SUN 10-4 | 802-985-3221





Photo courtesy Saline County, Kansas

Someone collects a water sample.

## Volunteers test Vermont waters to see if they're safe

Charlotte Oliver  
Community News Service

Every Wednesday morning volunteers around Springfield venture to a local waterbody and dip their sampling cups.

The eight-person squad is from the Black River Action Team, one of about 30 partner groups that collect water samples for the state through a program at the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The groups sample rivers, lakes and streams across Vermont from mid-April through the start of August, using kits from the state to look for nutrient and road salt levels. They send those samples for testing, and officials put out data with results around wintertime.

But the program is focused only on broad water health — so some groups have stepped up to test for swimming health in popular summer spots.

With their own kits, groups like the Black River team measure *E. coli* bacteria levels, the marker used by the Environmental Protection Agency to measure how safe water is to swim in.

Across 10 sampling sites, the Black River group tests water twice as often as required by the program, the LaRosa Partnership Program, and measures for the bacteria in popular swim spots like Buttermilk Falls in Ludlow, said group director Kelly Stettner.

The idea is “getting people paying attention to what’s going on in their community and on the stream or the river,” Stettner said.

Her group created “an adopt-a-river or adopt-a-swimming-hole program” with sponsors donating \$500 a year to cover the extra testing, Stettner said. Most are local businesses, but Vail Resorts, which owns Stowe Mountain, Mount Snow and Okemo Mountain ski resorts, has sponsored work at Buttermilk Falls for 12 years, she said.

At some popular spots Black River volunteers print and post test results at nearby information booths, in addition to posting them online. They also reach out to town managers and health officers with results, especially if levels are too high, said Stettner.

The White River Partnership, another state partner, can test for *E. coli* because it has a lab of its own, said Daniel Ruddell, the group’s resident scientist. The group tests 22 sites every other week, sharing results online and with an email list.

But even those results are limited by the group’s bi-weekly testing schedule. “It’s not going to tell you what the current conditions are,” said Ruddell.

And the testing hasn’t been easy to pay for, he said. The group has persuaded private foundations to pay for a few years, but “finding long-term, stable funding sources for water quality is pretty challenging,” he said.

The state considers 67 waterbodies impaired for swimming or other recreation in the water, according to two Department of Environmental Conservation reports from 2022.

A waterbody might be impaired because of farm runoff sending too many nutrients its way. Or it could be contaminated by nearby hazardous waste sites and failed septic systems. Water with elevated *E. coli* or asbestos can earn an impaired designation, too. The environmental conservation department uses data from the LaRosa program to monitor and identify impaired waters.

Historic rainfall brought on by Hurricane Beryl and other recent storms has only elevated threats to water safety. The Department of Health advises people to stay out of bodies of water for at least 48 hours after heavy rain and longer if an area has flooded.

“As these floods come through they bring not just water but sediment, gravel, rocks, trees, garbage,” said Stettner from the Black River team.

In the short term, the White River Partnership has seen a rise in bacteria — with 13 of its 22 sites exceeding healthy swimming limits in late July.

A first review of 2023 data from all of the LaRosa project sites shows a rise in pollutants following major floods, said Meaghan Hickey, program coordinator.

Sampling by the groups, Hickey said,

**WATER TESTING** continued on page 10

**YOU NEED A CONTRACTOR YOU CAN TRUST.**

**POLLI**  
construction, inc.

**CUSTOM BUILDING AND REMODELING**

**POLLICONSTRUCTION.COM 802.482.5777**

expert PAINTERS SPARKLES ROT HANDYMAN



WATER TESTING  
Continued from page 9

“provides reliable data that contribute to our overall understanding of the variations in water quality conditions in Vermont rivers and streams.”

The LaRosa program doesn’t collect E. coli samples “due to the logistical challenges it poses as part of a large, widespread volunteer monitoring effort,” said Hickey, later explaining, “E. coli samples must be analyzed within a few hours of collection.”

Other partners, like the Lewis Creek Association and the Missisquoi River Basin Association, don’t test for bacteria because they only have the state’s resources.

Neither of those groups has a sponsor or access to a lab other than the state’s. The Lewis Creek group gets by on a couple thousand dollars a year from the towns of Charlotte, Shelburne and Hinesburg to pay its directors a small sum, said program manager Kate Kelly. Praise from officials has been appreciated, but the group has struggled in recent years to find funding and rally volunteers.

The Missisquoi group only has one intern to help coordinator Sarah Lunn, she said. The two cover 19 testing sites every other week from Swanton to Lowell.

Outside the partner program, the state parks system tests water quality in park swimming areas weekly and posts the results. Beaches along Lake Champlain are also tested regularly for swimmability by a number of municipalities, but how often tests happen depends on the town. The Department of Health, which sells testing kits for people to use themselves, recommends testing recreational areas at least once a week Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Despite the challenges, partners in the LaRosa program seem like they’re rewarded by their work and make it fun. “I have them take stream selfies so they have pictures of themselves taking samples, hopefully,” said Stettner.

She added: “People get a sense that their work, their volunteer hours, really mean something.”

*(Via Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship.)*

Sports

Redhawks score touchdown to start first game, go on to shut out Hartford

Scooter MacMillan  
Editor

The Champlain Valley Union football team started the 2024 season the way it wanted to, and it only took them two plays to do it.

On Saturday, Aug. 31, against visiting Hartford, Nolan Walpole took a handoff from Orion Yates and scampered 51 yards for a touchdown.

The season was less than a minute old, and the Redhawks had a 7-0 lead over the Hurricanes.

Yates, a sophomore, was starting his first game behind center, and he was already at the helm with a lead. It didn’t appear that Yates was suffering from any butterflies, but if he had been, this start was a good way to settle his nerves.

Walpole added another touchdown at the end of the half.

With 28 seconds remaining in the game, Alex Jovell kicked a 25-yard field goal to complete CVU’s 17-0 shutout of the Hurricanes.

Afterward, Yates appeared confident but not cocky, taking responsibility for some communication mishaps.

“It was on me,” he said. “That will all be fixed. That’s what we’re going to practice on.”

He felt the Redhawks had an almost even mix of running to passing plays and is confident of his team’s abilities with either throwing or rushing the ball.

Coach Rahn Fleming said Hartford was as good and strong as the Redhawks had expected.

“Hartford’s a doggone good football team. They’re big; they’re strong; they’re blue collar,” he said.

Fleming was proud of the way his team handled themselves against the team that came in second in the state last year. Hartford fell to state champions Burr and Burton by a touchdown in the title game.

“We just stayed in the middle of the ring and traded punches on defense,” Fleming



Photo by Al Frey

Nolan Walpole scored twice in Champlain Valley’s season opening win over Hartford High.

said. “It was pretty good for week one.”

The coach was proud of the way his team played in the trenches and gave credit for Walpole’s first score to his offensive line, singling out seniors Caleb Scrodin, Josh Quad and Sean Kennedy as the ones who really scored that touchdown by opening a hole in Hartford’s line.

Fleming also had props for Quad for recovering a Hurricane fumble to end the game.

Redhawks’ coaches praised the defensive play of Lucas Almena-Lee. Especially during the first half, it seemed as if the linebacker’s name was being called out by the announcer on almost every tackle.

The Redhawks also won the game on special teams. Its kicking and long snapping outshone Hartford’s.

Assistant coach in charge of special teams Sam Fontaine commended his Redhawks’ play on special teams. He credited that to the players practicing

kicking without having to be encouraged to do so.

Fontaine said the Redhawks didn’t make many mental errors, adding, “So, mission accomplished. Now, on to Essex.”

That game will be at 7 p.m. this Friday, Sept. 6, at Essex High. It will be a good bellwether of how strong the Redhawks might be this year. Essex took a 49-13 win over St. Johnsbury on Friday night to open its season.

Essex could be considered CVU’s biggest rival, particularly in recent years. Last year, the Redhawks deftly handled the Hornets in the quarterfinals of the state tournament, laying a 45-0 shellacking on Essex.

In 2022, Champlain Valley knocked Essex out of the semifinals 49-24 on the way to the Redhawks’ sole state title, a 24-19 win over Middlebury.

In the 2021 state championship, Essex downed the Redhawks 21-19 to win the state Division 1 tournament.



JOIN OUR  
EMAIL LIST  
AND GET  
THE LATEST  
TOWN NEWS  
WHEN IT  
HAPPENS!

SIGN UP ON  
OUR WEBSITE

[www.CharlotteNewsVT.org](http://www.CharlotteNewsVT.org)



# Education

## New school year begins at Charlotte Central School

Naomi Strada  
(Summarized by Tom Scatchard)

The administrative team at Charlotte Central School (Jen Roth principal, Tim O’Leary assistant principal and Beth Slater director of student services) reported that on Aug. 26 the school was excited and ready to welcome students to the first day of the school year. Faculty and staff had been energized the previous week: organizing classrooms, preparing the grounds, readying the cafeteria and more.

The primary intentions of the first week of school were to make connections with the students and to develop routines across all the school settings. Connections are being made through social-emotional learning activities, conversations, team-building and opportunities for exploration and collaboration.

Teachers and students are developing routines and expectations for learning, play times and transitions. Students are beginning to make sense of what they will do as readers, writers, mathematicians and, most importantly, what they will do as members of this community to take care of themselves, each other and our school.

The staff has taken every opportunity to soak up the many aspects of the collaborative environment that makes Charlotte Central School such a magical, special place where all students and staff flourish. The administration is inspired by the work that is taking place to guide all students to become engaged, creative, mindful, curious learners and members of the school community.

### School safety in broader community

The safety procedures Charlotte Central School follow align with guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education, Vermont statutes and Champlain Valley School District guidelines. The September fire drill and run-hide-fight practice are framed to educate and support staff and students with steps that are developmentally appropriate and emotionally safe.

The school relies on a team of educators and community members on the School Safety Team. The school collaborates with emergency responders who are knowledgeable of a full scope of emergencies to help Charlotte Central School plan and train. The internal safety meetings are a chance for staff to align a collective understanding of the emergency response so there is coordination and cohesion between school officials and first responders, if the need were to arise.

If you are a member of the Charlotte community who works in law enforcement, is an EMT, firefighter or other first responder who is interested in joining the team, please reach out to Roth (jroth@cvsdvt.org) and get on the communication list.

### Charlotte Central School music

The Charlotte Central School fifth-eighth grade music handbook says, “By selecting band and/or chorus, you have become a member of a musical family and have joined the tradition of musical excellence at Charlotte Central School. You will find yourself challenged on many levels — intellectually, emotionally, physically and musically — as you strive to recreate works

of art.

“Students who are entering the performing groups at Charlotte Central School for the first time should be aware that being a member of the band or chorus is different from being in any other class. Many of the students who become involved in the band and choral program remain for their entire school careers, primarily because it is like being part of an extended family. There is a special bond that is created among people who make music together.”

### Green Mountain Aviation Field Days

There is a great STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) event coming up in the next few weeks.

The Vermont Aviators Association is happy to announce their first Green Mountain Aviation Field Days will take place Sept. 14-15. It is expected to be the largest aviation event in Vermont in over 30 years. The theme

will focus on the “Past, Present and Future of Aviation” with a heavy emphasis on education and STEM, highlighting some of the wonderful opportunities available to kids and adults in Vermont.

Currently there are 47 aircraft confirmed for the static displays, a 20,000-square-foot hangar to house the exhibits, flight simulators, radio-controlled races, airport and local vehicles for “touch-a-truck” displays, 11 food trucks and five bands. Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 613 will host a Young Eagles Event in conjunction with the field days, providing free discovery flights to 7- to 17-year-olds, providing them an opportunity to experience the thrill of flight in a small aircraft.

More info and tickets can be found at [greenmountainaviationfielddays.org](http://greenmountainaviationfielddays.org), the Green Mountain Aviation Field Days website. Children 12 and under are free.

### Back in the saddle



Photo by Scooter MacMillan

On Monday, Aug. 26, Jackson and Leigh Karczewski prepare to head into Charlotte Central School and into another year of exploring the world through learning.



# Our Local Feast

## Tomato and corn dish uses last of summer vegetables

Dorothy Grover-Read  
Contributor

Tomatoes and the sweetest corn imaginable are everywhere right now. Red tomatoes, green, purple, yellow, orange, striped and tie-dye too. All sizes, shapes and flavors, and so many recipes to make. It was really hard to choose at the farmers market this week, because we want some of everything, and there's only so many meals in the week.

I settled on some lovely heirloom striped green and red tomatoes that were firm and meaty. I had roasting in mind, one for each person so not too big, as well as a polenta using the corn in as many ways as possible. I also tossed in some of my abundant cherry tomatoes from my own garden.

The base of this dish is polenta, dressed up with the flavor of the fresh corn. Of course, in New England we called it cornmeal mush when I was growing up. Often, it was served as a porridge for breakfast, topped with maple syrup. Mom would make a large batch and pour the leftovers into a little square baking dish to firm up. The next morning, she cut it into squares and fried them in bacon grease and added an egg on top, much to our delight.

The tomatoes we grew were simple and predictable — an early show-off beefsteak, of course, cherry tomatoes, and for variety, a low-acid yellow tomato my mother loved.

When I had my own family garden, I branched out. I worked for a time for a local garden center, and our grower asked us to trial some 40 different varieties. I probably don't need to tell you it was a year of lots of tomato sauce. We all had favorites, and a few I've noticed have become easier to find, such as the heirloom, open-pollinated Amish paste or brandywine.

I wanted to make something special for a recent dinner that celebrated our beautiful tomatoes, with corn as the sidekick. The polenta in my mind had corn in every way. I even used the water in which the corn boiled since its flavor enhanced the dish.



Photos by Dorothy Grover-Read  
Roasted tomatoes over polenta combines two of our favorite late-summer crops. You can use whatever tomato you love to adorn this creamy polenta, which bursts with extra corn flavor.

The texture of the fresh corn kernels adds interest to the polenta, and you can vary how much you put in to your liking. Thus, corn four ways: cornmeal, corn water, whole kernels and garnish, an explosion of corn flavor that blends well with those lovely tomatoes.

The cornmeal I used was High Meadow Yellow from the Nitty Gritty Grain Company, grown and ground right here in town. What could be better?

Nitty Gritty produces its cornmeal in small batches. The corn is allowed to dry on the stalk, and then the whole kernels are ground, which gives the cornmeal more nutrition and flavor. Most commercial cornmeal is degermed to give it a longer shelf life, which reduces both nutrition and flavor. Industrialized food strikes again.

This is an easy dish to make, quite inexpensive this time of year, full of seasonal flavor, and it will delight your family and guests. Use any lovely tomato you have; it all works. You can even use

all cherry tomatoes if your plants are being overly generous right now, as mine are.

We served this with a salad and warm whole-grain bread from the Back Door Bakery here in town. But you don't need a crowd to have this on the menu.

### Roasted heirloom tomatoes with super corny polenta

For the polenta you will need:  
4 large ears of corn  
1 cup medium grind cornmeal  
2 tablespoons butter or vegan butter  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan, dairy or vegan

For the roasted tomatoes:  
6 medium-sized tomatoes  
A handful of cherry tomatoes  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
1 tablespoon capers  
2 tablespoons chopped calamata olives  
basil to garnish

Make a small slit in the bottom of each tomato, leave the cherries whole but pierce with a knife. Combine the olive oil, balsamic, garlic, capers, olives, and drizzle over the tomatoes on a small baking sheet and set aside.

Put the corn on to boil covered with water and cook for 15 minutes, then remove the corn to cool. Strain the cooking water to remove any corn silk, and set aside. You will need around three cups of it for the polenta, plus a bit more for thinning, but check the cornmeal you are using for exact proportions.

Remove the corn from the cobs and reserve a cup and a half of the kernels, plus a bit to garnish. Set this aside.

To a medium saucepan, add three



Let's celebrate tomato season with all its diversity. Right now, our farm stands, farmers markets, and even our own back yards, are offering up these flavorful fruits in a rainbow of colors and sizes.



Right: Cherry tomatoes can be hard to keep up with this time of year. This season's hot item.

cups of corn water and bring back to a boil. Using a whisk, slowly add the cornmeal, then reduce the heat to a simmer and season with salt and pepper. Keep whisking to make sure you have no lumps, then switch to a wooden spoon and stir every few minutes so it doesn't stick on the bottom of your pan. As the polenta starts to thicken, add the reserved kernels. Depending on your polenta, the cooking should take around 30 minutes. If it starts to get really thick but the grains are still hard, add a bit more corn water to loosen, and at the end, if it needs more creaminess, add a bit more corn water. None of this is exact, it will depend on your cornmeal, so you will have to trust your instincts on this one.

Meanwhile, pop the tomato mixture in a 450-degree oven for 15 minutes, or until a very sharp knife tells you they are soft on the inside and have oozed some juice.

Once the cornmeal is ready, stir in the butter and the Parmesan and plate immediately onto a large platter. Gently arrange the tomatoes on top and drizzle all the juice from the pan over the tomatoes, this is liquid gold. Garnish with the rest of the corn kernels.

If you are feeling festive, add a basil top to each tomato and scatter some edible flowers about.

If there is any leftover polenta, place it in a little buttered baking dish and cut into squares the next morning. Delicious fried and topped with an egg.



# Weed's in the Garden

## Consider feeding migrating animals with your garden

Joan Weed  
Contributor

So, what's on the menu?

Not recipes and dishes for warming us as autumn chills move in, but food for our feathered friends, fuzzy bumbles and tiny creatures who need it to sustain them. Many have long journeys ahead of them. Some will just be storing up for the long cold winter that the Farmer's Almanac says we can expect.

In walking around my own garden, I spotted so many inviting seeds, berries and fruits to fill this need. Although I admit it wasn't always on my mind to do this, I have managed to plant so many useful plants to fill this bill. Perhaps you, too, have some in your garden?

I have been watching for many weeks now as the viburnum shrubs and trees have been slowly ripening their berries. And then on some morning in late summer, I spot the tree vibrating with the energy of hungry birds who have been waiting also. In a matter of days, they strip the tree bare of delicious fruits.

The Cornelian cherry tree has also ripened its oval jewels. I tasted one and it's tart but in a refreshing sort of way. I love the way the sun shines through as if made of glass.

The hollies, including the winterberries, are still mainly green but will soon color up. These firmer berries will stay all winter, and then on a spring morning, a flock of robins will dive in, and in a matter of hours, devour every last red berry. A sign of spring coming on fast.

Elderberries and rose hips offer food as well. And if you have ever walked barefoot anywhere near an oak you know the squirrels are well nourished. I have watched chipmunks downing maple seeds, chewing away the wings and storing up the round seed. They also love to snuggle up in the yew shrubs for red berries.

There have been rabbits in residence here as long as we've been living here. Not only do rabbits enjoy the clover in our "lawn" but in winter will gnaw on shrub stems emerging from snow pack. You can tell by their diagonal crisp cut.

In my perennial borders, rudbeckias of a few kinds leave behind seeds that are adored by finches. The energy they will produce assures a good journey to the south of us.

Coneflower seed heads are also left



Photos by Joan Weed

Left to right: Viburnum berries, yew berry and coneflowers.



Left to right: Rudbeckia or brown-eyed Susans, unripe winterberries and holly.

to overwinter and the evidence that they have been enjoyed is the bare stem with a button and all seeds gone by spring. The yellow trumpet of the Kirensghesoma and red blossoms of cardinal flower attract hummingbirds near my windows. The late blooming Japanese anemones attract bees by the hundreds.

Ushering in August are the sweet smelling clethra blooms, a native shrub, which feeds myriad pollinators of the winged variety with nectar. The monarch butterflies can be seen enjoying aster blooms and making their chrysalis incubators on milkweed plants. The larva feed on the leaves before cocooning.

Natives are important in the garden because their shape, color and aroma are all vital to being offered as a host for dinner. The umbelliferous plants such as dill, Queen Anne's lace and others provide food for swallowtail butterflies.

An important nutrient for all life is water. I have a small fountain, bird bath and pool. I know a frog has lived here each summer and I've even seen garter snakes swimming in the pool. Birds and even wasps and bees stop for a drink. It's

important to make a platform nearby for the small creatures to capture a drink. Put a rock in your birdbath.

Humans are not neglected in my gardens either. A MacIntosh apple tree provides fruit mostly on alternate years. A recent guest collected my crop and the windfalls and made a big pot of applesauce to enjoy all winter. The apples not gathered for people will provide for rodents and deer (though we don't often see them here). My kind neighbor left their Dolgo crab apple tree near our property line for me to make delicious jelly.

If you've been following along with me on my garden tour, perhaps you recognize that you, too, are doing your part to nourish wildlife. Each creature is important to the circle of life. If one is taken out or lacking food and water



Cornelian cherry

sources, the whole system can collapse. Perhaps you'll add something new next season with the end to nurturing one or more creatures that share our gardens.



### The Town of Charlotte TOWN MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

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

**Library Board Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept. 5, 6 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.

**Recreation Commission Meeting**  
Monday, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m.

**Development Review Board**  
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

**Charlotte Conservation  
Commission Meeting**  
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

**Development Review Board**  
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.



**Reach your  
customers by  
advertising with us!**

**Find out what  
we can do for you.**

Contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)



# Gardening

## Eradicate weeds by tarping, solarization or occultation

Deborah J. Benoit  
University of Vermont Extension

Are you looking for a low-labor, chemical-free method to help eradicate weeds and soil-residing pests in the garden? Solarization and occultation, often referred to as “tarping,” may be just what you’re looking for.

Simply put, tarping covers the soil with plastic, clear or opaque, depending on which method you’re using. Solarization utilizes clear plastic sheeting. Occultation uses black plastic sheeting or opaque tarps.

Solarization uses the sun’s rays to heat soil, mulch and other organic matter to temperatures that can kill some pests and soil-borne diseases. It works best on hot days when the sun is shining brightly. Solarization is unlikely to work well in shaded areas.

Occultation blocks the sun’s rays. While it does heat the soil somewhat, it stops plant growth by blocking the sun’s light and photosynthesis. This method works well in sun or shade.

The tarping process for both solarization

and occultation is simple. Trim any plants growing in the area close to the ground. Using a rake, level the soil surface. Give the soil a good soak.

Lay plastic sheeting over the area as close to the surface of the ground as possible. Bury the edges in the soil or use heavy objects to hold the edges down, creating a closed environment.

Solarization can take anywhere from two weeks under optimal conditions (clear, hot days at the peak of summer) but more likely four to six weeks. If conditions result in less heat generated by sunlight and temperature, the process can take longer.

Solarization can heat the upper 12-18 inches of soil, with its greatest benefit in the top six inches. When temperatures reach above 110 degrees Fahrenheit, solarization can help control soil-borne diseases such as early blight (*Alternaria* sp.).

Solarization can also be useful in combating pests such as the invasive Asian jumping worms (*Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis* and *Metaphire hilgendorfi*) many of us have encountered in our gardens. These worms live and multiply near the



Photos by Becky Maden

Occultation, which uses black plastic sheeting or opaque tarps, stops plant growth by blocking the sun’s light and photosynthesis.

soil’s surface, making solarization a good method to help control their spread.

Organic materials such as mulch, compost and topsoil can be solarized before being introduced into the garden. Simply spread the material on a tarp in a smooth, even layer 4-6 inches thick. Cover with clear plastic sheeting. Tuck the plastic sheeting under the tarp’s edge securely to enclose the material and prevent any worms from escaping.

It will take a minimum of three days of internal temperatures of at least 104 degrees Fahrenheit to kill jumping worms and the worms’ cocoons (eggs). After that time, the mulch or other material should be jumping worm free. If you’d like more information on Asian jumping worms, see [go.uvm.edu/jumping-worm](http://go.uvm.edu/jumping-worm).

The occultation process is similar to that

of solarization, but opaque plastic (black sheeting or dark colored tarp) is used instead of clear plastic. Follow the steps outlined above for tarping.

Occultation can work well to rid an area of grass or weeds, but any heat generated will not raise the soil temperature sufficiently to kill soil-borne diseases or pests. For the same reason, it will work best to rid an area of annual weeds but will be less successful with perennial weeds and weed seeds hidden beneath the soil’s surface.

For more detailed information on solarization and occultation, see [go.uvm.edu/tarping](http://go.uvm.edu/tarping).

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



When tarping, lay plastic sheeting over the area as close to the surface of the ground as possible, burying the edges in the soil or using heavy objects to hold the edges down, creating a closed environment.

### Tournament success



Courtesy photo

From left, Adam Ashe of Ashe Insurance, Renee Porter of Co-Operative Insurance Companies, Jamie Heath Wish Coordinator for Make-A-Wish Vermont, Cotey Gallagher of Co-Operative Insurance Companies and Jamie Hathaway of Make-A-Wish celebrate the success of the 22nd annual Wish Kids Golf Classic, which raised \$30,000 in July. The tournament has grown from raising \$2,100 in its first year to more than \$500,000 over 24 years. Make-A-Wish Vermont of Shelburne grants life-changing wishes to children facing critical illnesses.



# Gardening

## Rainy weather brings tomato late blight to Vermont

Ann Hazelrigg  
University of Vermont Extension

With our recent rainy weather and storms, I am not surprised that we diagnosed late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) in the University of Vermont Plant Diagnostic Clinic in late August. So far, it has been found in a garden and a high tunnel only on tomatoes, although this aggressive pathogen can also attack potatoes, depending on the strain of the organism.

This destructive fungal-like organism was the cause of the Irish potato famine or the “Great Hunger” in the 1840s. If you have an Irish last name, you may be here as a result of your ancestors being among the million souls who left Ireland during the famine to search for a better life in America.

The pathogen cannot survive Vermont winters but typically blows in on storm fronts from the south or gets introduced on infected transplants, as occurred in Vermont in 2009. Late blight symptoms can appear on foliage, stems and fruit.

Leaf symptoms first appear as small, water-soaked areas that expand rapidly to form purplish blotches. The spots usually show up on the upper foliage first since the spores “rain down” during weather events. The disease can be hit or miss in an area, depending on where rain events have occurred.

When humidity is high, rings of whitish, spore-forming structures appear on the edges or undersides of the blotches. You can place suspect tomato tissue in a plastic bag with moist paper towels overnight and check for these rings of spores. Infected fruit remains firm and may exhibit whitish spores during high humidity. It should be destroyed and not be eaten or used for canning.

The pathogen likes cool, moist weather, spreads rapidly by airborne spores and can quickly kill an entire field of tomatoes within a week. If the weather becomes hot and dry (80 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity less than 90 percent), the spread of the disease slows only to pick up again when the weather turns cool and wet.



Photos by Meg McGrath/Cornell University  
In addition to infecting the foliage of tomatoes, late blight can cause lesions with grayish-white spores on stems.

If your tomatoes do not have late blight yet and you know it is in the area, you can protect them with an organic (copper-based) or conventional fungicide, being sure to spray weekly or according to the label to keep new tissue protected. If your plants already are showing symptoms of the disease, it is best to destroy the plants since rescuing them with fungicides is difficult, especially if the weather is conducive.

The pathogen does not live on dead tomato plants, so cutting or pulling the plants will cause the spores to die. Leaving live infected plants in the garden increases the chances that the tomatoes at your neighbors or the farm down the road also will get the disease, so be a good neighbor.

Dead plants can be composted since the pathogen will not survive the winter. However, if you don’t have an active compost pile that heats up, other tomato diseases on the plant may not break down.

Rotation for this particular disease is not that important since the pathogen does not remain in our gardens, although rotation should be followed for the other tomato leaf spot diseases that show up every year.

The best way to avoid the disease is to plant resistant varieties. There are several tomato varieties that are designated as



Large, expanding brown lesions with whitish-gray spores are caused by *Phytophthora infestans* or late blight on tomato leaves.

resistant to late blight: mountain magic, mountain merit, legend, defiant phr and plum regal have excellent resistance to late blight. Jasper, red pearl and Matts wild cherry are small-fruited tomatoes with good resistance.



Fruit infected with late blight should be destroyed and not be eaten or used for canning.

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

### Are you ‘Experience’d?



Photo by John Ernst

The Steph Pappas Experience performs on the Charlotte Museum lawn on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25.



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!**

Only **\$25 per issue** or **\$20 per issue** when you run six months or more. Contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)



**Investing in better water**

- Water Filtration Systems
- Water Delivery
- Water Softners

**Call us today!**

*Culligan Water*

**802-865-0000**  
154 Brentwood Drive  
Colchester

**Handyperson & Senior Modifications**

*Putting "service" back into home services!*



Trustworthy ♦ Reliable ♦ Respectful ♦ Fully Insured

Brian McNabb | 802-638-0000 | [bluevt.us](http://bluevt.us)

**A HIGHER STANDARD OF HOME SERVICE**

**BEAGLE BUILDERS, LLC**

**ROOFING, SIDING & EXTERIOR FINISHES**



WINDOWS & DOORS  
DECKS, PORCHES & SUNROOMS  
REMODELING & ADDITIONS

Monkton, VT [beaglebuilders@gmavt.net](mailto:beaglebuilders@gmavt.net)

**802-453-4340 CALL US! 802-355-0807**



**Empowering families through financial planning.**


Our team includes **CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™** professionals.

**802-878-2731** | [CopperLeafFinancial.com](http://CopperLeafFinancial.com)

**Brushhogging by Adam**

*Taking your brush to brush.*

Adam Dantzscher  
Proprietor



Services:  
Brush-Hogging  
Chain-Sawing  
Driveway Repair  
Excavating  
Lawn Mowing  
Delivery/Haul-away  
Roadside Mowing

**802-578-8347**  
[adamdantzscher@aol.com](mailto:adamdantzscher@aol.com)



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**PEACE OF MIND PET & PLANT CARE**  
DEDICATED, PROFESSIONAL IN HOME

Care For Pets (Chickens Too)  
House Plants and Gardens  
Excellent References  
Call or Text 802-658-6108

**ADVERTISE YOUR  
BUSINESS HERE!**

Only **\$25 per issue**  
or **\$20 per issue**  
when you run six months or more.  
Contact [ads@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:ads@TheCharlotteNews.org)



# Calendar

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

**Evolution of hip-hop**  
**Thursday, Sept. 5, 6 p.m.**

Melo Grant, DJ host of The Cultural Bunker and Burlington City councilor, leads a musical journey through the evolution of hip-hop, with side steps to other genres at the South Burlington Public Library. She explains how sampling, the practice of using existing recorded music to create new sounds, influenced hip-hop and vice versa.

**‘Flee North’ lecture**  
**Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
Scott Shane, author of “Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery’s Borderland,” will talk about his book at the Rokeby Museum. Tickets are \$6 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. “Flee North” unearths the lost story of Thomas Smallwood, born into slavery in Maryland, who bought his freedom, educated himself, and became a shoemaker in southwest Washington, a short walk from the U.S. Capitol. Smallwood began to organize mass escapes from slavery with the help of a young white partner, Charles Torrey and wrote about the escapes in satirical dispatches for an abolitionist newspaper in Albany. Learn more by visiting the event page on the museum’s website.

**Coffee & muffins happy hour**  
**Friday, Sept. 6, 8:30-10 a.m.**  
Free coffee and muffins happy hour 8:30-10 a.m. Free iced coffee, hot coffee, tea and homemade muffins at the Charlotte Grange, 2858 Spear St. All are welcome.

**Vulture Awareness Day**  
**Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Discover how many vulture species live in Vermont (and where) at Vulture Awareness Day at the Birds of Vermont Museum. Can you find all the museum’s vulture carvings? More info about the international celebration of vultures at [vultureday.org](http://vultureday.org).



Photo by Nichon Glerum

An Arch performance at a festival in the Netherlands in June. A similar performance will be on top of Mount Philo on Oct. 11.

**Free college admission**  
**Saturday, Sept. 7**  
Shelburne Museum welcomes college students as they return to school with free admission on Saturdays throughout the month of September. Student Saturdays kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 7, offering students an opportunity to engage with art, culture and community. After presenting a valid college ID at the entrance, college students can explore for free the museum’s 45-acre campus, which features 39 buildings and 22 beautifully manicured gardens. As the preeminent art and history museum in northern New England, Shelburne Museum boasts a diverse collection of more than 100,000 objects that showcase the region’s rich cultural tapestry. A short 10-minute drive south of Burlington, the museum is also conveniently located along the Green Mountain Transit line No. 6.

**Woofstock: Walk for the Animals**  
**Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.**  
Join fellow animal lovers for a leisurely

1-mile walk around Middlebury followed by music, food, prizes and a pool party just for dogs in the Middlebury Town Pool. Sign up in advance or at the event. Registration takes place at the Memorial Sports Center at 10 a.m., the walk kicks off at 11 a.m., and the doggie dip follows. All proceeds benefit Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society ([homewardboundanimals.org](http://homewardboundanimals.org)).

**Shelburne Age Well Grab & Go Meal**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-noon**  
Age Well and St. Catherine’s of Siena Parish in Shelburne are providing a meal to go for anyone age 60 and older on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The meal will be available for pick up in the parking lot at 72 Church Street. A \$5 donation is suggested. The menu is stuffed chicken breast with gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed beets, wheat roll and vanilla pudding parfait. Order a meal by Wednesday, Sept. 4, by email ([agewellstcath@gmail.com](mailto:agewellstcath@gmail.com)) or phone (802-503-1107). More info at [agewellvt.org](http://agewellvt.org).

**Annual mixer**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 11, 5-7 p.m.**  
The Addison County Economic



Courtesy photo

Claudia Marshall and friends will perform a benefit concert for the Turning Point Center of Chittenden County at the Charlotte Congregational Church Sept. 15.

Development Corporation’s annual mixer for businesses and nonprofits is at Shacksbury Cider at 75 Meigs Road in Vergennes and will include a tour of the plant and door prizes. Network with the Addison County business community. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y6re748x>.

**Black ash talk**  
**Friday, Sept. 13, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
The black ash, a culturally significant tree species to the Indigenous peoples of the Northeast, is also important to regional ecosystems. On Sept. 13, the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program is hosting a talk at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier (713 Elm St.) from 5-6:30 p.m. about the black ash tree and its role in Vermont ecosystems, the threats it is facing from the emerald ash borer and what is being done to save it. Although free, registration at [go.uvm.edu/blackash](http://go.uvm.edu/blackash) is required. Following the presentation, attendees can take a guided walk to a small ash stand. To learn more go to

**CALENDAR** continued on page 19



**SEND US YOUR  
SPORTS  
PHOTOS**

[news@thecharlottenews.org](mailto:news@thecharlottenews.org)

**The Charlotte News**



**CALENDAR** Continued from page 18

[go.uvm.edu/blackashproject](http://go.uvm.edu/blackashproject).

**Tour de Farms**  
**Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m.**

The Tour de Farms, a celebration of local food via a meandering bike tour, is one of Vermont's oldest and most cherished cycling farm tours. The Tour de Farms visits local farms and tasty treats along the route. The tour returns to Shoreham this year, the town where it began in 2008. Riders will explore two to eight different farm stops, as well as 16 additional local food vendors. The tasty day finishes at 4:30 p.m. at the Shoreham Apple Fest. The tour includes a challenging 30-mile route and an alternative, shorter, family-friendly, 10-mile route. Riders will set out in the morning from the Shoreham Green, located about 40 minutes south of Charlotte, off Route 22A. The terrain includes rolling hills with a mix of paved and dirt roads, so a mountain bike or road bike with wide tires is recommended. E-bikes are encouraged for folks not used to Vermont's rolling hills. Register at [runsignup.com/Race/VT/Shoreham/TourdeFarms](https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Shoreham/TourdeFarms).

**Thanks for Sharing concert**  
**Sunday, Sept. 15, 4 p.m.**

Claudia Marshall and friends will perform a benefit concert for the Turning Point Center of Chittenden County at the Charlotte Congregational Church. Many people know Marshall as a journalist and radio and TV host (ABC, CBS, NPR). She has served in various volunteer capacities at this newspaper (president and publisher, among others). Marshall is also an accomplished singer and multi-instrumentalist. The Turning Point Center offers free peer-to-peer counseling and other support for people struggling with drug and alcohol issues. The hour-long concert will feature a wide range of music, from Tin Pan Alley jazz to pop and rock hits from the 70s. Admission is free.

**Shelburne Age Well luncheon**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 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 at 72 Church Street in Shelburne. The meal will be served at noon. There is a \$5 suggested donation. The menu is chicken cordon bleu, mashed sweet potatoes, broccoli florets, wheat roll, blueberry crumble, applesauce and milk. Gerry Ortego will entertain diners on guitar. Register by Thursday, Sept. 12, by emailing [kbatres@agewellvt.org](mailto:kbatres@agewellvt.org) or calling 802-662-5283.

**Historic shirt workshop**  
**Saturdays, Sept. 21 & 28, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

In this two-day workshop in Rokeby Museum's Historic House students will learn how to create a historically accurate 18th-century, gender-neutral shirt. This will include the fundamentals of no-waste cutting, period hand stitching, an overview of tools and materials and the basics of shirt construction. Expect homework between



Courtesy photo

Far left, Neil Schell of Charlotte will be performing with Chordination as part of the Green Mountain Chorus' "On the One Road," a musical tribute to all things Irish on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Essex Congregational Church.

sessions. The course will be taught by Rebecca Ranta, a fashion and textile historian and fiber artist with a passion for preserving traditional textile crafts. For over four years, she has created historic garment reproductions using period-accurate tools and techniques. Cost: Member \$350; nonmember \$375. All materials included. You need to attend both workshops.

**Bristol Harvest Festival**  
**Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Bristol will hold its 25th Bristol Harvest Festival on Sept. 28, featuring more than 70 vendors displaying local crafts and terrific food options. All day there will be live music at the Bristol Town Green bandstand with kids' activities and a handicap accessible children's playground.

**Green Mountain Chorus**  
**Saturday, Sept. 28, 2 & 7 p.m.**

The Green Mountain Chorus, presents "On the One Road," a musical tribute to all things Irish. In its 77th year as a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Green Mountain Chorus' annual show brings some of the best barbershop-style a capella singing New England has to offer. In addition to the Green Mountain Chorus, quartets Chordination, Daily Special, High Voltage and Low Maintenance will perform. There will be two shows on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction at 39 Main St. Each show has an intermission with door prizes. Tickets can be purchased at [sevendaystickets.com/events/a-capella-barbershop-style](https://sevendaystickets.com/events/a-capella-barbershop-style).

**Walk to Defeat ALS**  
**Saturday, Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m.**

People living with ALS, family members, friends, caregivers and others affected by the disease will come together for the 2024 Walk to Defeat ALS Vermont at Oakledge Park on Saturday, Sept. 28. All funds raised will go to help those living with ALS by supporting patient care, advocacy and cutting-edge research to find treatments and a cure for this debilitating, always fatal disease. ALS, often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive motor neuron disease that gradually robs people of

their ability to walk, talk, swallow ... and eventually breathe. Info: email [helen.ng@als.org](mailto:helen.ng@als.org).

**September bird monitoring walk**  
**Saturday, Sept. 31, 7:30 a.m.**

Join the monthly monitoring walk to record birds on the Birds of Vermont Museum property. Bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. Free, suggested donation \$5-\$15. Register for museum events at <https://tinyurl.com/ytmwfkfb>.

**Coffee & muffins happy hour**  
**Friday, Oct. 4, 8:30-10 a.m.**

Free coffee & muffins happy hour Friday, Oct. 4, 8:30-10 a.m. Free iced coffee, hot coffee, tea and homemade muffins at the Charlotte Grange, 2858 Spear St. All are welcome.

**CVU class of 1974 reunion**  
**Saturday, Oct. 5, 7-10 p.m.**

The Champlain Valley Union High class of 1974 will celebrate its reunion at the Eagles Club on Shelburne Road with food and music from the Hitmen. For info or reservations call Kirk Smith at 802-578-5964 or email [cvu74renion@gmail.com](mailto:cvu74renion@gmail.com).

**Arch on Mount Philo**  
**Friday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m.**

The Flynn Theater will sponsor a performance art piece on top of

Mount Philo, featuring ice, stone and fire, accompanied by a choir of local community members. In Arch, two performers build a freestanding structure out of concrete and ice blocks, accompanied by music. The performances of this American premiere will feature a volunteer chorus of 100 Vermonters. There will also be a performance of Arch at the Flynn on Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Both performances are free. For more info: [flynnvt.org](https://flynnvt.org).

**Car show & fall festival**  
**Sunday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Middlebury holds its third annual Car Show & Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 13. Main Street will close to welcome 75 classic cars and trucks, including food trucks, over 50 vendors, live music and raffle drawings. This event is fun for the whole family and free. More at [addisoncounty.com/middleburycarfest](https://addisoncounty.com/middleburycarfest).

**Coffee & muffins happy hour**  
**Friday, Nov. 1, 8:30-10 a.m.**

Free coffee and muffins happy hour Friday, Nov. 1, 8:30-10 a.m. Free iced coffee, hot coffee, tea and homemade muffins at the Charlotte Grange, 2858 Spear St. All are welcome.



**Restoration, Preservation, and Construction  
of Antique and Classic Boats**

**802-425-2004**

**821 Ferry Rd., Charlotte | [sam@darlingsboatworks.com](mailto:sam@darlingsboatworks.com)**



# Community Roundup

## Support a loved one with family-to-family classes

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont is hosting a virtual family-to-family education program for family members of individuals living with mental health conditions. This evidence-based program has been proven to significantly improve the coping and problem-solving abilities of parents, siblings, spouses and significant others of people living with a mental health condition. This free, 8-week program is facilitated by trained volunteers who are also family members caring for their loved ones.

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont is offering two virtual courses this fall to make them accessible to participants across the state:

- The first class, taught by leaders from National Alliance on Mental Illness southern Vermont, will start on Sept. 19. The classes will take place from 6:30-9 p.m. every Thursday.
- The second class will begin on Sept. 24 and will be taught by leaders from National Alliance on Mental Illness central Vermont and Northeast Kingdom Vermont. Classes will take place from 6- 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Participants must register in advance to ensure that the class is an appropriate fit and to receive the Zoom link. Participants are expected to attend all eight classes.

The family-to-family program offers education to family members and loved ones about different mental health diagnoses, including schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder and co-occurring mental illness and addiction. Participants will learn how to support and communicate with their loved ones, as well as how to address their own needs while caring for a person with mental illness.

The course offers family members the valuable opportunity of open conversation and mutual support in a stigma-free environment. Participants find that the family-to-family experience empowers them to understand and pursue paths toward healthy recovery for their loved ones, their families and themselves. Family-to-family not only provides information and strategies for taking care of a loved one, but also shows participants that they are not alone.

Registration is open to adult family members and close loved ones of individuals with a mental health condition. For more information about the courses, visit [namivt.org/f2f](http://namivt.org/f2f), call 802-876-7949 ext. 102, or email [program@namivt.org](mailto:program@namivt.org).



## Health Heroes workshops planned for teens

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H has partnered with the university's Larner College of Medicine to offer a series of fun, interactive



workshops for teens this fall that promote practical health and wellness knowledge.

Students in eighth-twelfth grades may register for one or more of the Health Heroes Workshops for Youth, which will take place on the University of Vermont campus. Food will be provided. Anyone attending all three will receive a certificate.

- Dates and topics are:
- Sept. 19, 5-7 p.m.: Healthcare and Healthy Living: Careers in Healthcare and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
  - Oct. 5, noon-2 p.m.: Prevention Strategies: What You Can Do to Enhance Personal and Community Health
  - Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m.: What is Mental Health and Why is it Important for Overall Health?

To register, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/heroes2>. Registrations will be accepted until three days prior to the workshop. A confirmation email with workshop location and parking information will be sent to all registered participants. To request language interpretation, translation assistance or a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Margaret Coan at 802-656-7634 or [margaret.coan@uvm.edu](mailto:margaret.coan@uvm.edu) at least three weeks in advance.

## Deadline for SCHIP's autumn grants application is Sept. 15

SCHIP is a popular nonprofit upscale resale shop located in the heart of Shelburne Village. It was founded in 2003 by a group of dedicated local women who shared the goal of supporting projects and causes that positively impact our neighbors' lives.

Over the years, Shelburne, Charlotte, Hinesburg Interfaith Projects has raised over \$950,000 through resale of locally donated gently used clothing, housewares and jewelry.

The profits are returned to the community in the form of grants awarded twice a year to eligible organizations, individual entrepreneurs and associations to fund projects that serve the residents of Shelburne, Hinesburg and Charlotte.

SCHIP offers two types of grants: smaller grants for up to \$3,000 and major grants for up to \$15,000. The major grant is designed to provide seed money for future self-sustaining projects.

To be eligible, the applicant must have 501c(3) status or must submit the application through such an organization, and the funded project has to serve residents of Shelburne, Hinesburg or Charlotte. The funds cannot be used for annual operating budgets or to cover permanent staffing costs.

In the past, our grants have supported various organizations within our communities, including rescue squads, farmers' coalitions, police departments, daycare centers, refugee support services, food shelves, senior support organizations, schools, nonprofit resale shops and disability services networks.

To learn more about the eligibility requirements and application process, as well as to see past grant recipients, visit



[theschip.org](http://theschip.org). If you have questions, email [grants@theschip.org](mailto:grants@theschip.org).

## Severe weather further strains Red Cross blood supply

The American Red Cross continues to experience a national blood emergency as remnants

Hurricane Debby and other severe weather events across the country have further complicated efforts to rebuild the nation's blood supply. Those in unaffected areas are urged to make an appointment to give now. Over the next two weeks in Vermont, 36 percent — or 485 blood donation appointments — are vacant across the state.

Weather in recent weeks has added to the summer shortfall in donations by forcing the cancellation of nearly 60 blood drives throughout the country, many of which were caused by Debby, causing approximately 1,500 lifesaving blood products to go uncollected. Annually, severe weather, such as blizzards, tornadoes, floods and hurricanes, impacts about 90,000 blood donations made to the Red Cross.

In Vermont, 57 blood drives have been canceled due to weather over the last 10 years, including eight so far this year. This has contributed to more than 700 donations going uncollected in the Northern New England Region to-date in 2024. Because blood has a short shelf life and can only come from volunteer blood donors, any disruptions in the ability to collect lifesaving blood can have serious consequences for hospitals and patients.

First-time donors and those who give regularly are critical to blood supply recovery. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). In thanks, all who come to give through Aug. 31 will get a \$20 Amazon.com gift card by email. See [redcrossblood.org/Help](http://redcrossblood.org/Help) for details.

Those who come to give through Sept. 15 will receive an exclusive Red Cross raglan T-shirt, while supplies last.

September is National Preparedness Month, and a strong blood supply is key to preparedness for disasters and medical emergencies. As disasters occur more often and become more powerful due to the climate crisis, the Red Cross also encourages people to get their households ready for emergencies. This year the country has already seen the earliest Category 5 storm ever recorded with Hurricane Beryl, and wildfires have burned 2.7 million more acres compared to all of 2023.

Disasters can happen anywhere at any time, often without warning. Get ready by making a plan to stay safe, gathering important supplies and knowing how you'll stay connected. To learn what disasters may affect your community, visit [redcross.org/hazardmap](http://redcross.org/hazardmap) and then download the free Red Cross emergency app for step-by-step guidance, real-time weather alerts and expert preparedness and safety advice in both English and Spanish.



## United Way connects volunteers with opportunities

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 the volunteer opportunities:

- A driving need — Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) needs volunteers to help make a difference in the lives of people with vision loss. Volunteer drivers are needed to transport individuals to and from appointments. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement for use of their own vehicles. Shopping assistants are also needed to assist individuals within stores. Readers and clerical helpers can help read mail and other printed materials, fill out forms, help with bills and correspondence. Special events assistants can help with fundraisers and other VABVI sponsored events. Contact Vicki Vest at [vvest@vabvi.org](mailto:vvest@vabvi.org).

- On the farm — Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in Richmond is seeking volunteers to help get food out to the community. Most of the food grown at their farm is distributed through the farm's Health Care Share, an innovative community supported agriculture partnership. This fall they are looking for volunteers to work with farm leaders to maintain the farm as well as pack and harvest produce. Volunteers are welcome Monday through Thursday for half-day (9 a.m.-Noon or 1-4 p.m.) or a full day shift (9 a.m.-4 p.m.). Email Chris with your availability at [volunteer@vycc.org](mailto:volunteer@vycc.org).

- On the road — Local Motion is looking for volunteer help for its bike mechanic for rental fleet bike tune-ups. Their busy bike rental shop generates revenue for education, advocacy and infrastructure work across the State. Some bike mechanic skills are needed. Local Motion is also looking for volunteers for their Bike Smart trailer which gives Vermont youth access to well-maintained bikes and an extensive bike safety curriculum. Those bikes will need some pre-season tune-ups from volunteers with basic mechanical skills. Come by their 1 Steel Street, Burlington location weekdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through October. Contact [volunteer@localmotion.org](mailto:volunteer@localmotion.org).

- Mentor! mentor! — With the return to school, AmeriCorps Seniors School-Based Mentors is looking for volunteer mentors for children with critical needs. Mentors provide attention, comfort and nurturing to help set a child on the path toward a successful future. This unique program provides individuals, ages 55+, the opportunity to remain engaged in the community by guiding children to higher academic and social achievement. Make a difference in the life of a child, contact Trezanra Robertson at 802-861-7823 or email [trezanra@unitedwaynwvt.org](mailto:trezanra@unitedwaynwvt.org).





# Library News

## Younger reading fans, join after-school book lovers' club

Margaret Woodruff  
Director

If you are you a first-third grader who enjoys reading and talking about books, you can ride the bus to the Charlotte Library and enjoy an afternoon of book sharing and crafts after school.

Registration is required for this program that runs Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Nov. 19, 3-4 p.m. Email youth services librarian Cheryl Sloan at [youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:youth@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

If you are a fifth-eighth grader, consider what Wednesday might bring at Wildcard Wednesdays, Sept. 11-Nov. 20, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Science sessions? Crafts and games?

Sign up and show up on Wednesdays to join in the fun activities. Charlotte Central School students can take the bus to the library with a parent note. For more information and registration details, please contact the library: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org).

### Library Card Sign-up Month

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month during September. If you don't have a library card, stop by to sign up and unlock worlds of possibilities.

With a library card, you have access to everything from museum passes to pickleball paddles as well as a wealth of print and digital resources.

New during September is Udemy online learning, which offers nearly 20,000 online video courses. These top-rated courses offer education in business, tech and personal development skills across more than 75 different categories. This new resource accompanies Vermont Online Library where you can find Chilton Library books for automotive repair, Cook's Country for dinner ideas and everything in between.

### Vermont Reads 'Gather'

Join throughout the fall for a series of Vermont Reads events related to by Kenneth Cadow's "Gather" and its themes of rural life, resilience, class differences, addiction and recovery, housing and food insecurity, a deep relationship to the land and the power of community. Copies available to read and enjoy. Stop in to pick one up.

### 'Just Getting By' film

**Thursday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.**

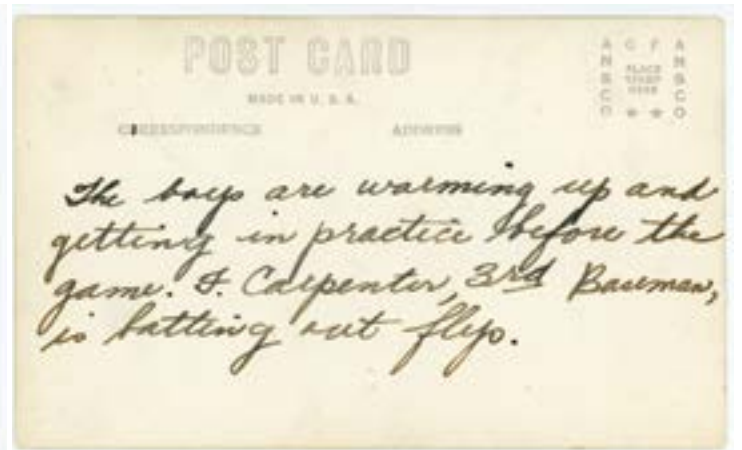
A sweeping and yet intimate look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity. These are big issues for a small state. "Just Getting By" focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people. This is the first in a series of events related to Kenneth Cadow's "Gather" and its themes of rural life, resilience, class differences, addiction and recovery, housing and food insecurity, a deep relationship to the land and the power of community. Copies are available; stop in to pick one up. The complete list of Vermont Reads programs is available at [bit.ly/3Myafcp](http://bit.ly/3Myafcp).

### Programs for kids

#### Monthly Babytime

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.**

You're invited to an unstructured hour



Courtesy photos

Examples of the kind of photos that could be brought to the library for scanning on Saturday, Oct. 19. These are postcards with pictures of baseball players in a field west of the East Charlotte village.

for parents, caregivers and babies to play, explore books and chat in the young children's area. Ages birth to 18 months.

### Preschool story time

**Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m.**

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

### Preschool free play

**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. Explore the sensory table, sorting, playing with blocks, playdoh — 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.**

You're invited to an unstructured hour for parents, caregivers and babies to play, explore books and chat 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. We'll have 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.

### 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.

#### Spanish conversation group

**Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Vengan a disfrutar conversación casual y nuevos amigos en la biblioteca. Un grupo de conversar es una oportunidad de practicar su español o compartir con el grupo. Speakers of all levels and ages, including beginners,

are welcome. Chat, relax, listen to music and enjoy some snacks while exploring the beautiful and useful Spanish language.

### Mystery book group

**Monday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.**

Amelia Peabody, that indomitable product of the Victorian age, embarks on her debut Egyptian adventure armed with unshakable self-confidence, a journal to record her thoughts and, of course, a sturdy umbrella in "The Crocodile on the Sandbank." On her way to Cairo, Amelia rescues young Evelyn Barton-Forbes, who has been abandoned by her scoundrel lover. Together the two women sail up the Nile to an archeological site. Soon their little party is increased by one — one mummy that is. Copies available at the circulation desk.

### Solutions to community's hard questions

**Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.**

How do you get the most out of town meeting, selectboard meetings and other community-based discussions and debates? Susan Clark leads a workshop on making our local conversations more inclusive, productive and empowered community dialogues. Learn about why things often go wrong and gain a powerful tool that can help groups work towards outcomes that honor diverging viewpoints. Clark is a facilitator, educator and the co-author of "Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home." She is also town moderator of Middlesex. Registration appreciated but not required at <https://tinyurl.com/mvv446yr>.

### Better Together book club

**Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.**

Join this open group that discusses books related to parenthood. After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide rose sharply, more than doubling on many measures. Why? In "The Anxious Generation," social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. Most importantly, Haidt issues a clear call to action. He diagnoses the "collective action problems" that trap us and then proposes four simple rules that might set us free. Copies available at the circulation desk.

### Thursday book group

**Thursday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.**

"The Island of Extraordinary Captives" follows the events of Kristallnacht in 1938, when Peter Fleischmann evaded the Gestapo's roundups in Berlin by way of a perilous journey to England on a Kindertransport rescue, an effort sanctioned by the UK government to evacuate minors from Nazi-controlled areas by train. But he could not escape the British police, who came for him in the early hours and shipped him off to Hutchinson Camp on the Isle of Man, under suspicion of being a spy for the very regime he had fled. Copies available at the circulation desk or join on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/49awjb8j>.

**LIBRARY** continued on page 22

## Send us your photos!

Charlotte events, people or places. We want to publish your photos.  
Email them to: [news@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:news@TheCharlotteNews.org)





# Green Mountain Bicycle Club's rides for September

Phyl Newbeck  
Contributor

Here is the Green Mountain Bicycle Club's rides for August. 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.
- Additional local social rides will be



Photo by Carlie Krolic

Green Mountain Bicycle Club riders resting at Long Point.

scheduled in the Champlain Valley for later in the season, but the time and date is subject to change based on weather conditions. Please email [lightspd@comcast.net](mailto:lightspd@comcast.net) to be added to the social riders email contact list, which is the only guaranteed notification for these rides. Weekend social rides are usually

announced by Thursday and group size is limited.

**Date: Sunday, Sept. 8**  
**Ride:** Addison Ambler — This route travels south from Vergennes to Weybridge via Route 125 and then west to Bridport and

West Addison and back to Vergennes on quiet roads. The short ride is 45 miles (M) and the long is 60 miles (S) with roughly 2 miles of dirt roads as an alternative to riding on Route 22A from Bridport to Shoreham. There is no designated rest stop or food stop but the Champlain Bridge restaurant at the foot of Champlain Bridge on the Vermont side is a possibility if you wish to get food before heading back to Vergennes.

**Meet time:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Meeting place:** Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Road, east parking lot  
**Leader:** Brian Howard — 802-304-0610 [bjhowd@gmail.com](mailto:bjhowd@gmail.com)  
**Co-leader:** William Regan — 571-730-8160 [william.regan.802@gmail.com](mailto:william.regan.802@gmail.com)

**Date: Sunday, Sept. 22**  
**Ride:** Century Day — Three rides, all following the same route for the first 25 miles with a food stop in Bristol. The Metric Century is 62 miles (M) via Bristol and Vergennes. The Full Century is 100 miles (S) traveling down to the Crown Point Bridge and returning through the Champlain Valley. Those looking for an extra challenge can do the Double Gap Century which is 113 miles and includes the Middlebury and Appalachian Gaps.

**Meeting time:** 7:30 a.m.  
**Meeting place:** Wheeler lot, Veterans Memorial Park, South Burlington  
**Metric leader:** Brian Howard — 802-304-0610 [bjhowd@gmail.com](mailto:bjhowd@gmail.com)

## LIBRARY

Continued from page 21

### Men's book group Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

"A Higher Call" by Adam Makos tells a story of four days before Christmas 1943, when a badly damaged American bomber struggled to fly over wartime Germany. At its controls was a 21-year-old pilot. Half his crew lay wounded or dead. It was their first mission. Suddenly, a sleek, dark shape pulled up on the bomber's tail — a German Messerschmitt fighter. Worse,

the German pilot was an ace, a man able to destroy the American bomber in the squeeze of a trigger. What happened next would defy imagination and later be called the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II. Copies available at the circulation desk. Join us at the library or on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/bde3bktn>.

### Vermont Reads kick-off & film 'Just Getting By' Thursday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

"Just Getting By" is a sweeping and yet intimate look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity. These are big issues for a small state, and the film focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people. This event will introduce one of the key topics of "Gather" to our community and provide some context for people unfamiliar with the book and the issues of housing and food insecurity in our state and our town. Co-sponsored with the Charlotte Congregational Church Social Justice Ministry. This is the kick-off for the Vermont Reads 2024 program.

### Historic Charlotte photo scanning Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

If you have old photos of people and places in Charlotte, the Charlotte Library would like to add to its digital collection of Charlotte historic photos and documents. People and resources will be available for scanning and documenting up to 10 photos per person. For more information or to sign up for a time on Oct. 19, email [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org) or call 802-425-

3864. If you have other non-Charlotte-related photos to scan, please let us know. We would be happy to include you in the event or make alternate arrangements. To see what is already in the digital collection, go to [charlottevthistoryonline.omeka.net](http://charlottevthistoryonline.omeka.net).

### 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.**  
Join in 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, 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**  
**Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m. & Fridays, 8:30-10 a.m.**  
Enjoy tending gardens and seeing them respond? Like friendly conversation while you pull weeds? Appreciate learning

from others' gardening experiences and sharing your own? 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.

**Library contact information:**  
Margaret Woodruff, director  
Cheryl Sloan, youth services librarian  
Susanna Kahn, tech librarian  
Phone: 802-425-3864  
Email: [info@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@charlottepubliclibrary.org)  
For the latest information about programs, books and activity kits, sign up for the newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/n5usd25r>.

The Charlotte Library Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., unless otherwise rescheduled following the Opening Meeting Law. The next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. Contact the library or visit the library website ([charlottepubliclibrary.org](http://charlottepubliclibrary.org)) for more information.

## Send us your photos!



Charlotte events, people or places.  
We want to publish your photos.  
Email them to:  
[news@TheCharlotteNews.org](mailto:news@TheCharlotteNews.org)

The Charlotte News



# Senior Center News

## With return of school, senior center returns to fall sked

Lori York  
Director

While students have returned to school, the senior center is returning to its fall programming.

Attend a presentation about investment fraud and financial scams or join the monthly death cafe where folks gather and strengthen ties while sharing conversations around difficult topics.

There are two opportunities to learn how to paint with watercolors, a beginner Italian class and Tai Chi for arthritis.

### Community

#### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group Wednesday, Sept. 11, 4-5 p.m.

Are you caring for someone with Alzheimer's? Please join this group for the monthly Caregivers Support Group on the second Wednesday of each month from 4:00–5:00 p.m. The meetings provide a safe place for caregivers, family, and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. For additional information please contact Susan Cartwright: cartwright.susan1@gmail.com. Free. No registration required.

#### Death Café

##### Wednesday, Sept. 25, 4-5 p.m.

New to Charlotte. We are now offering a monthly Death Café. Join us on the fourth Wednesday of the month as we come together in human fellowship to celebrate life by voicing concerns, share questions, ideas and stories around death and dying. These are not always easy conversations. But when we share, heart to heart, we build community and experience a special joy that enhances our lives. Free, but registration required. For more info: ppolly62@ymail.com.

#### September artist exhibit

Visit the senior center and view the September senior art show with a wide range of artwork produced by local artists of all skill levels, ages 50 and older. An artist reception will be held on Friday, Sept. 27, from 1-2 p.m.

#### Senior investment fraud seminar

##### Wednesday, Sept. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.

Staff from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will present “The Three P’s of Senior Investment Fraud: Profile, Persuasion, Prevention,” a seminar on investment fraud and financial scams — and how you can protect yourself from them. Topics covered will include the three P’s of Investment Fraud — the profile of the typical investment-fraud victim, the persuasion tactics on artists use to trick seniors and other investors and what you can do to help prevent this from happening to you or your friends. Investors are welcome to share their questions, stories and concerns about these topics, about saving and investing, or about the Securities and Exchange Commission generally. Free handouts, including the commission’s official guide for senior investors, will be available to take home. Free. Registration appreciated.

### Programs

#### Arts group

##### Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon

This weekly group includes a wide range of artists looking to socialize and make new friendships. You are invited to bring whatever you are working on and enjoy the ideas and encouragement that this friendly and relaxed group has to offer. Free. No registration required.

#### 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, email jonathanhart1@gmail.com. Cost: \$3. No registration required.

#### Beginner watercolor workshop

##### Friday, Sept. 20, 1-2:30 p.m.

If you’ve always wanted to try watercolor but were too intimidated, this is the class for you. In this workshop you will learn how to paint a Lake Champlain Sunset in watercolor without everything turning green. For more information about Ginny Joyner, check out her website: ginnyjoyner.com. \$40 plus \$6 supply fee required by Sept. 17.

#### Birding trip

##### Wednesday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.

There is a wide range of birding habitats in Chittenden County. Join avid bird watcher Hank Kaestner and learn to identify the various bird species and habitats right here in Vermont. Free. The birders will leave the senior center promptly at 9 a.m., so arrive early. Registration required.

#### Duplicate bridge

##### Mondays, 12:30-4 p.m.

We play an intermediate level of duplicate bridge using the basic American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) conventions. Names are drawn for partners, and friendly games ensue. Those unfamiliar with duplicate bridge are welcome and paired with an experienced player to help for a few weeks of open dialogue training. We are always looking for new players who have basic bridge knowledge. \$3. No registration required.

#### Italian for beginners

##### Fridays, Sept. 13-27 & Oct. 11-25, 10-11 a.m.

Are you interested in beginning your study of Italian? Join this group to explore the beauty of the Italian language and culture. For questions about whether this class is the correct level, contact Nicole Librandi at nicolelibrandi2@gmail.com. Cost: \$60. Registration and payment required by Monday, Sept. 9.

#### Pickleball for seniors

##### Saturday, Sept. 14, 10a.m.-noon

Are you curious about this sport called pickleball? Playing pickleball allows you to work on your balance, agility, reflexes, and hand-eye coordination without putting excessive strains on your body. Bring folding chairs to watch how pickleball is played.

\*Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to try out pickleball. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Paddles will be provided. Questions? Call or text David at 802-425-



Photos by Lori York

The weather was so nice recently at a Monday lunch that Judy Tuttle, left, and Riki Bowen enjoyed their lunch outside on the senior center patio.

4567. Free. Registration required. Consider carpooling with friends. You will need a Charlotte Beach season or day pass to park. (Rain date Sept. 21)

#### Pilates fitness

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

Join Phyllis Bartling in this pilates class for folks 55 and over. It includes upper-body strength work with hand weights and mat exercises. You will work core muscles to improve balance, strength and posture. Cost: \$10 a class. No registration required.

#### Shanghai mahjong

##### Tuesdays, 12:45-3:45 p.m.

New to or experienced in the Shanghai style of Mahjong, you are welcome to join this informal get-together. For questions email Nan Mason: anne.mason@uvm.edu. Free. No registration required.

#### Tai chi for arthritis

##### Thursdays, from Sept. 26, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

The benefits of a tai chi practice include reduced pain and stiffness and improved muscle strength and joint flexibility. Through learning the tai chi movements and practicing regularly, many have found significant relief from arthritis symptoms. The instructor is certified and has studied with the founder of the Tai Chi for Arthritis Association. Email belizahammer@hotmail.com if you have questions. \$10 a class. No registration required.

#### Watercolor class

##### Tuesdays, Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-noon

Don't you just love the colors of fall in the Green Mountain State? Join artist and instructor Lynn Cummings to paint some fall blooms, landscapes and more. Some experience in watercolor is helpful, but open to all. Cost: \$125. Registration and payment by Tuesday, Sept. 10.

#### 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 to and up from the floor with or without props. Cost: \$10 a class. No registration required.

#### Meals

Menus are posted on the website: charlotteseniorcentervt.org.

#### Monday lunches

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

#### 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. 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 Tracy Brown, coordinator, tbrown@charlotteseniorcentervt.org 212 Ferry Road, Charlotte 802-425-6345 charlotteseniorcentervt.org Follow the senior center on Facebook or Instagram at charlotteseniorcentervt.



# Write Ingredients

## Egg rolls have no eggs – nor bananas at Monday Munch

Susan Ohanian  
Contributor

**Monday Munch, Sept. 9**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Egg roll in a bowl (ground beef, carrots, cabbage, sesame seeds and more), spinach salad with mandarin oranges and homemade dessert.

The egg roll, featured at Monday Munch, makes one think of that golden oldie, “Yes, We Have No Bananas.”

Yes, the egg roll has no eggs.

Andrew Coe, author of “Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States,” says the egg roll was probably invented at a Chinese restaurant in New York City in the early 1930s, by one of two chefs who both later claimed credit for the creation: Lung Fong and Henry Low.

Some people of Chinese descent say they never saw an egg roll until they came to America, but others say they are a traditional treat in China at Chinese New Year and Spring Festival. The Chinese words for “egg” and “spring” sound very much alike, which has caused much confusion between the two foods. The Washington Post started out 1979 with “Inside the Egg Roll,” giving some info about which of these came first at <https://tinyurl.com/37nmpfds>.

The article includes recommendations of



Adobe stock photo

good places to find egg rolls and ends with “Not So Honorable Roll,” short devastating comments on the not-so-good:

- Consistency of wet cardboard. Skin so soggy, raw and thick even the Pillsbury doughboy would be intimidated.
- It looks very innocent, but when a co-taster bit into it, a stream of grease came out

the other end.

· It is said to be good manners, that if you have nothing good to say, don’t say anything at all.

Of course, while searching “egg roll” on the Internet, interesting things happen. During the egg roll sponsored by the Hoover administration, a child fell and broke her leg. Mrs. Hoover sent her a note, inviting her to come to the White House once she got out of the hospital.

In “Trump Administration Hunts for Easter Eggs and Senior Staff,” New York Times, April 11, 2017, we learned: “The White House is as much as two months behind recent standards for presidential transitions, leaving 90 percent of the positions considered critical to leadership unfilled. It did, however, manage to order the eggs for the Easter Egg Roll.”

In April 2019, “At a White House Tradition, Politics Color Everything but the Easter Eggs,” President Trump ditched his escort — the Easter Bunny — before fielding questions about impeachment and unruly advisors. Then he briefed a child about the construction of a wall at the southwestern border.

Delicious egg rolls in a bowl will be served at the Charlotte Senior Center, without politics. Wikipedia offers the interesting origins of “Yes, We Have No Bananas,” and here’s Frank Silver, the composer, singing it on The Ed Sullivan Show here: <https://tinyurl.com/5b6y8h6u>.

**Monday Munch, Sept. 16**  
**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Chicken and broccoli alfredo bake, salad, garlic bread and s’more bars.

S’more is a contraction of the phrase “some more.” Early in the 1920s, a recipe called Graham Cracker Sandwich appeared in a “Campfire Marshmallows” cookbook. In 1927, a recipe for “Some More” was published in “Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts.”

The newspaper of “all the news fit to print” fame insists that with s’mores “the potential for customization is endless.” They try to prove it by claiming, “potato chips, Nutella and even Peeps can step into

this campfire classic.” Potato chips may make you cringe, but the article includes large photos that will make your mouth water.

In his interview for this article, Dan Whalen, a food blogger and author of “S’mores!: Gooney, Melty, Crunchy Riffs on the Campfire Classic,” explains that no matter what ingredients you choose, the critical thing in making s’mores is the layering. Whalen insists, “Sometimes graham crackers, after sitting out for a minute, can be instantly soggy or stale. The potato chip gives it “a little more crunch.” For real crunch, he likes Ruffles. And if that weren’t far enough over the top, think Avocado, or The Elvis — bacon, banana and peanut butter nirvana.

You can find the table of contents of Whalen’s book at Amazon and be alarmed even more by the titles of his 51 recipes.

As always, I enjoyed the bizarre reader comments following the article. One reader advises: Forget the chocolate and crackers. Forget the campfire. Just put a large marshmallow on a paper plate and stick it in the microwave and then enjoy “sugar straight to the brain.”

Here are the ingredients in homemade marshmallows:

- 3 packages gelatin
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

Sugar straight to the brain, indeed. I have one “gift” left this month, so you don’t need a subscription to enjoy the article at <https://tinyurl.com/2ufred56>.

As always, everyone is welcome to enjoy Monday Munch at the Charlotte Senior Center. There is no charge. A \$5 donation is appreciated.

Please remember to make a donation to The Charlotte News:  
P.O. Box 251  
Charlotte, VT 05445  
or [charlottenewsvt.org/donate](http://charlottenewsvt.org/donate).

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 05482  
PERMIT NO. 9

PRESORTED STANDARD