

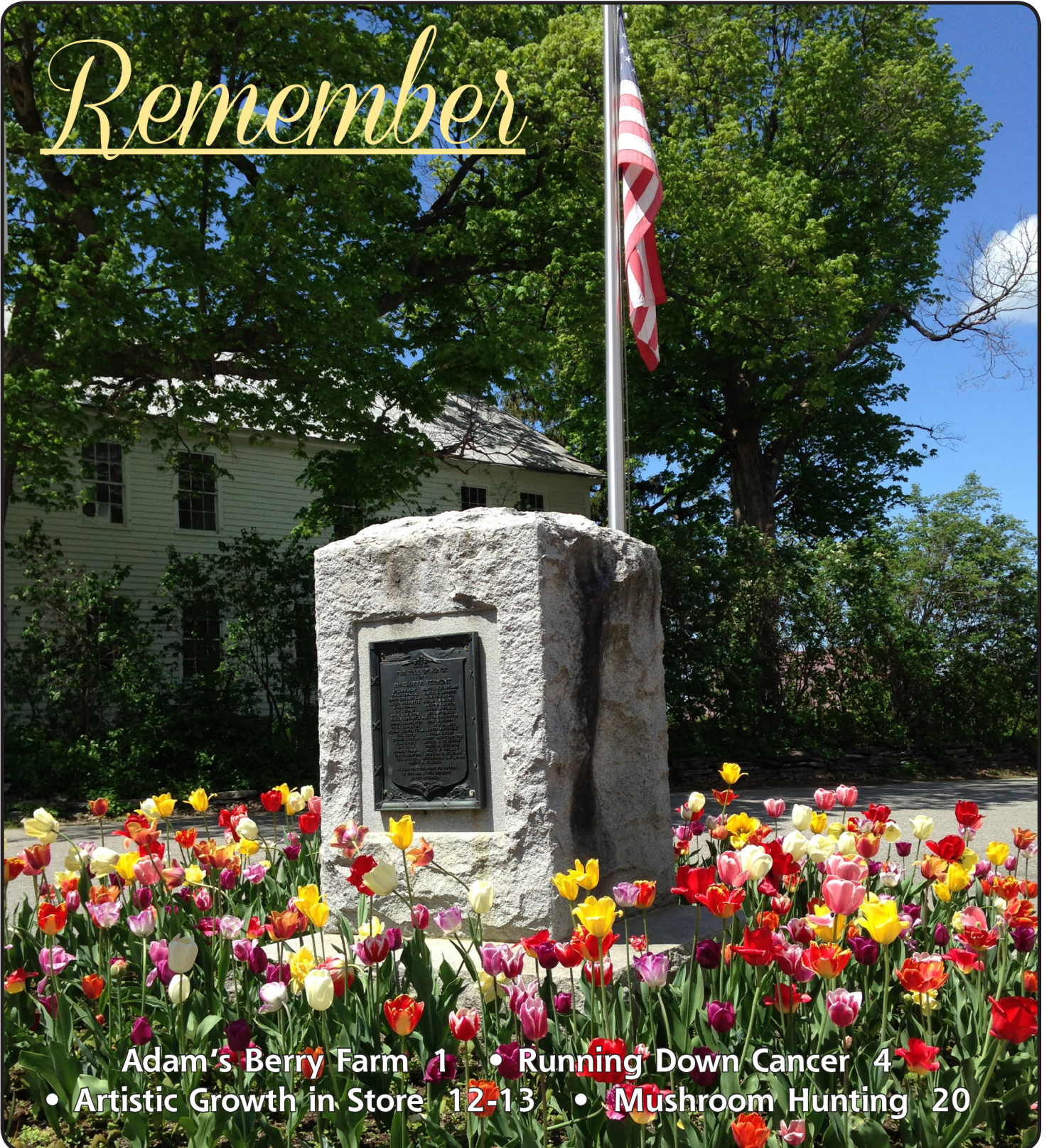
# *The Hometown Paper Since 1958* Charlotte News

VOLUME LVI NUMBER 20

THE VOICE OF THE TOWN

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

## *Remember*



Adam's Berry Farm 1 • Running Down Cancer 4

• Artistic Growth in Store 12-13 • Mushroom Hunting 20



# The Charlotte News

VOLUME LVI NUMBER 20

THE VOICE OF THE TOWN

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014



CCS's fourth-grade Architects team and parent volunteers spent several days last week painting a colorful map of the United States on the pavement of the basketball court. The two-week project was meant to update the all-but-faded map that had been painted on the court several years ago. The PTO provided funds to purchase the paint. The map is one of several steps CCS is taking to add more engaging activities to the playground, including new hopscotch and four-square areas.



## Selectboard Caps Busy Month with Police and Route 7 Discussions

Brett Sigurdson & John Hammer  
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

If there was any question about whether this current Selectboard has been busy, the first twenty minutes or so of its May 12 meeting should stand as a testament, as it was taken up by approving minutes from eight warned meetings over three weeks. The last two meetings, including this past Monday night's meeting, have continued the trend, as the board has tackled a plethora of pressing issues.

### HOW MUCH FOR POLICE?

Matt Krasnow, a new member of the Board and its public safety liaison, offered an update on the town's negotiations for a new police service contract during the May 12 meeting.

Currently, Charlotte contracts with the Shelburne Police Department for an average of 8.5 hours of coverage per week at a cost of \$25,000 a year. Vermont State Police provides as-needed coverage free of charge. Yet with the impending end of the current contract with Shelburne in June, the Shelburne department is looking to charge more for its services due to rising overhead costs.

Krasnow detailed how the town is currently in the process of exploring bidding for police services, with interest expressed by Shelburne, Hinesburg and the State Police based on a draft scope of services. As it is currently drawn the draft calls for using the \$30,000 approved by Charlotters at Town Meeting this year for up

**Selectboard** continued on page 5

## Opportunity Required

All CVU seniors must complete a Grad Challenge project. To many, it offers fantastic learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Kim Cribari

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Three nights a week working at a radio station is just as fun and interesting as learning a little bit

about becoming a physical therapist. And both of those activities are just as fun as figuring out how to build a grapple. Of course, this opinion depends on who you are. One person's idea of a really great, interesting learning experience may be very different from someone else's idea of an interesting learning experience, and finding this out is all part of Grad Challenge.

For the past 19 years, CVU has had the seniors at the school do Graduation Challenge, a required project for students to complete before they graduate. It includes 20-45 hours of new learning guided

by a consultant from within surrounding communities. After their hours are done, the students have to write a paper with research and reflection and do a 10-12 minute presentation in front of CVU faculty and community members.

Charlotter and CVU senior Claire Dillenbeck helped explain what Grad Challenge is all about. "Students pick anything under the sun that they want to learn about, and as long as there's new learning, you can pick anything you want to do," Dillenbeck

**Opportunity** continued on page 16

## Putting Down Roots in Charlotte

With his first season underway in East Charlotte, Adam Hausmann shares what he has in store for his popular pick-your-own berry business, Adam's Berry Farm.

Diane Walker

CONTRIBUTOR

A popular Burlington berry farm that operated on a perilous floodplain for over a decade has planted roots in East Charlotte. Adam's Berry Farm, a pick-your-own organic berry enterprise born in Burlington's low-lying Intervale, is blossoming on a sunny knoll off Bingham Brook Road. The picturesque site is part of a 56-acre parcel of land purchased by Adam Hausmann in December 2012.

"It's really exciting to be somewhere new and to be inspired by the landscape," Hausmann said recently. "A whole different level of creativity is sparked by knowing this is a permanent spot. It allows you to think more long term and build a

great vision."

Hausmann's Intervale operation suffered setbacks from three separate floods over the course of 11 years, the most recent in 2011, when the farm lost 40 percent of its crop. Seeking higher ground to secure and expand his operation, Hausmann purchased the Charlotte property bordering Spear Street with the help of the Vermont Land Trust and the blessing of seller Nancy Hinsdale, who wanted to conserve the property.

Last spring Hausmann and a small crew began transitioning the farm to its new home. "It was a whirlwind of planting" Hausmann said. Working 16-hour days, the crew replanted 5,000 berry bushes to Charlotte with zero plant mortality.

**Roots** continued on page 14

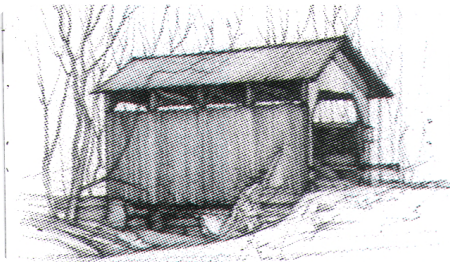


Adam Hausmann, owner of Adam's Berry Farm in East Charlotte, inspects blueberry blossoms.

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**Legislative Report**

by Representative Mike Yantachka

**End of Session Report**

The 2014 legislative session is finally over, and I am fairly pleased with what we accomplished over the last four months. Here is a recap of what we accomplished and the opportunities I believe we missed. I wrote about some of this legislation in previous articles in more detail.

**THE ECONOMY**

The \$655 million transportation bill marks a heavy investment in Vermont's transportation infrastructure, with support for better roads, safer bridges and expanded rail without tax increases. Downtown development was encouraged by loosening Act 250 regulations in designated development centers while discouraging sprawl. A comprehensive Economic Development bill (S.220) was passed to encourage businesses to be established, to grow or to stay in Vermont in the face of economic adversity. It provides up to \$3 million in lending for entrepreneurial and agricultural investment, establishes a "Made in Vermont" program to increase exports, improves intellectual property safeguards for business and improves consumer protection from unauthorized lenders.

**WORKING VERMONTERS**

The Minimum Wage bill (H.552) raises the minimum wage in Vermont from \$8.73 today in four steps, from \$9.15 in 2015 to \$10.50 in 2018. Low-earning Vermonters looking to get ahead will be helped by H.790, which addresses the so-called benefits cliff—i.e. the disincentive that occurs when people receiving public benefits go to work and have their benefits reduced by more than their increased earnings.

H.790 increases the amount of earned income that will be disregarded from \$200 per month to \$250 for families in Reach Up. Reach Ahead is the program that provides a continued food benefit to help families sustain themselves after getting off Reach Up. This bill makes the benefit amount in Reach Ahead somewhat smaller but continues it for a longer period of time, keeping a family eligible for a full child-care subsidy for an additional year, a very important factor in being able to hold a job. On the other hand, the House failed to pass the Paid Sick Days bill (H.208), which would have guaranteed up to six paid sick days or the equivalent time off for all employees.

**ENERGY AND CONSERVATION**

The renewable energy sector was given a boost with the expansion of net metering limits. Vermont is a leader in green jobs per capita, and this bill, H.702, insures that the sector will continue to grow at least until 2017 when the federal tax credits end. In the meantime, the cost of solar generation continues to decline, making systems more affordable for the average homeowner.

S.202 made air-to-air and geothermal heat pumps eligible for efficiency credits, recognizing that thermal energy savings will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions while saving money for homeowners. It also provided incentives to recycle construction and demolition debris in order to divert these materials from our landfills.

A first-in-the-nation battery recycling stewardship program was established by H.695 with the cooperation of the battery industry, and when it takes effect in 2016 it will help keep some of the 10 million batteries sold in Vermont each year out of our landfills.

**WATER QUALITY**

The value of our lakes and streams to Vermont's economy, health and quality of life was the subject of two major bills, the Shorelands Protection bill, (H.526), which passed and goes into effect on July 1, and the Water Quality bill, (H.586), which died in the Senate.

The Shorelands bill seeks to regulate development along the shores of our smaller lakes, as well as Lake Champlain, to reduce runoff, which fosters algae growth, and to create more robust fish habitat. The Water Quality bill addressed issues related to factors throughout watersheds that contribute to phosphorous levels in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.

Although H.586 did not pass this year, these problems will have to be addressed next year to comply with EPA Clean Water standards.

**AGRICULTURE**

With overwhelming support from most Vermonters the GMO Labeling bill (H.112) was passed and signed into law. This bill supports the right of consumers to know what is in their food. Local farmers who produce and sell raw milk will now be able to deliver it to their customers at Farmers Markets. There are still strict regulations to ensure that quality, safety and a direct relationship to the customer are maintained.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Highway safety will be enhanced with the passage of H.62, which bans the use of hand-held electronic devices while driving except under certain circumstances.

Victims of Lyme disease now have expanded opportunities for treatment with the authorization through H.123 for physicians to use additional treatment protocols. S.234 provides for reimbursement for the use of telecommunications for remote monitoring of Medicaid patients' health, helping to reduce Medicaid costs.

Children's safety and health were improved through two bills. The Child Safety Act (S.239), which requires manufacturers of products sold to or used by children to notify the Department of Health if their products contain chemicals that can harm children. And H.217 bans smoking in a vehicle when a young child is in the vehicle. It also requires that if smoking occurs on the premises of a child-care facility during times children are not present that the provider notifies families that their child will be exposed to an environment in which tobacco products are used. It also makes it illegal to sell products containing liquid nicotine (e-cigarettes) in Vermont unless these are in child-resistant packaging.

Noticeably absent this session was the report from the Shumlin administration providing detailed information about plans to fund Green Mountain Care. If details cannot be provided early in the 2015 session, the implementation of GMC by the target date of 2017 will be in jeopardy.

**EDUCATION**

Educational issues consumed a significant amount of energy during this session, with mixed results. On the positive side, opportunities were expanded at both ends of the age spectrum. The Universal Pre-K Education bill (H.270) provides up to ten hours of pre-kindergarten education to every three- or four-year-old who enrolls in a qualified program, creates a simplified payment system and clarifies oversight in order to give the best chance for success to every child. Research has shown that children who aren't able to access high-quality early education for whatever reason are more likely to challenge the resources of our education system throughout their K-12 experience.

At the other end of the spectrum Vermont's great high school graduation rate is not reflected in the number of students who go on to postsecondary education. The Economic Development bill (S.220) provides for up to two semesters of free college education in the state college system for Vermont students who satisfy certain academic and post-graduation residency criteria.

The Legislature was less successful in addressing the costs of K-12 education. The Education Governance bill (H.883), which would reduce the number of school districts statewide through consolidation, stalled in the Senate. The financing formula passed by the House was further modified by the Senate, which resulted in a higher property tax rate than anyone wanted. The discussion of the financing issue along with the large number of school budgets that were voted down has increased the importance of revising the financing system next year to reduce the burden on property taxes.

Now that the session is over, I will begin my campaign for re-election. I have enjoyed serving you in the Legislature and hope you will support me for another term. I intend to again conduct a person-to-person campaign and look forward to meeting you on the campaign trail.

I continue to welcome your thoughts and questions and can be reached by phone (802-425-3960) or by email ([myantachka.dfa@gmail.com](mailto:myantachka.dfa@gmail.com)). All my articles can be found at my website, [MikeYantachka.com](http://MikeYantachka.com).

## Letters

### Yantachka Wrong on GM Crop Stance

Mike Yantachka's vote to spread scientific ignorance is distressing. Mr. Yantachka's position on GM crop labeling is like that of climate change skeptics, as he ignores the scientific consensus on GM crops and uses the work of "expert" non-scientists to support his opinion. The bill itself resembles efforts to teach creationism alongside science in classrooms, to "teach the debate" where there is no scientific debate. In all three cases anti-science zealotry uses fake science and conspiracy theories to promote doubt to further political agendas.

Why should we progressives care? Humanity uses 40 percent of the earth's surface for food production. Because the global middle class is growing, demand for food is expected to double in 35 years. Thus humanity will be using 80 percent of the earth's surface for food production and most of the rest for our roads and buildings—how will wildlife fare? While today's GM tech-

nology is not a panacea, it is a tool with great potential to help increase yields.

The more important consideration is human welfare. Vermonters are richer than almost everybody else on the planet, and we have the luxury of sneering at vitamin-enriched rice, salt-tolerant rice and drought-tolerant wheat. But not everybody has that luxury. Each year three million children die from malnutrition; zero die from eating GM crops. Half a million children are blinded by vitamin deficiency; zero are blinded from eating Vitamin A-enriched rice. Spreading myths about GM crops and increasing costs of GM crops through boycotts or de facto bans will hurt the poorest on a planet with rising seas and a population headed towards 10 billion.

Mr. Yantachka should consider implications of legislation he champions; progressives used to call that "thinking globally." Leadership requires taking a stand against simplistic, knee-jerk anti-intellectualism based on Internet rumors and pseudo-science.

*Peter DuBrul  
Greenbush Road*

### Pat Gray Joins Senior Center Staff

The Charlotte Senior Center is pleased to welcome Pat Gray as its new volunteer coordinator. A resident of North Ferrisburgh, Gray brings a wealth of organizational experience and an outgoing personality to the position.

She has lived in Vermont for 20 years and has worked in a variety of volunteer-driven positions, including stints as an annual giving and events coordinator in Baltimore and coordinator for the Children's Miracle Network in Burlington, among others. She has also been a volunteer at the Center.

Gray is looking forward to working with the Center's volunteers, as she has always enjoyed working one-on-one with people.

"I have lots of experience working with the volunteer in mind," she said. When they feel they're appreciated that makes them feel good."

One of her main initiatives will be to create a database of the Center's volunteers in order to keep track of their availability and talents. Beyond that, she's hoping to get more community members involved in Center activities.



*Pat Gray is the Charlotte Senior Center's new volunteer coordinator.*

The new volunteer coordinator position was created this year to meet the need to support the many volunteers who make the Senior Center the vibrant place it is. Every year more than 140 volunteers contribute their time to the Center, and each week more than 400 people come to the Center to enjoy programs, classes, meals and conversation.

Gray will work 15 hours a week, and be around largely on Mondays and Wednesdays. She can be reached at 425-6345.

## CCS School Board Discusses Fifth Grade Class Size

Brett Sigurdson

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

When the CCS School Board met on May 14, it had several items on the agenda. However, it was one issue that wasn't listed that garnered the most discussion: should next year's crop of 56 5th graders be broken into three classes or remain at two as planned?

About 14 community members—mostly parents of current 4th-grade students—attended the nearly three-hour meeting to share their feelings with the board about the administration's plans to put up to 28 students under the tutelage of two teachers and two para-educators.

Members of the school board and administration explained that the decision to keep the classes at two stems from a configuration study commissioned by the board five years ago that projected the school's currently large 4th-grade class would be followed by several smaller classes. Therefore, with the input of the two current 5th-grade teachers, as well as that of support staff, the administration made the decision during last year's budget season to propose hiring two para-educators for the class instead of another teacher, a move that is projected to cost just over

\$63,000.

However, grade 5-8 Co-Principal Audrey Boutaugh noted at the meeting if class sizes increase to 29 before June 30, she would recommend forgoing the para-educators in favor of hiring another teacher, a move that would cost an extra \$27,000 and have to be offset elsewhere in this year's budget. While 28 students is considered acceptable, a class size of 29 was deemed a "tipping point" by teachers and staff, Boutaugh noted.

Laura Iglehart, the parent of a current 4th-grade child, told the board she felt the number of students per class is too high.

"I believe strongly it is in the best interest of the children to learn in three classrooms of approximately 18 to 19 students as opposed to 28 to 29 students as planned," she said. "I don't believe the students will receive the best education and most positive academic experience possible."

Sage Bagnato, a learning specialist and educational diagnostician and also a parent of a future 5th grader, cited Vermont Department of Education guidelines that suggest class sizes between 14 and 20 students are optimal for 5th-grade instruction.

Moreover, like many in the audience, she expressed frustration that the

administration was basing its decision on the configuration study rather than current enrollment figures.

"Enrollment is a moving target and will likely change in June, August and even into next school year," she said. "Basing this decision on who may be moving or returning to CCS is a slippery slope. Class sizes at CCS should be based on best practices in education and philosophy of education and not pinned to a specific number."

Other parents indicated apprehension over the potential for more misbehavior in a cohort with an already high rate of referrals once put in larger class sizes. According to behavior management data provided by the principals at the meeting, the current 4th grade class has 84 referrals, by far the most of any grade at CCS. Further, the class has a "larger-than-average percentage of students on individual education plans, 504 plans and EST plans," Boutaugh wrote in the principal's report for the meeting, describing coordinated approaches to certain student learning disabilities.

Julie Sigler, the parent of a 4th-grade student, told the board she felt the large classroom sizes would only promote misbehavior.

"Instead of two kids getting into trouble it's going to be four," she said. "It means that there will be even less

time for instruction."

Recognizing the specific learning issues the class has experienced, Boutaugh told the audience that CCS's administrators, staff and teachers are equipped to handle the issues the crowd cited.

"With the best practices that we are doing we believe we can support the needs of the students—the critical thinking, the justification, the discourse between students, teachers' opportunity to meet with students individually and in groups—because of the tools we're giving [the teachers]."

Moreover, K-4 Co-Principal Greg Marino explained that pointing to the number of referrals as evidence for an overabundance of misbehavior may be a red herring, as the referral system has not had a clear standard from teacher to teacher.

"I can't say with a high degree of confidence that everybody is using the referral process in the same way," said Marino. "That's something we want to work with."

In fact, Marino noted, he hasn't experienced a large degree of parent or student contact with 4th graders. He also cited a recent climate survey that

**School Board**  
*continued on page 6*

### GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

*The Charlotte News* accepts all signed letters pertaining to issues of local and national interest. Letters must be 300 words or fewer, include your full name and town, and reach us by the appropriate deadline. Writers will only have letters published once every four weeks. *The Charlotte News* reserves the right to edit for style and length. Your submission options are [news@charlottenewsvt.com](mailto:news@charlottenewsvt.com) or **The Charlotte News, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445**. All opinions expressed in Letters and Commentaries are those of the writers and not of *The Charlotte News*, which is published as an independent, nonprofit, unbiased community service and forum.

### Charlotte Historical Society to Host Abenaki Chief Presentation

For its first summer program of the year, the Charlotte Historical Society will host Don Stevens, chief of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation, on Tuesday, June 3, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Senior Center. Stevens will discuss friends, neighbors and the first peoples to walk the land and continue to do so today. The event is free and open to the public.

#### ON THE COVER

THE WAR MEMORIAL OUTSIDE OF THE OLD BRICK STORE FEATURES COLORFUL TULIPS AND A FLAG FLYING HIGH. PHOTO BY NANCY WOOD.

#### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINES

NEXT ISSUE DATE: THURS., JUNE 5  
CONTRIBUTIONS: MON., MAY 26 BY 5 P.M.  
LETTERS: MON., JUNE 2, BY 10 A.M.

# Going the Distance to Outpace Cancer

Brett Sigurdson

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Running can be an inherently selfish act. Even when the runner is surrounded by others, he or she is focused inward: pacing, breathing, positive thoughts, one foot in front of the other. Even training for a marathon takes a commitment to mileage and diet and mental preparation that can leave those on the couch feeling left out.

But for Charlotte Jordan Blucher, running has become the opposite, something altruistic, and his plans to run the 247-mile length of Vermont's Long Trail, which spans the distance of the state

north to south, is testament to this. The project, called Running Down Cancer, will see Blucher run roughly 30-mile sections of the trail over four years as a way to raise \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society.

For Blucher, running is cathartic, for it has come to represent an attempt to help others beat a disease that has had a profound effect on him and his family. Blucher's father succumbed to cancer in 2012. Earlier this year, his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. The disease has affected others in his extended family as well as neighbors and friends.

The Running Down Cancer project, then, is the combination of a goal to do something to combat the disease and a long-held desire to tackle the Long Trail. His plan is to run sections of the trail

three times a year for the next four years, raising \$5,000 each year. The first leg is slated for June 24.

Despite the ambitious, physically grueling nature of the project, Blucher is only a recent convert to trail running. Growing up in Danby, Vt., Blucher ran cross country in high school and did so off and on when he lived in Salt Lake City, where his wife, Erin Kurek, was finishing her medical residency a few years ago. But when he returned to Vermont and settled in Charlotte, Blucher, a stay-at-home dad, found running was a way to get exercise with his two children each day. Blucher proceeded to get more and more caught up in

running trails. Now he's running 20 to 30 miles a week, sometimes on Mt. Philo or Pease Mountain or sections of the Town Link Trail (he's a member of Charlotte's Trails Committee).

"It's something I've woven into the fabric of my life," said Blucher. "It's many things: it's my escape, my meditation. It's my way of flushing out whatever is in my head."

As he trains for the first leg of the project, a 26.8-mile section along the southern-most portion of the trail, he's running with a backpack that will carry the same gear he plans to have on each day-long, self-supported run: nearly a gallon of water, energy gels, electrolyte mixes, peanut butter and honey sandwiches, weather gear, bug spray. Blucher is also studying maps of the trail, looking

at the terrain, finding places to stop and, if necessary, to bail out for safety.

He's also preparing mentally for the long hours and loneliness of the trail, not to mention the inevitable pains of running alone up and down a rocky, rooted surface. But when he thinks of the pain he'll experience on each run, his mind moves to those like his father who dealt with the pain of cancer without a choice.

"People who have cancer, the people I'm running for, they don't have a choice to stop," said Blucher. "If I feel pain I have this mantra: 'They didn't have a choice.'"

But Blucher also knows he won't be alone on the trail. "Some days when I am really thinking about my dad or really having a hard time getting into a rhythm, I often see him on the side of the trail, clapping and cheering me on just as he did during my cross-county races in high school," he said. "This always gives me a great deal of comfort and a bit of sadness. One of the great advantages of trail running is you can talk out loud to whomever you choose, even yourself, because there is no one around to think you have completely lost your mind."

He also has the stories of others battling cancer to keep him company and propel him forward. Because the project isn't only about him—it's about those who are sick, those who have died, those who are dealing with the disease in some form or another.

"I just don't want this to be my story," he said. "If you think about it, everyone knows someone who has cancer. For me, raising the money is important, but just getting the word out about this project to show people there's something you



Jordan Blucher



Blucher's logo was designed by Charlotte's Brault & Barnes Design.

can do—there's something you can do on your own and find a way to do some good—is really valuable."

On Blucher's website for the Running Down Cancer project, he has a section for people to share their own battles with the disease, whether it be their own or that of a family member or friend. He hopes it will be a place to inspire others to get involved, if not with cancer, with their own passion. Even if it's running.

"I'd almost be more excited to find out I helped inspire someone to start running," he said, "if it helped someone work through their pain like it's helped me."

As he considers the first length of his run, he thinks about taking a break at a peak that overlooks his parents' house in Danby. As he rests there, he'll no doubt remember the time he spent with his sick father. He'll still have a way to go before finishing the day's run and the Long Trail. But, he says, he'll be running forward soon after, for himself and for everyone else.

## MORE INFO

**WHAT:** Running Down Cancer  
**WHEN:** Three times a year for the next four years  
**WHERE:** The 237 miles of the Long Trail  
**MORE INFO:** [runningdowncancer.com](http://runningdowncancer.com)

Blucher is hoping to raise \$20,000 for the fundraiser. All of the money donated through his website will go directly to the American Cancer Society. Blucher plans to keep readers updated on his preparation and his runs and much more through his website and via Twitter, where people can follow him at the handle [ft\\_dad\\_running](https://twitter.com/ft_dad_running) and with the hashtag [#longtrailcancerun](https://twitter.com/longtrailcancerun).

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Seating will be limited in the private dining room, so RSVP to the Boucher Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, c/o Reg Boucher at 802-864-2668.

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# Selectboard

continued from page 1

to 20 hours a week of police coverage per week with an annual average of 8.5 hours a week. During these hours and among other duties, officers would patrol designated parking areas for suspicious activity and enforce traffic at known speeding areas during periods of high-volume traffic. The goal is to have more police visibility in town.

Krasnow also noted that, when a new police contract is signed, it will be the first time the town will have such a written document to provide direction for the public safety provider.

“This is the first opportunity where we as a town can say ‘We know what the issues are in town and we’d like a police service that will mount a response for what we’re asking for,’” said Krasnow.

While the Selectboard made some changes to the draft scope of services based on a feeling by some board members that the scope was too ambitious, others in the audience felt the contract didn’t go far enough. Ed Cafferty, a member of the Community Safety Committee that studied the question of police service in town in the last year, said that Charlotters expressed a sentiment at Town Meeting that more money should be spent on police services. The Selectboard approved an extra \$40,000 on top of the \$30,000 budgeted for police services at the March meeting, though this was for traffic control, noted Selectboard Chair Lane Morrison.

Said Cafferty, “I think there was a clear expression that people wanted to see more funds put into police services. The fact still remains they did approve a significant line item and \$30,000 was simply all that was in the budget before.”

The Selectboard did leave the door open for adding more funding to police services if the Community Safety Committee recommended the need for more police time.

After the May 19 meeting, the Selectboard approved the scope of services and will send out an RFP to Shelburne, Hinesburg and the Vermont State Police.

## RESCUE LETTER

In the ongoing issue of Charlotte Rescue’s paramedic-level license restriction due to policies that did not meet the documentation and drug storage standards of EMS District 3, which licenses and oversees the organization, the Selectboard discussed and approved two amendments to

the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CVFRS it passed last year.

One modification states that Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue must obtain Selectboard approval for any expenditures from the Fire & Rescue Reserve Fund up to \$50,000, language that was not currently in the MOA. Any expenditure over that amount will require voter approval, a policy from the MOA that remains unchanged.

The Selectboard also approved a new policy for the MOA that states CVFRS must provide any official notifications from regulatory agencies within two business days of receiving them. This move is directly related to an email Rescue received last October that indicated representatives of EMS District 3 would recommend a conditional license for issues with post-ambulance-run paperwork. That six-month conditional license was put in place by Vermont EMS in December and is in effect until June 30 while Rescue works to improve its documentation.

The email in question was provided to the Selectboard at the May 12 meeting at the behest of Stephen Brooks, though it did not illustrate that Charlotte Rescue had kept anything from the town as it worked on the MOA, noted CVFRS Corporate President Dave McNally. Rather, it illustrated there was a possibility Rescue’s license could be put in “conditional status” when the organization’s license was up for state renewal in December.

Ruth Uphold, a retired emergency physician and member of CVFRS’s advisory board, told the Selectboard that she was working with Rescue and EMS District 3 representatives to discuss Rescue’s efforts to address the problems. She noted the district leaders would like to see Rescue have a sustained time period of implementation before it would prematurely reverse the 90-day paramedic-level suspension.

“I’m optimistic we’re going to get this back on track,” she said.

## CROSSING TO SAFETY

Much of the May 19 meeting was taken up by a number of non-controversial items that were handled with clockwork efficiency. The meeting opened early at 5:30 p.m. with a public work session during which Lucy Gibson from the firm of Dubois & King discussed a pedestrian crossing study of the Route 7 and Ferry Road intersection. The study was occasioned by the now ten-year-old Chittenden County Transportation Authority schedule of Burlington to Middlebury buses. The concern is for Route 7 pedestrian crossings to access the CCTA stop at the Spear’s Corner gas station.



## A New Breed at Fat Cow Farm

At Fat Cow Farm on Bingham Brook Road, beefmaster J. Peter Trono cuddles with the first of his herd’s expected 34 Herford-Wagyu calves to be born this spring. On the other side of the world, the Japanese consider their Wagyu breed as a national treasure. This mouth-watering beef plate is characterized by unique striated marbling with mostly monounsaturated fats and a high percentage of omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids. The very limited exportation of Wagyu from Japan, begun in 1976, was terminated 20 years ago. Fat Cow Farm’s purebred Wagyu bull “Gabriel” is descended from this historic lineage. Grass and organic silage feed sustain the herd. Come meet them and their sheep, goat, pig, chicken and turkey friends. We will all have to wait until August 2016 for this local, Kobe-style meat to reach the marketplace. (Photo and caption by Stephen C. Brooks.)

Gibson briefed two alternatives that included installing pedestrian crossing lights timed with the existing traffic signals. The difference between the two alternatives was whether or not to add an additional pedestrian shoulder or to supplant that shoulder with a paved pedestrian landing, which is essentially an abbreviated sidewalk on the southwest corner of the intersection.

A final report with recommendations will be submitted in early summer. Anyone wishing to review the presentation can find it at <http://bit.ly/Scts6p> and send their comments to [dean@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:dean@townofcharlotte.com).

## OTHER BUSINESS

In other business at the May 12 and 19 meetings, the Selectboard:

- approved a draft RFP for a 3,300-foot section of the Town Link Trail, which will connect the Co-Housing section to Route 7 in preparation for the impending construction of a highway underpass in 2016. Construction of the trail, which calls for crushed stone, will be contingent on the receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the

Vermont Recreation Trails Program for which the town has been approved. It is expected to be finished by Sept. 30, 2014.

- voted to approve the New England Municipal Resource Center payroll module with baseline figures determined in a study by the town treasurer and Selectboard member Charles Russell. Further discussions will continue in the on-going development of a final set of the Wage Scale Program.

- heard from Selectboard member Fritz Tegatz and Road Commissioner Jr Lewis, who were faced with a problem with determining the whereabouts of potentially lost culverts alongside the south side of Ferry Road on the land formerly owned by Dick LeBouef. His daughter had complained of water from Ferry Road flooding the basements of the LeBouef houses. Tegatz and Lewis enlisted the aid of 11-year-old Carter Harvey with his metal detector to help find the metal culverts. This was highlighted at the meeting as an example of early volunteer spirit in Charlotte.

The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 9.



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# Marion Paris Honored for Public Service

On May 8, Charlotte Marion Paris was honored as an outstanding state employee at the annual luncheon and awards ceremony during the nationally celebrated Public Service Recognition Week.

This recognition is given to individuals or teams who exemplify outstanding public service and who are respected members of their departments. Marion has worked in the Department for Children and Families and its two predecessors for most of her 44-year career.

Besides Marion's dedication to her work, she was involved in the creation of and has headed the annual fundraising golf tournament, the proceeds of which directly benefit educational opportunities for youth in foster care. In the 17 years she has volunteered her time to this, the tournament has netted approximately \$75,000. In fact, to demonstrate the lasting impact she has had, her commitment was recognized by dedicating



Marion Paris (center) was honored by (from left) Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding, Governor Peter Shumlin, Cindy Wolcott, the deputy commissioner of the Department for Children and Families, and Dave Yacavone the commissioner of the Department for Children and Families.

the tournament as the "Marion Paris Tournament for Teens."

She lives on Lake Road with her daughter, Maria, a special education teacher, along with several dogs, cats and horses.

## School Board

continued from page 3

showed 3rd- and 4th- grade students almost unanimously feel safe and that they belong at the school, sentiments he called "encouraging."

Still, Marino noted, some students in the grade have relational and social aggression problems, and the administration will look at ways to help combat these behaviors by working with CCS's Climate Committee and CARE teams.

In terms of addressing the size of the classes, Boutaugh pledged to communicate with 4th- grade parents frequently as information about the final class sizes becomes available. The school board will discuss the matter again at its June 25 meeting.

Also at the meeting, the school board:

- heard a presentation about NECAP assessments, which, among other things, show CCS 3rd through 8th graders are excelling in reading, math and science, and that the school's writing results are strong when measured against other schools in the state. However, the school will continue to improve its math, science and writing initiatives.

- was informed about recent behavior data that showed referrals have seen a 16-percent increase over the last two years, with the highest instance among 3rd- to 5th-grade boys.

- adopted the proposed 2014-2015 calendar. School will begin Aug. 27, 2014, and end June 12, 2015.

- was updated on upcoming retirements. Math coordinator Pam Piper, EEE coordinator/preK teacher Anne Mason and 6th-grade teacher Maureen Little will each be leaving at the end of the school year.

## Chittenden Senators to Hold Q & A June 3

There will be a citizens' question and answer session with Chittenden County's state senators on Tuesday, June 3, from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the City of South Burlington municipal offices,

All six Chittenden County state senators are invited and expected to attend. Chittenden County residents are invited to come with their questions and comments. This is a perfect opportunity to interact with local officials about issues important to all Vermonters over bagels and coffee. Attendees will pass the hat to cover the costs of our food and drink.

The South Burlington municipal offices are located at 575 Dorset Street near the intersection of Dorset Street and Kennedy Drive and across from South Burlington high school.

For more information, contact Rick Hubbard at rick@rickhubbard.org.

### Opening for the Season on May 1<sup>st</sup>

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## Mesirow Recognized for Decade of Fire & Rescue Service



Kip Mesirow (right) and Chris Davis

On Wednesday, May 7, Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue (CVFRS) Fire Chief Chris Davis presented volunteer Kip Mesirow with a letter recognizing Kip's ten years of service with the Fire Department. During that time Kip has also served with Charlotte Rescue, and as a member of the Fire & Rescue corporate board.

The officers and members of Fire and Rescue are grateful for Kip's commitment to the organization. His positive attitude and big smile are always welcome. Kip has volunteered countless hours to the community over ten years, and he has served with Fire and Rescue with distinction. He has really made a difference in his town. "We thank you, Kip, and your family for your time and energy and hope you will continue to serve for many more years," said Davis.

## Four Volunteers Receive Firefighter Certification

Chris Davis  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Charlotte Fire Department is proud to recognize Trevor Denton, Andrew Haigney, Liam Havard and Bryan LaBerge who all received certificates for completing the 250-hour state Firefighter Level 1 training.

This training is required in Vermont before any fire department member can operate wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (think SCUBA gear for land use in hazardous atmospheres such as burning structures), enter a burning structure or operate on a ladder or roof. The training is done in modules, typically in three- to four-hour evening classes each week with several weekend days for specialized training skills and live-burn training over a period of eight months.

This is a tremendous commitment. With the completion of this training these four members of the Charlotte Fire Department are certified to operate as interior firefighters. They will join the nine other department members who are currently certified to operate in a burning structure. We are very pleased to welcome them as certified interior firefighters.

For anyone interested in working with the Fire Department, we provide all the necessary training right in town to operate outside of a hazardous situation, such as driving the trucks to calls, vehicle crash extrication, water and ice rescue, rope rescue and basically contributing to the other tasks the department is called to do in a typical year, up to the point of entering a burning structure. Since we typically have six to ten structure fires of all types in Charlotte, a volunteer with our Fire Department can still participate in up to another 100-plus calls in a year and make a huge contribution in the community.

We train weekly on Wednesday evenings, but weekday and weekend training opportunities are also available. A minimum commitment of four hours per month is all it takes to remain certified to respond to calls after the probationary learning period. Members' ages range from 15 (with parental permission to train with us) to 65 and over.



(From left) Trevor Denton, Andrew Haigney, Liam Havard and Bryan LaBerge each recently received certificates for completing the 250-hour state Firefighter Level 1 training.

The Charlotte Rescue Squad is also looking for individuals who might wish to assist with emergency medical care on several levels of training. For those who do not think that emergency medicine or firefighting is their thing, we can always use help with special events, community projects, maintenance chores around the building, grant writing, website production, videography, public education and many other things.

Visit us on Facebook, stop by the station, or call us at 425-3111 to learn more about the ways you might be able to serve your community by assisting Fire or Rescue with some aspect of our operation.



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# Rotary Repairs Wildlife Refuge Bridge



(Top, from left) Dave Rice, Dave Jonah, president of Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary, and Bill Deming, all of Shelburne, work on a bridge at Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge last weekend. Led by Michael Clapp of Charlotte, 14 members of the Rotary, including John Hammer (left), completed a mammoth effort to hand-carry more than 900 board feet of treated lumber to restore the bridge, not to mention hauling out the old lumber. The bridge, which is 36 feet long, required new decking and railings. The work took more than 67 hours of combined effort, which included clearance of wild honeysuckle and stag thorn growths that obstructed the view of the beautiful brook. The focus of a project in coming weeks will be the re-decking of the first bridge. These projects are an important part in keeping the park, which is well used, open to Charlotters and the general public.

# A Word to the Wise about Wood

Larry Hamilton  
CONTRIBUTOR

Vermont ranks first in the nation in per capita use of wood for heat. Some surveys say that one in six rural households heat at least partially with wood. Use has been increasing, and many folks found themselves scrambling to get dry wood for immediate burning during this past cold winter and spring. I had more requests for sources of wood this year than ever before in my 17 years as tree warden. Oil and propane use decreased nationwide from 2000 to 2010 while residential heating fuel, electricity, gas and wood all increased, with wood increasing the most—by 30 percent.

As many found out to their sorrow, dry wood was difficult to obtain, and green (recently cut) wood does not burn well. Moreover, burning green wood is inefficient in terms of heat recovery per unit, and it may result in creosote problems in chimneys and pipes.

Therefore, in the middle of the tree-planting season, your tree warden is advising that you take thought now to securing your wood. It needs to be stacked under cover, with good air circulation in order to dry sufficiently over summer and early fall if you want to burn it next heating season. Two years in the stack is even better.

Charlotte has seen a marked increase in the number of fuel wood suppliers in the last three years. Get your supply soon. Just make certain that it is from wood sourced within Vermont. Imported wood runs the risk of introducing the emerald ash borer or the Asian long-horned beetle—both found in neighboring states but gratefully not in Vermont precisely because of this kind of vigilance. We do not want these pests introduced here since they kill host trees. Ask your supplier about source.

Larry Hamilton is Charlotte's volunteer tree warden.



A photo of wood supply at a local dealer. Green wood needs at least a full summer to dry before using for winter heat.

## SCHIP Accepting Grant Applications

Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects (SCHIP), the nonprofit organization that raises funds at its resale shop next to the Shelburne Town Center, is accepting applications for its next round of grants. Applications from nonprofit organizations are due by May 31, 2014.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization or submit their applications through such an organization. Projects must serve residents of the communities of Shelburne, Charlotte or Hinesburg. Funds may not be applied to annual operating budgets or permanent staffing, and you may apply only once within a calendar year.

Since SCHIP began making grants in 2004, the organization has granted more than \$490,000 to projects that improve the lives of our neighbors and strengthen our communities. Grants have ranged from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Individual grants may not exceed \$5,000.

To obtain an application email [schipgrant@myfairpoint.net](mailto:schipgrant@myfairpoint.net) or stop by the shop at 5404 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne. Please submit your requests by the end of May.

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## News from CVU

### 'Flexible Pathways' to Give Students More Learning Opportunities

Susan Grasso  
CONTRIBUTOR

In June of 2013, Governor Shumlin signed the Flexible Pathways Act, or Act 77, putting into place the expansion of the state's dual enrollment program, early college programs, and increased access to extended learning opportunities for all students. In addition, this bill initiates the implementation of statewide personalized learning plans (PLPs) for all students.

The Flexible Pathways Act is intended to:

1. increase rates of graduation and postsecondary education across the state,
2. further promote opportunities for all students to explore and honor personal goals,
3. address a variety of learning styles and skills, and
4. expand creativity in schools across the state.

So what exactly are flexible, or multiple, pathways? In the simplest of terms they are ways beyond the traditional classroom that a student might gain college and/or career readiness skills needed for post-graduation opportunities. These might include everything from taking college or online courses, earning credit for a work-based assignment or internship, or encouraging student-designed projects.

The Flexible Pathways Act ensures that all students are able to experience more relevant, challenging and rigorous programs of study that will meet their needs and ultimately lead to their future success. In addition, the act requires that all schools implement a personalized learning plan program by the fall of 2015. This part of the act will encourage students to be an integral part of their learning experience, with an increased emphasis on assisting students to set personal goals that are aligned with both CVU's academic expectations and students' individual interests.

At CVU, students have been exploring flexible pathways for many years--from dual enrollment and internships to the Graduation Challenge senior project and Virtual High School, and more recently the GOAL (Go Out and Learn) program, which encourages students to design a learning opportunity beyond the classroom. In 2013-2014, 73 students participated in dual enrollment, four students in GOAL and 40 students in Virtual High School. So, while this new bill will impact all high schools across the state, CVU is well poised to implement any changes.

At this time the PLP process is still in the development phase, and all schools, including CVU and the CSSU district, have been working toward identifying the most effective implementation process to meet the state's deadline.

If you are interested in learning more, find "What Are Personal Learning Plans? A New England Secondary School Consortium Briefing" at [newenglandssc.org](http://newenglandssc.org).

*Susan Grasso is a member of the CVU School Board.*



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Jay Peak Resort  
Alder Brook Dental Associates, Dr. South Sigler, DDS

## CVU Students Take Education Sky High

Olivia Hern  
CONTRIBUTOR

This semester in CVU's Weather, Climate and Oceans classes, students are working together to send a measuring device into the stratosphere.

For those unfamiliar with the makeup of the atmosphere, it has four levels: the troposphere, the stratosphere, the mesosphere and the thermosphere. Humankind and all weather on Earth exist in the troposphere, which extends approximately four to 12 miles from the earth's surface into the air. CVU's contraption, should it work successfully, will travel beyond the troposphere into the stratosphere, a portion of the atmosphere beyond the reach of weather. At these heights, the students will be able to gather information about the atmosphere conditions that are now out of our reach.

This project is an incredible feat for CVU students, who are working together in a variety of teams, ranging from publicity, to safety and legality, to engineering itself, to make this accomplishment possible. Gregory Goldman, a member of the engineering team, says that the final project will weigh 3-5 pounds and carry a wide array of instruments to measure pressure, humidity and temperature. Will Kay, a senior on the engineering team, has high hopes for the project.

"This endeavor looks promising, and we should soon be able to develop it further," he said. "Like a butterfly breaking from the cocoon of adversity, our weather balloon will soar above the clouds and serve as a shrine to childlike curiosity and scientific exploration that is within the hearts of each member of this Weather, Climate, and Oceans class."

The expected launch date is May 22, before the students are released for the summer. The event will take place at CVU at 2 p.m., and will be open to the public. Keep an eye out for the CVU Redhawks, who are taking their science education out of the classroom and straight to the sky.

## Middle School Students Compete at State Fitness Competition

Karyn Lunde  
CONTRIBUTOR

Twenty-four CCS students in 5th through 8th grades were selected to participate in the Vermont State Middle School Fitness Competition on Friday, May 9, at the University of Vermont. Students were selected not only for their athletic abilities but also for their positive attitudes towards physical fitness and competition.

The competition is sponsored by the Vermont Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (VTAHPERD), whose mission is to "promote active lifestyles by enhancing professional growth and development within each discipline, developing and supporting quality programs and reinforcing interaction among all professionals in all disciplines within the association and in the educational community."

As a member of VTAHPERD and a physical education teacher at CCS, Robyn Davis was excited to enter four teams, 5th/6th grade boys, 5th/6th grade girls, 7th/8th grade boys and 7th/8th grade girls. Davis is passionate about bringing fitness and wellness information to her students, so this fun competition was an experience she enjoyed sharing with her teams.

The athletes competed against other Vermont middle school students in four events; the mile run, curl ups, pushups and flexibility (sit and reach). Teams and individuals were recognized for their participation and finishing scores. All the students had a great time.



8th grader Trevor McGlaflin runs during the Vermont State Middle School Fitness Competition while the CCS 7th grade girls cheer him on.

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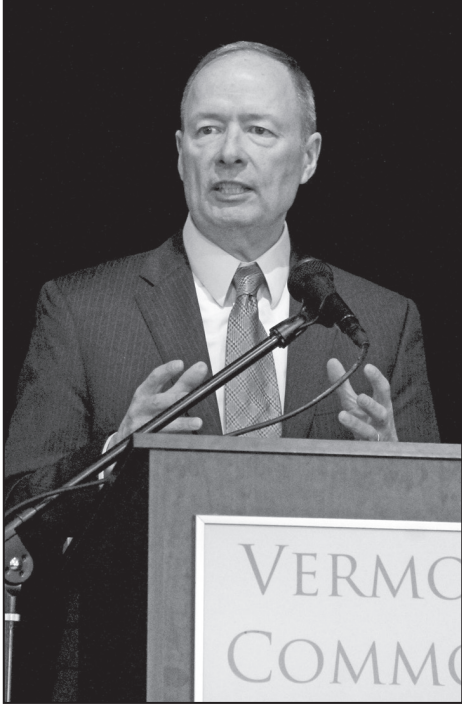
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## Former NSA Director Speaks at Vermont Commons School

On Friday, May 9, as part of its featured guest speaker series, Vermont Commons School in South Burlington welcomed General Keith Alexander, who recently retired as the 16th director of the National Security Agency. Like previous presenters, General Alexander spoke briefly and then took questions directly from the students, who are in grades seven through 12. He fielded questions from students like Liam Strobeck (right) on data collection, Edward Snowden, privacy and his career in the military and at the NSA. He even shared stories about his years as a middle school student and told about a prank he pulled on his teacher in sixth grade.

Photos by Amira Silverman of Charlotte

## 12th Annual Champ Run Ready to Go June 8

Come celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer with the 12th annual Champ Run on June 8 with a fun run beginning at 8:30 a.m.

This fun, family event includes a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, and a 1-mile fun run (not timed). Both the 5K and 10K begin at 9 a.m. and will be chip timed. This race is an out-and-back, beginning and ending at Charlotte Central School. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in both the 5K and the 10K divisions in addition to the top finisher in

each age group (five-year groups).

The cost to participate in the 5K run/walk and 10K run is \$20 per person. The fun run is \$15 per person. A family package for a group of four is \$65.

Race day bib pick up will be held Saturday from 9–10 a.m. and Sunday, 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Please consider coming on Saturday to avoid the long lines on Sunday.


All proceeds for this event will benefit the Charlotte Central School Parent Teacher Organization.



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# Artistic Growth in Store

Laurel Waters' new Charlotte studio and gallery is more than just a place for painting.

**Brett Sigurdson**  
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

On Laurel Waters' Facebook fan page, a photo album shows her progression as an artist. It starts with a colorful stick-figure drawing created when she was five, the kind of juvenile self-portrait in which legs extend from the head, hands are circles and the face consists of just eyes and a u-shaped smile. By her freshman year of college, however, Waters' paintings and drawings had matured into dreamy landscapes and vistas marked by remarkable color that has now become a kind of calling card for the 33-year-old artist.

When Waters opens her studio and gallery at the corner of Church Hill and Hinesburg roads in Charlotte at the end of May, it will mark not only the beginning of a new business in Charlotte but also a

big leap forward in artistic growth that's not as easily seen in a Facebook album.

On a Friday afternoon a few weeks before the May 24 and 25 grand opening of Laurel Waters Studio & Gallery, Waters was still in the process of filling the bright, open space with furniture and paintings. A large canvas with colorful cotton-candy clouds floating above a lush Vermont landscape hangs on the wall. Another, just as large, features white clouds descending like falling leaves from a night sky to colorful oil-like slicks in a mountain lake. There are more landscapes like this—including one of the vista from Mt. Philo—hanging on the wall as well as paintings of people doing yoga or snuggled in a blanket. Each depicts a scene at once fantastical and intimate—recognizable images that are somehow dreamlike, as if the artist has taken a brush and paint to well-known photographs.

In many ways, that's what Waters has done, and she attributes the practice of painting local landscapes to finding herself as an artist and now gallery owner. Born to an artistic family in Bernardston, Mass., Waters learned to paint when she was 14 and fell in love with it. Yet, through college at NYU and later Bard, she drifted away from her own art in favor of playing sports or studying philosophy and the arts. School felt constricting, she said, so she dropped out, traveled, attended a National Outdoor Leadership School program in the Southwest.

After encouragement from the president of Prescott College, Waters enrolled in the school and focused her studies on the connection between art and meditation, specifically how meditation can inform art and art can be meditation. After graduating in 2005, Waters moved to Burlington. Still lacking the confidence to dedicate herself to her painting, she worked in a wilderness therapy program and later as a paraeducator, her energy pushing her toward a career outside of art.

The summer after she became a paraed-



Laurel Waters

ucator Waters attempted to set up a summer art camp, but it fell through due to a lack of funding. With three months free she decided to commit to painting, taking cabinet drawers and other found objects and turning them into canvases for the landscape paintings she was creating. She and her now-husband, Morgan, were living in Shelburne and exploring the area, and she was falling in love with the Vermont landscape again, taking thousands of pictures of scenes she would later transfer to the canvas with her unique touch.

So unique, in fact, that when she began to sell her work at the Shelburne Farmers Market that summer, the response from buyers indicated she was onto something.

"Even though I wasn't taking myself super seriously, the value of the work came through," said Waters. "It's a gift that people were willing to support."

With the encouragement of her husband—"he said, 'You spent years studying this and pulling your hair out over it, so why not?'" Waters recalls—she decided not to go back to work as a paraeducator and instead devoted herself to painting full time, taking on commissions and selling her work where she could. It was an incredibly fertile, creative period for Waters, a time

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when she says her artwork seemed to move from her being to the canvas unobstructed.

“Whatever was coming out of me creatively at the time was so creative and powerful,” she said. “I just decided to trust my husband and trust that I did have a gift that I wasn’t really ready to admit earlier or embrace.”

Waters moved through a range of studio spaces—from her apartment’s second bedroom to the Artist Barn in Shelburne to a private home in Charlotte offered to her by a benefactor—but didn’t find the right spot to fit her growing vision of an artist who wanted to communicate with the public through shows and gatherings. The day she decided to leave the Charlotte home, her husband came across the storefront in Charlotte, most recently home to the law offices of Jacob O. Durell.

With its large north-facing windows that let in abundant light, big walls, high ceilings and rural setting, it’s the ideal place for her to paint and welcome



A sample of Waters' work, called "Sunburst Over Camel's Hump," which showcases her colorful aesthetic.

others into her world. “I’ve always had a dream to have a storefront space to blend what I love about the area with my painting,” she said.

Laurel Waters Studio & Gallery will primarily be Waters’ workspace, but it will also have open hours in which visitors can see her work, buy gifts and prints, talk to the artist and view other local art. She’s also planning on themed shows in the space every three months, events in which she’ll showcase art that encapsulates an idea like farming, where she’ll have locally produced

food and drink. Waters will also host an “Art Re-Cap” event the final Sunday of each month, where visitors can find free pastries and cappuccino and cold drinks from 9–11 a.m.

Most of all, she’s excited by the work that she’s doing and the chance she now has to share her commitment to it with the public, to be able to share prominently her growth as an artist with the wider world.

“There’s nothing more exciting than welcoming people in to look at the work,” she said. “Right now, that’s just an exciting thing.”

## Vermont Open Studio Weekend May 24 and 25

Laurel Waters isn’t the only local artist opening her doors on Vermont Open Studio Weekend. Open Studio Weekend is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process that offers a unique opportunity for visitors to meet a wide variety of artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event.

The self-guided Open Studio tour features the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Many galleries will host gallery talks and feature special exhibits in conjunction with this event.

While Waters is the only Charlotte-based artist opening her studio doors, visitors can check out the work of other local artists at Kit Clarke Furniture in North Ferrisburgh, and at Shelburne Pond Studios, Lyna Lou Line, TJJ Turnings and Kim Senior Arts in Shelburne.

The Vermont Crafts Council launched Open Studio Weekend in 1993 to increase the visibility of artists and craftspeople in Vermont and to foster an appreciation for the creative process and the role that artists and craftspeople play in the vitality of Vermont’s communities.

The council publishes a free map booklet with directions to participating sites. The Vermont Open Studio Guide is available throughout the state at tourist information centers, galleries and studios. It is also available on the VCC website ([vermont-crafts.com](http://vermont-crafts.com)) or by calling 802-223-3380.

### If You Go

**What:** Laurel Waters Studio & Gallery opening  
**When:** May 24 and 25, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** 694 Mt. Philo Road  
**More info:** [laurelfultonart.com](http://laurelfultonart.com) or 802-233-3688

The event, part of Vermont’s Open Studio Weekend, will feature O Bread croissants and Awake coffee before noon. Parking is available in the front and back of the studio and on Museum Road.

After the opening, Waters will hold open gallery hours Wednesdays and Fridays from 2–6 p.m.



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## Roots

continued from page 1

Aside from the pick-your-own enterprise, which Hausmann noted comprises about 50 percent of his business, “we work with about 20 restaurants,” he said. The relationship with local chefs and select food stores such as City Market is something Hausmann has nurtured over the past 12 years. In order to maintain those relationships during the transition, Hausmann said he continued to harvest strawberries and a small selection of blueberries from the Intervale farm last season. He also maintained a presence at the Burlington Farmers Market each Saturday, peddling fruit jams and popsicles and keeping loyal customers apprised of his progress.

After the blueberry bushes were established, Hausmann and crew planted new raspberry bushes, gooseberries, strawberries, kiwis and currants (the latter fruit is often requested by local chefs, he said). They also planted a small orchard of peach, pear, cherry and plum trees—400 in total.

Approximately 15 acres of the new property have been planted, Hausmann said. While 16 acres is considered “prime soil,” some of the parcel is not suitable for agricultural purposes, including 12 acres of woods.

One of the advantages of the parcel size is that it allows for rotation of crops. Hausmann said he plans to build soil fertility through green manures and various cover crops.

Meanwhile, the gentle slope of the property provides ventilation and airflow—important for preventing fungal disease.

While his longer-term planning includes a variety of endeavors, Hausmann says that for the time being “the focus is on the fruit.” By offering different varieties, he hopes to help inform customers’ palates.

“From the beginning, we’ve been

very focused on varieties,” he said, “and that ties back to season extension, having early to late season varieties.”

“A lot of it has to do with taste,” he continued. “In the apple world, everybody knows the difference between McIntosh and Honeycrisps—they can recognize flavor in apple varieties—but people usually think a blueberry is a blueberry and a strawberry is a strawberry, when in fact there are just as many varieties of berries.”

“From the beginning, we’d label varieties so people could compare



Standing in a hoop house, Hausmann describes the eventual height of raspberry bushes now planted.

flavor difference and size,” he added. “People started to request certain berries and developing taste. That has been exciting. It allows people to decide which ones are better for making pies or for fresh eating—to make a connection with food.” Hausmann said that this increased awareness is making its way to farmers markets and

health food stores, while restaurants are not only requesting certain varieties of berries but also educating wait staff.

For the near term, Hausmann’s goal to maximize the growing season includes erecting hoop houses. Education is another focus: “We’re starting to work with the farmer-training program at UVM,” he said. “They’re coming out once a month to learn more about berry production.”

Display gardens, a picnic area and other amenities for customers will be provided. “I want people to come and

eating habits.”

Integral to his longer-term planning is a 3,000-square-foot barn, for which he broke ground last October. The structure will serve as headquarters for the pick-your-own business and provide storage for farm equipment, as well as kitchen, refrigeration and display space for the farm’s growing line of organic, fruit-based products such as chutney, vinegar and sorbets. Hausmann also envisions it as a place for classes, workshops and farm-based dinners “to give back to those who have given to us,” he said.

“There’s a lot tied into one space,” Hausmann said.

Other plans for the farm include beneficial pollination gardens and vegetable gardens.

Hausmann said the Charlotte farming community has been very welcoming. “I’m kind of an anomaly from the larger dairy farms,” he said. Yet while their endeavors differ, “there’s a mutual respect,” he added.

In the bigger picture, Hausmann gives a nod to the multitude of resources in Vermont for farmers. “We have a very open-source agricultural network where people share information very well,” he explained. “We’re in something great together.”

Recalling his days at the Intervale when his crew picked berries “until the water was up to our knees” and Hausmann found himself “canoeing through the raspberries,” the thought that he would stop farming altogether crossed his mind, he said.

He persevered, and Hausmann says the property in East Charlotte, with its pristine views and great creative potential, “provides affirmation we did the right thing.”

“I pinch myself every day,” he said.

The farm barn will open to visitors in June. The pick-your-own-berries season will commence with blueberries in July. Visit [adamsberryfarm.com](http://adamsberryfarm.com) for more info.

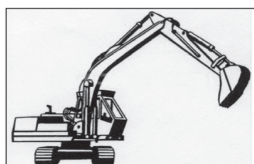
feel like it’s an experience and you are welcomed here,” he said. “Customers are our guests. I love our customer base. Everyone is so inquisitive and supportive, and I love that I’ve been watching families grow. We provide a really positive first interaction with food and farms, and healthy farms, and hopefully that carries through to

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# Charlotte Senior Center

by Mary Recchia,  
Activities Coordinator



Just a reminder that the Center will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. The Munch teams look forward to seeing you again on June 2.

Please look for the new **Summer Program** of activities and events in this issue of the *Charlotte News*. Here is a sampling of the highlights for June.

Save the date! Our **annual plant sale** will be held on Saturday, May 31, where you will find buds, blossoms and bargains. Seedling or plant donations will be accepted at the Center on Friday, May 30. Hope to see you there!

**All the world's a stage**, and it's here at the Center. Do you love theater? Do you appreciate the spoken word? Our play-reading group will meet on Thursday, May 29, from 1–3:30 p.m. and is for people who enjoy reading plays aloud or listening to others perform. No experience is needed for either the reader or the audience. Scripts are provided. Parts have been assigned for this reading, but please let us know if you would like to be given a part for our next reading on Thursday, June 26.

**Get your bike ready for summer** with Sojourn Bicycling and Active Vacations on Tuesday, June 3, at 10 a.m.

Kick off the season by getting your bike ready to roll during a spring tune-up session. Learn how to clean and lube your chain, inflate your tires properly and adjust your shifters. A few simple tricks will make your cycling more enjoyable. Sojourn will provide the necessary supplies—you bring an eager attitude and your bicycle. Space is limited to 20 people and their bikes. *Registration required. No fee.*

Then, **Let's Ride** with Sojourn on Tuesday, June 10, beginning at 9 a.m. with our destination: Shelburne. Get outdoors, meet some folks and enjoy yourself! Join Charlotte-based Sojourn for fun, supported recreational rides along the best cycling roads in the

region. You will enjoy the camaraderie of Sojourn tour leaders as well as a support van. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

The ride will begin from the Center and will return by noon. If you would like to come along but don't have a bike, let us know. For \$15, Sojourn will provide you with a properly sized bicycle. *Registration required. No fee.*

Join horticulturalist Charlotte Albers, for a class called **Color Play for Summer Gardens** from 10–11:30 a.m. on three Tuesdays, June 17, 24 and July 1.

Just back from a visit to Monet's gardens at Giverny in France, Charlotte will inspire you to infuse fresh color into your beds, borders and containers. Each week participants are encouraged to bring something in bloom from their gardens to share for discussion, and we'll work to identify plants and talk about cool combinations for shade as well as stunning contrast and complimentary pairings for sun. Finish the series with a tour of the instructor's gardens in Shelburne. Please bring a notebook to each class along with cut flowers or leaves to share. *Registration required. Class limit: 12 students. Fee: \$35.*

Hank Kaestner will take us on another **bird watching expedition** Wednesday, June 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Good views are guaranteed through Hank's "Oh-my-God" telescope. Meet at the Center so we can carpool together to the location Hank has scouted for spectacular bird watching. Please register for this event so if we have to change the date due to bird migration or weather, we can call you. *Registration required. No fee.*

An **AARP driver safety class** will be held at the Center with Baird Morgan, an AARP volunteer instructor, on Thursday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A classroom refresher course for drivers age 50 and over, this highly effective defensive driving course

(which may enable you to receive an auto insurance discount) covers a range of topics, including, physical changes and limitations, normal driving situations and environmental conditions, safe driving and vehicle information, and the effects of medication on the motorist. The course provides drivers the opportunity to fine-tune driving skills and become safer and better drivers.

Upon completion of the course, you will receive a certificate valid for three years, a course workbook and other instructional material. **Please bring a lunch.** *Registration required. Class limit: 25. Fee: \$20 (\$15 AARP members), payable to AARP and collected at the beginning of class.*

The **June art exhibit** will be works by Lighthearted Arts (the Friday Morning Art Group) with a theme of "I can't draw a straight line!" We've all heard or said this when asked about artistic abilities, but really, who is the judge of it? We'll let you be the judge when you take in our response to the "straight-line dilemma" in our June art show. All sorts of lines in pictures and words—we hope it inspires you to try it. You might just like it! Join the artists for a reception on Friday, June 6, from 10–11 a.m.

Last but not least, new sessions of all our old favorites – **Pilates, Tai Chi and Yoga** begin the first week of June as well. Please call the Center for details of each offering or to talk about which class might be right for you. Happy summer!



Participants in a Senior Center spring hike to Jericho led by Marty Morrissey (second from left) earlier this month.

## THE CAFÉ MENU

**MONDAY, MAY 26:**  
No lunch—Senior Center closed

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28:**  
Seafood salad, and homemade dessert

**MONDAY, JUNE 2:** Chef's choice

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4:**  
Orange ginger chicken salad, birthday cake and ice cream

**SENIOR LUNCHEONS** are held every Wednesday at noon. Reservations are necessary in advance and can be made by calling the Senior Center at 425-6345. A \$4 donation is requested. Reservations are not required for the Monday Munch.



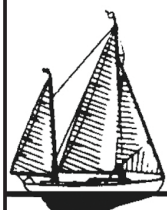
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## FOOD & FIELD

Drew Slabaugh  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's hard to believe, but spring has actually come. It's the time of year when my "to-do" list only grows longer no matter how many tasks I get done during the day. Daffodils are starting to bloom—with tulips not too far behind—bees are busily gathering nectar, and, as I write this, our apple tree blossoms could pop at any minute.

The first week of May usually means we're turning our flock of Icelandic sheep back onto pasture. After six long winter months, both the sheep and their shepherds are ready to be done with the chore of feeding hay. But with the late arrival of spring this year, we're at least two weeks behind. For the health of our sheep and our pastures, we try to avoid grazing too early. Otherwise, the sheep are likely to overgraze prematurely and slow the grass' growth. I prefer to let the grass get ahead of the sheep, so they're grazing at least 6-8 inches above the ground.

As I talk to fellow farmers, there's a common theme: we're all a bit behind. Searching Agri-view or Craigslist for quality hay for cattle or sheep, I see more folks looking for hay than those who have it to offer. And some farmers who would normally be willing to sell their extra hay this late in the season are hanging onto it so they don't sell their own herds short. We've had plenty of rain, but with a few more sunny days, the pastures should catch up quickly, and it won't be long before

the animals will be back on pasture where they're happiest.

But it's not just our grass that's behind from the long winter. All the early season veggie plantings had to wait a couple of extra weeks for the snow to melt, the ground to thaw and the mud to subside before we could even begin to work the ground. And

because our work and attention weren't divided in so many directions. This year all the garden excitement has been pushed back into May.

In our three seasons managing ShakeyGround Farm, each spring has been dramatically different from the others. In the winter, as we look back on our farm log from the previous season,

though, about our long, cold winter. I learned from more-seasoned Vermonters that winters like the one we just went through used to be the norm. And believe it or not, there are even a few benefits.

Our biggest struggle in keeping our flock healthy is managing their internal parasite load. The parasites are picked up by the sheep while grazing and, if not kept to a manageable level, can lead to sluggishness, poor growth and even death. With all the hot, wet weather we had last June we saw a major spike in parasite levels in the flock and even lost two sheep. In spite of our best efforts, the best aid to a shepherd for parasite management is completely out of our control. When we get prolonged periods of very cold temperatures with minimal snow cover (like this winter), the parasite eggs in the ground freeze and die. And I'm hoping to see benefits in our flock once grazing begins.

So while I was ready for winter to end as much as the next person, I did take some comfort knowing our sub-zero temperatures would have some benefit to

our sheep later—when we're all lamenting the heat.

*Drew Slabaugh, and his wife, Brittany, co-manage ShakeyGround Farm. They've been living and farming in Charlotte for three years and recently had their first son, Arlo. You can learn more about ShakeyGround Farm on their website, shakeygroundfarm.com.*



*Brittany Slabaugh with sheep at ShakeyGround Farm in Charlotte.*

we're the lucky ones. Friends who farm farther from Lake Champlain had to wait even longer for their soil to be workable.

April is usually our busiest month on the farm. We normally start work in the greenhouses in March, and April means both lambing and gardening. It's a lot of work for the two of us to bring our garden back to life, but this April was different. Lambing was strangely calm

we set out a plan for how we'll manage the coming season. We take into account what worked, what didn't and how we can be more efficient with our grazing patterns or vegetable succession plantings to maximize the yield from our small farm. Each season we've had to alter our plan because Mother Nature had other, more rigid, plans. I guess that's farming.

I don't want to complain too much,



BIRDSEYE



## Rec News

by Kristin Hartley

It feels like summer! The outdoor spring programs are all in progress, and spaces are quickly filling up in our Charlotte summer camps.

### CURRENT PROGRAMS

The tennis nets are up at the town courts. The courts are in use Mondays and Fridays for our busy after-school tennis program, but other than that, grab a racket and hit the courts.

Greg Smith is organizing our 2014 Wednesday evening **adult tennis** play. Come join your fellow tennis enthusiasts for pick-up tennis. The kick-off will take place on Wednesday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. The rain date is Friday, May 30. Bring your racket, some balls and some game. This group meets every playable Wednesday throughout the summer. Fridays are the regular backup days.

Dinnan and Stacy Carte will be running this camp for 1st-5th graders.

Heads up for a great new camp, **Camp Hoopla!** This camp, run by performing professionals, inspires students of all skill levels to develop talents in music, theatrical clowning, juggling and improvisation, with a strong emphasis on fun. This camp takes place July 21-25 for 10- to 14-year-olds.

This summer we are hosting three **soccer camps**: the British Challenger Camp, the TetraBrazil Challenger Camp and the Voltage Soccer Camp—all to be run at CCS. No commute!

If your children would like to work on their golf games they can be a part of **golf camp** at Cedar Knoll to be taught by Barry Churchill, a master of the game. This camp is limited to four people ages 8-15 and takes place August 4-7.

The Town of Charlotte is partnering with the Community Sailing Center in Burlington to hold a summer **sailing camp**. Come learn the lifelong sport of sailing with your friends July 21-25.

**Horseback riding** is a popular sport in Charlotte, and we now have three weeks of camp during the summer where children can learn to ride or have fun honing their skills. The camps take place at the Livery Horse Farm in Hinesburg.

Track and field is being offered again this summer. We join with our sister towns Hinesburg and Williston on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:15-



Charlotte's 5th and 6th grade Lady Hawks girls lacrosse team at the town's lacrosse jamboree on May 4.

### SUMMER CAMPS

It is time to sign up for summer camp, and we have lots of options here in Charlotte.

Our summer begins with a week of one-hour, free tennis instruction at the annual **Tim Serrell Tennis Clinic** for Charlotte residents. This clinic is led by Amy deGroot, a PTR professional instructor with a huge tennis resume. I hope you are able to take advantage of this opportunity. There is a class size limit, so sign up soon.

The next week, June 23-27, Amy will offer a **tennis camp** in Charlotte for 10- to 14-year-olds, a great way to continue working on your tennis. Amy will also be holding camp for 6- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 11-year-olds July 7-11 at the Shelburne Davis Park courts. Registration for this week needs to be done through Shelburne Recreation.

If your children like the outdoors, they will love exploring and learning about gardens at the **Green Thumbs Gardening Camp**. This camp is being offered two different weeks of the summer. Experienced outdoor educators Tai

7:45 p.m. June 16 through July 24. Great coaches, great experience!

### ADULT PROGRAMMING

Adult early morning **Boot Camp** is the place to be 6 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Charlotte Central School. Bring a friend, have some fun and make a commitment to fitness.

The **beginner adult biking series** led by Karyn Lewis has begun, and it is not too late to join. Get that old bike out of storage, come join your neighbors and enjoy one of the best places in Vermont to bike. This class runs Thursday evenings until June 5 and may continue based on interest.

As always full and partial scholarships are available for all recreation programs.

Registration forms for all programs and more information can be found on our town website ([charlottevt.org](http://charlottevt.org)) or at the Charlotte Town Hall.

If you have any questions about our programs contact me at [recreation@townofcharlotte.com](mailto:recreation@townofcharlotte.com) or 425-6129, ext. 204.

# SPORTS

by Edd Merritt

### Keep that green grass growing

With rain diminishing, the grass blooming and tracks and infields safe to grade, the spring sport season has come into full bloom. One can scarcely drive past the high school without seeing athletes testing their wares on a field.

### Revenge is beautiful for men's lacrosse

There is seldom any love lost between CVU and South Burlington when it comes to sports. The Rebels handed the Redhawks an early season defeat in men's LAX, so when CVU, last year's state champs, hosted them on May 10, Coach Trevithick's troops were looking toward revenge. They came off the opening faceoff running. Matt Palmer scored a hat trick; Charlotte's Elliot Mitchell added two goals, as did Griffin DiParlo, and CVU won 11-6. Goalie Owen Hudson made several split-leg saves off shots headed to the net corners. Mitchell also scored in pairs as the Hawks defeated Essex 6-4 and St. Johnsbury 16-8. CVU left the week with a 12-8 victory over a strong Middlebury squad, a game that saw a hat trick from Alex Bulla and 10 saves by Hudson.

### Women's lacrosse struggles

Although it did not produce a win, the May 17 women's lacrosse game at Burlington High School saw the Redhawks take BHS into overtime before dropping a 14-13 decision. Seven players scored for CVU, and Bailey Pudvar stopped 14 shots. CVU's Annie Keen had a hat trick. The team hopes to break its jinx against Mount Mansfield.

### Women's track shows continued success

Led by state champion Autumn Eastman, the women's track squad appears to be well-bolstered for the future with strong underclassmen, a number of whom are from Charlotte. In the 42nd annual Burlington Invitational meet earlier this month, CVU came in third out of 22 teams. Eastman won the 800 and 1,500-meter runs. Charlotte freshman Julie Sulva came in fifth in the underclass 1,500. Another Charlotter, Sophia Gorman, was fifth at 3,000 meters. The 4x400 meter relay winners included Charlotte's Haliana Burhans and Sadie Otley, while Sophia Gorman was part of the winning 4x800 meter relay runners. Madie Tieso placed fifth in the high jump. Tieso also high jumped and won the long jump in a meet at UVM the following week. Otley took second in the high jump.

In a recent team victory over Burlington, Colchester, Spaulding and Chelsea, many of the Charlotte names

appeared among the top five individual finishers – Malina Carroll, Sadie Otley, Haliana Burhans, Sophia Gorman Madie Tieso, Maeve Higgins, Michaela Flore and Ming Fen Congdon.

### Men's tennis splits last two matches

With Charlotte singles player Nathan Comai and doubles player Will Walker hitting low and hard, the CVU men tennis players managed to split their two recent matches, toppling Rice 7-0 then losing a close contest to Essex 4-3. Although the team effort did not produce a win, Both Comai and Walker beat their opponents before doubling the feat against Rice later in the week.

### Women's tennis goes 3-0 since mid-May

CVU sophomore Kathy Joseph, the top singles player in the state, leads the Redhawks toward the tournament, consistently defeating her opponents. The last three team wins have been 6-1 over Mount Mansfield, 4-2 over Burlington and 6-1 over Essex. Charlotte senior and co-captain Mackenzie Kingston played in two of the three, splitting her matches when she and her partner defeated their Mount Mansfield opponents before losing in Burlington.

### Scrimgeour medals at Neshobe

CVU golfer Peter Scrimgeour won medalist honors against South Burlington and Colchester at the Neshobe Golf Club course, shooting an 80 over 18 holes.



Elliot Mitchell moves past the South Burlington defender

## Charlotte Baseball in Full Swing

Play ball! Spring weather is finally here, and the baseball fields in the area are seeing plenty of action from the likes of 7th grader John Merrill, who pitches for the CCS baseball team. Charlotte Little League and Charlotte Central School baseball teams are in full swing. Players and fans alike are enjoying America's favorite pastime. (Photo and text by Karyn Lunde)





by Margaret Woodruff

#### ONLINE OPTIONS

There's no doubt we love visitors at the Charlotte Library. Any chance to chat, share book news and catch up on activities is welcome. We also embrace the online options available to the Charlotte Library and through them to you.

The flagship option for downloading

audio and ebooks is Listen Up Vermont, a project of the Green Mountain Library Consortium. But now there is more. One-Click Digital, run through the Vermont Department of Libraries, offers a variety of ebooks as well as audiobooks to download for your reading and listening pleasure.

While we'd love to see you here at the library, you don't have to darken our doors to get these materials. Simply set up an account and log in through the Charlotte Library website, [charlottepubliclibrary.org](http://charlottepubliclibrary.org). If you need assistance, give us a call and we can help you navigate your way to some new titles.

**6 x 6 Celebration, Wednesday, May 28.** Celebrate our community's power to read at the CCS and Charlotte libraries. Enjoy a cupcake and grab your reading reward!

**Lunchbox Story Time for Preschoolers, Wednesday, May 28, 12:15-1:15 p.m.** Spring has sprung, and we're exploring underground, in

the air and everywhere. For children three to five years old who are comfortable in a story time setting. Please call or email the library to sign up: 425-3864 or [charlottelibraryvt@gmail.com](mailto:charlottelibraryvt@gmail.com).

**Library Knitters, Wednesday, May 28, 5:30-7 p.m.** Join us to knit, chat and compare fiber notes. Bring a project or we can provide needles and wool to get you started.

**World Watch: News Update with Barrie Dunsmore, Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m.** Veteran foreign correspondent Barrie Dunsmore returns to the library for an update on world affairs. Join him for a knowledgeable and insightful take on events around the globe.

**Learn About Composting Day, Thursday, May 29, 3-5 p.m.** Since 2011, May 29 has been the day to add to your compost education. We'll share the celebration with Abby Foulk, who's led the CCS composting initiative. Stop by to pick up a free kitchen compost bucket and learn how to get started.

#### LIBRARY BOARD

Meeting: Thursday, June 19, at 5:30 p.m.

Board members: Bonnie Christie, chair; Vince Crockenberg, treasurer; Emily Ferris, vice chair; Dorrice Hammer, secretary; Jonathan Silverman, member at large.

#### Library Contact Information

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Margaret Woodruff

##### Hours

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## Opportunity

continued from page 1

said. That fact alone shows how independent and creative this project allows students to be.

When the program first started in 1994 it was optional, but now all seniors are required to do it to graduate from CVU. The school has seen many kids benefit greatly from this project, and a lot of students are grateful that CVU requires them to have this independent learning opportunity.

A few CVU seniors talked excitedly about their projects.

Claire noted her Graduation Challenge project is about physical therapy. She talked a lot about her time shadowing her physical therapist and also how she would like to go to college for physical therapy. She explained how Grad Challenge specifically helped her.

"To get into a lot of graduate programs you need 40-plus hours of shadowing, so I will already have that," Claire explained. "I'll probably want to do more in college, but that will be very helpful to have a kick start."

Another CVU senior, Lauren Kelley from Hinesburg, spent her Grad Chal-

lenge hours learning the inner workings of a radio station. She got to have her own hour-long show three days a week at 105.9, The Radiator, and got to know more about a lot of local music.

Lauren talked about Grad Challenge in a very positive way. "The Grad Challenge project is a really good opportunity to learn something new for the sake of having to learn something new," she said. "So if you choose a good project that you are actually kind of excited about, then it makes all the difference."

Wes McEntee, another CVU senior from Hinesburg, decided for his Grad Challenge to build a log grapple, a claw-like machine used for picking up large logs and pieces of wood. He talked about all of the computer programs and designs he ended up having to use for his project when he thought he would just be building.

He said that his Grad Challenge didn't go exactly as planned. For example, he talked about having to move files from one computer program to another costing him a lot of time and trouble. From these mistakes and problems he actually learned a lot, including how to use several computer programs for college and also how to scope things out.

These students were eager to give advice on how to tackle Graduation

Challenge. All three emphasized the benefit of thoroughly scoping out the project, being realistic about the complexity of same and getting hours and paper done early.

Of course, this project is supported by the teachers at CVU. They truly believe that it is a great opportunity for students, and the students agree with that.

Connie Metz, a CVU house director, spoke about what Grad Challenge gives the students and how they go about picking their topic. "Some students have really found out what their passion is and will pursue their topic for a career," she said. "On the other hand, some students have realized what they do *not* want to do. Some students have just found a new hobby."

MaryAnne Gatos, another member of the CVU faculty, talked about Grad Challenge. "You're really designing your own learning experience," she said, regarding the opportunities this project gives students.

When all the students' hours are done and they've written their papers, they also have to give formal presentations explaining what they did and learned. This gives them the chance to explain exactly what they personally did to a group of people who may know as little as they did before they did their proj-

ects. This automatically is sharing more new learning.

For Claire's presentation she will get to describe working with a physical therapist and taking on that role herself instead of the role of a patient. Lauren will get to talk about all the different musicians she met and how the radio station let her share music in a whole new way. Wes' presentation will explain what computer programs he learned to use and how he applied and connected the use of software to building his grapple.

All of these projects are unique and were done independently. They all found great interest in their projects and may not have ever gotten these experiences if CVU hadn't provided the opportunity and required them to do so.

The presentations are all done in one day and require a lot of time and people. Faculty and community members are part of all the different panels that watch and assess the presentation of the Graduation Challenges.

The Grad Challenge presentation day this year is May 23 at CVU, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, visit [cvuweb.cvuhs.org/gradchallenge](http://cvuweb.cvuhs.org/gradchallenge).

Kim Cribari is an intern with the Charlotte News. She lives in Hinesburg.

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# Nature's Bounty

**Bradley Carleton**  
CONTRIBUTOR

I park my truck by the side of the busy road. People are traveling quickly to important destinations and pay little mind to the white truck. As I step out of the cab, a few passersby cock their heads at me in a look of wonder. I imagine them thinking "What the heck is that guy doing stopping here and jumping over the bank of the bridge? Maybe he lost a hubcap or something" and then their thoughts return to rushing to their next appointment.

I marked 22 spots in my Gazetteer last year where I had seen wild asparagus growing alongside the road or in a ditch. I have become fanatical about locating and harvesting this most magnificent of wild edibles. Granted, it may not be the morel or the black trumpet mushroom, the Holy Grail of foraging, but drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with coarse sea salt, then roasted for a few minutes, it is an epicurean's delight.

One of my friends, Chris Thayer, of Charlotte, likes to tease me that he once pilfered my Gazetteer and plugged in all the GPS coordinates from my asparagus plots. He threatens that he will awaken earlier than me and make the rounds before I get to them. Foraging is a precarious hobby.

I leap over the guardrail and land squatting beside the tender shoots. "Bonanza!" I shout out loud. Although I am thrilled to find that this year's crop is abundant, I still adhere to the forager's primary principle: Never take more than ten percent of a plot.

When I finish, I decide to take a

short walk down to the riverbed. Sliding in the sandy soil, I lose my balance; my right hand reaches for terra firma. Shaken, my heart racing, my eyes rise to the sky above. I give thanks that I did not slide into the river.

Sunlight beams down through the newly canopied trees in pillars of gold. "It must be a sign," I think. As I sit up on the bank, I lean on my right hand to push up and discover an object lodged in between my fingers. I roll it into the center of my palm. There it is... a large fiddlehead. I must have grabbed at it as I slid into my less than gracious position. I look around, and the rays of sunlight are lighting up the ground around me. I am sitting squarely in a field of fiddleheads! Sometimes when we fall we are being given a different perspective, one that we might overlook if we were walking unaware.

I gather several pounds of the lovely edibles and bag them in a cloth grocery bag that has been re-purposed for my foraging exploits.

As I meander back to the truck, I decide again to take the path less traveled and cross under the bridge and up into the woods on the far side. Again I am greeted with surprise and awe. This time it is a large patch of wild leeks, known colloquially as "ramps."

The soil is soft and loose and is easy to dig with taut fingers to loosen the tenacious roots of the ramps. Several bulbs come up in the first handful. I dust them off by rolling them between my fingers and notice that they are nearly three-quarters of an inch in diameter—a terrific size for these wild onions.

Again I fill my bag with nature's bounty, the fragrance of musky earth and zingy onions permeating the air.

My thoughts race to the evening's entrée, a mélange of roasted fiddlehead, ramps and asparagus with some freshly grated parmesan shavings sitting gently on the top, accompanied by a cool glass

of chardonnay.

I will dine on the back terrace, watching the late spring sunset over the fields of East Charlotte. There is nowhere I'd rather be in late May and early June than right here amid the flowering buds of spring.

*Bradley Carleton is executive director of Sacred Hunter.org, a non-profit that seeks to educate the public on the spiritual connection of man to nature and raises funds for Traditions Outdoor Mentoring.org, which mentors at-risk young men in outdoor pursuits.*



The author holds a bounty of wild asparagus found locally.



## 4-H Does Green Up Day

On Saturday, May 3, 2014, Hinesburg 4-H Club members and friends had a fun morning picking up trash for Green Up Day. Although Hannah Cleveland, Claire and Eva Rocheleau, Corinna Hobbs and friend Kira Bergeron (pictured left to right) were happy to be helping Vermont become greener, they were shocked by the amount of trash in Geprags Park and along Shelburne Falls Road in Hinesburg. They filled six Green Up Day bags with old cans, plastic bags, tobacco cans and cigarette butts. Cyrus Tyler (not pictured) participated in Green Up Day projects with friends in Richmond. (Article by club reporter and Charlotte resident Hannah Cleveland)

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# Out-Doors

by Elizabeth Bassett



## Mushrooms: Popping Up All Over

On Toad Road, Arthur Hynes is getting ready to inoculate a heap of wood chips with mushroom spawn.

I beg your pardon? "I buy inoculants from Fungi Perfecti (fungi.com)," Arthur says. "I prepare a bed of wood chips, pour on the mixture, add sawdust, and voila, before too long mushrooms appear."

"It's important to try to find hardwood chips," Arthur says. "I called the utility company. When they were working in the neighborhood they dropped a load of wood chips at my house."

The inoculant that Arthur buys from Fungi Perfecti is incorporated into a bag of sawdust. The bed is a lasagna of wood chips and sawdust, layers of each sandwiching the inoculant or spawn. Arthur plants

*stropharia rugoso annulata*, known as garden giant, king Stropharia, or wine cap mushrooms. "In past years I have planted in the spring and had fruit by the end of summer," he says.

Arthur follows the work and research of Fungi Perfecti and its founder, Paul Stamets. "Stamets studied at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington," he says, "and has been working ever since with mushrooms in the Northwest. I used the instructions in Stamets' book *Growing Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms*." Stamets has written other books, including *Mycelium Running*, available at the Pierson Library in Shelburne, and *Psilocybin Mushrooms of the World*.

Arthur also forages in the wild for mushrooms. "The first ones to look for each spring are morels," he says. "They are quite rare, only available for about two weeks, and can generally be found beneath dead elm trees."

In his barn on Mt. Philo Road, Peter Swift is



Peter Swift prepares shiitake mushroom spawn in a log in his barn on Mt. Philo Road.

introducing shiitake mushroom spawn to oak logs. "I use a high-speed angle drill to make rows of holes around the logs," Peter says. He pokes a syringe into a plastic bag containing shiitake spawn or inoculant and then fills the newly drilled holes with plugs of spawn.

Peter buys his supplies from Field and Forest

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Products (fieldforest.net). "I cover the holes with melted cheese wax to seal in moisture and prevent other spores from contaminating the shitakes," he says. "Then I place the logs in a moist spot in the woods, sheltered from drying winds, and wait."

"The logs should contain at least 30-percent moisture," he continues. "If we have a dry stretch I'll be watering."

Beneath a stand of conifers, Peter maintains several vintages of logs. Most are inoculated with shiitakes, but one group hosts maitakes, known as hen-of-the-woods. On a recent afternoon Peter was delighted to find fruit, or mushrooms, on two sets of logs. One group was inoculated last year; the other is in its third season of fruiting.

Red Wagon Plants in Shelburne recently hosted an evening program on mushroom cultivation conducted by the Burlington-based Mushroom Forager (themushroomforager.com). Owners Ari Rockland-Miller and Jenna Antonino DeMare have hosted workshops at Shelburne Farms, Middlebury College, NOFA conferences and the Horticultural Society of New York.

Lee Blanchard attended the mushroom forager program at Red Wagon. "I've got two cardboard boxes," Lee says, pointing to flat boxes heaped with straw. She pushes aside a thick layer of straw to reveal brown, speckled slurry lying atop the cardboard. "It's a mix of sawdust and mushroom spawn. In a few weeks mycelium—it looks like white threads—will begin to grow and spread through the straw. At that point I can move the mass to a permanent location."

Lee's daughter Lily Belisle, works at Red Wagon Plants and is also a graduate of Evergreen State College, ground zero for mushroom enthusiasts.

"I have several friends who work at Fungi Perfecti," Lily says. "Right now I'm trying to decide if the mycelium will be strong enough to walk on. It would be ideal to put it on the wood chip paths of our vegetable garden where there would always be plenty of moisture."

Mycelium can grow to formidable strength. In Washington's Tahuya State Forest, volunteers from Fungi Perfecti introduced native oyster mushroom spawn on decommissioned logging roads that had resisted traditional efforts at planting and seeding. After seven years of failing to stem erosion and silt run-off, the state turned to Fungi Perfecti for another approach. The volunteers spread spawn on a six-inch-deep layer of wood chips, bark and needles.

They topped it with straw and then planted wheat seed for erosion control. Within a week the seeds were sprouting and mycelium was anchoring the mass to the hillside. This process cost a fraction of traditional road reclamation and proved more successful in reducing erosion and run-off.

Those who cultivate mushrooms tend to forage in the wild as well. The Mushroom Foragers guide forays in local forests scheduled to coincide with peak foraging conditions. Their blog, called the ForageCast, keeps readers abreast of gourmet and medicinal species in season in the Northeast. As they say, "We teach people to make their forays targeted so they know when, where, and how to look for species they enjoy and are confident."

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*Spectacular 10 Acre Building Lot* OFFERED AT **\$185,000** HINESBURG

Nearby Equestrian Centers make this an ideal 10.18 acre building site for the horse lover! Permits in place and plans available for a 4 bedroom home. Convenient to Burlington and Middlebury. Amazing Camel's Hump views to the east and western sunsets.

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*Lovely Charlotte Contemporary* OFFERED AT **\$585,000** CHARLOTTE

This light filled home on 10+ acres offers Adirondack views, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, an in-law apartment, and a 2 stall horse barn. Property features extensive landscaping, fenced pasture, and neighboring trails. Recently updated bath. New roof & septic installed in 2013. Easy commute!

MLS# 4347535


*Premium Quality, Fine Details* OFFERED AT **\$1,475,000** CHARLOTTE

Elegance and comfort describe this spacious 4 bedroom, 6 bath custom built home on 5+ acres. Spectacular lake and Adirondack views. Chef's kitchen, media room with 100" screen, master with gas fireplace and balcony, pool, sauna, multi-sport court. 25 minutes to Burlington.

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**AUCTION**

Thursday, June 26 @ 11AM

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**Charlotte Contemporary**  
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**\$649,000 | MLS# 4355115**



**4 Seasons on the Water**  
Enjoy Lake Champlain living in this 2+ bedroom charmer located in Ferrisburgh just 25 minutes from Burlington or Middlebury. Updated kitchen, master with 3/4 bath, large sun room with lake view.  
**\$499,000 | MLS# 4229805**



**Sunlit Williston Cape**  
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**\$469,000 | MLS# 4354268**



**Sweeping Mountain Views**  
Surprising Cape is a custom built, one owner home on 20 acres. Interior finishes include oak hardwood floors, six panel doors, fireplace. Horse barn for 4 and a fenced pasture. Call Chris today for more details!  
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# Places To Go & Things To Do

THURSDAY, MAY 22

**CCS Grade 4, 5, 6 concert, 7 p.m., Multipurpose room.**

**Talk: Year of No Sugar, 7 p.m., Phoenix Books, Burlington.** *Year of No Sugar* is the story of one Pawlet family's 12-month no-sugar experiment and its sweet results—a fascinating tale that reveals just how tightly we're all held hostage by sugar and what it takes to kick the habit. Join Eve O. Schaub for an eye-opening, honest and often hilarious account of learning to live without sugar. Free

**Talk: And She Alone Remains; The Past, Present, and Future of Charles W. Morgan, 1:30 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.** Matthew Stackpole of Mystic Seaport Museum grew up on the grounds of Mystic Seaport where his father was curator from 1953 to 1966. Matthew became a rigger at Mystic in 1965 and went on to become a charter schooner owner and captain, American history teacher and executive director of Martha's Vineyard Museum before rejoining Mystic Seaport in 2008 to work on the *Charles W. Morgan* Restoration Project. Event follows whaleboat launch at 11 a.m. Cost: free. More info: [lcm.org](http://lcm.org).

**Arts Connect reception, 4–6 p.m., Burlington City Arts.** Arts Connect features a selection of artwork made during the 2013-2014 school year by 189 Integrated Arts Academy students through the Arts Connect project, a collaborative effort with arts and education organizations in Vermont. The exhibited work integrates science, social studies, math and literacy with the visual arts to promote academic excellence. Cost: free. More info: [burlingtoncityarts.org](http://burlingtoncityarts.org).

FRIDAY, MAY 23

**Grad Challenge presentations, all day, CVU High School.** See and hear about the projects CVU seniors have completed for their Graduation Challenge. See story on front page.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

**Vermont Open Studio Weekend, hours vary, throughout area.** Drop in on local artists for tours and more. See story on page 13. Also May 25.

MONDAY, MAY 26

**Memorial Day.** No school at CCS and CVU

TUESDAY, MAY 27

**From Bach to Bagdasarian, noon–1 p.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington.** Music by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy and Ibert, and the gypsy-inspired "Violin Rhapsody" by Bagdasarian, all played by The Kotchka Chamber Players: Ruben Kosemyan, violin; Hilary Goldblatt, flute; Alison Cheroff, piano. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea are provided. Free. More info: [Poppe@CathedralArts.org](mailto:Poppe@CathedralArts.org), 802-860-7183.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

**Charlotte Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall.** The Zoning Board will review the appeal of Thomas and Denise Kessler, who are appealing the Town Zoning Administrator's decision to deny a certification of occupancy permit. The property is located at 1689 Church Hill Road. Applications are available for review during regular Planning and Zoning office hours. Participation in the hearing is a prerequisite to the right to appeal any decision related to an application.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

**Charlotte Planning Commission special meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall.** Meeting will center on the land use section of the proposed Town Plan.

**Green Mountain Care Board traveling meeting, 1–4 p.m. and 6–7:30 p.m., Burlington.** The traveling board meeting will feature several Vermont health leaders discussing topics of interest in the Burlington area, including the role of Vermont's academic health center, community mental health and substance abuse services, and home care and end-of-life care. The health insurance rate forum will focus on understanding the cost of health insurance and on efforts to contain the growth in insurance rates. The forum will feature a panel of Vermont leaders in insurance, hospitals and consumer advocacy. For more information on the meeting, call the Green Mountain Care Board at 802-828-2177.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

**The Italian Girl in Algiers (L'Italiana in Algeri), 8 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Burlington.** Opera Company of Middlebury presents Rossini's grand comic opera. When the bored ruler of Algiers meets a fiery Italian girl stranded on his turf, he thinks he has it made. But the Italian girl is much too sharp for him, and soon she has him wrapped around her little finger. Directed by Douglas Anderson and conducted by Maestro Emmanuel Plasson. Five performances: May 30, June 5–7 at 8 p.m., June 1 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$55 hall/ \$65 balcony. More info: [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

SATURDAY, MAY 31

**Carnivale de Daemonia: Theatrical belly dance to benefit Puppets in Education, 7:30 p.m., Burlington.** Join Shakti Tribal Dance, The Accaliae and a cadre of mesmerizing guest dancers for a unique dance event celebrating the ancient understanding of the unique relationship between the divinities and the mortals. All proceeds benefit Puppets in Education. Cost: \$15. More info: [brownpapertickets.com/event/629007](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/629007).

**New England Tree Climbing Championship, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Burlington.** The best climbers from the Northeast will converge on Burlington to compete for the Master Climber title, which will qualify them to enter the International "Olympics of Tree Climbing" in Wisconsin. If you can't come all day, watch the finalists in the Master's Challenge from 1–5 p.m. at Oakledge Park and end of Flynn Ave. Cost: \$6 for residents, \$8 for nonresidents. Free for walkers. More info: [http://newenglandisa.org/tree\\_climbing\\_championship.html](http://newenglandisa.org/tree_climbing_championship.html).

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

**Green Mountain Bike Club ride: Grand Isle Flats, 9:15 a.m., South Hero.** One of the flattest rides of the season, the 28-mile ride option circles Grand Isle and includes some dirt. The pace will be more casual than the long ride. Riders on the 58-mile ride option can visit St. Anne's Shrine (bathrooms and picnic tables but no food) and also a fossil bed. Meet at Folsom School. More info: [amyotten@netscape.com](mailto:amyotten@netscape.com).

MONDAY, JUNE 2

**CCS grade 7 and 8 Spring Concert, 7 p.m., multipurpose room.**

## REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

SATURDAYS

**St. Jude, Mass, Hinesburg, 4:30 p.m.**

SUNDAYS

**Community Alliance Church, Hinesburg,** Gathering Place, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10:15 a.m. Information: 482-2132.

**Charlotte Congregational Church, Worship, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 10 a.m.** Information: 425-3176.

**Lighthouse Baptist Church, 90 Mechanicsville Rd., Hinesburg, 10:30 a.m., Evening Service, 6 p.m.** Information: 482-2588.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mass, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.** Information: 425-2637.

**St. Jude, Mass, Hinesburg, 9:30 a.m.** Information: 482-2290.

**North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, Hollow Road, Worship, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.** Information: 425-2770.

**Cross Roads Chapel, Relocated to the Brown Church on Route 7, Ferrisburgh. Worship, 11 a.m.** Information: 425-3625.

**Assembly of God Christian Center, Rtes. 7 and 22A, Ferrisburgh, Sunday worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday School, 9 a.m.** Information: 877-3903.

**All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Road, Shelburne. Sunday Service 9 a.m., Evensong Service 5 p.m.** 985-3819

**Trinity Episcopal Church, 5171 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. "Space for Grace" (educational hour), 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (with child care and Sunday School). 985-2269.**

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

**Talk: Don Stevens, 7 p.m., Charlotte Senior Center.** See story on page 3.

**CCS Stage Band at Jazzfest, 12:30–1:30 p.m., Burlington.** Band will play at Fountain Stage on Church Street.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

**Talk: The Shelburne Museum and its Civil War Connections, 7 p.m., Milton Historical Society.** Dan Cole, Charlotte Historical Society president and the Shelburne Museum's supervisor of Protection Services, will offer look at the Shelburne Museum and its Civil War connections. Free. More info: 802-363-2598

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

**Writers workshop, 6-8 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, Vergennes.** Beginner and advanced wordsmiths polish up their prose in a guided practice led by author Annie Downey and poet Muir Haman. Otter Creek Room. Continues through June 26. Cost: free, though must preregister. More info: [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

*Have an event you'd like published in our calendar?*

*Send it to [News@charlottenewsvt.com](mailto:News@charlottenewsvt.com)*

## ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS

**Senior Center Café, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.** Featuring soup, salads, bread and dessert. No reservations necessary.

**Charlotte Multi-Age Coed Pickup Basketball Open Gym, 7–9 p.m.** at the CCS gym. High school students welcome. Call 425-3997 for info.

WEDNESDAYS

**Charlotte/Shelburne Rotary Club, 7:30–8:30 a.m., Parish Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne.**

**Newcomers Club of Charlotte, Shelburne and surrounding area** meets once a month on the third Wednesday from September to June. Variety of pro-

grams, day trips and locations. Information: Orchard Corl, president, 985-3870.

**AA Meeting, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 7 p.m.**

**Senior Luncheon, Senior Center, noon.** For reservations, call 425-6345 before 2 p.m. on previous Monday.

**Volunteer Fire Dept. Mtg., 7:30 p.m., Fire Station.**

**Charlotte Multi-Age Coed Pickup Basketball Open Gym, 7-9 p.m.** at the CCS gym. High school students welcome. Call 425-3997 for information.

**Food Shelf, open from 5–7 p.m.** June 11 and 25. Lower level of the Charlotte Congregational Church vestry. Information: Karen at 425-3252; for emergency food call John at 425-3130.

THURSDAYS

**Food Shelf, open from 7:30-9:30 a.m.** June 12 and 26. Lower level of the Charlotte Congregational Church vestry. Information: Karen at 425-3252; for emergency food call John at 425-3130.

FRIDAYS

**AA Meeting, Congregational Church Vestry, 8 p.m.**  
**Charlotte Playgroup, 9:30–11 a.m., CCS MPR.** Free, ages 0-5.

## Around Town

### Congratulations

to two sons of Charlotte, **Erick Crockenberg** and **Tad Cooke**, who were among nine students honored at the University of Vermont's main commencement ceremony on May 18. Based on their work proposing redevelopment of the Moran Electric Plant on Burlington's waterfront, as well as their participation and leadership in a variety of on-campus activities, Erick and Tad each earned the Elmer Nicholson Achievement Prize, given for the "greatness of the students' UVM experiences and the expectation that they will make major contributions in their respective fields."

to **Courtney** and **Benjamin Krahn** of Charlotte, who had a daughter, Dorothy Leila Krahn, on April 19 at the PMC.

to **Arles Netherwood-Schwesig** of Charlotte, who earned placement on the dean's list at Champlain College for the spring term 2014. Arles is majoring in digital filmmaking.

to **Lydia Smith** of Charlotte, a tenth-grade student being home schooled, whose piece titled "My World" was selected for publication in the Young Writers Project of the *Burlington Free Press* on May 9. Responding to her experiences on a farm and the sensations it generates, she describes feeding milk to her "bottle lamb" named Relish. After snuggling with the most recent addition to the farm, she says she wouldn't trade her "early mornings, late nights and long days for anything."

to the following Johnson State College students from Charlotte who received degrees this spring: **Theanna Elmer**, **MaryAnne Gatos (M.A.)**, **Bianca Moureau** and **Joyce Cameron Wallace**.

to **Kerry Elizabeth Ramsden** of Charlotte, who received a bachelor of arts degree from Saint Michaels College at the school's commencement exercises May 11, 2014.

to **Taylor Thibault** of Charlotte, who earned induction into Alpha Delta Mu national honor society for social work at Providence College, Providence, R.I. Taylor recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work.

to **Leon Leary** of Charlotte, who received a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from the University of Maine at Farmington at the school's commencement exercises May 17. This year marks that university's 150th anniversary.

to **Hannah Hess** of Charlotte, who received a bachelor of arts degree from Keene State College, Keene, N.H.

to **Marie-Michelle Gaudreau** of Charlotte who, along with her partner, Julie Harvey, of Manchester, was featured in the "Innovate" section of the May 15 *Burlington Free Press*. Marie-Michelle and Julie have created an online children's boutique. A future goal for the two is to create their own lines of clothes. Their current program uses the Internet as an online vehicle for sales.

to **Joanna Cummings** of Charlotte, who was recently appointed marketing manager of Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL). She joins VITL after directing Champlain College's conversion to a new learning management system. She has been co-chair of the Charlotte Conservation Commission and is a member of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Education Advisory Committee. She previously served as public information officer and webmaster for the Vermont Department of Health.



### Sympathy

is extended to family and friends of **Frank Kenison**, who passed away May 6 at the age of 86. His surviving family includes his daughter, Carol Snow, of Charlotte. The family asks that those wishing to make donations in his memory do so to the Frank Kenison Scholarship Fund, c/o White River Rotary, P.O. Box 1189, White River Junction, VT 05001.

is extended to family and friends of **Robert Bluemle** of Williston, who passed away May 8 at the age of 80. His surviving family includes his daughter, Elizabeth, and daughter-in-law, Josie Leavitt. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his name to the Vermont Respite House, 99 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

## News from The News

### News Editor Optimistic about Nonprofit Newspapers at Rotary Meeting

*Charlotte News editor in chief Brett Sigurdson (right) was a guest speaker at the April 30 meeting of the Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary. A passionate proponent of community journalism, Sigurdson's presentation centered on the role community newspapers play in small towns. He focused particularly on the Charlotte News' nonprofit mission, which, through the financial donations and volunteer efforts of its readers, aims to highlight Charlotte's important events and interesting stories as a community service. Moreover, citing recent studies, he expressed optimism at the state of similar nonprofit news models, which are growing where other areas of the industry are contracting. Rotary president Dave Jonah (left) thanked him with a Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary travel mug.*



### The Charlotte News

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### Classifieds

**The Charlotte News Classifieds: Reach your friends and neighbors for only \$7 per issue (payment must be sent before issue date). Please limit your ad to 35 words or fewer. Send to The Charlotte News Classifieds, P.O. Box 251, Charlotte, VT 05445 or**

**FOR RENT:** Quaint Cottage on Lake Champlain. 2+ bedrms, sleeps 5-6. Classic Long Pt cottage, dock, mooring, boats, beach. 206-829-9131 (-21) **NEW AT THE MT. PHILO INN:** Overnight accommodations,

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