

Fall 2010

Special points of interest:

- **General Election**
November 2
- **Property Taxes due**
November 1
- **Chicken Pie Supper**
October 16
- **Cornwall Harvest**
Weekend October 15 & 16
- **Farm to School Program**

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Cornwall Newsletter

General Election and Property Taxes!!!!!!

Well, as happens every 4 or 5 years, the General Election and the first installment due date for Property Taxes almost fall on the same day.

The first installment of Property Taxes is due November 1, 2010. This falls on a Monday which is normally a day the office is closed. I will be in the office to collect taxes on Monday, November 1 from 8:00AM–6:00PM. Monday, November 1 is also the last day to obtain an absentee ballot for the General Election the next day, so if you would like to vote absentee, those ballots will be available on Monday until 5PM, the statutory deadline. Tuesday, November 2

is the General Election. The polls will be open from 7AM–7PM. Warnings, sample ballots and the current voter checklists are posted at the Town Hall, the Town Garage and the Cornwall School.

As a courtesy reminder, if you are posting your land, which prohibits hunting, shooting and/or fishing you are required to fill out the official permit form at the Town Clerk's office. There is a \$5.00 fee for obtaining the posting permit, and you must then follow up with the correct signage on your property. A copy of the permit goes to the Vermont Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, a copy stays in the Town Clerk's office and

the land owner gets a copy to have on the premises. I am not sure if the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife could prosecute someone for hunting, etc. if all the pieces are not in place. Have a great fall. Don't ever hesitate to call with questions or concerns.

You will find a press release on Page 3 of the newsletter which discusses the proposed Constitutional change which would allow 17 year olds to vote in the state primary if they will turn 18 by the date of the General Election. Thank you for taking a minute to read and think about it.

Sue

Planning Commission News

In June we reported that the Planning Commission was going to recommend to the Selectboard that the 2005 *Cornwall Town Plan*, which expires shortly, be re-adopted in its current form. After a public hearing at the regular meeting of the CPC on Wednesday, October 20th, the CPC will forward the formal request for re-adoption to the Selectboard.

You may recall that the CPC wrestled with the fact that so much of the statistical base in the 2005 *Plan* would be overtaken by

2010 Census data, which will be available in early 2011. However, the 2005 *Plan* included a lot of useful information and was the result of a great deal of work and input from the town. As a result, we felt that the best alternative would be to weave the new Census data into the existing 2005 *Plan*, solicit inputs from the community, and collectively establish new implementation goals.

We will use several methods to seek inputs from the town as to what the vision for Cornwall post-

2010 should be and how that vision may be attained. Many people helped in the development of the 2005 *Plan* and we hope that many will also contribute to this new effort.

We welcome any and all who want to help in the re-work process.

Respectfully,

Tracy Himmel Isham, Co-Chair

Jim Bolton, Co-Chair.

Better Back Roads Grant Work Completed

The Town of Cornwall completed a culvert and drainage project on Sperry Road, adjacent to Beaver Brook. This project was funded with a 75% matching grant from the Better Back Roads program.

The Better Back Roads program provides funding, training and technical assistance to towns and other groups for projects, design and planning related to water quality and erosion control.

The goal of this project was to more than double the capacity of the culvert, increase the capacity of the ditches, to mitigate the washing of the road shoulders and control erosion of the ditch with fabric, rip rap and seeding.

The proximity of this project to Beaver Brook made this a viable project for the matching grant.



Pleasant Hill

Any/all parties who own or wish to own lots in Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Galvin Road in the Town of Cornwall are hereby called to attend a meeting on October 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT

Cemetery Meeting

The agenda includes:

- Discussion about forming a non-profit association
- Election of Officers
- Formatting By-Laws
- Old Business
- New Business

Any questions, call Dottie Ringey at 247-2775.



Vermont Constitutional Amendment Vote on November Ballot

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2010

Contact: Alison Kaiser

President, Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association

Phone: (802) 279-4952

Re: Change of Vermont Constitution; Prop 5

The Vermont Town/City Clerks are at the forefront of administering the election process at the local, state and federal levels. Above all, Clerks are charged with providing fair and equal access to all eligible voters while ensuring the proper checks and balances are in place to maintain the integrity of the election.

The Vermont General Assembly has voted in favor of Proposition 5 which will be on the statewide ballot in November for Vermonters to vote on. "Prop 5" states that persons who will attain the full age of eighteen by the date of the general election would be allowed to vote in the primary election. While the Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association raised many concerns, "Prop 5" was passed. If Vermonters vote in favor of "Prop 5" they will in fact be amending the Vermont Constitution. Such an amendment can be initiated every four years by the Senate and must be approved by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The question on the ballot will ask you to either support or oppose Prop 5; "every person who will attain the full age of eighteen by the date of the general election....to vote in the primary election". While Vermont Clerks support voter access, there are concerns with the language as drafted and the process that has yet to be determined. The Vermont Constitution should not be amended with ambiguous language.

Prior to registering to vote in Vermont, applicants are required to take the Voter's Oath. No determination has been made as to whether it is legal for someone under the age of 18 to take the Voter's Oath. It is examples like this that need to be answered before asking the Clerks to implement a significant change to the eligibility of voter registration.

Proponents of this amendment, while good intentioned, wish to capitalize on the enthusiasm of young voters to participate in local, state and national elections. Voting enthusiasm exists because of issues, candidates and current circumstances, not by expanding the age of voting.

While we do not want to stand in the way of the voting process, we are the people that are required to administer the process. We would ask that before Vermonters vote in favor of such a measure you first consider the following:

- Provide clear criteria and guidelines so Clerks can fairly and equitably administer every election.
- Different rules, applied to different voters, at different elections can actually reduce voter participation.
- Further discussion about the potential implications needs to be considered first. Vermonters are being asked to amend the Vermont Constitution, which has only been done 3 times since 1777.

The Constitution of the State of Vermont is the oldest guiding document in Vermont and should not be a high school political science project, but rather, well thought out and carefully considered.

Proposition 5 is not as clear as proponents may think. Your Town/City Clerks are on the front line of elections and they need to be provided a clear, well thought out process. To learn more about the proposed amendment, talk to your Town Clerk or visit our website at www.vmcta.org.

Cornwall Emergency Management Network

Disaster Response

This past September 23rd and 24th saw Vermont's largest ever disaster training "catastrophic" exercise, "CatEx," which was based on a hurricane similar to the one that struck the State in 1938. Agencies and Departments that wanted to test their emergency plans, capabilities, or tactical operations developed specific objectives and tasks to be evaluated throughout the "play." A huge number of entities and over 750 people participated, from St Albans to St Johnsbury, with simulated responses to storm-related train derailments, building collapse, overflowing hospital ERs, dam breaches, operations center relocations, and other general mayhem.

One of the things this exercise demonstrated to me is, the State can and will set up massive response operations with assistance from Federal agencies, neighboring states, and Canada. But in a statewide disaster, *it could take days* to get resources organized and distributed. This reinforces the principals upon which the Emergency Management Network has developed local plans:

WE WILL NEED TO DEPEND ON OURSELVES—AND ONLY OURSELVES—FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO, AND RECOVERY FROM, A LARGE SCALE DISASTER.

Until infrastructure around us is restored, we will not receive outside assistance. For instance,

- Emergency Shelters will be set up at centers such as Middlebury, Vergennes, and Brandon; not necessarily near or immediately accessible to outlying towns;
- Utilities may be off until working conditions are safe for crews to begin restoration;
- Restoration of damaged roads is dependent on many factors, including getting trucks to the material to repair them

YOU need to think about being alone—without power, without being able to get out of your driveway... with no internet, with no telephone, with no cell phone—for up to three days.

And I mean *no one* can get to you. *No one* can contact you.

Think about the food in your freezer... thawing. Think about the electrical devices you depend on: Radio? Medical devices? Dehumidifiers? Sump pump? Heat? Water? Overhead Garage Doors?

Think about the prescription you *meant* to pick up two days ago. Think about your generator: serviced? tested (under load)? good fuel? spare fuel?

Think about keeping the kids entertained. Hey, reading by candlelight isn't such a bad thing; just don't set your curtains on fire because the Fire Department *can't get there*.

What does this look like in your life? Think about it. Then, think about your neighbors... what might that person have to deal with? Is your neighbor better-prepared than you, or in need of some help? What resources do you need? What can you share?

As the Local Emergency Manager, I want nothing more than to have response teams show up at your door on day three of a massive ice storm, and have you greet us with, "Yup, we're fine."

Think about it. Plan on it. Prepare for it. Live it.

Some general hints—

Call 2-1-1 for "Cornwall-specific Updates" to find out what is happening locally, what resources are available, and where to call if you do need help.

462-2775, the Town Clerk's phone, will be answered or have information on the answering machine with emergency updates and alternate phone numbers.

Look for an Emergency Needs update at Town Hall to let Emergency Planners and Responders know if there is a need for priority response to your household.

Local Emergency Management Training

Local Training

► On November 9th, the EMN will host an Emergency Operations Center training, specific to Cornwall. This will introduce some of the basic Incident Command concepts and review how Cornwall's Emergency Management Network will be activated as the local EOC, and how complex incidents can be managed.

Anyone interested in serving in the EOC during an incident, anyone currently or considering serving as a Town Official, First Responders, and any interested individual should attend this course so we share a basic understanding of the, procedures, roles, and concepts of a local Emergency Operations Center.

► I wish to commend the six Cornwall residents, and five from other towns, who took the Adult/Child, Infant CPR, and AED Training on Sep. 17th. Taking this course demonstrates a commitment to the wellbeing of others. I found it very inspiring to see so many people working on the common goal of learning a life-saving skill. Congratulations.

For those who couldn't attend or missed the enrollment, we are already talking about another class in late winter. This might serve to re-certify those who took the first course in May 2009, and offer initial training to any others. Let me know if you're interested, and watch for an announcement in the next newsletter.

Kate Gieges

Emergency Management Coordinator

802/462-2182, gieges@shoreham.net

Emergency Management Network

3rd Thursdays, Town Hall, 5:30pm.



Prepare • Respond • Recover • Mitigate

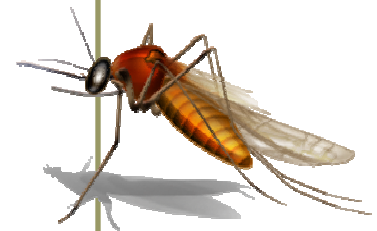
Lemon Fair Insect Control District

"By all reports this was a relatively mosquito-free summer. The dry weather helped enormously so that even when we had rain storms, there was little of the flooding that can create breeding areas for mosquitoes. The insect control district and volunteers surveyed regularly when necessary and 'the airplane' treated when the occasion called for it.

Because the district did not need to treat extensively, however, state reimbursement for treatment services rendered, the district's principle source of revenue, was modest and consequently the district goes into next year with less funds than it would like. The district warmly thanks all volunteers who faithfully helped us do our work this year.

Others are encouraged to join us next year!"

Tom Baskett





Grab the gang and enjoy festive fall foods at Cornwall's own

CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

Cornwall Congregational Church
Saturday, October 16, 2010

Takeouts begin @ 4:30 pm

Seatings @ 5:30 & 6:45 pm

\$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under

By reservation only: call 462-2170 to book!

Free-range chickens donated by

Cheryl & Marc Cesario, 1368 West Street, Cornwall

CORNWALL HARVEST WEEKEND TO FEATURE THREE EVENTS

Village center to come alive with "bounty of the county" October 15 & 16

Cornwall, Vt.-Visitors to the Addison County town of Cornwall will have three chances to enjoy "the bounty of the county" during Cornwall Harvest Weekend-the peak-foliage Friday and Saturday of October 15 and 16-thanks to the efforts of the Bingham Memorial School, the Cornwall Historical Society and the Cornwall Congregational Church.

On Friday, Oct. 15, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., the public is invited as the Cornwall School stages its third annual Harvest Fest. By featuring activities centered on food and agriculture, this fall's event will highlight the neighbors who produce the foods that students love. Under the guidance of food service manager Susan Pratt, children will use local products to prepare dishes to share with Harvest Fest attendees.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Cornwall Historical Society will hold an open house at the old Lavalley house and store adjacent to the town hall. The public is invited to catch a

glimpse of this "caught in amber" country store, which thrived during the early 20th century and is in its second year of hosting a popular seasonal farmstand. The Historical Society's Cornwall Store at the Lavalley House Project is currently exploring ways to restore the building to its historical place as a retail establishment, gathering place and community hub.

On Saturday evening the Cornwall Church will offer a full harvest dinner featuring chicken-and-biscuit pie, mashed potatoes, squash, cole slaw, relish, apple and pumpkin pies, quick breads and local milk and cider. Takeouts will be available for pick-up beginning at 4:30 p.m., with sit-down dinners served in two shifts, at 5:30 and 6:45. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Whether dining in or taking out, reservations are required. Please call 462-2170 to book your supper.

Over the summer the Cornwall School was one of six Vermont schools to participate in Shelburne Farms' Farm-to-

School Workshop, which seeks to raise awareness of local foods and healthy eating by connecting cafeterias, classrooms and communities. Harvest Fest organizers include Pratt and the Friends of Cornwall School, as well as Middlebury College student volunteers and school garden coordinators Rachel Pentecost and Amanda Warren. Among the regular Addison County suppliers of the Cornwall School lunch program-many of whose products will be featured at Harvest Fest-are LaLumiere Farms of Ferrisburgh and Golden Russet Farm of Shoreham (fruits and vegetables); Maple Meadow Farm of Salisbury (eggs); Monument Farms of Weybridge (dairy); Gleason Grains of Bridport (wheat); and Cornwall's own Sara and Leo Audet (maple syrup), Lemon Fair Honeyworks (honey), Twig Farm (cheese), and Sunrise Orchards and Windfall Orchards (fruit). For more information contact Susan Pratt at 462-2463.

The Lavalley house and store were to have been destroyed in 2000, but the owners decided

to donate the building to the town, which in turn asked the Historical Society to dedicate it to a use consistent with the wishes of Cornwall residents as expressed in the town plan. For more information about the project contact Elizabeth Karnes Keefe at 462-3281.

This year the Cornwall Chicken Pie Supper, which has been named the county's best, will feature free-range chickens donated by Cheryl Bruce and Mark Cesario of Meeting Place Pastures, 1368 West Street in Cornwall. For more information on the supper, contact co-chairs Sheila Foote (462-2781) or Betsy Stine (462-2012).

All three events are within walking distance of one another, in and around Cornwall's village center, where Routes 30 and 74 intersect.

Capital Planning & Budget Committee Report



The Capital Budget & Planning Committee is gearing up to prepare and propose its next one year budget and five year follow-on plan. We have been successful in establishing a program to replace Highway and Fire Department equipment on a planned schedule which prevents wide

swings in the capital spending from year-to-year. Our next proposal will continue the equipment replacement schedule.

In addition, we will start to look at the five town buildings currently in active use: the town hall, the highway department garage, the highway department salt shed, the town-owned fire station and the school. Determining what demands for capital expenditures these buildings will incur will be a complex and demanding process. Recently, committee members Jake Chapline, Frank Punderson and I met with the Select Board to discuss the best approach for assessing the capital spending needs for these buildings. We agreed

that the first step, to be completed this year, is to summarize the known and perceived needs for each building. In the following year, with Select Board oversight, we will create a preliminary schedule for resolving the identified needs and performing preliminary cost estimates.

In order to establish the buildings needs list, the committee will have meetings for each building and invite the stake holders (those people who supervise, work in or make extensive use of those buildings) to tell us what they believe the building's needs are.

Llyn Rice,
Committee Chair



FOCS Fundraiser Continues

Show your local colors and help the Friends of Cornwall School!

The Friends of Cornwall School still have limited quantities of popular Cornwall gear. T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies make great fall wardrobe items and holiday gifts. Choose from two designs-the classic "apples-and-sheep" town crest or the scholastic Corn-

wall Cougars look introduced last year after kids at the Bingham Memorial School voted to adopt the cougar as their mascot.

T-shirts are \$12, long-sleeve tees (in adult sizes only) \$17, crew-neck sweatshirts \$19 and hooded sweatshirts \$25. Sizes and colors are limited, so make your selections today. Call Alex Wolff at 462-3138 or stop

by the gear table at the Cornwall School Harvest Fest on Friday afternoon, October 15, from 2:30 to 4.



Select Board News

In the past three months the Select Board has, in addition to our routine business, done the following:

Considered a "barking dogs" situation and encouraged the involved neighbors to work collaboratively to solve it;

Met with the Planning Commission and agreed to a sensible process for updating the Town Plan that will incorporate this year's census findings;

Received an update on the Lavalley Store Project from the Cornwall Historical Society and subsequently conveyed to the CHS a summary of current issues and concerns with the proposed project;

Initiated court action to enforce a continuing health code violation;

Met with the Capital Budget and Planning Committee and discussed a method to include actively used town-owned buildings in their deliberations;

Appointed a Town Poet.



Road Commissioner's Report

October already, whoa!! Time to say it was a good summer season. Paving on Swamp Road went well although there were several rain delays. We were able to get all the culvert projects done and most of the planned ditching done. We did two 4' X 50' culverts and one 5' X 50' tube. We were able to exchange help with Weybridge and Bridport for a couple of them which helped greatly. The other was a demonstration installation of a new culvert product, so there was plenty of help as crews from all over Addison County were on the scene to help and observe. Engineers and sales reps were on hand as well to instruct and document as it will be a test site down the road, pun intended. The 5' tube was funded through an 80% structures grant thru VTrans.

As mentioned before after every season there's been much repair work done on the 15 year old Land Pride mower. Options to replace it are limited and have recently gotten worse. Unbeknownst to me at the time, we bought one of the last 4 of that model produced. That sounds like a bad omen but it has been the predominant model around here for many years. This came to light as several towns began searching their options for mower purchases going into next year. At this point the options appear to be in the \$30K range. So I guess I'm glad we bought when we did. Hopefully it won't be a lemon and will let us get the first pass done a little quicker and easier and preserve the Land Pride for a few more years for the

second and third passes.

Here in the next couple weeks, we'll have a rented mower in town. We'll have it for 2 to 3 days to mow back the heavy brush that hangs into the road and where I hope to ditch next year. Yes it will make a mess, a big one, but it is the most cost effective and safe way to deal with dense brush, grape vines and sumac. While it is initially a mess, other towns have proven that with regular follow up mowing, it is a good management tool. We are one of 4 towns renting the unit together. The other towns have been renting a machine together for several years and find it effective and valuable.

A couple other tidbits of info. A contractor has received permission from the town to move a house on West Street. When he is notified of the date for which his state permit to use Route 125 is, we will put up signs ahead of the date. Be aware and probably plan to avoid the area at that time.

Several towns have had a meeting and are planning another this winter with State Ag officials regarding the Right of Way Pesticide Permit process. We now have a little better understanding of how the bureaucracy works. We will be working to piggy back or mimic the VTrans plan and permit. Again this is not for a whole-sale spraying operation throughout town but a small scale very selective program. There is apparently quite a bit of interest amongst road departments around the state for this but more reluctance to do the process. Ag seems to understand this and appears

willing to help make it smoother for us. Somewhat related....this permit will have nothing to do with the property adjoining the state roads. That said, the ROW permit VTrans is issued does allow them to spray in the state ROW with the onus on the land-owner to contact them as per the permit notification.

While not obligated to do so, we will again ask operators of certified organic farm operations to identify and verify on a map the boundaries of that land. At this time there is no intent to use herbicides along those ROW's as the setback requirements could be onerous. There is actually a lot of certified organic land in town, which with this policy will limit the scope of the permit significantly anyways.

And one more thing. Mailboxes, oh yeah there's a few doosies out there. If your mailbox set up is a cob job don't call me when it gets disintegrated with the first heavy wet snow. And if the punks have clubbed the thing to pieces already....same deal. Sheet rock screws into pressure treated lumber rot off. Interior plywood and pressboard disintegrate and the hard plastic mailboxes aren't worth.....what you pay. And the doors have to shut and stay shut. That's how we get most of them. 42" to the bottom and 2' off the traveled way.

Cornwall's Farm to School Program: The Recent History

"Farm to School" is a concept that brings local food into schools by connecting three C's: Classroom, Cafeteria and Community. It looks different at every school that participates in it, but what's in common is the richness of connecting those three dots for enhancing the health and education of the students, teachers and community. It is a program that is supported by NOFA VT, Foodworks, and Shelburne Farms, and it's one that Cornwall School participates in too!

Cornwall School first had the opportunity to participate in Farm to School about 5 years ago thanks to the efforts of Cornwall resident Amy Trubek, who began talking with then food service professional Peg Powers, about using more local food in school lunches. They hatched a plan for school families to harvest tomatoes and fruits in the summer at local farms, then prep and freeze the food (tomato sauce, salsa, etc.) for use in the school year. They received grant money from the Farm to School organization to buy a freezer, which is still used at the school. This past year, several other events created more momentum for Cornwall's Farm to School Program on all fronts: Cafeteria, Community, and Classroom.

Cafeteria

Cornwall School is lucky to have Susan Pratt heading its food service. She is an experienced caterer who loves fresh food, cooking and working with children. After attending a recent Stone Soup workshop

in Addison County about why and how to use local food in the school, she became very committed to using local food as well.

Community

Cornwall was also fortunate in getting connected with Feb 2011 senior Rachel Pentecost at Middlebury College who'd heard rumors that we wanted to "start" a school garden (reinvigorate it, really). Rachel's thesis work looks at helping schools start and sustain school gardens and so she was looking for some local schools to work with. In addition, the Middlebury College Organic Garden received a very generous donation, a small piece of which Jay Leshinsky used to pay two of his interns (Rachel and Amanda Warren, 2012) to support school community garden efforts.

The parent community has been very supportive as well. Friends of Cornwall School pledged \$500 in May toward the garden as well. A garden workday on Green Up day netted four new garden beds, made with the help of ten parents, ten college students, and about ten elementary students. Additionally, about ten families worked with Rachel and Amanda over the summer to harvest, plant, weed and water the garden. A fall garden workday will yield the final bed in the front of the school.

Classroom

Farm to School is well supported at Cornwall School. Principal Denise Goodnow has assisted in grant writing and securing funds

for the program and teachers Linda Brown, Lisa Beck and Sue Sears have all contributed their own time to the garden as well as inspiring their young students to be involved with planting and harvesting lettuce, spinach and radishes for salads.

Farm to School Workshop

Finally, Cornwall recently had the opportunity to attend a Farm to School Workshop sponsored by Vermont FEED (Vermont Food Education Every Day). We were lucky enough to be one of the six schools selected to attend with a team consisting of Denise Goodnow, Linda Brown and Susan Pratt as well as parents Kristin Bolton and Karen Bartlett. Sue Sears, Amy Trubek, Rachel Pentecost and Amanda Warren were able to join us for an afternoon as well. For three days we learned from leaders in the national Farm to School movement and from the people from the five other schools there with us. We left feeling incredibly motivated about our plan of: serving more local food, getting kids excited about healthy food, using the kitchen and the garden as a classroom, showcasing the farm to school connection through community events, and growing a sustainable farm to school connection. As a kickoff to the program this year, Susan Pratt has designed the menu for the Cornwall School Family Pancake Breakfast to feature the foods of several local farms.



TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

West Street Culvert Work

