

Cornwall Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 4

Spring 2012

It Is Your Time To Shine!! Input Is Needed About The Future Of Education In Cornwall!!!

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN CORNWALL

What is the future of education in Cornwall? What is the future of education for the Addison Central Supervisory Union? You may remember a presentation at the 2011 Town Meeting about studying the creation of a Regional Education District (RED). Cornwall, as well as the 6 other ACSU towns will each be holding several community forums to brainstorm about and discuss the possibilities. These forums are designed to help the community identify immediate and long-term educational issues, talk about common values and concerns, articulate a vision for the future, and prepare the community for the decisions it will face in the coming years concerning education in Cornwall. The kick-off and first study group session will be held on **May 6, 2012 from 3pm-6pm at the Cornwall Elementary School**. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. The organizing committee for this process includes: Sarah Kemp, Dave Donahue, Kristi Tolgyesi, Rich Isenberg, Stu Johnson, Tracy Himmel Isham, John Eagan, Heather Eagan, Dena Greenman, Nicole Comanducci-Finn, Bonnie Keeler and Sue Johnson. Please feel free to contact any of these folks with specific questions, concerns or thoughts. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard. We need the participation of all stakeholders in this process. It is an important opportunity to bring the whole community, not just those folks with children in the school, together around an issue that will, in one way or another, affect us all. We hope to see you there.

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Time: 3pm-6pm

Cornwall Elementary
School

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Cornwall Students and the Hancock Relief Fund jar filled with \$1408.13 they collected in September.

Road Commissioner's Report

OKAY, a bunch of stuff to talk about here. This might make for bathroom reading.

The Selectboard has asked me to again explain the function and purpose of the 'All American Shoulder Disk', recently renamed the "tail twister", as it sure twists some people's tails. The sales pitch says it reclaims gravel and it does, but it also creates a better road profile allowing for better drainage and easier maintenance. The real savings comes by changing the shoulder profile, we need to use less gravel to get the same effect. The same thing could be done with the grader but, would take a lot longer and make the same mess unless you pick it up (losing the reclaimed gravel). A HEADS UP, I hope to get out and hit the roads again in a few weeks and may try it in the fall. It works best with dry weather to dry out the sod and leaves, and avoid the mud. I have been asked to put a notice on the town website and out on the Cornwall Connection when we're going to use it. This is the 5th year we've used this tool and each year it gets better. After a few days; and after we get it worked up, doesn't it always turn out OK??

Beyond that, the big news of the year was the non winter. It was easy on plows and salt, a typical year for sand. The weather let us get a lot of roadsides cut, 4.88 acres worth. This I know, because I had to measure it for the right of Way Spray Permit Application process. Starting

about June 1st, we'll be spraying guardrails and cut stumps to control regrowth. (See Public Notice elsewhere in this Newsletter). This is the same program as the last 3 years, organics mark the map at the Town Hall, town roads only.

Cornwall and Shoreham have together purchased a Komatsu 130 excavator. Besides the efficiencies and cost effective advantages of owning the machine, we are trying to promote towns cooperating on equipment purchases, projects and any other way we can work out. This has not been uncommon in Addison County over the last few years.....And now folks, the school system is looking into ways they might gain efficiencies by cooperating. There will be several opportunities for the public to participate in discussions that will determine acceptable options that may be implemented. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter). People need to participate for it to be a town wide representation. There is much talk of a sense of community, this will give an indication of whether its all talk, if its real or what can improve it. People need to participate, not just stand around the new community coffee pot at the town hall and complain. Well its (the coffee pot) not there yet, but there is talk and if there is interest (See article elsewhere in the newsletter). And Green Up Day is Saturday, May 5...Remember its to 'green up' the roadsides and public spaces, not your garage, cellar, or back yard.

Besides knowing where most of the stuff is, and recognizing it in the trucks, we also know that dry mattresses and furniture, tires without water in them, etc. weren't on the roadside—just saying!! Hey, while you out there picking up the roadsides, carry a pail for returnable bottles and cans and keep them separate. There's an ambitious group of parents bent on rebuilding the Cornwall Baseball Dynasty, starting with T-Ball. Whether they can do it without the Ringey's, Rheame's and Pratt's remains to be seen, but they can use the nickels to get equipment and use help with some needed work on the ball field. Another participation, sense of community, opportunity.

Back to the road work for a second. We'll be looking for dump sites for the ditching/fill we will generate. We'll be able to wait for appropriate conditions with the flexibility we now have owning the equipment. So if you want some fill, call the town shed (462-2752) which now transfers to my cell phone. It takes a while (about 12 rings) so hang on.

We'll be doing some culvert work on West Street in June ahead of paving later in the summer. There is also a culvert failing on Lemon Fair Road that will require replacement. We try to post "road closure" signs ahead of time and put it on the website as well as the Cornwall Connection.

P.S. We have a large pile of chips at the garage from the power line trimming

CVPS/Vaillancourt did this past year. Help yourself or we'll load you if we're here. Call to coordinate.

And then there was a couple of us talking (well, me & Mrs. Johnson) saying "We're in the midst of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War." Cornwall, and certainly Vermont have a significant heritage in the Civil War to be celebrated, remembered and honored. Wouldn't it be sweet to use this opportunity to organize a few forums, meetings, speakers and such over the next 3 years to remember and learn more about this pivotal time in our history, (See article elsewhere in this newsletter) And maybe reinvigorate the Historical Society in the process....just saying!!...some more of that sense of community, participation opportunity talk. What's the interest????

So what's with the helter skelter nature of this article? Well, enough of you have mentioned to the editor in chief that you enjoy reading the Road Commissioner's report very much, so much so, that she suggested if we really wanted something to be read, perhaps the RC should write about it, so I decided to take a stab at it. I encourage you to read all the articles, get informed and involved to improve that sense of community. And I didn't even mention the fire department, conservation commission, cemetery commission, planning commission.....

Stu

Put the Vermonter's Ahead!!

Say what? Some will recognize that famous order given on the march to Gettysburg. We are in the midst of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Front Royal, Virginia, that would be May 23, 2012 at 6:00PM at the Town Hall, the Cornwall Historical Society will hold a potluck dinner and meeting to discuss and organize a series of forums, meetings,

speakers and such to take place over the next 3 years, to celebrate and remember Vermonter's in the Civil War. If you're at all interested, join us and bring your food contribution, your ideas, connections, stories, books and questions. Along with this, the library will feature books it has and will be getting about the Civil War.

And when we are done with this maybe we can figure out what to do about the error on the town's Civil War Monument. Say what again?? Check it out, see if you can spot it??



News You Can Use!

Income Tax Help!

I have been told that you can get help with your income taxes through RSVP. If you are interested call 388-7044.

Transportation!

I do have the name of someone who would be willing to do some transporting on a periodic basis if anyone is in need. Give a call and I will pass on your request. 462-2775.

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County, Homeowner Application Process! Do you want to own a simple, decent home? Do you live or work in Addison County?

Habitat for Humanity is building 4 houses in Cornwall. If you dream of your own home but you do not qualify for a bank mortgage, and you can afford \$800 a month for housing, call or visit our website, www.addisonhabitat.org

The three criteria for a Habitat for Humanity homeowner are need for suitable housing, ability to pay the no-interest mortgage and willingness to partner with Habitat. A family needing suitable housing may currently be in housing that is overcrowded, is costing more than 30% of the family's budget each month, is unsafe or has some other failure such as inadequate heat, plumbing or electrical insufficiency. The ability to pay the no-interest mortgage is determined by having income that is adequate to pay the mortgage as well as the taxes and insurance and still be able to pay other bills such as utilities and food. The income must be stable now and for the foreseeable future. The family must not be able to qualify for a conventional mortgage. A credit check will be done, but Habitat's standards are not as strict as a commercial bank or mortgage company. The willingness to partner means that the family will be expected to contribute 200 hours of "sweat equity" per adult, to a maximum of 400 hours per family in building the house. If the adults are not able to do this, other work that supports the Habitat mission will be required. Designated "Friends and Family" may contribute up to 25% of the "sweat equity" hours. The selected family is asked to make a down payment, to indicate good faith and commitment. Another payment to help defray closing costs is also requested. Usually our families are represented at closing by an attorney *pro bono*. To request an application or discuss the possibility of Habitat homeownership, call the Habitat office at 388-0400 any time. If no one is in the office, please leave a message and you will be called back promptly.

Cornwall Conservation Commission



An inventory of Cornwall's ecologically significant areas to assist with land use planning is definitely something that Town residents would like to see happen. You asked for it to happen in the 2005-2010 Town Plan and requested it again (71% of respondents) in the 2011 survey of residents that was recently completed to guide the writing of the new town plan. An inventory will clarify where the town's important natural communities, rare and uncommon species, and habitat connections are located. Knowing this will help all of us maintain or even improve the diversity of native wildlife and habitat.

The inventory would be a valuable tool to assist with town planning so that, as development occurs, the natural resources of the town

are adequately considered.

The difficult question is how can the CCC make this inventory happen? We estimate that a thorough inventory will cost \$10,000 or more. CCC applied for a municipal planning grant several years ago but did not receive funding at that time. We are planning to apply again this fall. Conservation Commission members are on the lookout for other granting sources. We welcome any ideas or help with this initiative.

The CCC is also collaborating on a project with the Agency of Nature Resources and a group of residents to plant over 300 dogwood, willow, and elderberry seedlings in a field adjoining the Cornwall Swamp this spring. The goal is to create a hedgerow that slows storm water runoff and offers a corridor for wildlife to move across the field.

Biologists have found that animals favor these protective hedgerows and buffered stream banks as they move around the landscape.

A vegetative buffer along streams is also critically important for water purity and erosion control. The US Farm

Service Agency through its Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offers farmers incentives for retiring cropland or pastureland adjacent to streams, ponds and rivers and for establishing buffers and similar conservation practices. Participants receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives (10, 15, or 30 year contracts) for installing and maintaining forested riparian buffers or grass filter strips. We offer our appreciation to the Cornwall farmers who are participating and encourage those who have not explored this program to check it out.

The CCC would like to welcome its newest member, Brian Howlett, to the Commission. Brian moved to Cornwall last September and has a lot to offer. He was a member of the Putney (VT) Conservation Commission for over 7 years and later spent several years in New Zealand working as a veterinarian before returning to this area, his ancestral home. Brian currently owns an organic farm in Whiting.

Selectboard News!

Town Meeting went well and the weather turned unusually good, two auspicious events to get the year on the right track. Of course some say, "We'll pay later." but let's enjoy the good fortune.

We welcome Abi Sessions to the Board and are getting organized for a calendar including a continuation of joint meetings with other town boards/commissions. You are invited to attend our meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7PM at Town Hall. (June-August it's just once a month on the 1st Tuesday. Bruce Hiland and Judy Watts continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Our appeal for help on Capital Budget Planning yielded two highly qualified individuals, Magna Dodge and Mary Conlon. Both have experience in the world of numbers and we much appreciate their support.

The joint purchase of an excavator with Shoreham has been consummated and our two towns are now a model for such efforts. Other such possibilities will be embraced and if you have suggestions please feel free to offer them up. We had a flurry of calls regarding recent road shoulder maintenance on town dirt roads. Proper maintenance is essential to maintaining the integrity of dirt roads. In particular the shoulders need to be kept free of invasive grass, weeds and roots lest the underlying structure be weakened and erosion follow. That necessary work is weather dependent and can be messy for a few days but beats having to rebuild road sections.

Dave Sears and Judy Watts spent a recent morning driving the roads in Addison County with Senator Harold Giard, Representative Diane Lanpher, Kevin Marsha, Program Manager, VTrans Highway Safety and Design, and Dave Blackmore, District

5 Transportation Advisor. We paid particular attention to Route 74 and Route 125. Both of these routes, along with Routes 17, 22A, and 73, form a cluster of roads mapped for attention by Highway Safety and Design Asset Management Unit. Budgets, weather conditions (remember Irene?), and other demands in the State make it very difficult to predict when the equipment for major reconstructive work will arrive.

Please let us know of your questions and concerns. We like hearing from you!

Bruce Hiland	462-3551
Dave Sears	462-2444
Abi Sessions	462-2363
Judy Watts	462-2664
Ben Wood	462-3216

Finding New Ways

Summary of Remarks by
Bruce Hiland, Chair, Select Board
Town Meeting, March 5, 2012

In the interest of helping you stay well informed I'm going to comment briefly on five subjects: the problem of how Vermont's local government is organized; citizen involvement; the town's financial surplus, Will Jackson's gift of his property to Middlebury College and the Lavalley building question.

First let me provide a context for my comments about government organization: we selectors believe our job is to make sure that the essential government services for which we're responsible are delivered to you, the taxpayers, both effectively and efficiently. To do so we pay close attention. We question what work should be done and how. Where it makes sense we "make do" ... but we're equally careful to avoid being "penny wise and pound foolish". We respect your tax dollars. We budget prudently. However, accomplishing this is becoming more and more difficult. Amazing as it sounds to me we are now nearly 1/8th of the way through the 21st century. The complexities of governing – by which I mean doing our work – only increase. These complexities increase no matter the size of the town nor available resources, financial or human. Regulations multiply. There's more to keep track of. Enforcement is more problematic. More disputes end up in court. Costs go up. Taxes go up. You are not happy. We are not happy. But that's today's reality.

We here in Vermont have a particular problem: we confront these 21st century challenges of delivering "good government" with a 19th century governance structure. Let me use some numbers to help make my point. The entire state of Vermont has 626,000 people - that's fewer people than the city of Memphis, TN. But VT - with a total population smaller than one medium-sized US city - has 237 towns and 9 cities. Each has its own boards, officials, ordinances, practices and precedents. And personality.

Here in Cornwall we all enjoy our little village of 1,185 souls. Of that number 853 of us are registered voters. Of those 853 perhaps 20% - you folks here tonight - participate in our direct town meeting. And we have 42 elected positions and 47 appointed jobs to fill.

Finding ways to effectively and efficiently deliver government services at this small scale and with this extraordinary fragmentation is daunting. But there is some movement in the right direction....

As you all know – or I hope you know – the "hot button" issue of school consolidation is now out in the open for serious attention and, one hopes, sensible action. As a consequence, fundamental questions are being put on the table. Here are some to stimulate your thinking and discussion:

- What exactly do *you* mean when you say "my community"?
- What do you expect – *specifically* - from your community?
- What's *your* vision for this place where you live?
- How grounded is your vision in the *reality* of Cornwall's resources?
- What are you *personally* prepared to do – and what are you *personally* willing to pay for – to have what you want?

...and lastly:

- How can *we* better work together to accomplish all this?

As we selectors work to provide you essential services effectively and economically we must find more ways to work outside traditional boundaries. At long last a systematic effort is underway to come to grips with education costs and the impact of shrinking school populations. We believe a similar effort is needed for emergency services – fire protection, EMTs, ambulance services, police. Similarly, road maintenance needs the same attention. Where we can we've taken the initiative. One example is that Cornwall and Shoreham just firmed up a deal for joint ownership and use of an excavator. That's unprecedented as far as we can tell. "Big deal" you say? You have no idea of the time and effort required to do things differently, even the most obvious and small ones.

The "bottom line" is that we strongly encourage you – each of you - to participate in the discussions about education and the implications for our communities. We further urge you to insist that our legislators take action to make improved cooperation and collaboration among VT's towns a high priority.

A few other items warrant briefer comment: citizen involvement; our financial "surplus"; Willard Jackson's gift of his property to Middlebury College and the Lavalley building decision.

As I said a few moments ago, we thank you for coming tonight. In between these events however citizen involvement fades and sometimes we occasionally wonder if there's really anyone out there. Specifically, we have considerable difficulty filling important jobs. One school board member is not running for re-election and it's taking a last minute write-in effort to fill that important slot. We've needed someone to chair our Capital Budget Planning committee for over 6 months. This is important work – planning ahead so we make sensible, decisions on big-ticket equipment purchases and major expenditures. It's not terribly time consuming and we don't need a hedge fund manager just someone who can understand basic budgeting and ask good questions. The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department is down to 15 active members and finds it very difficult to recruit new members. The message: if you like what this community provides you need to lend a hand where you can.

Now regarding the surplus.... we will be asked shortly to vote on Article 2 - how to handle the financial surplus which results from taking in more money than we spent. Routine procedure is to vote to use any surplus to reduce the upcoming year's taxes. But routinely the surplus is only about \$30,000. This year there's considerably more – over \$111,000. Where did all that come from? \$40,000 is from us under-spending the General Fund, another \$45,000 from over-payment to the Education Fund and \$25,000 from miscellaneous sources such as back taxes that finally got collected. The Select Board recommends that of that \$111,000, \$50,000 be applied to reduce next year's taxes and the balance be added to the Capital Fund Account fund to reduce taxes in future years.

Regarding Will Jackson's gift, here's the message from the College: "Middlebury College recognizes the significance of the Cornwall property that Will Jackson has donated to the college and takes the acquisition of this beautiful piece of land very seriously. Faculty and students are excited about the potential educational opportunities it offers. Will Jackson retains the right to live in his house on the property for the remainder of this life. During that time he will continue to pay taxes on the property. The college will not allow the town of Cornwall to experience an economic disadvantage due to this donation but it is premature to discuss future plans further at this time."

Finally, the Lavalley building question: thank you for your responses to our request for help. Nearly 90% of the 131 respondents favored a "least cost" solution to remove the building and that is reflected in the wording of Article 9. If you wish additional discussion we ask that it be respectful and in the spirit of our common welfare.

Thanks for your attention. We welcome your participation in tonight's meeting and we will welcome your help in making the necessary efforts to keep our community in good working and living condition.

It's A Win Win Win Win! Cornwall Library Book Sale!!! Donate Your Used Books, CDs, Audio books and DVDs!

Give your **personal book collection** a **facelift** by donating your gently used unwanted books, DVDs and audio books to the Town of Cornwall Library book sale! So many of us have books piling up in corners, lining up along the floor, stacked in piles on desks, overflowing from our bookshelves. Donate them, and then browse at the sale in June to pick up bargain books of interest from among those others have donated.

Best of all, proceeds from the sale go directly to **stock the library shelves with new releases** purchased from the Vermont Book Shop in downtown Middlebury.

Let's see:

- "recycle" books you'll never read again,
- pick up others you've always wanted to read — at bargain prices
- help the Town Library keep a great collection of new titles, and
- support a local independent bookseller!

That's a win-win-win-win!

Drop off your unwanted (but reasonably recent) books, DVDs and audio books (please no LP's, cassette tapes, textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias) of all subject matters at Cornwall Town Hall any time during regular hours (Tues-Fri, 9-5) before the sale. Please make sure your donated books are in **good, resale condition** — meaning no water stains, mold or mildew smells, or bug-infestations. If you have some of the latter, tear off the covers and drop them off at the Addison County Recycling Center in Middlebury.

Health Department Offers Free Radon Test Kits for Homeowners

Media Contact: Communication Office
Vermont Department of Health
[802-863-7281](tel:802-863-7281)

BURLINGTON – Radon cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled but more Vermonters than ever before can find out if it exists in their homes. The Vermont Department of Health distributed 1,700 free radon test kits to homeowners last year and has more than 3,000 free kits to give away this year.

Radon is a naturally-occurring gas that results from the breakdown of uranium in the bedrock, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer (after smoking) in the United States.

"Radon causes lung cancer over a long period of time, and we know that about one in every eight Vermont homes has elevated levels of radon," said Lori Cragin,

a Health Department epidemiologist.

January is Radon Awareness Month. Because radon levels can change daily, weekly and seasonally, a long-term test of 3-12 months (ideally including a heating season) is the best way to accurately test for the gas.

Radon can get into your home from the soil. A house can act like a large chimney, with warm air rising and escaping out upper floor windows and through cracks in the attic. This creates a vacuum at the lowest level of the house, which can pull the radon from the soil into the home.

The likelihood of a radon problem cannot be predicted by the style, age, or location of a home. All homes are at risk. You cannot know the radon level in a house without testing for it. Testing is easy. Open the kit immediately and leave it in place

throughout a heating season, and then mail it back to the Health Department to get your results.

Get a free kit by e-mailing radon@state.vt.us, or call [1-800-439-8550](tel:1-800-439-8550).

Exposure to radon is preventable and fixable through proper venting techniques. If test results show high levels of radon in the air, a mitigation system can be installed at a cost of approximately \$800-\$2,000.

For more information about radon, radon testing and mitigation, visit the Health Department website at healthvermont.gov.

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) or join us on [Facebook](#) for health information and alerts.



NY ecologist: Northeast may see more Lyme disease

MILLBROOK, N.Y. (AP) -- A disease ecologist says the Northeast should prepare for a surge in Lyme disease this spring.

Richard Osfeld of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook says the population of white-footed mice is crashing due to a small acorn crop. That means ticks that carry Lyme disease will look

for other mammals to bite, such as humans.

Ecologists at the Cary Institute have been studying connections between acorn abundance, mice, black-legged ticks and Lyme disease for more than two decades.

They say a bumper crop of

acorns in 2010 caused mouse populations to soar in 2011. With more mice came more ticks. Acorns were scarce last fall, meaning fewer mice this spring and a lot of hungry ticks. Osfeld says the highest disease risk is May through July.

Cornwall Emergency Management Network

Here's a little something to occupy you when you should be doing better things. Inside this grid are 12 words which you should recognize if you've been preparing your home and family for disaster or unexpected events. There's also one resource listed, and two references. Words are forwards, backwards, and any direction.



If you find all 15, phone or email your completed list in by April 30, and three names will be randomly chosen to receive an item from the list. Phone 462-2182 (answering machine will be happy to hear your recital); email: giegies@shoreham.net. Don't forget your name and phone number or email.

Have fun!

The Towns of Addison, Cornwall and Starksboro

PUBLIC NOTICE HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The above mentioned towns have each requested from the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ultra (Triclopyr), Garlon 3A (Triclopyr), Krenite S (Fosamine), Escort XP (Metasulfuron), Oust Extra (Sulfometuron) and Accord (glyphosate) to control unwanted vegetation along town owned highways. Selective spray operations will start approximately June 1st. The applications will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand control methods. Residents along the right-of-way are encouraged to protect sensitive environmental areas, organic farm land and water supplies from spray. It is the resident's responsibility to notify the town of the existence of these situations adjacent to the town right-of-way. Citizens wishing to inform the town are urged to contact the contact person for their town as follows: Addison- Bryan Nolan 759-2570, Cornwall- Stu Johnson 462-2752, Starksboro-Tom Estey 453-2319

The appropriate place to contact with comments, other than the towns is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agriculture Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, telephone 802-828-2431. Their link Web page that would describe the town's spray permit request can be found at www.VermontAgriculture.com

Cornwall Free Public Library News

We've Done It! We now have electronic check out for materials at the library so be sure to stop in and get your new library card.

Did you know you can access e-books and audio books directly from your computer?

Cornwall Free Public Library subscribes to the Green Mountain Library Consortium's "Listen Up! Vermont" digital catalog, giving you access to dozens of titles to read on your computer, MP3 player, eReader or other mobile devices. Using your library card number, you can borrow and return digital content exactly like a traditional print or audio book...without leaving home. Users must download a free software program that manages the downloaded audio book. Go to **Listen Up! Vermont** at www.listenupvermont.org to get started! It is strongly suggested that the MyHelp and Getting Started features be used. They are located on the left hand side of the ListenUp! Vermont website. If you need additional help, just stop by or call.

AND, we're always adding new materials. If you haven't stopped in the Library lately, drop by and check out our always changing selection! It's free to Cornwall residents. Or, look over the complete list of new materials on our website - cornwallvt.com under the Library drop down box. This is updated on a regular basis so you will find all of our current materials there.

A sampling of the recent additions are:

ADULT FICTION

Taken - Robert Crais, *The Thief* - Clive Cussler, *The Starboard Sea* - Amber Dermont, *The House I Loved* - Tatiana de Rosnay, *Kill Shot* - Vince Flynn, *Homefront* - Kristin Hannah, *Death Comes to Pemberley* - P.D. James, *I've Got Your Number* - Sophie Kinsella, *Defending Jacob* - William Landay, *The Song of Achilles* - Madeline Miller, *Private Games* - James Patterson, *The Expats* - Chris Pavone, *Lone Wolf* - Jodi Picoult, *Celebrity in Death* - J.D. Robb, and *The Beginner's Goodbye* - Anne Tyler.

NON FICTION

Behind the Beautiful Forevers - Katherine Boo, *Quiet* - Susan Cain, *A Mighty Storm: Stories of Resilience After Irene* - Yvonne Daley, *Bringing Up Bebe* - Pamela Druckerman, *The Power of Habit* - Charles Duhigg, *Thinking, Fast and Slow* - Daniel Kahneman, *American Sniper* - Chris Kyle, *The Great Northern Express* - Howard Frank Mosher, and *House of Stone* - Anthony Shadid.

YOUNG ADULT

Out of Sight, Out of Time (Gallagher Girl) - Ally Carter, *Why We Broke Up* - Daniel Handler and Maira Kalman, *Cinder: Book One in the Lunar Chronicles* - Marissa Meyer, and *Divergent* - Veronica Roth.

CHILDREN

Heaven is for Real for Kids - Todd and Sonja Burpo, *The Fault in Our Stars* - John Green, *Penny and Her Song* - Kevin Henkes, *Chomp* - Carl Hiaason, *The LEGO Ideas Book* - Daniel Lipkowitz, and *Wonderstruck* - Brian Selznick

AUDIOBOOKS

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins, *Red Mist* - Patricia Cornwall, *The Litigators* - John Grisham, *Another Piece of My Heart* - Jane Green, *Homefront* - Kristin Hannah, and *Private Games* - James Patterson.

DVDs

The Adventures of Tintin, *The Descendants*, *Dolphin Tale*, *Downton Abbey - Seasons 1 and 2*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *Gosford Park*, *Hugo*, *Moneyball*, *Puss in Boots*, *The Smurfs*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

GREEN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012

Please join your neighbors in spring cleaning Cornwall's roadsides. You may get your Green Up bags and gloves at the Cornwall Town Hall during open business hours starting April 14th through May 4th. On Saturday May 5th supplies will be available at the **CORNWALL SHOOL PARKING LOT** any time after 8am. Feel free to highlight your intended pick-up area on the map provided.

The trucks will be waiting on Saturday (5/5) and Sunday (5/6) for your trash deposits. Common sense practice applies: Green Up trash in Green Up bags ONLY, please! **Also, please note: for you early birds...do not place trash anywhere at town hall up to and including on Green Up Day. Keep your full bags until the 5th, and then come put them in the truck!**

We have small prizes for kids who are involved in Green Up. Volunteer hours may also be applied retroactively to the Martin Luther King Service Challenge at Cornwall School. Questions? Call Dena Greenman: 462-3574.

Singing to the Redwinged by Gary Margolis

Go back. It's still too early to be here to bear the coming white world on the stripes of your wings, too early to sing from one end of the field to the other end of the world. Look what happened to the face	of the wind how it burned before it knew what was good for it, how it didn't know what a frozen feather is good for. You don't have to believe me. You don't have to trust only your own instincts. Or the reports of another world coming.	Like Spring. Like those five green shoots too far from my door early risers pointing to the late grey sky. As if to say Listen to The Song The Wind Forgot To Sing. Go back while there's still a wing of time.
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Voting for the New Verb by Gary Margolis

It's the second Tuesday in March. The wild turkeys stand on the corner of Bourdeau and Sperry roads waving the signs of their assigned candi- dates. I haven't decided whom I'm voting for or my assignment for today. Or what their tracks mean to say about the state of our town, the budget for their woods. When I try to read what they've written,	they've tramped, they fly, if I can call it flying, into the ballot of the branches, where, next month, all the buds will be counted. Until then, I have to make something of the arrows they've stamped, they leave behind, pointing me in every direction, in and out of their hedge, above and below our earth. I have to make something totally use- less from their three-toed slo- gans, say why	I should vote for him or her instead of the wind, instead of their hieroglyphics they cornwall into the snow.
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Vermont Magnetic Field by Gary Margolis

Praise to the weird way the geese spiral back, not lost exactly or spin- ning in the wind yet taken by a new sunny direction, Praise to the unsettling leaves left to their own discretion to swirl around our heads. <i>Paper planets</i> you could say, if you didn't mind being accused of thinking like a dog walking around in circles, his left eye ticking like a faucet, clearly dis- oriented, clearly looking for a pond to walk on. Praise to the Roman way all roads lead to Rome,	today the home of the Exploding Sun a good name for a team in the Coliseum if it were- n't for the bones they would have to run around, blood bleaching its stones. If it weren't true today we receive praise from the flaring sun— Solar Storm—another good name a team hasn't taken, sworn to lay down their lives for. However weird it is we look to the heavens for our particular future, for that spinning ball honking toward us.
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Town of Cornwall

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www.cornwallvt.com

Installing A Breeding Box by Gary Margolis

Never before a hole, head-size,
sawed out in a high board
of the barn. Glassless window.

And behind it a box-net-mouth.
Never before this off-road
Oh,
a battery-made call, calling

the invisible owls in, an owl-making pair. Hope is four wings
sitting in the egg-ed-on dark,

nest-hay and hunger satisfied
enough. And not being able
to see at first, a film over the eyes

light will dissolve, a mouth-opening
trust. *Don't open without asking*
the box-placer wrote on

the outside of the box. Inside
the barn, on the last rung of
the ladder, silent you would
have

to climb. Carrying a bloody
mouse in your mouth. Not
trusting, leaving anything to

chance. Not knowing how to
knock on an owl's nursery
door.
Holding on with two hands

and looking into a seeing-hole
to see, forgive me, who's
there,
what the wind cut out of the
wind,

all-eating wing spans, all-seeing
swivel-heads, killed and killer
boxed-in, kept here.

If We "Build It" Will You Come???

So we have been talking about having a coffee pot and perhaps some goodies, a checkerboard, some comfy chairs, etc. at the Town Hall, to encourage folks to stop by and perhaps chat with an old friend or meet someone new in town. If you think this is an interesting idea, please let the town clerk know. Besides, visiting with other people, you can visit the library, take some time to peruse the shelves, sit and read for awhile, use the computer to surf the net or check your email. Take a look at the old maps on the wall, check out the second floor of the building. Our hope is to build that community we have been talking about throughout this newsletter. Let us know what other things we can do to help create a community center.