



# Cornwall Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2011

## Cornwall Semiquincentennial, September 24 Come One, Come All

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### Special points of interest:

- \* Cornwall's Semiquincentennial Celebration
- \* Chicken Pie Supper
- \* Alex Wolff Talk on September 30
- \* New Library Books
- \* West Nile Virus in Cornwall
- \* Don't Burn VT

Cornwall is celebrating a birthday this year. Two Hundred and Fifty (250) years have passed since the original charter of the town. The celebration on the 24th will run from Noon to 7 PM. There will be other offsite events and tours going on throughout the day, as well. Currently there is a letter boxing scavenger hunt going on. The website information can be obtained at the town's website and will be included in this newsletter in another article. A driving tour of local historic sites is planned. The information outlining the tour will be available at the town hall during the event and after the event as well. Some of our friends at Project Independence have composed a song to celebrate the event. The song

which is the hands down winner of the competition, will be performed during the Chicken BBQ dinner from 5 PM—7PM on the 24th. We aren't sure exactly when that will be during those hours, so plan to attend for the whole evening. Gary Margolis will be reading the poem he composed for the celebration. There will be live music during the Chicken BBQ as well. Performing will be: The Shader Croft Band and the Cornishmen. There will be games available for all ages, there will be demonstrations and hopefully some vendor tables showing off their "Cornwall" wares.

**(Vendors, please see the article below).** The Cornwall Fire Dept. will be cooking the BBQ chicken, with all the fixings. The

dinner will be \$5.00 a plate. Hotdogs and drinks will be available in the afternoon from 12:30 PM—3 PM, after that we will be getting ready for that great chicken. Other buildings and sites around town that will be open for viewing will be: The DAR building, the Town Hall, The Glen Dale Farm (Watts property) on Cider Mill Road and the Blacksmith Shop on Route 30. There will be a Cornwall Cookbook and a short history booklet with information about Cornwall from folks who have made the town their home for many years. The event will take place rain or shine. If you are interested in helping with any of the venues outlined above, please feel free to call Sue at the Town Office.

### Cornwall Entrepreneurs and Business People

The Cornwall Semiquincentennial Committee would love to have you set up a display table at the Celebration planned for Saturday, September 24. You would need to be responsible for providing all needed items for the dis-

play and there will not be access to power. The committee thinks it would be wonderful to showcase all (or at least some) of our local businesses. There will be no parking in the school lot, so we will have plenty of room to set up an

area for displays. If you are interested in setting up a display or have questions please contact Sue Johnson at the Town Hall, 462-2775 or email: [cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net). Thanks for considering.

## Cornwall's Letterboxing Information!!

Letterboxing is an activity where boxes containing notebooks and stamps are placed in various locations. Participants travel from location to location, finding the letterbox, signing or stamping the notebook with a personal stamp, and stamping their own notebook with the stamp found in the letterbox.

For the Cornwall 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary we have hidden 8 letterboxes around town. You can find clues to these locations at the website listed below. If you collect all 8 stamps you can bring your book to the celebration on September 24

to be entered in a drawing for a special prize. Hunting can continue until November 3, when the actual drawing will take place at the play. From September 24 until November 3, bring your completed stamp book to the Town Hall to be entered in the drawing.

While all of the letterboxes are located on public property, please be respectful of private property if you park near the various locations.

**Please use appropriate caution** – some letterboxes are located on the side of the road, or may require you to cross busy roads.

Here is the link to the Letterboxing website:

<http://letterboxing.org/BoxFind.php>

Under 'Pick a Placer' you can select 'Cornwall 250th' to find the clues to the letterboxes. Alternately, you can select State = Vermont and ours will be toward the top of the list.

## Self Guided House Tour

To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cornwall's charter, and to honor the settlers who first decided to call this place home, we have designed a driving tour that highlights some of the notable homes and district school houses in our town.

The intent of the tour is to give you a chance to spend some slow-pace time noticing the landscape and architecture of Cornwall. The houses included on the tour are not open to visitors, but places you might enjoy stopping at for a few minutes. People are encouraged to explore the tour on Saturdays, between September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>. The closing week of the tour will be followed by our actual charter date,

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and more celebratory events that evening.

The Tour Map is based on the 1871 Beers Atlas, with Stuart Witherell-assigned house numbers. Using this for the base map makes the tour more than getting from point to point, but a constant shifting of early homes and businesses, labeled with the names of children and grandchildren of the first settlers; grand- and great-grandparents of today's families.

The Tour Map includes the general conditions for visiting each site, while a short history of the structure or its inhabitants is found in the Guide. Households participating in the Tour will have a numbered sign near the

road that matches the map. If the homeowner is willing to offer a tour or provide more information, that will be indicated individually on site.

The Tour Map and Guide will be available at the Town Hall by Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and at the Town Celebration on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also beginning on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be a display of additional documentation about the tour sites, as well as old maps, early photographs, and details about early schools and other houses not on the tour. We are hoping to have that display open on Saturdays for the duration of the tour.

For information, contact Kate Gieges, 462-2182 or [gieges@shoreham.net](mailto:gieges@shoreham.net).

## CAMPAIGN TO END BACKYARD BURNING...

Trash burning is illegal in Vermont, yet many still do it. Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has launched a public education effort called, "Don't Burn Vermont," to educate Vermonters about the harmful effects of trash burning, the penalties for violating the law, and low cost and convenient alternatives to burning trash. Thank you for visiting this site. And, thank you for helping us spread the word about, "Don't Burn Vermont."



## West Nile Virus Information. Pool in Cornwall Tests Positive!

Each year in Vermont mosquitoes are routinely trapped and tested for West Nile Virus as part of the state's overall surveillance program. A mosquito "pool" is a term used to describe a group of mosquitoes that were caught in the same trap and tested together as a group.

Last Friday, August 12th, a representative of the State Health Department

phoned the town to report that a "pool" in Cornwall had tested positive for West Nile Virus. This was done to urge residents to take the usual precautions to avoid West Nile Virus. The Town of Cornwall received similar notices in August, 2010 and September, 2009. The location(s) of the pool(s) is not reported to the town. This practice is followed to encourage all those in the general area

of the pool (i.e. the town) to protect themselves and to limit tampering with the traps which has occurred in the past.

Information about West Nile Virus may be found at [http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/arbovirus/wnv/wnv\\_fact.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/arbovirus/wnv/wnv_fact.aspx) and at the Town Hall.

## More on West Nile Virus

### First Cases of West Nile Virus—Take precautions to avoid mosquito-borne viruses after the storm

BURLINGTON – West Nile virus has arrived in Vermont. This mosquito-borne illness is typically reported in the Northeastern U.S. at the end of the summer. The Vermont Department of Health has received two reports of infection in people in recent weeks. This is the first time human cases have been reported in our state since 2003.

One case currently under investigation is in a resident of Addison County. Earlier this summer, a Franklin County resident was found to be infected when their blood donation tested positive for West Nile virus. Donated blood is routinely tested for the virus and when found to be positive, as in this case, it is discarded.

West Nile virus has been detected in Vermont most years since surveillance for the virus began in 2000. Over the years, virus has been detected in mosquitoes, dead birds, horses, and a few people. This season, in addition to the human infections, the virus has been detected in two mosquito pools in Brandon and

Cornwall, and a total of seven dead birds found in Vernon, Colchester, Essex, Shelburne and Rutland. West Nile virus activity is being seen in most of the state, and the activity is peaking now.

While most people who become infected do not become ill, about 20 percent experience a flu-like illness, and less than 1 percent develop a more severe illness that affects the nervous system. Symptoms of West Nile virus typically include high fever, muscle aches, headache and fatigue. When the nervous system is involved, symptoms may include a stiff neck, severe headache, or a change in mental status.

Take precautions to avoid mosquito bites

Although the risk of becoming ill is low, the Health Department recommends that people take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. If you can, reduce mosquito breeding habitats by getting rid of standing water, and drain areas where water can pool such as rain gutters, wading pools and old tires. However, if your area has been flooded and you can't remove standing water, you can still take steps to prevent mosquito bites.

> Wear long sleeves and pants and avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.

> Use insect repellents that are safe and effective against mosquitoes. Products with a registration number from the Environmental Protection Agency on the label have been evaluated for safety and effectiveness. Repellents containing DEET in concentrations up to 30%, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 can be used to prevent mosquito bites.

> Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

> Horses are also susceptible to West Nile virus infection. There is a vaccine available for horses, and horse owners should discuss vaccination with their veterinarians.

For up to date information on health and safety precautions, go to [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov), and join us there on Twitter and Facebook [www.facebook.com/HealthVermont](http://www.facebook.com/HealthVermont)

## Cornwall Congregational Church Chicken Pie Supper

### Please Save The Date and Note The Location!!

Cornwall's annual fall community event, the Chicken Pie Supper, will be held at the Cornwall School this year, on Saturday, October 15. Instead of two reservations-only seatings, no reservations will be necessary. Continuous buffet-style service will run from 5 to 7 p.m. Once again take-outs will be available beginning at 4:30, by pre-order only. For more information contact Sheila Foote at 462-2781 or [footeredbarn@shoreham.net](mailto:footeredbarn@shoreham.net) or Barb LaFramboise

at 462-2461 or [laframboisebarb@gmail.com](mailto:laframboisebarb@gmail.com). And look for the Burma Shave-style signs along town roadsides as the date approaches. A Gluten Free option will be available this year!!

**Jimmy had had it  
With pasta and cheese  
Biscuits and gravy  
On Saturday, please!**

### Water where the bridge was, by Gary Margolis

where we, her citizens, used  
to walk across and pause,  
to look through the space  
between boards, look in  
to the shafts of heavenly  
light. Where we could come  
to hear our own breathing,  
the waves, not quite waves,  
beneath us, a horse stepping,  
not quite a new engine.  
Where time spans the banks.  
Where water is our new  
bridge, our temporary temper.  
Not because we can't  
repair what was carried away.  
Or go the long way.  
Not because we didn't know  
the way from here to there.  
Or there wasn't someone waiting  
for us on the other side, waiting  
their one-at-a time turn to walk  
across. Not swim. Not rise  
above the raging waves, and almost  
flying, wingless, remembering  
what we, Vermonters, were born to see.

## How Sports Are Trying to Change the World: Inside the Emerging Movement of Sport for Development and Peace

Cornwall resident and Sports Illustrated senior writer Alex Wolff recently traveled to Brazil, South Africa and the Middle East to investigate how practitioners are using sport as a tool for social good--to heal urban violence, roll back the spread of HIV/AIDS, and build bridges between communities in conflict. He'll speak on Friday evening, Sept. 30 at 7 PM, at the Cornwall Church about the origins of this movement, its successes and failures thus far, and its prospects for the future.

## Cornwall Square Dance Series Coming Soon

A monthly series of Square Dancing with Live Music will be starting at the Cornwall Town Hall on October 15, 2011. The dance will be held from 7—9 PM. This is the same evening as the Church's Chicken Pie Supper, so have a great meal at the school and then come on over to the Town Hall to enjoy a little music and dancing. The date for the November dance has not been set yet, but to glean more information about the dances in general, please call Kristin Bolton or Andrew Munkres at 462-3722. Everyone is Welcome!!

## Cornwall Select Board News

Today, 8/29, is the day after our dance with Irene. Cornwall is most fortunate to have Kate Gieges shouldering the role of emergency coordinator. Those of you who have provided email addresses learned how helpful her updates are in the midst of a mess. (Call Town Hall to add your email address if you haven't already!) Cornwall's lack of serious road damage was due to equal measures of good luck – only 3.5-4" of rain here – and the excellent road maintenance program of our Highway Dept., a/k/a Stu and Ken. Most taxpayers know a good road surface but few grasp the payoff from proper design and maintenance of shoulders, drainage ditches and culverts. Zero romance but a big return on investment as this storm just showed. Stu Johnson is recuperating (comfortably) from hip replacement surgery but continues to oversee operations.

June began a new "one meeting a month" summer select board schedule that garnered no complaints. The Conservation Commission (CC) visited in July to continue our coordination with other town boards. The CC advises the Planning Commission on conservation issues involving planned development and functions as a repository of knowledge about Cornwall's natural resources. Both boards agreed on the need for the CC to inform residents about (a) its role and activities, (b) the desirability of conducting a natural resources inventory and (c) the challenge of funding CC

activities. The subsequent meeting with the Cemetery Commission was equally informative. By State statute the Town is responsible for maintaining the three cemeteries in Cornwall no longer cared for by others. The statute however is silent on the definition of "maintenance" which leaves that in our local laps. More discussion will frame choices.

On July 5 VTrans (i.e. the Vermont Agency of Transportation or AOT) presented their plan for replacing the Rte. 74 bridge deck and briefed attendees from Cornwall and Shoreham on the consequences and likely duration of the project. AOT staff explained this project was "fast tracked" when Federal funds became available and today (with exquisite timing!) announced a start date of Sept. 12. Rte. 74 will be closed for 6+ weeks with drivers detoured over West St. to Rte 125 to Rte. 22A in Bridport then south to Shoreham ... or vice versa.

Energy conservation is a continuing agenda item. The Town Hall energy conservation plan will be ready for consideration in September. We continue to seek alternatives for the Lavalley property. Recent fact-finding indicates that the core of that building could be moved should those desiring its preservation find sufficient funds to do so. At the town shed we've been pumping water 24/7 for 21 years to satisfy a court requirement stemming from salt pollution. In addition to the cost of tax adjustments for affected neighbors this has cost substantial

money for electricity and more money for pump maintenance, repair, parts, etc. Recent events have prompted a review of this practice and we'll follow this closely in the next year.

Tax bills will be arriving soon generating perhaps more than the usual unhappiness. Your tax bill includes three components: the general fund set by the select board for expenses of running the town (plus items separately voted at Town Meeting); the highway fund set by the select board for expenses of maintaining our roads and, last but hardly least, education related taxes. The first two each amount to about 10% of your bill with the remaining 80% from education costs.

At the August 2 meeting the select board set the tax rate for the general fund at \$ .18 and the highway fund at \$.15 for a combined \$ .33 rate. Despite the fact that this is a reduction of 3% compared with last year, your tax bills will show a significant increase as the direct result of the State formula for education funding. The combination of a reduction in student population at the elementary school and a statistically insignificant change in the Common Level of Assessment—the comparison of assessed property values to realized sales prices—translate to a 7% increase in the Cornwall taxpayers' bills.

## Cornwall Free Public Library Report

New books, audio books, and DVDs are in! The following titles are among those added to our collection in the last three months. Come on in and look at our New Book shelf. Remember – the library is open during normal Town Office hours.

New Non-fiction titles include:

*Turn Right at Machu Picchu* – Mark Adams

*1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* – Charles C. Mann

*Those Guys Have All the Fun* – James Andrew Miller and Tom Shales

*A Stolen Life* – Jaycee Dugard

*Sex on the Moon* – Ben Mezrich

*The 17 Day Diet* – Dr. Mike Moreno

## Cornwall Free Public Library Report Continued from Page 5

### Some of the new Fiction books include:

*Only Time Will Tell* – Jeffrey Archer

*One Summer* – David Baldacci

*Carte Blanche* – Jeffrey Deaver

*Smokin' Seventeen* – Janet Evanovich

*The Magicians* and *The Magician King* – Lev Grossman

*A Dance with Dragons* and *A Clash of Kings* – George R. R. Martin

*Kill Me If You Can* – James Patterson

*Portrait of a Spy* – Daniel Silva

*Before I Go to Sleep* – S. J. Watson

### New Audiobooks are:

*Only Time Will Tell* – Jeffrey Archer

*The Race* – Clive Cussler

*Sixkill* – Robert Parker

*Tenth Anniversary* – James Patterson

*Buried Prey* – John Sandford

AND – we have new DVDs – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Battle: Los Angeles*, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Rango*, and *127 Hours*.

For Young Adults, we have the popular *The Dragon's Oath* by Kristen Cast. We also have new children's books – *Trouble Maker* by Andrew Clements and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs.

**DONATE** a recent best seller you've already read so others can enjoy it! You can also donate a book in someone's honor.

**SUGGEST** a book or DVD that would make a good addition to our library. Just let us know!

*The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* – Melanie Benjamin

*Against All Enemies* – Tom Clancy

*Heartwishes* – Jude Deveraux

*The Omen Machine* – Terry Goodkind

*The Woodcutter* – Reginald Hill

*The Buddha in the Attic* – Julie Otsuka

*Flash and Bones* – Kathy Reichs

*Maine* – J. Courtney Sullivan

*I'll Walk Alone* – Mary Higgins Clark

*In the Garden of Beasts* – Erik Larson

*State of Wonder* – Ann Patchett

*Chasing Fire* – Nora Roberts

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## Cornwall Highway Department News

Obviously, the highlight of the last few months was the tropical storm Irene, and the aftermath that continues to be dealt with in other towns throughout the state. Cornwall had little to no road damage and only several down trees (mostly #1 Sumac and Box Elders). Big ditches and big culverts make a difference in these not so unusual events. As we all know, some towns didn't fair so well. Starting this week county towns will be sending a contingent of trucks over the hill to help out in Hancock and Rochester.

Though it's been underwater for a

while, the Swamp Road was paved with a Class II paving grant. It'll get striped at some point, when the state gets around. We were able to get the whole culvert budget in the ground by the middle of August along with a good bit of ditching.

On Sperry Road, with the help of 7 trucks from Addison, Bridport, Shoreham and Weybridge, we were able to put down 650' of stabilization fabric and cover it with over 1000 tons of crushed stone in one day. This should mitigate the break up problems this section of road is known for and provide a good base should we ever get to paving that section. It was interesting to

see when we put in the cross drains that there was little to no base material, in fact you could see where rock fines had been used to fill ruts.

Beyond that, the 2nd round of mowing will continue and we'll start filling the sand shed here shortly. I intend to use a higher percentage of the crushed stone mixed into the natural sand. Both Pike and SLC are offering the product at a good price, so expect a little different look to the sand.

The 2005 truck has had yet another extended vacation at the dealer's shop for a significant malady. While most

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## Cornwall Highway Department News Continued from Page 6

of the expense has been covered by the extended warranty, the warranty runs out next summer. At that point, we'll need to discuss whether we can justify keeping that truck or not. If the rate of repairs continues at the same rate, it would devastate the repair budget. I have requested that the repair history be reviewed by the manufacturer, not that it will do anything but provide some information to use in evaluating options. One of which is to jigger the capital plan yet again, to shorten the cycle on these trucks to match the length of the extended warranty or take a WAG and raise the repair line. That all said, knock on wood, we've had few issues with the 2009 truck.

So, most of northern New England, certainly the county, knows that I had a total hip replacement. Not to get mushy here, but its been pretty amazing the good wishes, offers to help out and such that we've had. Its very much appreciated. I never realized there was so much titanium and high tech plastic walking around Cornwall. Had I not been so sore during Irene, Smiley might have needed help holding me down as I was going nuts, just watching. For those hoping I'd check out, well... ticked you off again. Should be back at it here in a few weeks. Phil Busier has been and will continue to help out when needed. I'll probably have to turn him loose with the grader here before too long. And then comes winter—bummer. Stu

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## Emergency Management Network News

Well... didn't we manage that last one just fine. Okay, we really had nothing to do with the nothing that happened here, but I firmly believe we would have crawled out of .... sorry. I can't even joke. The devastation from this storm, to roads, homes, communities... unbelievable. And politicians saying, *well, they should have had flood insurance, it's not the government's job to clean up*, high-lights how—not “unprepared”—but how utterly unexpected the impact of this storm was. And who were some of the first to go “down”? Our own State Emergency Management Center, which was weeks away from moving out of its temporary basement offices, and which maintain all telephone and computer operations from within that basement. They were evacuated out of Waterbury, and *the State* lost its email servers, and couldn't get telephone numbers rerouted. I really don't know how the communities that needed assistance were making contact; I'm very glad I didn't have to find out myself. In spite of the pictures I see online, I still can't believe the destruction wrought upon those towns. Would we have been prepared for such mayhem? Would we have come together as a community, as places have, and held school in a dry field, and sent an ATV on a med-run?

It's one thing to “be prepared” for a power outage of three days, or not being able to get out of a driveway, but I don't know that one can really prepare for being completely blindsided. These people in their isolated and decimated towns are turning the situations around, as they rewrite their daily existence. They are depending on what each can offer, and trying to provide what each might need. That's a deeper preparedness than stocking water bottles and canned foods, and one we will probably be called upon to exercise as weather patterns become more extreme.

In actually going through the storm here, my perception was that the Emergency Management Network had people ready to come to the Town Hall, or work from home, if necessary (contacting resources, updating neighboring communities, returning information calls). The Highway Department was prepared to call upon, or assist, others if needed. There were long periods without email updates because, well, nothing was happening. What I did learn though, is folks need to know that, too; that the nothingness is widespread and not their isolated experience.

As in other situations, the Cornwall Connection Email List is a wonderful tool to have. There are currently about 150 names on the list, and I cannot express how nice it is to get the thanks and the comical remarks and the feedback from folks. Maybe it seems like a

no-brainer, but others in emergency management are amazed that we have so many people on the list, and can get word out so quickly.

Over the next couple of months, the Emergency Management Network will be discussing some options to further improve this email system and find ways to include more people. We may send out a short set of questions to the list for your input on some ideas we have. In the meantime, if you do have comments or questions about the Connection list, feel free to contact Sue Johnson (cornwallvt@shoreham.net), David Anderson (davidandersonvt@gmail.com), or me (gieges@shoreham.net).

The Emergency Management Network meets the third Thursday of (most) months at 5:30pm at the Town Hall. We discuss recent incidents and their effects, we talk about potential scenarios, and review the strengths and resources we have. We welcome you to join us one afternoon to see what we're about, or to bring to the table a question or concern. To confirm a meeting or for any other information, you can contact me at 462-2182, or gieges@shoreham.net.

See you on the 24<sup>th</sup>!

Kate Gieges,  
Emergency Management Coordinator

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**Don't Miss The Big Party on September 24, 2011 from  
Noon—7 PM. Let's Celebrate 250 Years of Cornwall History  
( 'cause many of us won't be here for the 300th Birthday!!!!)**

