



# Cornwall Newsletter

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*Town of Cornwall, Vermont*

## News You Can Use from the Fire Department

Three emergency dispatches the fire department received recently make for important recommendations to share with the community. In mid-March, Cornwall First Response and Middlebury ambulance were sent to a medical call where the patient was described as "unresponsive." That can mean a very serious problem. But both the local responders and the regional ambulance were delayed finding the house because it was down a long driveway with its number poorly marked at the end. This was hardly the first time we have had trouble finding a house due to Cornwall's many long driveways, private roads and other factors - all of which can be solved with good signs. In this case, despite being on a main road, the house could not be seen, and the faded numbers on a faded post were behind a snow bank. Remember, numbers are not about being able to find a house on fire. That's easy. It is about the more-common medical calls and other emergencies that don't include smoke and flames. The ground is thawing, and now is a good time to install a reflective green-and-white 911 number sign, and the CVFD can help. We have the signs, poles and labor to as-

sist. Contact any firefighter for more information or leave your name and number with the town clerk's office and we will get back to you. Also in mid-March, we were called to a home where the owner clearly smelled smoke but was burning nothing. Several of us arrived and used our best technology to locate the source - our noses. At first it was perplexing as we walked around sniffing, though we finally agreed the smell was concentrated in one area near a heating duct, an outlet and a plant. Lo and behold, it was the plant, which registered 400 degrees on our thermal imaging camera. More accurately, the potting soil did. It turns out potting soil is full of combustible material from wood shavings and peat to artificial additives like perlite and styrofoam. The homeowners had used the plant pot for an incense stick which ultimately started it cooking. A look online finds this to be a common problem - though more often associated with people putting out cigarettes in potted plants, both indoors and out. It was definitely an important learning experience. Finally, much earlier in the month, CVFD assisted at the large rooming house fire in Middlebury, at which many of us donned our heavy, faltering

airpacks in order to enter the smoke-filled building. These systems seemed to have grown much heavier over the years that the firefighters have grown older (OK, the weight of the airpacks has remained constant). Well, no longer. We have a half-dozen new airpacks that are significantly lighter, provide more air, and are technologically far superior. While we welcome the fact that they are rarely needed, these airpacks are an important upgrade for the department and its increasingly creaky members. Their purchase was part of the town's long-term capital budgeting process. Have a question about fire safety in your home? Contact any CVFD member and we would be happy to answer or get you answers.

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*Special points of interest:*

- Cornwall Natural Resource Survey report on April 29, 2015 at 7 pm at the Cornwall Town Hall.
- Public Meeting to discuss future renovation and repair to the Cornwall Town Hall. Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7 pm at the Cornwall School.
- Dog License and Property Taxes are coming due.
- Annual Herbicide Spraying Notice

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## Road Commissioner's Report

I hope I'm not going to jinx myself by saying this, as we are by no means through it yet, but it has been a nearly perfect thaw this spring, despite the frost heaves and a few soft spots we've had to stone, by in large its been better than I ever imagined it would be back in January/February. But there's still plenty of frost left to come out so we'll see how that goes.

Looking back at the winter in general, though it seemed long and at times cold, it wasn't that bad. If anything struck me it was how many times we dodged the bullet with storms going North or South of us, and just getting the wrap around edges, that meant some wind and drifting which is a lot of nuisance, but better than what Boston dealt with. I continue to be amazed how many drifts an inch of snow can make.

So hopefully that's all behind us now for another year. Soon we'll be hauling gravel, grading and the dreaded shoulder disks will appear.

We did get through the winter without much calamity. We had some wiring hiccups with the new truck that we were able to resolve and it will go to the dealer this spring for some warranty work.

We took delivery of the new town pickup a couple weeks ago. This is the time of year when there is a lot of running around checking roads, turning water and frozen culverts to chase. I appreciate not having to run up the miles any higher on my personal truck.

We didn't get as much roadside brush and dead trees cut as I had hoped we would. Mostly because of snow banks

and the winter routine. Maybe we'll get a chance now that the snow banks are mostly gone and before we start the real spring road work.

I continue to think the Town will get a Class 2 Paving Grant this year. Despite some serious cracks that have opened up around town, at this point, I think we will still resurface Parkhill Road and South Bingham St. It will be 13 years and while for the most part they are in good shape, conventional wisdom says to get it covered, as it will start to deteriorate rapidly going forward. If it does not get paved and starts to break up, at that point its not ever right again. I'm afraid the demonstration of that will be seen on Routes 74 and 125 in the not too distant future so enjoy it for the time being. I'm still waffling on what we'll do if the grant plan falls through. We may pave a third of Parkhill/South Bingham or jump ahead to another section on West Street or Lemon Fair Road. Regardless, there will be some culvert work that will need doing ahead of paving wherever we pave. Signs and the Cornwall Connection will give you a heads up.

So even though its nearly the first of April, days are longer and spirits are on the rise... I have to say we've had some nasty snow storms in April, but it doesn't last long and we'll soon be chasing potholes instead of drifts.

Backing up to Routes 74 & 125, the district had intended to get back to the sections that were not done last year, this year. It appears that won't be happening as that program took a hit in the budget fight. Politics being what they are, we'll see what comes out in the end. If you think you have influ-

ence you could try. Addison County doesn't have the influence we've had in the past on the Transportation Committee at the Statehouse.

I intend to apply for a Better Backroads grant for some funds to help do some stone lined ditches on Sperry Road below the fire station on the north side. We will try to bring that section into compliance and try to dry that hill out a bit. It would also be an improvement needed should paving that section ever be considered.

As we go into the summer work season, I'll be looking for a few more dumpsites for ditching. It needs to be accessible by a town truck. If interested give a call and we'll see if we can make something work.

I almost forgot.....I wanted to thank the landowners/renters who let me put the blow roads/snow roads, call them what you will, on their land when they were calling for 30+ mph winds and snow that weekend. I think they really helped during that almost storm. I'm equally grateful we didn't get any more snow that time with the wind. Down the road I would like to set up standing permission with those landowners. There were a few locations where I wasn't able to make contact with the owner/renter, so I hope to make contact going into next winter.

So here's to Spring, lets get on with it. We don't have much gravel or chloride budget left until July, but we'll do the best we can with what we have.

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## Conservation Commission Report

Please join us at the Town Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the completion of Cornwall's Natural Resources Inventory and showcase its findings. Brett Engstrom, the town's consultant on this project, will talk about the data he collected over the last 2 years and answer questions about the results of the inventory. A final written report documenting his findings and updated maps with GIS layers will be available at the Town Hall in mid-May.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Forum

## Report on Cornwall Natural Resources Inventory

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm in the Town Hall

**Speaker:** Brett Engstrom, ecologist and conservation biologist

Refreshments will be served

The Conservation Commission is once again assisting in the identification of vernal pools. Last year we visited 6 places and located 3, as probable sites. Vernal pools are small, temporary wetlands, seasonal in nature, which are filled with water from winter and spring snowmelt or rain. They are typically 1 to 4 feet deep, lack vegetation, and are surrounded by forest canopy. They are important egg-laying habitat for amphibians during the spring breeding season. Vernal pools are usually dry by mid-summer to early fall eliminating the possibility of fish and keeping the numbers of other predators such as newts at lower levels. Despite their small size and temporary nature, these pools are highly productive ecosystems.

Can you help us? As the weather warms, the call of spring peepers and wood frogs will soon be heard. If you follow these calls, they may lead you to a vernal pool where salamanders and frogs are breeding. Amphibians seen moving overland in the spring also may indicate the presence of a vernal pool nearby. However, they may also be heading to or calling from a permanent pond or beaver dam.

If you think you might have a vernal pool on your property, please let us know, and we will accompany you on a discovery walk. Contact Mary Dodge at 462-2899 [mdodge@middlebury.edu](mailto:mdodge@middlebury.edu) or Rene Langis at 462-3934 [rene-langis@gmail.com](mailto:rene-langis@gmail.com).

We welcome Marc Cesario to the Conservation Commission. Marc is a diversified livestock farmer and very interested in helping to find a workable balance between natural ecosystems and agriculture. He moved to Cornwall from Massachusetts in 2008.

Mary Dodge for the Conservation Commission



## Cornwall Free Public Library News

### Did you know you can access e-books and audiobooks 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 audiobook. Go to **Listen Up! Vermont** at [www.listenupvermont.org](http://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.

### Did you know that you can donate your used books and audiovisual materials to the library?

Even though the book sale won't be held until October, we are always accepting donations for our annual book sale. Here's your chance to recycle gently used books, audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs. These items will be sold at our annual book sale or added to our collection. (NO magazines, textbooks, or encyclopedias.) PLEASE remember, however, that we cannot use **musty, smelly, mildewy or broken items**. Thanks!

### Did you know that you can find all of the new materials at the library on our site – [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com) under the library drop down box?

All of the new materials at the library can be accessed by using the library drop down box on the Cornwall Town website. This is updated as new materials arrive so you will find all of our current materials there. Check it out!

### New Materials at the Library

We're always adding new materials to the collection at the library. If you haven't stopped in the library lately, drop by and check out our always changing selection! Or, look over the complete list of new materials on our website – [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com) under the library drop down box.

A sampling of the recent additions are:

#### ADULT FICTION

**A Touch of Stardust** - Kate Alcott, **The Fifth Gospel** - Ian Caldwell, **The Assassin** - Clive Cussler, **Trigger Warning** - Neil Gaiman, **Die Again** - Tess Gerritsen, **The Nightingale** - Kristin Hannah, **The Girl on the Train** - Paula Hawkins, **Descent** - Tim Johnston, **Leaving Berlin** - Joseph Kanon, **Motive** - Jonathan Kellerman, **Saint Odd** - Dean Koontz, **Last One Home** - Debbie Macomber, **The Secret Wisdom of the Earth** - Christopher Scott, **Spool of Blue Thread** - Anne Tyler

## Cornwall Free Public Library News continued

### New Materials at the Library

#### NON FICTION

**Elephant Company** - Vicki Croke, **Leaving Before the Rains Come** - Alexandra Fuller, **Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania** - [Erik Larson](#), **H is for Hawk** - Helen Macdonald, **The Elephant Whisperer** - [Lawrence Anthony](#), [Graham Spence](#), **Deep Down Dark** - Hector Tobar

#### YOUNG ADULT

**Red Queen** -Victoria Aveyard, **Paper Towns** - John Green, **Seraphina** - Rachel Hartman, **The Duff** - Kody Keplinger, **All the Bright Places** - Jennifer Niven

#### CHILDREN

**Crossover** - Kwame Alexander, **A Bear Called Paddington** - Michael Bond, **Leroy Ninker Saddles Up** - Kate DiCamillo, **Aqualicious** - Victoria Kahn, **George and Martha: Two Great Friends** and **George and Martha: The Best of Friends** - James Marshall, **Rain Reign** - Ann M. Martin, **Mr. Squirrel and the Moon** - [Sebastian Meschenmoser](#), **Echo** - Pam Munoz Ryan, **The Adventures of Beekle** - Dan Santat, **Brown Girl Dreaming** - Jacqueline Woodson

#### AUDIOBOOKS

**The Target** - David Baldacci, **The Boston Girl** - Anita Diamant, **An Event in Autumn** - Henning Mankell

#### DVDs

**Big Hero 6**, **Birdman**, **The Boxtrolls**, **Boyhood**, **Coralina**, **Downton Abbey: Season 5**, **Fury**, **Game of Thrones: Season 4**, **Gone Girl**, **The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies**, **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1**, **The Judge**, **The Theory of Everything**, **The Walking Dead: Seasons 1 – 4**, **Unbroken**, **Whiplash**

## Public Meeting—Discussion Related to Possible Town Hall Renovation. April 8, 2015 at 7 PM Cornwall School!!

The Cornwall Capital Committee along with Ashar Nelson from Vermont Integrated Architecture invite you to join us for a public discussion about what the future holds for a possible expansion and/or renovation of the Cornwall Town Hall. Some of the ideas being floated are expansion of the vault, renovation of the current office space into something more user friendly and efficient and access to the second floor for all persons. We would

appreciate seeing a good turn out for this discussion. Often times we hear comments after the fact about decisions that have been made. We make every attempt to give you all plenty of notice of meeting dates and times, and yet most times our turn out is very low. We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions about the future of this fine old historic building.

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7 PM at the Cornwall School!! Hoping for a large turnout.



## Annual Herbicide Spraying Notice

The Towns of Addison, Bridport, Cornwall, Rochester, Shoreham, and Starksboro

### 2015 PUBLIC NOTICE HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The above mentioned municipalities 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), Oust Extra (Sulfometuron) and Rodeo (glyphosate) to control unwanted vegetation along town owned highways. Selective spray operations will start approximately May 20. 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 respective town as follows: Addison- Bryan Nolan 759-2570, Bridport- Dusty Huestis 758-2113 Cornwall- Stu Johnson 462-2752, Rochester- Dan Gendron 767-4732, Shoreham- Jason Paquette 897-5451, 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](http://www.VermontAgriculture.com)

## Gary Margolis Poem

### *Taking Account*

Every day I have a chance to see  
how well my spiritual practice is going.  
How many breaths it takes

to keep the world outside  
digging its own holes, speaking  
to itself and not to me.

How many of my most terrifying  
thoughts I can watch float away,  
safe in their own bubbles.

Keeping only the ones that offer  
redemption, some promise  
of human transformation. I can break

open, to shower me with hope  
the cardinal takes from my feeder,  
one seed at a time,

the vole tunnels beneath  
the snow. So I’ll have a cave  
to pray from, to give up

my desire to escape. To not see  
relinquishment as a sign of my  
failure, my buried success.





## Poems by Gary Margolis

### *Town Meeting Democracy*

No one stood to speak  
against the proposed figures  
to keep our roads clear,

keep fire in its place.  
No one raised a hand,  
save to second a motion.

And later, sooner than you'd think,  
to adjourn. To send us home  
in the uncontested snow.

No one was around to question  
why we needed a new hose,  
why that agency was asking

for its expected increase, all things being  
equal and necessary.  
I couldn't suppose what Alex Denis

might be thinking in his gone, repair garage.  
Where he would disappear in a trench  
beneath a car, to let the oil drip, to see  
what the rust had done. Or mustachioed  
Henry Palmer who could fire his Revolutionary  
gun, sitting in the snow in his front yard.

If we knew where to find the dead  
to vote again, if one of us asked him to appear.  
If we knew where Mrs. Hoops lived inside

the ground, training her horse, her snow-stepping  
Morgan, to say what we needed to hear.  
About standing, raising our hands and speaking,

before leaving too early to shovel our cars out,  
in the school parking lot. As if that was the only  
thing  
left to do. As if we didn't see the plow

and the fire truck doing what they do. As if  
the counselors weren't sitting by their phones,  
on-call, waiting for me to call one of them into work.

### *Beagle*

The elementary school kids vote  
to make you our state dog.  
Here in howling, Vermont.

Before they learn of the silver plate  
you've won, the ribbon you'll wear,  
the high-protein kibble you eat.

Won, for walking, no prancing  
around a black-tie ring, oblivious,  
it seems, to the city-gowned

crowd. But not to the treats  
you're handler brings to your teeth,  
to straighten your tail, turn up

your nose. To make it seem  
you're royalty and not meant  
for our woods, baying a bear

into her tree. Chewing your leash,  
Breaking a tooth on a chain.  
Barking for as long as it takes

to raise enough votes to be  
named state dog, to sleep on  
a couch in Westminster, Vermont.



## Town of Cornwall, Vermont

2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753



## Dog Licenses, Property Taxes and Green Mountain Passports

This is a reminder that Dog Licenses are due (more accurately) were due on April 1. This licensing process is required by state law to continue the prevention of any type of rabies outbreak. If you own a dog 6 months old or older, you are required to register the dog in the town in which it resides. You must present a valid rabies certificate at the time of registration which will be kept on file for the period of time the certificate is valid. The registration fee in Cornwall is \$8.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$10.00 for an animal that is not spayed or neutered. If your dog is less than 6 months old, you may wait and register the dog when it is old enough. At the beginning of May, a list of owners who have not registered their dog(s) is presented to the Select Board. You will receive a letter asking you to register your dog,

and the fee will increase from \$8/\$10 to \$12/\$14. You are supposed to put the dog tag on your dog's collar. Thank you for complying with this requirement.

The next reminder is for the second installment of property taxes which are due on May 1, 2015. The office will be open on Friday, May 1 from 8 AM—6 PM. Cornwall does accept postmarks. In addition, since this is the second and final payment, if the taxes are not paid on May 1, the unpaid accounts are turned over to the Delinquent Tax Collector for collection.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns on either of these issues.

As we move into spring and then hopefully summer, a reminder that you can purchase a Green Mountain Passport at the Town Clerk's office. The requirements are that you be 62 years old or older or have been certified by the Vermont Veterans Administration to be totally disabled as the result of disease or injury suffered while serving in the armed forces, or a resident of the Vermont Veterans Home. You must also be a resident of Vermont. The fee is \$2.00. You may use the passport for free admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other park fees excluded), Vermont State Historic Sites, and events which are fully State sponsored. There is also a Green Mountain Passport day at Addison County Fair & Field Days each year.

