



Town of Cornwall

# Cornwall Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 3

Winter 2011-2012

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## Special points of interest:

- *Town Meeting is just around the corner.*
- *New distribution method for Town Reports.*
- *Three new Gary Margolis Poems inside*
- *New books and movies at the library*
- *The ever popular Highway Dept. Report*
- *Dog Licensing time again*

## Hear Ye!! Hear Ye!! Town Meeting is Coming.....

So the front page will be devoted to information about Town Meeting. Our meeting will be held on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:30PM at the Cornwall Elementary School. The School District meeting will be held on the same night at the same venue.

In preparation for town meeting, we are currently in the process of putting together the town report, creating the Warning that will be discussed at town meeting. Articles for the town meeting warning can be petitioned to the Selectboard until Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 5PM. This is also

the time to take out a nominating petition if you are interested in running for town office. The petitions are available at the Town Clerk's office. 9 signatures are required (you can sign your own) and the petition must be back to the Town Clerk by Monday, January 30, 2012 at 5PM. Voting for town officials will take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 7AM—7PM at the Cornwall Town Hall. This is also Vermont's Presidential Primary as well. If you are not registered to vote in Cornwall (if you aren't sure, please call because there is a deadline to register) feel free

to stop by the office and fill out an application. Your driver's license number is required. If you can't make it by, give a call or email and I would be happy to get one out to you. FYI, the Presidential Primary is the election where the state gathers information about party preference, so you will be asked which ballot you wish to vote on at the election and this will be noted on the checklist.

Please take note of the Auditor's article below in regard to the distribution of the town reports this year. I will probably need reminding if you called me last year!!

## Town Reports to be Mailed by Request Only

This February, Town Reports will be available for pick up at locations within the town, or mailed at your request. The report will also be available on the (NEW\*\*!) town website: [www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com) no later than the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

This decision, taken by the town auditors, is to realize potential savings in printing and postage costs. This is **NOT** a move toward eliminating our Annual Report, but instead to match supply with demand. We will be printing the

standard 600 copies of this years report. However, we will be tracking how many and how the majority are distributed, and will adjust the quantity printed and the delivery method next year to better balance the needs of the town.

To request that a copy is mailed to you before town meeting day, contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775 or by email at [cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net).

If you have questions about this decision or process, please feel free to contact the Auditors:

Shawn Fetterolf:  
[fetterolf@us.ibm.com](mailto:fetterolf@us.ibm.com)

Ken Manchester: 462-2136

Kate Gieges (Chair): 462-2182, [gieges@shoreham.net](mailto:gieges@shoreham.net)

# Walking with Patrick to the Frost Cabin By: Gary Margolis

We can't say what cat that was  
 jumping from stone to stone,  
 no, boulder to boulder, down  
 the right hand side of the cleared  
 field. We're too far away  
 and right names escape us  
 into the woods, before whatever  
 it was stays long enough  
 to let itself be seen, to see its  
 streaking shadow follow it  
 back into the woods. Giants  
 have house pets, too, Frost  
 might have said here across  
 from his Noble cabin and written  
 it down for us to find later,  
 when one of us is thinking  
 where it might have gone,  
 one of us is searching in a book

for what it might have been.  
 I'd rather think where it appears  
 a tractor stalled in the mud  
 and had to rock itself enough  
 not to have another tractor  
 pull it out, those tracks were  
 made to make a ruddy bowl,  
 only a giant would know to fill  
 with milk-weed water turned to  
 milk. And know to stand away  
 from it, so whatever is here—  
 is there a cat without a mouse—  
 will leave a trace of its own  
 emptiness, will catch a tuft of fur  
 on the nearby nameless fence.

# Lavalley Store Thoughts

The question of what to do with the Lavalley building has challenged us now for more than a decade. In 2003 the Select Board accepted the unconditional gift of the property in order to give the Cornwall Historical Society and others time to research, develop and fund a plan for preservation and use of the building.

Initially the project appeared promising, if challenging. The building occupies a central location in the village center (as defined by the Town Plan) and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains fixtures and artifacts from the period it served as a general store and incorporates part of the horse sheds built in the early 19th century by Cornwall Church members.

Many hours of volunteer work have gone into stabilization of the building, architectural drawings, development of a business plan and seeking funds. Two earlier efforts to develop a plan did not materialize and the most ambitious effort ended unsuccessfully in December 2010. The structure continues to deteriorate, questions regarding water and sewage at the site are unresolved and concerns around traffic safety and parking followed the widening of Rt. 30.

So we face the question: what to do with the Lavalley building? If nothing is done, Cornwall is saddled with the liability and responsibility of the building with no mandate or funding to support it. While it may be possible to move the significant part of the building to Town property that leaves the questions of where and to what purpose. If the building is demolished a link to local history is gone.

In November we asked for your help and the number and content of returns showed that many have given this question careful thought. As of January 6 nearly 90% of the 122 responses appear to favor a least-cost approach to removing the building from its present location.

The article to be voted at Town Meeting will determine the building's fate. Please come prepared with your questions, your ear for good ideas, your concerns, your respect for others and for the Town Meeting process. Perhaps we can resolve this matter in a way that will show Congress how working together with thoughtful consideration and reasonable debate can solve problems in a constructive way.

I receive phone calls fairly regularly from towns folk that are looking for help in one way or another. I do not have a listing of people who have skills, time and energy to share, but I would like to create one if there are resources that are available. So.... If you have a skill or inclination to help as a volunteer and wish to share that skill, time and/or energy, please let me know at the Town Hall and I will compile a list of resources. Thank you. Sue

## Selectboard News

Since September we've celebrated the Town of Cornwall's 250th birthday, Frances Boardman's 100th birthday and, with more restraint, the completion of the improved bike/pedestrian lanes on Rte. 30. The Rte. 74 bridge was replaced and is functioning properly: the same can be said for our Road Commissioner's hip joint.

We continued our practice of joint meetings with other Town officials and met with the Listers in October. The disruption in the real estate market has produced unprecedented complications in their task of accurately assessing property values, the foundation of Vermont's taxation system. Most grievances have been resolved however two court cases continue with one nearing resolution and the other in its early stages.

With the excellent help of the Town's Health Officer and a Castleton professor we continue our search for a lower cost

solution to the 20+ year, \$250,000 (or more!) sodium chloride problem emanating from the old Town Shed salt pile. No silver bullet has been found yet and the more we look the less likely that seems. So we keep pumping and paying....

Some residents have requested a review by the State's Transportation Committee of the Rte. 30 speed limits. With much appreciated help from those involved the preparatory work for that prolonged process is underway.

In November we asked for your help in solving the Lavalley property problem. Over 90% of the (more than 100) responses appear to favor a least-cost approach to removing the building from its present location. An item is being developed for your action at Town Meeting and we sincerely hope that parliamentary maneuvering is avoided in favor a full and frank discussion of the options prior to a vote.

We're currently developing next fiscal year's (i.e., 7/1/12 to 6/30/13) budget to present at Town Meeting. The Select Board is accountable for approximately 20% of local spending (and your tax bill) of which 10% goes for running the town and 10% for road maintenance. As you might expect most expenditures are routine and necessary. A study of compensation of town officials and employees using 2010 data from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns is complete and appropriate adjustments will be included in the budget. The capital budget which currently includes only vehicles and related equipment has been updated. That process has again highlighted the need to include the costs of major repairs/maintenance for Town-owned buildings in that longer-term plan. A committee will be formed this year to address the needs of those properties.

### REMINDER:

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO SPREAD MANURE BETWEEN DECEMBER 15 AND APRIL 1. ILLEGAL MANURE SPREADING CAN BE REPORTED TO THE VT. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE AT 802-828-2431.**

## Planning Commission Report

There continues to be only a low level of subdivision application activity, which is no doubt related to the wider economy.

The CPC's primary focus this fall has been the *Cornwall Town Plan*. There was a 40% response rate to the surveys we sent out and many responses included comments. These will provide us with a sense of where the Town stands on many issues and direction as to the Town's priorities. Earlier this

year we received a grant from the State to accomplish the *Plan* re-write and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission is providing much needed help and guidance. I urge everyone to take a look at the survey results, which are posted on the new Town website ([www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com)).

We welcome anyone willing to help with the integration of data and the *Plan* re-write. Contact Tracy Himmel Isham or Jim Bolton or leave word with Sue

Johnson. There is plenty of work to do.

The CPC meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Town Hall and welcomes all visitors.

Respectfully,

Tracy Himmel Isham, Co-Chair

Jim Bolton, Co-Chair.

## Cornwall Free Public Library News

NEW books, audio books, and DVDs are continually being added to the collection of materials at the library. Come on in and look them over OR check out the Library Section of our new website [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com) to see the complete listing. A generous number of audio books was donated to the library – our collection has almost doubled with this donation. Check them out at the library!

A sampling of new materials added this fall and winter include:

### FICTION:

*Zero Day* – David Baldacci, *The Night Strangers* – Chris Bohjalian, *The Sense of an Ending* – Julian Barnes, *The Drop* – Michael Connelly, *Red Mist* – Patricia Cornwall, *The Race and Devil's Gate* – Clive Cussler, *The Time in Between* – Maria Duenas, *The Marriage Plot* – Jeffrey Eugenides, *Explosive Eighteen* – Janet Evanovich, *V is for Vengeance* – Sue Grafton, *The Litigators* – John Grisham, *The Art of Fielding* – Chad Harback, *11/22/1963* – Stephen King, *The Night Circus* – Erin Morgenstern, *Kill Alex Cross* – James Patterson, *The Best of Me* – Nicholas Sparks

### NON FICTION:

*Blue Nights* – Joan Didion, *Steve Jobs*

– Walter Isaacson, *Then Again* – Diane Keaton, *Catherine the Great* – Robert K. Massie, *Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero* – Chris Mathews, *Rin Tin Tin* – Susan Orlean, *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times* – Willard Sterne Randall

### AUDIO BOOKS:

*Lethal* – Sandra Brown, *The Affair* – Lee Child, *Portrait of a Spy* – Daniel Silva, *The Best of Me* – Nicholas Sparks, *The Help* – Kathryn Stockett

### DVDS:

*Cars 2*, *Crazy Stupid Love*, *Green Lantern*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part II*, *The Help*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Prancer*, *Water for Elephants*.

### YOUNG ADULTS:

*The Name of the Star* – Maureen Johnson, *Shatter Me* – Tahereh Mafi, and *The Book Thief* – Markus Zusak. We also have the following new **Children's Books** – *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* – Eric Carle, *The Graveyard Book* – Neil Gaiman, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Cabin Fever)* – Jeff Kinney, *Inheritance (The Inheritance Cycle)* – Chris Paolini, *Heroes of Olympus Book Two: The Son of Neptune* – Rick Riordan, and *The*

*Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making* – Catherynne M. Valente.

**WANTED:** Books for the Cornwall Book Sale. Even though the book sale won't be held until June, we are always accepting donations for our annual book sale. Here's your chance to recycle gently used books, DVDs, and CDs. You can drop off materials at Town Hall on Tuesday through Friday.

**COMING SOON:** The library is very close to being ready to use electronic check out. We have a few more items to enter into the system and then we will launch the new program. This will entail distributing new library cards that will have a bar code on them. The library items have also been given a bar code and we have a scanning wand. Once the system goes into effect, Sue will help you with checkout until everyone feels comfortable with the system. It will certainly improve our statistical reports and will improve being able to send late notices, etc. We will not be charging any fines, but you may see a jar in the library at some point for donations if you are so inclined, to offset a fine. Come check out the library!!

## Cows at the Christmas Hay Mow by Gary Margolis

Mouths moving, steam rising,  
mud-mucking, lowing back  
to my lowing, knee-deep

standing, fence-rubbing,  
looking over to my looking,  
ears ear-ringing, pierced

letters numbering, they're  
field jewelry, close enough to  
see their breath breathing,

hay-strawing, manger bedding,  
stars-on-their-heads gazing  
back at my amazement

they give back what they are  
given, still eating while they're  
looking, the snow now back-

melting, sweet barn smelling,  
boot gift-sticking, the mud  
their ankle stockings, they're

good stock, spring-waiting,  
not knowing how long  
I'm here God-watching.

## Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department News

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and First Response squad is again looking for volunteers to join them. We are especially in need of medical first responders.

Medical first responders – EMTs – take a course throughout the year to learn how to handle the immediate needs of someone injured or in health distress. The role of a responder in Cornwall is usually providing care until the ambulance arrives. The first responder is assisted by other trained or untrained members of the department at each call.

Volunteer firefighters also take an evening training program through the school year but can also assist at calls during this time.

The CVFD welcomes new members, especially as we have seen members

move from town or become busier and less available to assist at calls. If you would like to learn more, contact any fire department member or Chief Dennis Rheume at 462-3866.

The CVFD has been busy planning two changes: a rebuilt station on North Bingham Street and the purchase of a new utility truck.

The old station on North Bingham street currently houses two trucks, a pumper and a tanker truck, which fits into the station with a mere couple inches to spare in height and length. The building is not energy efficient. While a rebuild on the same footprint has been approved, there are some challenging state regulations we are wrangling with, which has delayed the work until spring.

The new utility truck purchase is in the early stages of cost estimates and design changes. Our former utility truck – the one that looked like a repurposed ambulance – served us well but blew its engine this year and was sold for parts. We currently have a smaller, less multi-use rig on loan from Bridport. A utility truck carries traffic signs, air tanks, generators and lights and miscellaneous other equipment we need at fires, traffic accidents and other emergency calls.

Please remember the fire department is a community resource. Feel free to contact any member with questions about fire safety at home, a planned burn of brush or other materials, or whatever concern you may have.

By: Peter Conlon

## Cornwall Conservation Commission

Cornwall Conservation Commission (CCC) continues to work for the conservation of our town's natural resources. First, we want to thank the members of the Select Board for the valuable feedback and suggestions they provided when we met with them this summer. Our primary role over the past several years has been to provide advice to the Planning Commission regarding environmental impacts of proposed subdivisions, but there is much more work to be done to provide what residents have requested in the town planning survey (read more on this below).

In October, through the efforts of our newest member, Mary Dodge, we hosted an invasive species workshop in which participants learned about the threats posed by invasives and were introduced to identification and control methods for a variety of species. Invasives just keep coming, unfortunately, but we can help abate their spread. This summer, we noticed wild chervil growing along Cider Mill Road for the first time. This plant in the carrot family has been a pernicious pest in Ripton and other nearby towns for a number of years, and it looks as if it has made its way to Cornwall via roadside introduction, a common way for these plants to arrive. For residents who would like more information about combating invasives, a new publication from the Vermont Nature Conservancy, [A Landowner's Guide to Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management](#), is now available online and maybe helpful.

In November the Commission met and discussed some results of the town planning survey. Respondents indicated that they would like an inventory and map of ecologically significant natural areas for strategic land use (71 %) and would also like the CCC to work with land trusts and landowners to conserve lands (69.5%). In addition, they indicated a strong desire to protect the town's streams, ponds, rivers and wetlands (85%), groundwater resources (85%), wildlife habitat and movement corridors (81%), agricultural lands (81%), and scenic views (76%).

In order to carry out these desires, which echo those stated in the current town plan, our aims for the coming year are to continue searching for grants to fund inventory work; to assess interest in the community for improving Douglas Pond; to support ongoing efforts to preserve and protect Beaver Brook and its watershed; and to help create a Cornwall tracking group that would record wild-life movement in town. Two different tracking workshops will be offered in February, one sponsored by Vermont Audubon Society and the other by Shelburne Farms. We encourage residents to attend one of them and to bring their friends and neighbors along.

Current CCC members include Marc Lapin, Eric Mortenson, Lawrence Pyne and Mary Dodge. We would like to thank Pat D'Andrea for her past service; she was very helpful in consulting with the Planning Commission and in assisting with the invasive species outreach. Now we are looking to fill this vacancy, so please contact Marc Lapin (lapin@middlebury.edu) or Mary Dodge (mdodge@middlebury.edu) if you would like to learn more about how you can help with conservation work in Cornwall.



## Emergency Management Network Update

I just finished reading the results of the town survey... very interesting. I laughed out loud when I saw the answer to “where do you obtain local info” listed as *Katie Gieges’ email!* That felt great. But then I felt bad, because you get only periodic ramblings of doom and gloom from me. In reality, it was a great reinforcement of the effort Sue and I have put into maintaining, using, and expanding the Cornwall connection email list.

Our list has been pretty quiet lately, which is fine with me. We seem to be in an inversion of the state’s weather, ever since our blizzard-that-wasn’t last spring. We stocked up and hunkered down for Irene, and—thankfully—remained untouched. Our two or three dustings of snow have amounted to inches on inches in the hills, and closed interstates further north. It could lead an emergency manager to slack off a bit.

In the back of my mind though, the Big One is waiting out there for us, and waiting until we’re oblivious in our comfortable, no water stored up, meds running out tomorrow mode of operating.

So while you contemplate mowing your lawn this January, keep an eye on your emergency supplies, too.

Water for drinking, animals, and toilet flushing

A shovel, and ice melt, near the door

Check batteries and recharge or replace them

Keep easy-to-prepare foods on hand, and know where your manual can opener is!

Check your generator, make sure you have spare fuel on hand, stored safely

Make back-up plans with family in case someone can’t get home: where to go, how to notify

Keep the snow away from interior vents! (even if we only have piles of leaves at the moment)

There are a myriad of suggestions for these lists, and I certainly have fun making them, but the important thing is **to be ready to be on your own for up 3 days**, whatever that means to you and your household.

Do stay in touch, by signing up for the Cornwall Connection Email List: send a request to [cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net) to sign up. The same list is used to announce road closures, town-wide notices, and the emergency updates.

Remember to call Vermont 2-1-1 for information regarding our local situation, such as estimated response times, shelter status, and other disaster/emergency resources in place; ask for “Cornwall Updates.”

Tune to WVTM, 92.1 FM, where area and Cornwall-specific updates will broadcast.

Last and far from least, we will try to have someone answering the Town Clerk number: 462-2775, during any incident. Please try other resources first, but there will be someone there, or an alternate number on the answering machine.

The Emergency Management Network meets the third Thursday of most months, 5:30pm at the Town Hall. Meetings are open, whether you want to stop in and see what we’re about, or have an issue or concern you’d like to discuss. You’re welcome to contact me at 462-2182 or [gieges@shoreham.net](mailto:gieges@shoreham.net).

Be well, and be prepared.

Kate

Emergency Manager

## Highway Department News and Info

As my feeble mind recalls, the last newsletter was mostly about the aftermath from Irene. Several Addison County Towns went back over to Rochester late in October to help them top dress the repaired sites so they could stand a chance of being ready to plow....which was Halloween. They have not been bashful in lauding what Addison County did for them and what a fix they would have been in without the help.

Let's see...had a pretty good 5 day run with the rented brush cutter. Only got chased down once for something I didn't do, so that's better. I've been saying that I have developed some finesse with the machine, however, others say finesse and that machine just won't go together. Once I gave up looking for egregious stumps in my dendrology and forestry books and found egregious in Webster's, we've started working to clean up the worst spots. That, but more, the open fall/winter we've had so far and the Selectboard allowing me to use some of the surplus from last year to hire more

help for cutting roadsides has let us get a fair amount of work done. So we've got the Weybridge wild man, Phil Busier and the Texas Terror, Terry Stephens out there with us. It's the kind of work where 3 can do twice as much as 2 and 4 can do twice as much as 3. It will continue as long as we don't have snow banks and the money holds out. We are leaving the most desirable trees, taking out the leaners, dead, and junk trees. We're creating clear zones and what's come to be called a roadside treescape.

The Selectboard's from Cornwall and Shoreham have authorized the two highway departments to inquire, investigate and develop a memorandum of understanding for the joint purchase of an excavator. The intent is to fund this purchase over 5 years through a 0% loan program for cooperative purchases using money within our operating budgets. So we'll be working on that and intend to have more information for town meeting.

Knocking on wood, a lot and hard, the 2005 truck has been fairly reliable this fall. That said, the preponderance of advice suggests

we replace the truck when the extended warranty runs out in August 2012. The capital committee, such as it is, well the treasurer, has adjusted the capital plan to reflect this change. The talk last year of a highway department utility vehicle/pickup has been flushed as this is a much larger concern. Other financial concerns facing the Capital budget and Town spending my force reconsideration of this strategy, but I'll let others discuss that stuff.

Beyond that.... The courser sand seems to work well. Need to finesse (that word again) the mixing procedure for adding the Calcium Chloride to the salt, but I've been very pleased with the results of that program.

And life plods along—sooner or later we'll get snow and then comes spring—Days are getting longer again—A good thing.

Stu

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## “Top Ten Tips to Prevent Chronic Lyme Disease” The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society

The Fall 2011 edition of the “Middlebury Area Land Trust News” had a series of tips about Lyme disease. A copy of this article is posted at the Town Hall.

Given that Lyme Disease can be debilitating and is difficult to diagnosis, this

article is worth reviewing. Lyme disease can be found in all 50 states. There can be ticks wherever there is grass or vegetation and tick bites can happen any time of year. Up to fifty per cent of ticks in Lyme endemic areas are infected with

Lyme or other tick-borne diseases. Please refer to the article for additional information.

David Anderson  
Health Officer  
Town of Cornwall

## Dog Licensing Time Again!!

Beginning in January of every year, you can come in, call or email a request for a new dog license. The actual deadline by which your dog(s) must be registered each year is April 1. The fees are: Spayed or Neutered dog \$8.00, Not Spayed or Unneutered dog \$10.00. As I try to point out each year, this is a state law, not a town requirement. \$4.00 of each license goes to the state coffers to help fund a rabies program and a spay and neuter program. The balance of the fee stays in town to help defray the cost of licenses, tags and some of the Clerk's salary. If you can't make it into the office during my hours, I am happy to accept your payment by mail, and will send you the new license. A valid rabies certificate is required before the license can be issued. I do keep them on file, so if your pup has a valid rabies certificate, you can just send along the fee and I will issue the license. Give a call if you are not sure about the rabies cert. 462-2775, [cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net). Hours T -F 9AM -5PM. Sue

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## Town of Cornwall

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Cornwall, VT 05753

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com)

### January's June by Gary Margolis

Some bales are barely to know they're not is poured into a field  
bare, mesh-rolled, standing in a winter of milky June.

in field net. Some are barn and here instead,  
bare, twine-kept. eating what's meant

More than a few are to be eaten through,  
plastic-wrapped, passed into a second

black in a slightly inside bag.  
rolling row, by Where every extra

the side of the road. not hay-thing, a bit  
For the cows not of wire or surplus  
glass

