



# Cornwall Town Hall Open House! October 7, 2017 11:00 AM —3:00 PM

I know it has taken a while to get this Open House off the ground, but we are going to take a moment to show off the place.

I can tell you I have been very thankful for the air conditioning over the past week.

It has been a wonderful transition into the building. I am still getting organized, but it has been a fun task to figure out where everything will go. It has made a huge difference in the vault upstairs to be able to move many boxes of material that we are required to keep to the downstairs fireproof room.

I am anxious to see how the

more open downstairs meeting room will work for elections. Should we ever need more room for any election, we could move upstairs now that we have the lift. The lift was used for an event upstairs recently and it went very well.

Since the library reopened, it has been steadily busy. The new children's room has seen quite a few youngsters, which is so great.

Once again, I would like to take a moment to thank the design team at Vermont Integrated Architecture and the craftsmen at Smith & McClain for the work they did. Smith & McClain had

their work cut out for them trying to fit the design into an old, non square building. They were very inventive in the way they went about things. Huge kudos to them all.

I hope to see many of you on Saturday, October 7. We will have everything open for you to see and will be anxious to hear what you think. So far, most of the comments have been very positive. There are a few folks who would have preferred it to stay the same, but I think we have done well by the building and expect it will last for another 200 years.

## Fall Schedule for the Town Clerk/Treasurer

I wanted to give you all a heads up on some time off I have planned for the fall.

I will be away from October 16—October 27, a special vacation to Disney World in Florida for my 60th birthday sponsored mostly by my daughter Martha. Stuart will be staying home to mind the homestead. Once I return from the vacation, I will

spend a few days getting the tax payments caught up and then I am heading to Enfield, CT to stay with Martha while she recuperates from a second foot surgery. You might remember I was gone for a couple weeks back in February. So I will be away from October 30—November 6. This will be the first time I have missed a tax collection in 16 1/2

years. I know it will be fine. Joan Bingham will be covering for me during regular office hours. I will have a computer and phone in CT. so Joan can reach me if need be, not so much when I am at Disney.

Feel free to bring tax payments in early, you can post date them for Nov. 1. Thanks for your understanding!! Sue

### Inside this issue:

Conservation Commission News	2
Clayplain Forest Walk	2
Cornwall Library News	3
Cornwall School Happenings	4
New Planning Commissioner	5
Gary Margolis Poems	5
Property Tax Deadline	7

### Special points of interest:

- Cornwall Town Hall Open House October 7, 2017
- Property Taxes Due November 1, 2017
- Clayplain Forest Walk
- Library Book Sale Coming in November
- Cornwall School News

# Conservation Commission News

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The Conservation Commission continues to work on several fronts.

In August, we met with the Planning Commission to discuss their work on updating the town's zoning bylaws. The CC asked that the new bylaws be written so as to better protect Cornwall's significant natural features. This would include the 13 sites identified in the 2015 Cornwall Ecological Inventory, key connectivity habitat, and riparian areas important for water quality and flood abatement. We feel that protecting these resources is critical for wildlife and biological diversity, and will help keep our town the special and scenic place it is.

The Trails Committee continues to explore potential walking trails in Cornwall, including the possibility of starting work this fall on a short path along the northern

edge of the Douglas Pond property and working with the State on an access route into Cornwall Swamp. In addition, some private landowners have kindly indicated that they might be agreeable to having residents walk the trails on their property. Let us know if you are interested in joining the Trails Committee as it works on this.

Looking ahead, the CC will be sponsoring a Clayplain Forest walk led by Marc Lapin on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> (1:30-3:30 pm.) Come explore one of Cornwall's finest examples of a very rare ecosystem, a Valley Clayplain Forest natural community. We will learn about its plants and soils and investigate the principles of landscape connectivity. This special area is a fine example of a hemlock-hardwood clayplain forest and abuts a rich wetland complex, all part of the Beaver Brook

watershed, a major tributary of the Lemon Fair River. There is parking close to the forest site. Take Rte 125 to Foote Farm Road, turn onto FFR and then left again on Beaver Pond Road (approx. 700 ft). Vehicles can be parked along the circle at the end of Beaver Pond Road. Please, no dogs.

Sue Morse's informative and fun slide-shows about "Bobcats" thrilled both young and old last spring. The CC is hoping that residents will have another chance to see her in action this fall, this time focusing on the "Wild Cousins of Our Best Friends: Wolves, Coyotes and Foxes." Please stay tuned.

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## Cornwall Clayplain Forest Walk

You are invited to join the Conservation Commission's Marc Lapin for a guided walk through one of Cornwall's finest examples of a Valley Clayplain Forest natural community. Explore this hemlock-hardwood forest that abuts a rich wetland complex, all part of the Beaver Brook watershed, a major tributary of the Lemon Fair River. We will learn about its plants and soils and investigate the principles of landscape connectivity. Clayplain Forests, once common across the Champlain Valley, are now rare and listed as "threatened" in Vermont.

The walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 pm.** There is parking close to the forest site. Take Rt 125 to Foote Farm Road, turn onto FFR, and then left again on Beaver Pond Road (approx. 700 ft). Vehicles can be parked along the circle at the end of Beaver Pond Road. Please, no dogs.

Marc Lapin is a conservation ecologist and an Environmental Studies Laboratory Professor at Middlebury College. For more information, contact

Mary Dodge at [mdodge@middlebury.edu](mailto:mdodge@middlebury.edu) (462-2899)

# News from the Cornwall Free Public Library

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## The Book Sale Is Coming!

It's that time of year again – time for the Cornwall Library Book Sale! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**. Don't miss this collection of gently used books and audiovisual materials. We will also have refreshments for you to enjoy while you're browsing!

This is the perfect time to stock up on books for winter reading when the days are cold, long and dark. It's a perfect way to wait out winter, and you can climb under the covers or cozy up to the fireplace and read away to sunnier and warmer days.

The Cornwall Library Book Sale will be open from **9AM to 3PM at the Town Hall**. A wide variety of donated books across all genres will be available. Once again, we will have a **Take What You Want /Pay What You Think Is Fair or What You Can!** Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the library shelves with new releases purchased from the Vermont Book Shop in downtown Middlebury, as well as DVDs. Come check it out!

## New Additions to the Library Collection

Come on in and check out the materials that we've added to our collection at the library. If you prefer to see what's new from your home, you can see the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com). Below is a *sampling* of new items.

### FICTION

*What We Lose* - Zinzi Clemmons, *The Address* - Fiona Davis, *Dinner at the Center of the Earth* - Nathan Englander, *Faithful* - Alice Hoffman, *Any Dream Will Do* - Debbie Macomber, *Little Fires Everywhere* - Celeste Ng, *The Alice Network* - Kate Quinn, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* - Mark T. Sullivan, *The Golden House* - Salman Rushdie, *My Absolute Darling* - Gabriel Tallent, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* - Jesmyn Ward

### MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

*Down A Dark Road* - Linda Castillo, *The Late Show* - Michael Connelly, *Career of Evil* - Robert Galbraith, *The Burning Girl* - Claire Messud, *Glass Houses* - Louise Penny, *See What I Have Done* - Sarah Schmidt, *The Lying Game* - Ruth Ware, *The Force* - Don Winslow

### NONFICTION

*American Fire* – Monica Hesse, *Autumn* – Karl Ove Knausgaard, *The Hidden Life of Trees* - [Peter Wohlleben](#), *Why Buddhism is True* – Robert Wright

### YOUNG ADULT

*Wonder Woman: Warbringer* - Leigh Bardugo, *Walking with Miss Millie* - Tamara Bundy, *What To Say Next* - Julie Buxbaum, *The Girl at Midnight* and *The Shadow Hour* - Melissa Grey, *They Both Die at the End* - Adam Silvera

### CHILDREN

*Minecraft: The Island* - Max Brooks, *Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell, A Grimm Warning and Beyond the Kingdoms* - Chris Colfer, *Gregor the Overlander* and *Gregor and the Philosophy of Bane* - Suzanne Collins, *Good People Everywhere* - Lynea Gillen, *How To Heal a Broken Wing* - Bob Graham, *Lights, Cameras, Middle School!* - Jennifer L. Holm, *Furthermore* - Taherah Mafi, *Marigold Bakes a Cake* - Mike Malbrough, *Come With Me* – Holly M. McGhee, *Creepy Pair of Underwear* - Aaron Reynolds *The Antlered Ship* - Dashka Slater, *Caleb and Kit* - Beth Vrabel

### AUDIOBOOKS

*The Late Show* – Michael Connelly, *American Assassin* – Vince Flynn, *The Silkworm*, *The Cuckoo's Calling* and *Career of Evil* – Robert Galbraith, *Another Brooklyn* – Jacqueline Woodson

### DVDs

*Before I Fall*, *Homeland: Season 5*, *The Light Between Oceans*, *This Is Us: Season 1*, *Thomas and Friends: Journey Beyond Sodor*, *Wonder Woman*

# What's Happening at Cornwall School

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Cornwall School has been busy since August with lots of great learning and working together to build a positive culture and climate at school. We have 3 new teachers - Jane Phinney (grade 1), Wade Davis (grade 6), and Sarah Flinn (art). Kalen Meissner has taken over as the Administrative Assistant. We also have a new food service director, Lauren Jellison, who has been dishing up delicious meals and working with classes to integrate their farm to school work into our meals.

Lots of great things are happening at Cornwall School this year. While we update our website from time to time, to know more of what is happening at school, you can receive our weekly newsletter by letting Jen Kravitz ([jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org)) know your email address. You can also follow Cornwall School on Twitter (@cornwallschl) and Instagram (@cornwallschoolvt) to see more of what we do.

## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

If your family has small children who are not yet school age, we would love to hear from you. You are welcome to come visit the school to see what students are learning in class. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us at 462.2463 or [jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org). We can also add you to the school newsletter, so you know what is happening at school on a weekly basis.

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Due to the hard work and contributions of many Cornwallians, we have some wonderful new features on the playground, including Peet's Playhouse (in honor of Cindy Peet's service on the Cornwall School Board), a Hobbit House, volcano, snake, adjustable basketball hoops, and some trees. Come see the changes!

We have raised over \$32,000 of our \$75,000 capital campaign goal. If you can contribute to help continue our playground improvements, please contact Jen Kravitz ([jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org)). If you are interested in learning more or contributing towards the changes, you can also speak with committee members: Jen Kravitz, Lisa Beck, Holmes Jacobs, Bjarki Sears, Al Thalen, and Silas Taylor.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Cornwall School was approved for candidacy by International Baccalaureate in the late spring to become an IB World School in the Primary Years Programme (PYP). The work towards candidacy has framed the start of our year, so far, as teachers had a three day training in August before school began on the philosophy and curriculum of the PYP. Since then, we have been exploring the IB Learner Profile (<http://bit.ly/IB-LP>) in classes and as a whole school. Students have been thinking about what attributes are strengths for them, how the learner profile fits into our school essential agreements, and what examples of the attributes are at Cornwall School. In our all school meetings, we are focusing on one attribute each month. In September, the focus has been on the attribute of caring. The IB Learner Profile also supports the work that we are doing with mindfulness, as we learn and practice breathing and movement strategies to develop each of us a clearer sense of how we are feeling and awareness of what is going on around us. We will continue working with other ACSD elementary schools on the written curriculum over the course of this year and next. More on this in a future newsletter.

## FARM TO SCHOOL

Over the last month, there has been a lot of farm to school learning at Cornwall School, which has been supported by our \$10,000 Farm to School implementation grant. The 3rd and 4th graders have spent Wednesdays at the Middlebury College garden, integrating math, storytelling, writing, science, technology, and social emotional learning into the farm to school elements of food, farms, and nutrition. We also have 4 new residents out by the garden: Lady Rose, Rover, Bambi, and Harriet hatched as chicks here in the spring and are now part of our farm to school program. Classes have also harvested potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, beets, onions, and more from our garden that we have used for lunch. Through this work, students have practiced cooperation, persistence, communication, and other transferable skills as well as learned about science. This work will be celebrated at our Harvest Fest on 17 October. If you are interested in coming to Harvest Fest, please contact Jen.

## First College Football Game by Gary Margolis

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Buddha teaches me I have a choice  
whether or not to replay my mistakes  
and failures. In my heart.

In my head. Remembering them  
in pictures and words. Afraid to  
relinquish the past. A doubt

I have to recall the moment  
the ball was spiraling to my freshman  
hands. I was alone in the end zone.

Having broken free from the free  
safety shadowing me. Thinking  
how glorious it would be to feel

the ball in my hands, instead of bouncing  
off my chest, away to the sidelines.  
Where you, Jane, I didn't know your  
name  
yet, were standing, randomly,  
this being your first college football  
game,  
the first week of school.

When everyone was trying to forget  
their past, to make things new.  
To make it appear they knew more than  
they did. If God existed. If you could sit

under a tree, here it would be a maple  
turning  
its leaves. To realize where you were.  
Not

in your old bedroom. Not anywhere near  
the memory you'd be making with her.  
You're thinking too much, you hear

your coach shout, throwing his head-  
phones  
to the ground. Looking back to the bench  
to find another end to replace me.

## I don't suppose you'd read a poem by Gary Margolis

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that starts with an army  
of honey dippers spreading

their gold over the mown fields.  
Want to keep reading,  
if the next words I write show me

grilling a rare steak  
with a few vegetables sizzling  
in grease. A treat I give myself

after my heart signals  
the all clear. Suggests  
there's nothing wrong

when I envy a cow eating  
her field of high grass.  
Using a hill as her

treadmill. Content to amble  
on a worn path. To lie down  
wherever she can, whenever

she wants.  
Even if its among  
her own paddies, those sweet

flat cakes the boys flip into  
frisbees. Throw at the girls  
running away. Afraid to

lie down just anywhere here.  
To be caught near the last  
line of a poem.

I didn't think I'd be  
writing this morning, watching  
the army of manure trucks, tanks

rumbling over the dirt road, entering  
their own tracks, back  
into the cut fields.

## New Planning Commissioner Appointed—Conor Stinson

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Newly appointed Planning Commission member Conor Stinson has recently returned to Cornwall. After first moving to Cornwall at 14, he attended high school and college in Middlebury. After college, he lived and worked in Chicago, North Carolina, and Brooklyn. He moved back to Cornwall with his wife Ellen and their young daughter Eveline last February. He is pleased to

serve the town both on the Planning Commission and the Fire Department. He is equally pleased to do his part at reducing the buckthorn population in town. Please feel free to share removal tips if you see him.



*Autumn Leaves*



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## Athena at the Creemee Stand by Gary Margolis

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I want to introduce you  
to a fifth-grader about  
to start school. I'm meeting  
by chance and then again

in this introduction.  
At the foot of the Champlain  
Bridge at this Sunday's  
Creemee stand.

A wide window.  
Time to stand in line.  
And bump into  
each other. Like two

chosen and unprepared  
images in a lake's poem.  
She's wearing a tee shirt  
with a flag of Greece flying

on it. And a dog with three  
mouths with no tongues  
hanging out. Not having  
licked any frozen ice cream

in his myth, in his boat  
on the Styx. I tell her I'll pay  
for her cone if she knows  
the name of her canine.

She pauses long enough  
for me to say CeREbus.  
So she can tilt her head.  
and say Don't you mean

Cerebus instead,  
knowing where to put  
the right emphasis.  
How to use her tongue.

For pronouncing a name  
and knowing Hades'  
address. Climbing into  
her car, I say Good-bye

Athena. Have a great  
school year. She pauses,  
before she yells back,  
Do you know why I sprang

from Zeus's head?  
Creemee melting down  
her hand. Onto her shield  
and into the lake.

## Goodness Knows by Gary Margolis

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My neighbor on the right cranes  
his neck as he drives by, unable  
to believe that's me, his friend,

raising the flag I've planted  
on top of my swallow's nest.  
So sure he knows what I believe

having seen the demonstrations  
I march in, where I've stood,  
from time to time, with a sign,

Saturday mornings, on our village  
green. Thinks, perhaps, I've walked  
over to the other side, his side

of the road, where he's sure enough  
in what he thinks about the war.  
Whether a lie is a new kind

of fact, as long as it serves some greater  
good. Goodness knows. A few lines  
we've both read, driving into work

on a banner in front of a church.  
True enough to believe for the time  
being. The time it takes for my flag

to unfurl, to believe it's ours  
and the one the swallow flies,  
believing its hers. One the wind

left for her to believe in the wind.  
The field's government. How  
she swoops from one side

of the road to the other, flashing  
the stripes of her wings, the stars  
of her eyes.

## Property Tax Deadline

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You should have received your 2017  
property tax bill at the beginning of Sep-  
tember. If not, please give me a call (802-  
462-2775) or email  
(cornwallvt@shoreham.net).

The bill is split into two installments. The  
first installment will be due on November  
1, 2017. The office will be open regular  
hours that day from 9 AM—5 PM for  
you to stop by and make a payment. You

can also drop your payment into the  
green mailbox on the front porch of the  
town hall, or you can mail your payment  
(postmarks are accepted as timely).

As I mentioned on the front page, I will  
be away that week, but Joan Bingham  
will be in the office. You may send in  
your payment at any point before Novem-  
ber 1, and you may post date the check to  
November 1. Thanks, Sue



**TOWN OF CORNWALL**

2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753

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

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**OPEN  
HOUSE  
TOWN HALL  
OCTOBER 7  
FROM 11—3!**

