



Cornwall Newsletter

TOWN OF CORNWALL UPDATES.

The Cornwall Town Office remains closed to the public at this time. Sue Johnson is still in the office working regular hours, Tuesday—Friday from 9 AM—5 PM.

Regularly scheduled board meetings are taking place using a virtual platform. The information to connect to the meetings can be found on the agendas for each meeting. The agendas are posted on the town's website (cornwallvt.com) and still posted on the bulletin boards that are outside the town hall and town garage.

Dog licensing is still taking place although we are doing it through the drop box and mail service. The town is not charging late fees this year, but licensing your dog (s) is still required. If your dog needs to receive an updated rabies vaccination, you must wait until the vaccination has been given to register the dog. I will be sending out my reminder letter at the end of April, beginning of May. You can let me know at that time if you are waiting for an updated vaccination.

May 1, 2020 is the due date for the second installment of property taxes.

Sue has been calling folks in town to check in and make sure they are doing well and managing during this time of staying home. I hope that any and all of you will feel comfortable calling the town hall if you are in need of anything. There are organizations available to help. The Town Hall phone number is 802-462-2775 and my email addresses are cornwallvt@shoreham.net and townofcornwall1761@gmail.com.

STATE WIDE BURN BAN IN EFFECT UNTIL JUNE 1, 2020 PER CORNWALL FIRE WARDEN

In concert with Dave Berno, Cornwall Fire Chief, we have decided the best course of action for the Town is to follow State recommendations and keep the outdoor burn ban in effect until June 1. Low relative humidity's and prevalent dead/combustible top-layer fuels that are covering open fields and woodlands at this time were the deciding factors. Other local Fire Wardens and Fire Chiefs are also following suit. Once the above date passes, and should weather conditions allow, permits will be reissued as usual.

Tommy Frankovic, Jr., Cornwall Fire Warden Phone: 462-3137

STAY
SAFE

STAY
HEALTHY

STAY
STRONG

STAY
IN
CONTACT

STAY
CONNECTED

ADDISON COUNTY MUTUAL AID AVAILABLE TO ALL!

It's okay to need help. Addison County Mutual Aid is here for you!

If you or someone you know needs assistance, Addison County Mutual Aid is here to help. Addison County Mutual Aid is a network of local volunteers connecting people in need with people who can help.

You do not have to be stuck at home without supplies, venture out if you are vulnerable, or feel lonely and isolated. Stay home, stay safe. You are not alone! Your community is here for you.

Volunteers in our community are already available for:

- delivering food & supplies
- emotional support & social connection
- dog walking & animal care
- help with children & childcare
- errands & outdoor chores
- financial support & connecting to other resources in the community

and more -- just ask!

How to connect:

Phone: Call (802) 377-3335 to reach the voicemail of the county-wide hotline for Addison County Mutual Aid. Your call will be returned. Or, call Sue Johnson at 462-2775.

Online: Visit AddisonCountyMutualAid.org and click on "I Need Help."

Email: Contact Cornwall point person Ollie Cultrara at ollie.cultrara@gmail.com or email AddisonCountyMutualAid@gmail.com.

Want to help?

Sign up to volunteer with Addison County Mutual Aid by visiting AddisonCountyMutualAid.org and clicking on "I Can Help."

SELECTBOARD REPORT!

I could not have imagined when I wrote to you last that we would be in a moment when most of us would be isolating in place during a time of national emergency. But here we are. I wanted to take a moment to tell you how proud I am of you all. From our amazing Town Clerk Sue Johnson, who is managing to keep most town functions rolling along while keeping herself safe, to the various boards and commissions who have pivoted in a remarkably deft way to keep our volunteer government running remotely, to you my neighbors who have been sheltering in place so that we can all be safe, including the most vulnerable among us. It is an extraordinary time.

In light of current events, the Select Board will be conducting its meetings virtually for the foreseeable future. We have tried a couple of different video conferencing packages that allow public participation via video link if you have a computer with a camera and microphone or via telephone, if you prefer. Unfortunately, there have been technical issues with each meeting, which we have had to work around. We are getting the kinks worked out. My hope is that we will soon zero-in on a web-based platform for our public meetings that will be easy and intuitive to use. The dial in/conference information for each meeting will be posted at the top of each Select Board agenda, which is posted on the town's web page under <http://cornwallvt.com/select-board/> and pressing the "Meeting Agenda" button.

We need to continue to do what we do best: looking out for one another. Sue is compiling a list of folks in Cornwall who may need help, either with grocery pick up or simply a check in. It is worth remembering that not everyone in Cornwall has internet access or a smart phone. If there is someone in your neighborhood on whom you have been checking, or anyone who needs help of whom you are aware, please contact Sue so that they can be added to the list. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Cornwall has the services of a volunteer coordinator who will match up those who have a need with those who have the capacity to help.

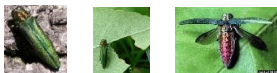
If any of you have ideas how to improve what the town does or have concerns you want to discuss, you may e-mail me at bmarkscornwall@gmail.com.

Benjamin Marks
Select Board Chair
802-462-3536

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT!

While virtually all concern is on the current invasive in the country, COVID-19 as it should be, the Emerald Ash Borer is not at all affected. Cornwall is just beyond the "infested" fried egg area on the map that is centered over Bristol. By most accounts it is probably here or nearby and just hasn't been found yet, sneaky little bugger that it is. Which is also odd because of its rather flamboyant outfit.

We are approaching the critter's flight season which is when we are most likely to get a glimpse of them. They are not the only iridescent emerald green beetle out there so it would be great to have photos of any suspect wearing a shiny, emerald green "elytra" (that's entomologist speak for beetle shell). If you get a suspect photo you can send it to the VT invasives folks at VTinvasives.org. They will verify the rascal and they will contact you for other pertinent information i.e. location, date etc.



They are only ¼" to ½" long

Stu Johnson, Tree Warden

CORNWALL RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE!

The Cornwall Recreation Committee had our spring meeting online the beginning of April. We have some fun and exciting activities planned for the coming Spring and Early Summer.

Please keep in mind that event dates are tentative due to COVID-19.

Cornwall Activities:

The 30 Miles in 30 Days Challenge - April 1 to April 30

The Board Game Night - Postponed, new date TBA

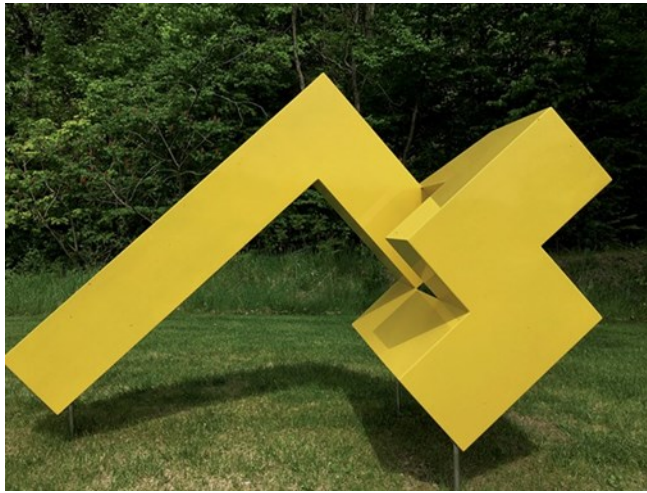
Green-Up Day Bake Sale - May 30th. The sale will be from 10 a.m. - Noon. Baked goods donations are appreciated and can be dropped off at the Town Hall on Friday or brought to the Cornwall Memorial School by 9 a.m.

Tie Dye Day - Back by popular demand, June 20th from 10 a.m. to Noon. Bring a t-shirt or whatever you would like to Tie Dye: socks, towels, hankies, T-shirts will also be available.

Hiking in Cornwall area:

The Lemon Fair Sculpture Park - Please check the website for days that it will be open for the public.

[Lemon Fair Sculpture Park Rises in Shoreham](#)



Visit the Parks!

Here is the website for the **VT State Parks** <https://vtstateparks.com/family-fun.html>

There is information on this site that you can use to visit the State Parks.

If you are 62+ you can get a Green Mountain Passport at the Cornwall Town Hall. For a \$2.00 fee you will have free entry to all VT State Parks!

Check out the Venture **Vermont Outdoor Challenge** on the State of Vermont website, a fun activity that runs from March 18 - Oct 15

We will pass on more fun activities through the town emails as we hear of them.

Enjoy the outside this Spring/Summer!

Your Cornwall Recreation Committee

UPDATE FROM THE CORNWALL DRB!

Virtual Meetings and New Filing Requirements

To keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, until further notice all DRB meetings will be held virtually (and not at the Town Hall). Our agendas will include an online meeting link and a dial-in number so that Board members, applicants, and interested members of the public may participate electronically or by phone. We will be using the service GoToMeeting.

To facilitate everyone's consideration of applications, we are requiring that applicants file electronic copies of their entire application, including drawings and maps. This is in addition to the requirement to file ten (10) paper copies. We plan to post electronic copies of applications on the Town website, with Sue Johnson's assistance.

This is a new process for all of us and there may be some glitches. We ask for everyone's patience and cooperation.

Board Membership

We are pleased to welcome a new alternate member, Joan Lynch. Joan replaces Gary Barnett, who, having served on the Board since its inception, has now been appointed as the Town's new Zoning Administrator. The regular members of the DRB include David Anderson (Vice Chair), Magna Dodge, Barbara Greenwood (Chair), Shari Johnson, and Joe Severy. The other alternate member is Cheryl Cesario.

Recent Decisions

The Board's recent decisions include the February 19th approval of Beaver Brook Properties, LLC's preliminary plan of subdivision, and the March 29th approval of U-Phoria Property, LLC's application for a three-lot minor subdivision. Copies of the decisions are available on the Town website.

INFORMATION FROM THE VERMONT TAX DEPT.

From the Tax Department: We have heard that some towns are continuing to tell taxpayers that the deadline for timely filed homestead declarations is April 15, 2020 and that those received after that date will be assessed a penalty by the town. This is not the case. As a function of Vermont law, the change in the federal personal income tax due date automatically moved the due date for the Vermont Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim to July 15. The Tax Department will therefore mark all Homestead Declarations received on or before July 15th, 2020 as timely, and the towns cannot charge a late penalty for all filings received up to the July 15th due date.

CORRECTION TO THE LAST NEWSLETTER.

In the Winter Newsletter's Cornwall Free Public Library Report, a donation was received in memory of Christopher Edwards, son of Steven and Nancy Edwards, Cornwall residents. We indicated that the donation was in the name of Steven Edwards. Apologies for the error and the library is most thankful for the kind donation in Christopher's name.

CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSSION REPORT

Like others, the Conservation Commission had plans and events scheduled for this spring. In early April, a panel of representatives from Vermont Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and Middlebury Area Land Trust were going to detail options for landowners who would like to consider conservation of their property. Whether it would be a way to keep land in agricultural production or to set aside a forever-wild place, the reasons for conservation are many and varied. We hope to revisit this possibility when public meetings are again happening,

And, details had also been finalized for a second season of amphibian road assistance, with a training set for new people and the possibility of adding new sites to the two West Street stretches monitored last year. The training was, of course, cancelled. Safe road crossing work is best done with two or more people. A couple husband and wife teams were able to get out and helped dozens of wood frogs, spring peepers, and blue salamanders cross West Street safely.

We had other events planned, including a joint program with the Elementary School and the town on bird migration and welcoming summer birds to Cornwall backyards. Elementary School teacher Mindy Harvey and CC's Mike Sheridan and Brian Howlett were on track to have students build individual bird shelves for the school and for their homes. Hopefully, Spring '21 will see this actually happen.

Now, we want to put in a plug for your help with a conservation project that we are just beginning ourselves. It is fun and you can do it at home. The Commission is planning to use trail cameras to help document where wildlife are commonly crossing town roads in search of food and safe shelter. Our target species are mostly larger mammals (deer, bobcats, coyote), but the presence of otter, fisher, turkey, and grouse is also of interest. If you have animals that move through your property with some frequency, would you be willing to set up a trail camera to record and share this information with us?

If you have never used a trail camera, we can give you tips for finding a good one online and guide you through the first steps in learning how to use it. [Camera Trapping Guide](#), by Janet Pesaturo is also an excellent resource for photography techniques as well as photos and information on each animal's physical characteristics, tracks, diet, scat, habitat, breeding, and specific camera-setting tips.

I field-tested 3 of the CC's 4 cameras in my own yard. Over the years, my husband and I have seen a full range of wildlife on our property, but I was amazed at how many nighttime animals were photographed in just a few days: skunk, raccoon, maybe a fisher, and definitely a large black bear. The bruin left a calling card, a spilled compost bin... but I was actually glad because I was thinking I should turn the pile over myself, now that spring was here. I thank him for his help!

Mary Dodge, Conservation Commission

mdodge@middlebury.edu 462-2899

NEWS FROM THE CORNWALL LIBRARY

The Cornwall Library Trustees hope you are well and staying home and keeping safe. Even though the library is closed and probably will be for a few more months, we hope you are still reading. A good book can provide insight, comfort or a welcome escape as this Covid-19 outbreak continues. We will let you know as soon as the library reopens, so be sure to check out the Cornwall Town website.

Once the library is open again, we would welcome donations of books, audiobooks, and DVDs. (Hopefully you have some room to store them until then.) These items will be entered into the collection or sold at our book sale in November. BUT PLEASE, no musty, smelly, damaged mildewed or broken/warped books. Also, no encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks. Thanks!

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

FREE ONLINE CLASSES. All you need is your library card. Universal Class, an online continuing education program, is now available to Cornwall Library patrons at no cost! Universal Class is a learning program available through the Vermont Department of Libraries. It offers over 500 classes online. Study anything from aromatherapy to website development, medical skills and finance to GED preparation 24/7- all at your own pace. Each person is welcome to enroll in up to five courses at one time and will have up to six months to finish each course. The courses are taught by professionals, though the courses themselves are no credit classes. Begin exploring these courses by registering with your library barcode number on the State of Vermont Universal Class Registration page. Need help – just call.

Even though the library is closed, we are continuing to buy new books, audiobooks, and DVDs, so when the library reopens, you will have an abundance of new materials to choose from. Some of the new books include **Afterlife** - Julia Alvarez, **Red Lotus** - Chris Bohjalian, **The Boy from the Woods** - Harlan Coben, **Untamed** - Glennon Doyle, **The Night Watchman** - Louise Erdrich, **The Book of Longing** - Sue Monk Kidd, **Hidden Valley Road** - Robert Kolker, **The Mirror and the Light** - Hilary Mantel, **The Glass Hotel**- Emily St. John Mandel, *and many others*.

See you soon – and keep reading!

Resource Mate Web Opac. We will be working with the folks from Resource Mate to get our Web Opac page up and running. This requires issuing sign in information including a PIN to our patrons. Our library home page for Web Opac needs a little tweaking for looks and content and then we should be good to go. I am going to be in touch with Resource Mate this week and hopefully will have a go live date in the very near future. It is actually pretty cool. You can search by Title, Author and a couple other options. The system will tell you if we have the book, if it is available and if not available when it is due back to the library. You can then request the book be reserved for you. Look for word in the next few weeks.

CORNWALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS!

Hello Cornwall residents! My name is Heather Raabe, and I am the new principal at Cornwall School. For those of you who don't know, my husband and I moved to Vermont from Colorado last summer to be closer to family. He grew up in Charlotte, VT and still has family in the area, and although our daughter is currently in Connecticut, her heart is in Vermont and we are sure she will be living nearby at some point as well.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk with some of you at the Cornwall Town Meeting on March 2. I learned later that week that some people were wondering where the portrait of Anna Stowell Sunderland Bingham is hanging. Since I have been at Cornwall School, the portrait has been hanging in a prominent location in the library. Some of you may have seen it there if you ate dinner in the library before the meeting (and thank you to both the Friends of Cornwall School and our chef, Dan Whittemore, for making that dinner happen!). It is my understanding that the portrait was moved to the library to provide a more dignified location while still residing in place of importance. Please, the next time you are at school (when the building is open again), stop in the library to take a look.

It feels strange to be writing this and introducing myself at a time when the schools are closed. Despite the fact that schools are closed through the end of this school year, teachers and staff are hard at work. In collaboration with the other elementary schools in the district, we have been developing systems, lessons, activities, for remote learning. This is a new world for all of us - teachers, staff, students, and families - and we are all learning as we go. More important than academics is the safety and well being of all Cornwall residents. Please feel free to reach out to me, even if you are not a current school family, if you need assistance in any way. I may not have immediate answers, but I may be able to connect you with others who can help. To reach me, you may either send an email to hraabe@acsdtv.org or call 802-349-5934 which is the new remote number for the school.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the future. Stay well.



With permission, Fred De Haven who was hospitalized on Town Meeting and Presidential Primary Voting Day, was able to vote thanks to two of our Justices of the Peace, Marjorie Drexler and David Anderson who transported the ballots to and from the hospital so Mr. DeHaven could vote. So glad we could make that happen.

GRADUATION
BY GARY
MARGOLIS

Imagine all the seniors
in America sitting outside
on their folding chairs.
Some with their walkers,

some with their aides.
With programs in their hands
and bouquets. A pair
of binoculars, if they're sitting

as far away as the past
of another day.
See if you can see the oceans
on either side of them.

The in-between prairies.
Vast buildings. Mounds.
Burial mounds, breaking
a bulldozer's blade.

Flags, the Department of
Buildings and Grounds
display. Of worldly countries.
For the wind to play with.

To see if they're listening
for the first marching notes,
a graduation's parade.
Notes Elgar made.

For the elderly, their
families. The stand-by
ambulances. The staff
handing out bottles

of noon-day water.
After the speeches are over,
diplomas awarded.
The speaker said America's
still a big tent.
Trying to reach everybody
beyond the cliché.
Beyond the fact

of what day and month
it is. In May,
all things being equal,
when we should have been

gathering, pushing some
of our seniors into the shade.
Standing to cheer the caps
and gowns flying into the air.

EQUAL DISTANCE
by GARY MARGOLIS

Who isn't grateful for the red
-winged
blackbird, coughing into her
wing?
The pair of Canada geese,
flying low

over the flooded fields, keep-
ing
their equal distance.
Isn't pleased the saw-whet
owl stays in

the hole the downy wood-
pecker
carved for her until she's told
the danger has passed, it's
safe

to make her way out again,
to call
to her lover, who hid himself
in the branches, inside the
empty

abandoned nest?
Isn't thrilled, momentarily,
seeing the shadow of the red
-tailed

hawk, circling in ever closing
circles
dropping the vole in his
mouth,
his mask?

POSTONING SUGAR-
ON-SNOW PARTY BY
GARY MARGOLIS

Snow's gone before it's here.
The fields appear to leave.
March isn't considered to

be a staying month.
The geese know this without
knowing anything.

Overhearing what we're saying
as we're passing.
Speaking with our hands.

Moving our lips.
Synching with the wind.
Sounds that might sound

as if we're speaking alien,
an alien language.
Don't be surprised

when you see me taking
some air, as the settlers
used to say. If I use

my finger to write
on the road ice,
Good morning, Earthling.

Have a good day.
When you have to turn
around, head back

to your stay-inside house.
When the sap is running
by itself. The pails

and plastic tubing
overflowing. With
no one for a few months

coming out to boil it
off. Letting it turn into
snow's hard candy.

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT NEWS!

LFICD Spring Field Report/Field Coordinator/Biologist

April 10, 2020

Conditions have generally been drier than this time last year with the Lemon Fair River within its banks. The flooding of the Lemon Fair three weeks ago provided habitat for thousands of migrating waterfowl. As those waterfowl rest and feed, they are most likely feeding on those first snow melt mosquito larvae. Many of these waterfowl are continuing to latitudes North into Canada. I photographed a Canada Goose with a neck collar on 3/6/2020 and was able to get the numbers and report them to the North American Bird Banding Program. I received a certificate identifying that the bird was banded near Varennes, Quebec, Canada on 7/5/2016.



Once again, this exemplifies the importance of these flood plains and their role in the larger ecosystem. The Lemon Fair River flood plain was also host to 7 Swans on migration. I believe this is a first sighting for the LF.

There were several complaints that I was unable to respond to in the later part of the 2019 mosquito season. Your calls are important to us. I am in the process of contacting those individuals to set up visits on your properties this Spring before the foliage comes out. Being able to observe vernal puddles and other small bodies of water will help me to assess management strategies going forward. If you registered a complaint and don't hear from me in the next three weeks, please call me at 802-545-2847.

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED!

This time of year, I'm often asked, "What kind of a mosquito year are we going to have?" I honestly have to say, "I don't know." Some of the mosquitoes that inhabit the three towns may lay eggs that will remain dormant and viable for up to 6 or 7 years. It's not clear what triggers those hatches. However, intermittent rainfall, like we had last year (i.e., 1"/week for consecutive weeks) will promulgate local hatches next to homes with forested properties.

The LFICD has partnered with various Universities and colleges to offer internships to students pursuing careers in Field Biology. These are paying internships. The District can offer invaluable "boots on the ground" practical experience in this field. And the District will likewise benefit from the enthusiasm and dedication of continued learning and sharing of resources that students can bring to the District. We hope to welcome two new candidates this Spring and Summer to the work we provide for the three towns.

Social distancing has invited us to spend more time outside. This is good. There are already signs of Spring ephemerals (flowers) and more birds migrating north. Remember that male mosquitoes get their food from the nectar of flowers and are responsible for cross pollination. However, continue to remain diligent in protecting yourself from mosquito bites. Wear long sleeves, pants, a hat, and use insect repellent responsibly. Be safe and we'll be in touch.

Craig Zondag ~ LFICD Field Coordinator/Biologist

STATE TO INSTALL CENTERLINE RUMBLE STRIPS ON ROUTE 125 THROUGH CORNWALL!

The Agency of Transportation intends to install centerline rumble stripes (CLRS) along Vt. Rte. 125. The rumbles are a series of milled elements in the pavement to alert drivers through vibration that their vehicles have left the travel lane. The rumble stripes will be installed along the yellow pavement markings in the center of the roadway beginning at the intersection of Vt. Rte. 22A and Vt. Rte. 125 extending easterly along Vt. Rte. 125 for 7.51 miles through the town of Cornwall and ending at mile marker 0.29 in the town of Middlebury.

The Agency of Transportation has implemented a program to install CLRS on our State's highways because they are a proven strategy for reducing head-on and opposite direction sideswipe crashes. They are expected to be effective in reducing lane drift due to distracted/fatigued driving and in reducing speed and off-tracking in curved sections. CLRS are also expected to improve centerline visibility in wet pavement conditions and provide enhanced guidance during snow events.

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Be **SAFE** from coronavirus infection

Be **SMART** & inform yourself about it

Be **KIND** & support one another