



Cornwall Newsletter

General Election, Tuesday, November 6, 2012

I don't know how the rest of you feel, but October of a Presidential election year is just craziness here at the Town Clerk's office. It is made just a little crazier by the fact that the first installment of property taxes are due on November 1.

I just want to pass on some information so you won't miss any of the numerous deadlines coming up.

First, are you a registered voter in Cornwall??? This pretty much only applies to folks that have just moved into town or those of you who have just turned 18, or are about to turn 18. You MUST register to vote by 5 PM on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. After that deadline, you will not be able to vote in the election on November 6. If you

have registered through the DMV, and because that system is not the best system, I haven't received your paperwork, there is a form/affidavit that you can fill out and sign which will allow you to vote in the election. Please call me if you have any question about your voter registration status.

Second, absentee/early ballots are here and can be requested in any number of ways. You can call me and I will mail one to you, you could stop by and pick one up, someone can request one for you, but the ballot will be sent via the mail, you could email a request, but the ballot will be sent in the mail. The last time to request an absentee/early ballot is Monday, Novem-

ber 5 at 5PM. After that, even if you are ill or injured, you can not vote by absentee ballot. We can do curbside voting if it is difficult for you to get into the building. You can also request that a ballot be delivered to your home by two Justice's of the Peace.

Third, the polls will be open on Tuesday, November 6 from 7:00AM—7:00PM at the Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30. The phone number is 462-2775. Email address is cornwallvt@shoreham.net. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns. Sue

Coffee and Sometimes Goodies!!

Cornwall residents have talked about a gathering place for years now, pretty much since Longey's Store and then The Market closed. I am trying to create a gathering place at the town hall by providing coffee, tea and sometimes

donuts or cookies for those who dare to enter. The hope was that perhaps a few people would stop by and engage in a conversation, or you could use your laptop (the library has wifi), or you could peruse the library collection,

which includes DVD's and audio books. I am going to try it through the fall and winter and will report on the success or failure at Town Meeting 2013. Hope to see you along the way!!

Sue

Inside this issue:

Highway Dept., Planning Commission & Green Up	2
Conservation Commission, Civil War Talk	3
Selectboard Report, Poem by Gary Margolis	4
Cornwall School News, Poem by Gary Margolis	5
Library News	6
Chicken Pie Supper	7
The Salt Contamination Story	8

Special points of interest:

- *The coffee is on!*
- *General Election, November 6*
- *Property Taxes Due November 1*
- *Conservation Nursery offering FREE bare root trees*
- *A Civil War Relationship!*

Highway Department Report

So it was a good summer and so far a good fall. What's next, only time will tell!

Seems we spent an inordinate amount of time fixing the flood damage on Clark Road, and we're not done yet. After a fair amount of bureaucratic wrangling and machinations, we have a plan that makes everyone happy, I guess. It will involve tearing out what has been done and replacing it with one large tube. Whatever the critter is they think is moving up and down that brook that won't fit through a 5 foot culvert, I'm not sure. Doubt a moose will try even a 7 foot tube, but at least there is a plan.

The excavator has continued to work out well for both towns. Knowing that it is available most anytime has been great and not having to get things done in a given time window has helped.

By the time you are reading this, the rented mower will have come and gone, hopefully without incident or hostility.

The spraying program seems to be working. As with new things there is a learning curve. We're finding that timing is a big factor. Much of a training session recently attended was spent on this. So I need to budget time at certain times for better effect. Ironically, VTrans and the Dept. of Agriculture are pushing Best Management Practices (BMP's) for invasive species as part of the Integrated Roadside Vegetative Management Plans. Four years ago when we started this program, we were told to remove the invasive species aspect from our IRVMP with regard to spraying. Now they want it back, and they bought a hydro seeder, so they might be catching up.

The next thing it appears we will have to cope with yet again is the availability of quality road gravel. Pike has installed a new crusher/screening plant in New Haven which has eliminated the production or recovery of the fines that have been used to make the product we have been using nearly exclusively for several years. The sales department is scrambling to get the crusher dudes to figure out a plan as they're now out some 40K tons in sales. Kind of funny, like watching government work. So who knows what color the roads will be next spring.

Beyond that not much, Equipment's holding together, sand shed is full, we'll do a few more culverts here and there and a little ditching if we can....If not—then next year.

Stu

Green Up Coordinator Needed

Our current Green Up Coordinator, Dena Greenman, is interested in passing the torch to another Cornwall resident. Dena has performed the duties faithfully for the last few years and I am sure would be happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in taking over. Her phone number is 462-3574. You could also let Sue Johnson know if you have an interest. At least we know that when it is time

to Green Up again, the winter will have turned into spring (for those of you who are not lovers of winter).

**GREEN UP COORDINATOR
NEEDED!!!**



Planning Commission Report

Subdivision requests continue to be well below previous years –we have had only one since the July newsletter. However, the CPC has spent a great deal of time pulling together the update to the Town Plan and finally – at our September 19th meeting – we approved a draft Plan for public hearing.

The draft Plan will be available for review on the town's website and paper copies will be placed in the Town Hall. This should be accomplished by mid-October. A public hearing has been scheduled for the 14th of November at 7:00PM in the Town Hall. The hearing will provide a forum for townspeople to discuss and recommend changes to the Plan. After the public hearing, the CPC may amend the Plan and then move it to

the Selectboard, which will have another opportunity to discuss and amend the Plan. It is certainly not a short process but it does allow plenty of time for every citizen to provide input to the Plan.

We look forward to your participation at the public hearing.

Cornwall Planning Commission

Conservation Commission Report

Members of the Conservation Commission spent a good deal of time this summer working on ways to fund an inventory of the town's natural resources. One grant proposal was completed and others are in various stages of consideration. The CCC asked to have representatives from the Select Board and the Planning Commission join us in this effort and Abi Sessions and Jim Bolton volunteered to help. Bruce Hiland has also been providing assistance. Thanks to each of them.

The CCC is hoping to secure the majority of the cost for the Inventory through grants. Granting agencies often request that towns provide some matching funds. Therefore, it seems likely that the Conservation Commission will be asking the town for support at Town Meeting if it is successful in any of its applications.

Current CCC members include Marc Lapin, Lawrence Pyne, Mary Dodge, and Brian Howlett. Eric Mortenson is stepping down after several years on the

Commission. We would like to thank Eric for his past service. He has been a dedicated advocate for the use and protection of Douglas Pond. 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.

Marc Lapin & Mary Dodge

The Intervale Conservation Nursery is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to offer 12,000 **FREE bareroot trees** and shrubs for the spring and fall of 2013 for planting in preexisting riparian areas that are in need of enhancement or restocking. The goal of this program is to help build flood resiliency, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat.

Technical planning assistance will be provided for each project. The following are the eligibility requirements:

- The project must be within Vermont
- These trees are intended for preexisting riparian restoration projects that either need enhancement or complete replanting
- The ideal project will require at least 400 stems (please contact them even if you do not meet that requirement)

Application deadline is November 8, 2012. FREE planting services will be available for select projects, requiring 400 stems or greater.

For more information, contact Leah Szafranski at 802-872-0629 x 28 or Leah_Szafranski@fws.gov

Civil War Love Story From the Archives of the Henry Sheldon Museum

Continuing with meetings related to the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War, there will be a presentation on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 7PM at the Cornwall Town Hall. Refreshments will be served. The program for the evening is described in this way: From the archives of the Henry Sheldon Museum comes the Civil War story of George Howe and

Lorette Wolcott - both from Shoreham. Through their letters to each other, you can hear their stories as George becomes a soldier and Lorette stays at home to wait for his return. Please join us for this entertaining evening of history.

Cy Day Tall



Selectboard Report

The Select Board enters autumn with a reasonably clean plate. Since our last report we:

- Transferred title for the N. Bingham St. property to the CVFD for their rebuild of the W. Cornwall outpost;
- Appointed Liam English to fill the open Lister position, Geoff DeMong as Asst. Zoning Administrator and Raph Worrick to the Lemon Fair Insect Control District;
- Opened discussions with neighboring communities and local law enforcement re: speed control methods;
- Developed partial plans for removing the Lavalley structure;

- Discovered that the School District – not the Town – owns the old #5 Schoolhouse on S. Bingham St and so informed their board;
- Observed (from a safe distance) the Road Commissioner’s engagement with one Federal and two State bureaucracies in his effort to properly replace one damaged culvert on Clark Road. The good guy won.
- Attempted to help the Conservation Commission apply for a Municipal Planning Grant in the face of what appears to be a manifestly nonsensical bureaucratic impediment. The CCC will win.... eventually.
- Initiated yet another effort to find ways to reduce the continuing cost

of salt contamination from the old town shed.

The Better Middlebury Partnership (which serves not just Middlebury but all neighboring towns as well) is hosting a series of gatherings for “work-at-home” community members. The objective is to offer a chance to meet others not connected to traditional worksites and discuss shared needs and opportunities. Anyone interested in being invited should email Bruce Hiland at rbhiland@shoreham.net.

Turkey Feather in the Maple Tree Trunk

No one around, save
the scattering stones the wind
arranges. The wind is its own

mound. Most of the leaves keep
to themselves like arrows. Nuts
store in the heart, cave horses.

A feather is an arrow and a stone.
Wind carves a name on its own.
And water. Isn't a wing

an arrow, a light
nail? Who's around to say
how this feather nailed itself.

Found its wing in the heart
of the split trunk. Isn't love another
matter and a name? One day

we'll open. They used feathers
in the dark. Dark pens. Isn't a horse
a name scratched on a wall?

And that feather, spotted and striped,
sticking out of the maple
pointing us in the wind's direction.

Gary Margolis

News From the Cornwall School

Biking for Books

Sunday October 14, 1- 3pm

Please mark your calendar and get your bikes ready to ride! This year's Biking for Books will be held on Sunday, October 14 from 1 to 3pm. Students are encouraged to ask family and friends to sponsor them to raise money to buy books for the school library. Permission slips and sponsor sheets are in today's Home/School envelope. We appreciate your support for this major fundraiser. We need two volunteers willing to help with supervision and punching mileage cards. Call

Linda Kautzman, 247-8443 if you can help. Just a heads up, 1 mile of South Bingham Street will be closed during the Biking For Books Event.

Monarch Central

Third graders have been busy following several caterpillars through various stages of their life cycle. So far they have released two males and one female monarch. The butterfly pavilion continues to house a couple of milkweed munching caterpillars and about 15-20 chrysalises. The excitement of the week is that students had the very rare oppor-

tunity to watch a caterpillar metamorphose to the chrysalis stage - a truly amazing sight.

2nd Grade News

Second Graders are looking forward to a new calendar pattern for the month of October! We will be using different types of leaves in a pattern as we explore multiples of 3 and 4. As the month continues second graders should be able to explain the difference between palmate and pinnate veined leaves.

Raking Buddha's Leaves

And you came to the shade
of the Bodhi tree, here a maple.

To sit in the shade. To feel
the breath of your breathing.

To see your thoughts settle,
leaf by leaf. As if they had

nothing to say. As if they
weren't yours, but

the world's. What I'm
thinking, this afternoon,

raking a wind's worth
of maple leaves into

a pile for burning. What
could be called my mind.

If it weren't for the birds,
here a mouthful of cedar

waxwings, calling,
Master, our mouths are

empty.
Master, what are you

thinking?
We can't eat the leaves

of your thoughts?
We can't sit still

until we are full.
And isn't that what

the world's saying,
I think I hear the blue jay

shrieking, I think I see
in the leaves burning,

feeding the fire,
becoming what they were?

Gary Margolis

What's New at the Cornwall Free Public Library???

New books and DVDs have arrived! Come over to Town Hall and see the new selection of materials at the library **OR** look over the complete list at cornwallvt.com under the library menu item.

Here's a sampling of the new **FICTION** books.

Gone Girl – Gillian Flynn, *Broken Harbor* - Tana French,
The Time Keeper – Mitch Albom, *This Is How You Lose Her* – Junot Diaz,
Winter of the World – Ken Follett, *The Inn at Rose Harbor* – Debbie Macomber,
The Light Between Oceans – M. L. Stedman, *The Beautiful Mystery* – Louise Penny,
Black List – Brad Thor, *The Dog Stars* – Peter Heller,
Where'd You Go, Bernadette – Maria Semple,, *Beautiful Ruins* – Jess Walter,
Mission to Paris – Alan Furst, and *Delusion in Death* – J. D. Robb.

Is **NON FICTION** what you're interested in?

No Easy Day – Mark Owen, *The Amateur* – Edward Klein,
Why Does the World Exist – Jim Holt, *Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child* – Bob Spitz, *Cronkite* – Douglas Brinkley, and
Double Cross – Ben Macintyre are a few of the new titles.

DVDs

Yes, we have them too! *Marvel's The Avengers*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Lorax*,
Sherlock Holmes - A Game of Shadows, *Wrath of the Titans*, *21 Jump Street*,
The Lucky One, and *Big Miracle* are some of the new titles in our DVD collection.

New **CHILDREN** and **YOUNG ADULT** titles include:

Throne of Glass – Sarah J. Mass, *The Great Unexpected* – Sharon Creech,
About Average – Andrew Clements, *Artemis Fowl: The Last Guardian* – Eoin Colfer, and *Cold Fury* – T. M. Goeglein.

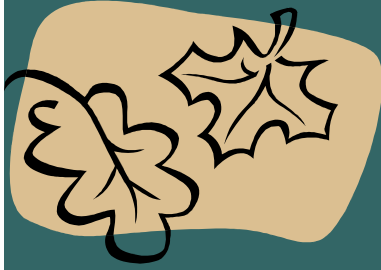
Do you prefer **AUDIO BOOKS**?

You can listen to *The Fallen Angel* – Daniel Silva, *Mission to Paris* – Alan Furst,
Death Comes to Pemberley – P.D. James, *Bring Up the Bodies* – Hilary Mantel,
and *The Witness* – Nora Roberts, which are the most recent titles added to the audio book collection.

And just a reminder - the Library always welcomes donations of books, audio books, and DVDs, new or used, and other materials. PLEASE remember, however, that we cannot use items that have mold or mildew on them, or ones that are in really bad condition. Donated materials will be entered into the collection or sold as part of our annual library book sale.

COME AND CHECK OUT THE NEW ADDITIONS AT THE LIBRARY! ENJOY A CUP OF COFFEE OR TEA WHILE YOU'RE HERE!

Patty McCormick, Library Trustee



Grab the gang and enjoy festive fall
foods at the

Cornwall Chicken Pie

Saturday, October 20
*at the Cornwall
Elementary School*

*Buffet-style seating
from 5 to 7 p.m.,
no reservations necessary*

Takeouts from 4 to 5 p.m. by
advance reservation
802.462.2170

CORNWALL CHICKEN PIE SUPPER SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 20

*Annual feed to take place at Cornwall
School with buffet-style service*

Cornwall, Vt.—Autumn's bounty of
the county will be featured again on
Saturday, October 20, at the annual
Cornwall Chicken Pie Supper.

The event will take place at its new
home, the multipurpose room of the
Cornwall Elementary School, and fea-

ture ongoing buffet service from 5 to 7
p.m. No reservations will be necessary.

In addition, gluten-free options will
be available for biscuits, pies and quick
breads.

Festive fall foods, locally grown and
made, will include chicken and bis-
cuits, cider, squash, potatoes, gravy,
quick breads and both apple and pump-
kin pies.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for chil-
dren 12 and under, and \$30 per family.
Highchairs and booster seats will be

\$10 adults
\$5 kids 12 & under
\$30 families
Highchairs & booster seats
Gluten-free
available

Special thanks to
the Cornwall School,
the Cornwall Congrega-
tional Church, local grow-
ers and suppliers, and all
the cooks who make the
biscuits, gravy, potatoes,
squash, quick breads,
relish and pies!

available.

Takeouts may be picked up between
4 and 5 p.m. Those wishing to take out
are asked to pre-order by calling 462-
2170.

Cornwall's Chicken Pie Supper is
staged by members and friends of the
Cornwall Congregational Church. For
more information please call Sue
Smithson at 388-7273 or Barb LaFram-
boise at 462-2461.

TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

We're on the Web
cornwallvt.com

The Long Saga of Salt Contamination at the Town Garage

As the Select Board continues to try to find a way to more effectively deal with the salt contamination problem at the Cornwall Town Garage, it seemed like a good opportunity to refresh memories and fill those in who are not aware of the situation. It also seemed like a reasonable way to ask for the community's help in solving this ongoing problem.

In the mid 1980's the town was made aware that the sodium and chloride levels in the town garage well and private wells of homes adjacent to the Town Garage were quite elevated. Engineers, consultants, attorneys and other professionals were brought in to study the case. It was felt that the ground water had been contaminated with road salt that was leaching out of the sand pile mixed with salt to prevent freezing, which was stored across from the current Town Garage for a number of years. The current sand/salt shed was constructed and the salt is now stored on a concrete slab. The solution that was worked out at the time was to pump the

water at the Town Garage, 24/7 to the Lemon Fair River. This involved installing a pipe from the garage to the Lemon Fair through the Town of Shoreham. The theory was that with the non stop pumping the saturation of the sodium would eventually be reduced enough to rectify the situation. Well... here we are about 25 years later. Still pumping 24/7 with no real resolution to the problem. Over the 25 years, the town has spent between \$300,000 and \$500,000 approximately (maybe more, I haven't done the complete calculation). This includes reduced taxes to those affected, new equipment periodically for pumping the water, electricity to pump the water 24/7, supplying drinking water, attorney's fees, the list goes on.

Over the years as various issues have come up in regard to the salt contamination, the town has enlisted the expertise and advice of professionals to determine if there is a better way to mitigate the situation. An automatic generator was

installed at the town garage to prevent the pump from shutting down when the power would go off. During the winter if the power was off for an extended period of time, the underground pipe would freeze and that would end the pumping until spring thaw. This resulted in high levels of sodium in the water at the town garage, and consequently the houses nearby. The town has also investigated installing reverse osmosis units, but this was not deemed prudent at the time. In the last couple years, the town has asked for advice from a Castleton College Professor, and most recently a Professor at Middlebury College, who is a new resident of Cornwall to review the case history and give suggestions for possible mitigation plans.

The hope is that new technology will aid in the mitigation of this perhaps man made, perhaps natural phenomenon that we continue to be faced with.

Sue Johnson