

Fall 2014

Special points of interest:

- **EEE found in Cornwall pool of mosquitoes**
- **Natural Resources survey moves forward**
- **Emergency preparedness information**
- **General Election November 4, 2014**
- **Property Taxes due November 1, 2014**

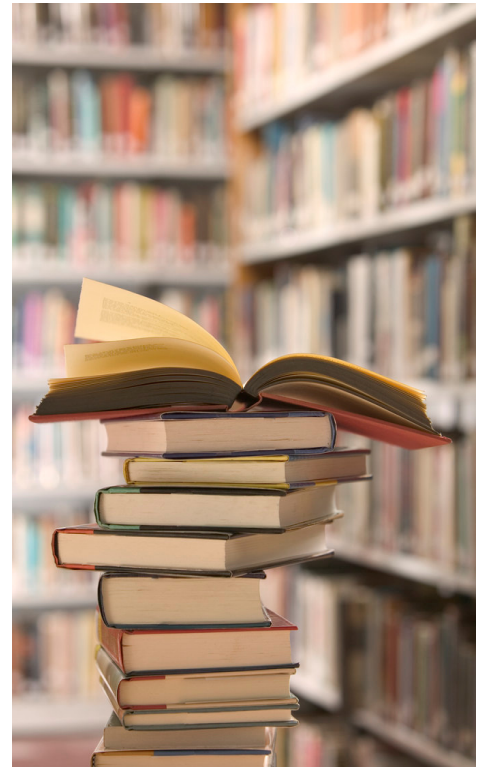
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Cornwall Newsletter

Cornwall Free Library Book Sale

Unfortunately, I am not sure that you will have this newsletter in hand before the book sale takes place on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. However, I wanted to let you know that the remaining books from the sale will be on display and available for purchase for the last two weeks of October, so if you didn't make it to the sale on the 18th, feel free to come in and browse around for some good reading for the winter months. Thanks to the Library Trustees for their help in setting up for the sale. A special thank you to Patty McCormick, who volunteers her time to sort your donations

and boxes them up in preparation for the sale. Thanks also to Peter McCormick and Alicia Romero for all of their help getting ready for the book sale. If I have missed thanking anyone in this Newsletter, I will make up for it in the next.



Mid Term General Election November 4, 2014

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The polls will be open at the Cornwall Town Hall from 7 AM–7 PM. If you are reasonably new to town or just turned 18, you should check to make sure you are registered to vote in Cornwall, if you plan to vote on the 4th. The deadline to register to vote in order to be able to vote on November 4th is Wednesday,

October 29, 2014 at 5:00 PM. After that, you can register but you will not be able to vote in the upcoming election.

Absentee/Early Voting ballots are available at the town hall during office hours. You can stop by and pick one up for yourself, you can call and request one and I will mail it to you or you can email me and request the ballot. I can

not email ballots to you unless you are in the military or overseas. You can request a ballot for a family member, but I can not hand you their ballot. I will mail it to them. There is still plenty of time to request ballots and to register to vote. Absentee ballots may be requested up until Monday, November 3, 2014 at 5:00 PM.



Road Commissioner's Report

Leaves are falling for crying out loud, seems it was just mud season. That said it was a pretty good summer. We got some more mitigation projects done on Galvin and DeLong Roads. Did some more stone lined ditches. The paving was done early so that was good for both vendor and town.

We tried a new version of an old road stabilizing dust control product. It seems to have worked well. The questions are whether its worth 25% more than the traditional product, or would using 25% more of the traditional product work as well. Part of the story



is we could get the Safebind product when there was a shortage of the straight calcium chloride. Another part of the equation is because the Safebind is messier it requires a bit more

attention to get it incorporated sooner. At this point I suspect we'll continue to use the Safebind on the hills and heavier traffic roads.

So looking ahead to win...wint....winter. Salt prices are up 23% from last year and they are making no bones about it...that supplies will be very tight even if we have a normal winter—nationwide. Last year's winter wiped out all the stock piles from which there is usually some carry over. And while production is and has been high, they have not caught up to recreate the stock piles. That combined with some business management decisions made by the railroads moving the salt makes us concerned about getting the salt we need when we need it. So that could mean some challenges driving later this winter. Check your tires...winter tires.

Following up on the salt theme, the leading recommendation to deal with this supply issue is to have more storage on site. We can hold 3 of the typical 10 loads used each year. I will be asking the Capital Committee to include increasing the salt storage capacity. Problem is, it will be hard to consider that without a discussion about the sand shed. Despite the deteriorated structural integrity of the concrete walls, I'm not sure I

want to go there yet. We'll be looking at options through the winter.

So what's left for this fall? We'll be doing a few more culverts on North Bingham, South Bingham and Morse Roads, so watch for signs and the Cornwall Connection. We'll be hitting the rough spots and potholes but at this point most of the roads are still pretty hard re: paragraph 2 of this article about effective stabilization. The rental mower will be here the first week of November and thereabouts I'd hope to get after the dead trees around and other problem spots.

I guess it wouldn't be the fall newsletter without me harping about mailboxes. I would encourage you to deal with your wimpy mailbox post before the ground freezes. They're supposed to be 42" to the bottom and 2' off the travelled lane. And by rights you should call dig safe before digging.

So beyond that we will be transitioning men and equipment to winter mode and see what Mother Nature dishes up.
Stu

Season Two, Episode Six by Gary Margolis

Lady Grantham doesn't succumb to the Spanish flu. She's American as all get-out, sweating through her English make-up. Lavinia, in the other room, is dying in time, to release Michael, her fiancée, to his war. To our hope

he and Mary, doomed at birth, will at least undress each other, if not marry. So we, my love, m'lady, watching from our high-def room, will have more than enough love to look forward to next season. Will still love to guess

who's sneaking out of whose chambers. Who the writers will write out of their own stations. Whose heart

will need to be broken, instead of ours, instead of those tarts in Mrs. Patmore's apron.

Cornwall Free Public Library News

Support Your Library

We're making the most of what we have! Here at the Cornwall Library, we are very proud of our selection of the latest novels and non-fiction titles, children's books, audio books, and popular DVDs... and we are able to do it all with a very meager budget. The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury helps us by extending a discount, of which we are VERY appreciative! But, if we had just a little more to work with... hence our appeal to you for a donation to supplement our operating funds. Small, medium or large donations would be gratefully accepted by our all-volunteer staff, and put right to work filling our shelves with additional titles. Make checks payable to the Cornwall Free Public Library... and thank you!

The Book Sale Is Coming!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 18th! It's the Cornwall Library Book Sale! Don't miss this collection of gently used books and audiovisual materials – all at bargain prices! This is the perfect time to stock up on winter reading books. What's better than settling in with a good book during those cold winter 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. Prices range from \$.50 to \$2.00.

Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the library shelves with new releases purchased from the Vermont Book Shop in downtown Middlebury. Come early for the best selection, but for those who wait, once the clock strikes **ONE** the **BAG SALE** begins. Fill a bag with books for only \$4.00. Come check it out!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New additions to the library shelves await Cornwall residents for your reading pleasure! If you haven't stopped by the library lately, drop in and check our always changing selection of books, audio books, and DVDs. Or, look over the complete list of new materials on our website – cornwallvt.com under the library drop down box. This is updated on a regular basis so you will find all of our current materials there.

Below is a **sampling** of recent additions.

FICTION

Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands - Chris Bohjalian, **Painted Horses** - Malcolm Brooks, **Personal** - Lee Child, **The Bone Orchard** - Paul Doiron, **The Secret Place** - Tana French, **The Silkworm** - Robert Gailbraith, **Tom Clancy Support and Defend** - Mark Greaney, **The Magician's Land** - Lev Grossman, **The Book of Life** - Deborah Harkness, **Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good** - Jan Karon, **The Bone Clocks** - David Mitchell, **Big Little Lies** - Liane Moriarty, **Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage** - Haruki Murakami, **The Long Way Home** - Louise Penny, **The Heist** - Daniel Silva, **We Are Not Ourselves** - Matthew Thomas, **Act of War** - Brad Thor

NON FICTION

Hard Choices - Hillary Clinton, **A Spy Among Friends** - Ben Macintyre, **What If?** - Randall Munroe, **In the Kingdom of Ice** - Hampton Sides

YOUNG ADULT

The Eye of Minds - James Dashner, **Where She Went** - Gayle Forman

CHILDREN

Frostborn (Thrones and Bones) - Lou Anders, **Rosie Revere Engineer** - Andrea Beaty, **Bad Kitty Drawn to Trouble** - Nick Bruel, **Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes** - James Dean, **Out of My Mind** - Sharon M. Draper, **Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library** - Chris Grabenstein, **Skies Like These** - Tess Hilmo, **The Fourteenth Goldfish** - Jennifer Holm, **Have You Seen My Dragon?** - Steve Light, **Greenglass House** - Kate Milford, **This Is A Moose** - Richard T. Morris, **Percy Jackson's Greek Gods** - Rick Riordan

AUDIO BOOKS

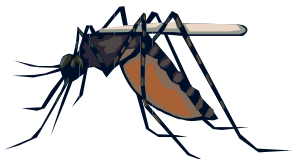
Three Jack Reacher Novellas: Deep Down, Second Son, and High Heat - Lee Child, **Big Little Lies** - Liane Moriarty, **Invisible** - James Patterson, **Act of War** - Brad Thor, **Frozen In Time** - Mitchell Zuckoff

DVDs

The Amazing Spider-Man 2, Before Midnight, Divergent, Enough Said, The Fault In Our Stars, Godzilla, Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, Labor Day, Lone Survivor, Non-Stop, Rio 2



*Continue to avoid
getting mosquito
bites until we get
that first killing
frost!*



Lemon Fair Insect Control District News

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District was founded in 2006 and surveys the towns of Cornwall, Bridport and Weybridge for "flood plain" mosquito larva and treats with larvicide when needed. On October 8, the Vermont Department of Health found EEE positive pools of mosquitoes ("Culiseta Melanura" species) in Cornwall. In the past, any resulting treatment has come from the state in the form of aerial adulticide. Larvicide has proven to be ineffective in going after this particular species.

Members of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District ("LFICD") met with the Cornwall Select Board on July 1 to discuss selling the district's airplane (1973 Cessna). We subsequently met with Bridport Select Board on the same topic on July 14. The reason we are exploring this possibility is increased fixed costs (e.g. annual fixed

costs including insurance have doubled to between \$25,000 and \$30,000) with little or no usage and reimbursement revenue from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture ("VAA") over the last 2 seasons (none in 2014!). Both Select Boards understand our concerns and are supportive. As of the date of this writing (October 15) we have not sold the plane but are actively seeking offers. We are also discussing with the VAA the potential use of two 3rd party aerial applicators licensed for aerial larvicide application in VT (JBI Helicopter Service, Pembroke, NH and/or Rebecca Air, Livingston, NY) in the event we need aerial larviciding service in future years. As noted, our dipping efforts in 2014 found that we did not have sufficiently high levels of mosquito larva to warrant aerial treatment. We hand-treated in the few incidents where we

found concentrated mosquito larva in the Lemon Fair.

Cornwall board members: David Dodge (Chair), Lew Castle (Vice Chair), Chris Chapline (Secretary). Bridport board members: Dinah Bain (Treasurer), Chuck Burkins, Rusty Sherman. Rusty has announced his resignation from the board later this year. We thank Rusty for all his time and effort on behalf of the LFICD. We are actively looking for a Bridport replacement. Weybridge's representative to the LFICD is Melissa Laurie. Our field coordinators are Craig Zondag and Judd Markowski who diligently surveyed the waters of the Lemon Fair and treated when necessary. We are most thankful for their slogging through the Lemon Fair flood plain particularly during some hot humid days last summer.

Just a follow up to the Cornwall Connection message I put out a few days ago about the recent mosquito pool testing positive in Cornwall for EEE. Erica Berl of the Department of Health reminds us all that we must still be mindful of avoiding mosquito bites even in the fall months. The mosquitoes will be active until there is a major killing frost. Be vigilant.

Selectboard Report

The Selectboard has spent the summer months focusing on several on-going issues.

First, and foremost, is the VTGas/International Paper (Phase 2) pipeline issue which continues to play out in the regulatory process. The Selectboard continues its dual efforts to oppose the Public Service Board's issuance of a Certificate of Public Good while, at the same time, attempting to engage VTGas and/or IP in a meaningful discussion so that, if the project is approved, Cornwall is treated as well as possible.

Second, has been the issue of an enforceable dog ordinance which has entailed a great deal of investigation including discussions with Middlebury town officials and Cornwall's town attorney (thank you, Dave Sears); Sue Johnson's attendance at a workshop on Municipal Dog control; and a public discussion of the ordinance issues at the September 2nd Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard will revisit the issue at its October 21st meeting.

Third, is the "salt issue" which refers to the issue of excess salt affecting the wells at the Town Garage and neighboring properties and on-going mitigation efforts since 1985. The results of the latest water test, done April 1, continue to reflect high salt levels which presumably reflect the fact that there has been no pumping since January when the pipes froze. John Roberts, who chairs an ad hoc committee on this issue, addressed the Selectboard at its September 16th meeting. John gave a brief overview of the issue and the mitigation efforts to date. After that presentation, the Board, the Town Clerk and the Road Commissioner discussed various options for next steps. Sue Johnson has been asked to calculate the on-going yearly cost of the salt mitigation efforts and to forward to Jim Carroll all of the relevant files so that the Selectboard can understand both the costs and legal considerations as it continues its deliberations on this matter. Many thanks to John for his chairmanship of the salt committee.

Fourth, the La Valley property...At the April 1st meeting, Joan Lynch presented a blueprint for improvement to the space just south of Town Hall formerly filled by LaValley Store. The blueprint included landscaping plans in addition to

picnic tables, other facilities for public use, etc. Further development of those plans and their implementation have been put on hold pending deliberations of the Capital Budgeting Committee which is considering the potential need to expand the Town Hall. Any expansion/renovation to the Town Hall would severely disrupt the area. Therefore it was decided that it would be impractical to go forward with any landscaping plans until after construction was completed. Thanks to both Joan and Krissa Bolton for their leadership on this project.

Finally, as previously reported, Abi Sessions has resigned from the Selectboard in order to devote all of her considerable energies and talent to serving as the Cornwall School's interim principal. The Board accepted her resignation with regret recognizing her valuable contribution to the Selectboard and service to Cornwall. Magna Dodge has been appointed to fill the vacant position until the next election at March's Town Meeting.

Conservation Commission Report

Starting in early June, Brett Engstrom, the town's ecological consultant, began a series of field visits to sites in Cornwall as he collects information for the inventory of the town's natural resources. Brett is documenting existing vegetation in places that his prior research had suggested were most likely to contain significant natural features.

At our last CC meeting, he shared with the Commission some of the results of his work, noting that he had visited several very interesting sites with old, relatively-undisturbed blocks of forest and wetlands. They have vegetation patterns that were common in Cornwall forests a hundred years ago, host old growth trees, and are surprisingly free of invasive species. Brett will be reporting his findings in the spring in a written report supplemented with updated GIS files. He will also present his findings at a public meeting for residents.

In addition to obtaining landowner permissions for Brett's field visits, the CC has also been working with the Planning Commission to assist in their review of subdivision applications.

Recently the US Forest Service announced that applications are being accepted for the Community Forest Grant Program. This initiative provides funding for local governments to create and maintain community forests. Applicants need to define the benefit to their community that would result from a community forest. They can receive up to \$400,000 in financial assistance, but will be paid only up to 50% of the project cost. A 50% non-federal match is required. Public access is required. Full fee title acquisition is required and conservation easements are not eligible. As we learn more about our town's natural features, this may be something that Cornwall would like to consider in the future.

Commission members are Marc Lapin and Mary Dodge (co-chairs), Brian Howlett, Michael Sheridan, Bethany Barry Menkart, and René Langis. We are happy to respond to conservation and education questions or to requests.

Emergency Management Network News

Emergency Information Systems

The State has been working for years on expanding the ways in which “consumers” can receive Emergency and Critical Information Alerts. There’s also been a variety of efforts to encourage people with special medical or mobility issues to share those details with responders, without compromising privacy. There are now two, relatively new, ways to obtain, and share information, in addition to Cornwall Connection and other sources we have in place.

VT-Alert

VT-Alert a Emergency Notification service with broad selections of types of messages (weather, amber alerts, state notices), geographical areas (town, county, state, map selection), and methods of notification (land line, cell, email, text,), as well as web-based news and links.

The levels of customization are extensive, and I actually recommend adjusting them periodically until you receive the alerts you actually want. Given the (fortunately) relative lack of alerts, it may take some time to, 1. know that you are subscribed, 2. figure out what you want to get messages about.

You set up a user account online, and manage your notice preferences from within. If someone is interested in getting land line alerts, and doesn’t have internet access, there’s the ability for someone to set up as Friends/Family, and add others’ numbers to the alerts. There’s also an option if one doesn’t have an email account.

If you want to see what it’s like before committing, I’ve set up a mock account so you can go in and see how it’s set up. The only actual notification “alert” is by email to the Cornwall’s “gmail” account, so you won’t do any damage (knock-on-virtual-wood).

The main website is <http://www.VT-Alert.gov/>.

To log on and explore:

Sign In: <https://users.VT-Alert.gov>

User Email: townofcornwall1761@gmail.com

Password (lower case): cornwall

Citizens Assistance Registration for Emergencies (CARE)

The second, more recent, initiative is related to the identification of any personal needs someone might have, as relates to medical/fire/police assistance, and disaster responses such as evacuation or shelter-in-place orders. This has been developed by the United Way of Vermont and Vermont-211, with implementation by VT E-911.

The “registration” is a simple one page form: check mark if you or a household member have mobility issues, need a translator, require assistive devices, etc. The information is tied to your E911 location address, but is only accessible to E911 call-takers. If a 9-1-1 call comes from your house, a marker will be visible to the Call-taker/Dispatcher, indicating that there are additional circumstances present. If those needs are relevant to that emergency call, only then will the details be used to assist responders. The information is kept in the database for a year, and must be resubmitted annually.

Copies of the form are available at our Town Hall, on the Emergency Management bookshelf on the left. A download-and-print copy is online at the VT E911 site: <http://e911.vermont.gov/care>, or you can call Vermont-2-1-1.

Local Communications

Front Porch Forum is a great place to share information, options, resources, and find lost pets. While I believe the Wizards Behind the Curtains would make every effort to post emergency information as quickly as possible, that’s a lot to ask when they are managing the huge number of forums they have.

In most cases, we will continue to use the **Cornwall Connection** to disseminate information about a local incident. We are still encouraging folks to sign up for the email list. One “disaster preparedness” step is to have a friend/family, out of the area, be a designated contact for your family locally. Invite an out-of-town person to subscribe to the Cornwall Connection, so they know what’s going on here, or who to contact if they can’t reach you.

The other local resource is our reverse-link with **Vermont 2-1-1**. If we’re experiencing a significant incident in town, whether an anticipated snow fall, or unexpected calamity, we will notify Vermont 211 of any shelter facilities, significant/long-term road damages, expected power-outage times; and other locally-specific, but general details like those.

Dial 2-1-1 and ask for “Cornwall Updates.” We urge people to call Vermont-211 first, for that type of information. If we can divert some information calls, it will help reduce everyone’s busy-signal when calling Town Hall.

And finally, your really local contacts remain: Town Clerk’s, 462-2775; Town Garage, 462-2752, Emergency Manager, 462-2182; listen to additional information on answering machines if no one answers.

So now that you have your list of resources, pull out last year’s list of winter preparation, start filling those water jugs, and get ready for the big freeze...

Jerusalem Still by Gary Margolis

Have you ever tried to erase a bed	Wouldn't need your war of shovels	sweeter than the dirt alone.
of Jerusalem artichokes?	and picks. Any word to compare	Knew, after he boiled it, someday
Scythe down their stalks?	this to this. Too many of a good thing.	we wouldn't be able to drink enough
Take them out at their roots?	Even their top-of-the stem	of it, God's overrunning brandy.
Believe you could drone their bulbs,	yellow flowering. Which is more	We would have to lay down our shovels
not leave one to divide	daisy-like than any flower found	and picks, if we wanted to stand up.
and divide, conquer the ground?	in Jerusalem next to a wall.	
Rented a machine to grind, till where you thought they lived?	Our Samuel de Champlain, in what became Vermont,	
So a wall of them wouldn't arise	realized when he bit into one	
again and again at the be- ginning,	and knew his king would appreciate	
at the end of the year.	its artichoke-taste,	

May's Walking Cure

By Gary Margolis

My neighbor's walking like a
maple branch.
At least he's walking after
surgery. Slowly
enough for black birds to take
him

for a fence post, for a branch.
He's afraid
to stop for fear he won't start
again.
Too many birds will land and
make a standing

tree of him. His surgeon did-
n't predict
we'd have to pass like this.
Checking in
as we're going. Saying *hello*
over our shoulders.

Branching out, you could say,
to speak
without stopping. I wouldn't
want him
to have to wave, *to lift a finger*,
my mother

would say, when she said it
was my turn
to rake the leaves, clear the
dead branches,
drag them to our autumn
pile.

I keep my hand in my jacket
pocket
for my friend. Storing my
urge to wave.
I don't want him doing any-
thing too early,

against orders, anything the
wind can do
to a walking maple branch.
Twisting and
turning, waving back to my
going.

Current Vacancies for both Elected and Appointed Town Officials

Just wanted to give everyone an update on the vacancies that cur- rently exist on the various boards, commissions and committees in town. Any appointments to any of these boards will be for the few months until Town Meeting 2015. At that time if you would like to continue in the position, you could run for the office or ask to be appointed to the position.	The openings that I am aware of currently are:	Grand Juror—1 vacancy
	Planning Commission—1 vacancy	The Fence Viewer and Grand Juror positions are name only, and generally do not have any specific duties.
	Trustee's of Public Funds—1 va- cancy	The other positions are very im- portant parts of town government, so please consider your interest carefully.
	Cemetery Commission—1 vacancy	
	Library Trustee—1 vacancy	
	Fence Viewer—1 vacancy	

TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

We're on the Web!

www.cornwallvt.com

November 1, 2014 1st Installment of Property Taxes Due!

The office will be open Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM



Another six months have come and gone and the town will be collecting property taxes again on Saturday, November 1, 2014.

YES, the office will be open on Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. Of course, the office will be open normal hours the week leading up to the first of November. Those hours are Tuesday—Friday, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM. The town does accept postmarks, so you can mail your payment as late as Saturday, November 1, 2014.

Once I believe all the postmarked payments have been received, those that have not made their 1st

installment will receive a late notice from the Treasurer, which will include the 1% interest fee as voted at the last Town Meeting. The town does not accept credit or debit cards at this time. I am considering the possibility, however, in order to avoid any fees to the town, the cardholder will be assessed a fee. I haven't done enough research to find out what that fee would be, but will be looking into the possibility over the next 6 months.

The Select Board, Town Treasurer and Road Commissioner will be starting the budgeting process for the next Fiscal Year in Novem-

ber. We encourage anyone with interest to be part of the process. It is helpful to us to know what folks are thinking about our town budgets. Selectboard meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Have a splendid fall season and we will hope for a moderate winter. Next newsletter will be done at the end of December, beginning of January.

Sue