

Cornwall Newsletter

T O W N O F C O R N W A L L

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Town wide reappraisal starts in mid July.
- Vote Tabulator information.
- Dog Ordinance adopted.
- Swamp Road will be paved this summer.
- Town Hall renovations underway.
- Doris Severy has Town Report booklets from 1951 to 2007 if anyone is interested in acquiring them.

TOWN WIDE REAPPRAISAL STARTS IN MID JULY!

The Cornwall town-wide reappraisal will begin on July 15th. APAS Appraisers will be completing exterior and interior inspections in the coming weeks. Inspections will generally be performed on each Tuesday, until completion in early 2009.

The APAS appraisers are Ed Clodfelter, Chris Rockwood and Claude Rainville. They will have identification.

If no one is at home at the time of inspection, the house exterior will be inspected and a card left indicating that APAS was there. Homeowners can call the Lister's Office at (802) 462-3386 to arrange an appointment scheduling an interior inspection. Please call with any questions or concerns.

Paul Viko

Leo Audet

John Montagne

TAX RATE INFORMATION

The Town recently received the education tax rate numbers from the State of Vermont Department of Taxes. They are as follows: Homestead Rate: 1.9604, compared to 1.6648 last year (about a .30 increase) and Non-Residential Rate: 1.8894, compared to 1.5455 last year (about a .34 increase). The preliminary calculation for the municipal rate puts it around \$.44.

So, the approximate Homestead rate is \$2.4004, and the approximate Non-residential rate is \$2.3294. As you may notice, Cornwall's Non-residential rate is coming closer to our Homestead rate. This has not been the case since the inception of ACT 60, we have always been one of the towns where the Homestead rate was much higher than the Non-residential rate. I wanted to give those who read the newsletter a heads up on the tax rate, remembering that the Select Board has not yet voted to approve the municipal rate, and there isn't much we can do about the Education rates. Also remember that we are being "penalized" for a very low CLA at 71.98% and our spending per student is \$13,316 vs. the average for VT at \$11,548. These two items have a significant impact on the Education tax rate. As in past years, the Select Board will approve the municipal tax rate in early in July and the tax bills will be mailed on August 1, 2008. In the meantime, I can try to answer questions about this, please feel free to give a call.

Sue Johnson, Clerk—Treasurer

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INFORMATION ON THE VOTE TABULATOR

I have attended my first training on the use of the vote tabulator. We will be using the tabulator for the State Primary in September and the General Election in November. The first and most important thing I learned at the training is that it would be very difficult (virtually impossible) to tamper with the data card that is inserted in the machine which allows the actual counting of the ballots. This card is received, tested, and then sealed into the machine in preparation for the election. A key is required to access the function keys on the tabulator, so it will be impossible for anyone

without the key to override or tamper with the machine. Once the election is closed at 7:00 PM, there will be a preliminary result immediately. The final result will be pending the hand counting of write in votes. As of today, I have received the ballot box, but have not taken receipt of the actual tabulator. LHS personnel will hand deliver the tabulator and test it to make sure it works properly. I have copied a sample ballot below for you to take a look at. You will be responsible for marking the oval next to the candidate of your choice. If you wish to write in a candidate, you simply need to

mark the oval next to write in and write in the candidates name. If you vote for more than one candidate in a race that calls for only one vote, the tabulator will not accept your ballot and it will tell us why the ballot was not accepted so you can be given a clean ballot and vote again. If you wish to let it go through, we can override the machine to accept the ballot as voted, knowing that the race in which you voted for two candidates will not be counted. The machine will sort the ballots into two compartments, one with pure ballots (no write ins) and one with write in votes, so at the

end of the evening it will be very easy to tally the write ins. I decided to do both elections so I could have an election under my belt before the very critical election in November. The tabulator has battery back up, should the power fail, although we won't have any lights, so it might be tricky seeing the ballot anyway. Essentially the voting process for you the voter will not change at all, you will mark a ballot and deposit the ballot into the machine, no folding, no jamming!!!!!!

THOUGHTS FROM THE SELECT BOARD

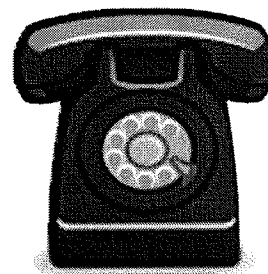


Early in May there were several bear sightings in yards on Cider Mill Road, Delong Road and elsewhere in town. It is suggested that any suet or bird feed that you might have out be brought in to discourage the bears from choosing your yard as a food source.

The Emergency Manage-

ment Network continues to meet monthly and one of the areas of concern in the case of a power outage is the fact that many people now rely on portable phones that generally use power to function. The suggestion to all is to make sure that you have at least one phone that does not rely on electricity to function. Some of the portable phones do come with battery back up which is fine,

otherwise a traditional phone that simply plugs into a regular phone jack will do the trick.



ACRPC ALTERNATE IS NEEDED

What with the recent retirement of Don Shall and Annie Wilson from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Cornwall has appointed several new members to the Commission.

Ralph Teitscheid and Mary Dodge are serving as our delegates to the Commission and Marjorie Drexler continues as an alternate. Cornwall is allotted 4 slots on the commission, two delegates and two alternates. The alternates serve if and when the delegates can not be present at a meeting. The Select Board is looking for an interested townsperson to serve as our second alternate to the Commission. Please feel free to con-

tact any of the Selectors or any of the current ACRPC delegates to obtain more information about the position.

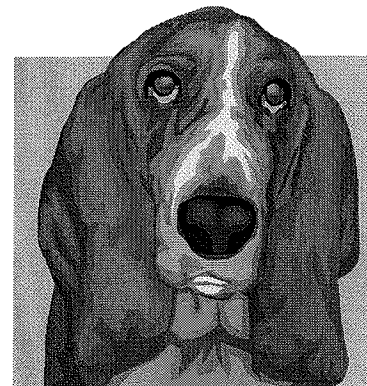
*The Select Board
is looking for a
second alternate to
the Addison
County Regional
Planning
Commission.*

DOG ORDINANCE ADOPTED

A Dog Ordinance for the Town of Cornwall was adopted by the Select Board on June 17, 2008. The full text of this ordinance is available at the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours (Tuesday–Friday 9 AM–5 PM) and on the website www.cornwall.govoffice2.com. The following is a summary of the provision of the ordinance: Section 1: Definitions; Section 2: Prohibitions; Section 3: Enforcement; Section 4: Release of Dog from Pound; Section 5: Impoundment Fees and Charges; Section 6: Penalties; Section 7: Waiver Fee; Section 8: Civil Penalties; Section 9: Other Relief; Section 10: Severability; Section 11: Notice; Section 12: Effective date.

The ordinance shall become effective 60 days after the date of its adoption (August 16, 2008) unless a petition for a vote on the ordinance at an annual or special meeting is received within 44 days of its adoption. Anyone having any questions may call Sue Johnson at 462-2775.

Cornwall Select Board: Bob Gerlin, Chair; Joe Severy; Mike Quesnel; "T" Tall and Nancy Kemp



CHANGING OF THE GUARD ON THE CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION

Norm Weiner has resigned from the Planning Commission as the result of his wife, Laura, accepting a new professorship at Duke University. Norm, a local architect, was most helpful in the process of drafting the recent amendments to the Zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations. His keen insight and competence will be sorely missed. We extend our best wishes to Norm and his family and wish

them good health and happiness in North Carolina.

Geoff DeMong was appointed by the Select Board to complete Norm Weiner's unexpired term on the Planning Commission. Geoff, a graduate of Middlebury College, is a local contractor who has lived in the area for many years. The CPC welcomes him as their newest member.

The Cornwall Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the third Wednesday of each month. Applications to come before the CPC can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. Free copies of the Town Plan, Subdivision regulations and Zoning Bylaws are also available at the Town Clerk's office.



Changing of the Guard!!

CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Cornwall Conservation Commission has been working on two activities over the past several months. We have continued to work with High School environmental science students conducting service projects at Douglas Pond. Additionally, we have been providing conservation advice to the Planning Commission. The next item that we will add to our active list is to secure funds to contract an inventory and assessment of the Town's

natural resources. Cornwall has never had a comprehensive, systematic assessment, and the Town Plan recognizes the need for one. We will be working with the Select Board and with state grants programs with the hope that we can obtain funding and begin inventory in late winter or early spring 2009. Once this gets rolling, we will be calling on town residents to add their knowledge of the landscape and natural resources to the

inventory and assessment effort. On a final note, we do have a vacancy on the commission; if you are interested in serving please contact Marc Lapin, lapin@middlebury.edu <<mailto:lapin@middlebury.edu>>.

GREEN UP DAY MAY 3, 2008

We had another successful Green Up day in Cornwall, albeit a little wetter than the last. Thank you to all who came out in their slickers and boots on Saturday as well as the early birders and those who found time on Sunday to green up. By Monday morning both trucks were full. We

weighed in with .84 ton of solid waste, one cubic yard of scrap metal and 12 tires. Next year let's gun for an even ton!

Vanessa Wolff
Green Up Day Coordinator



CORNWALL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

There are several things to mention in this newsletter that folks need to be looking forward to, some good, some not so much.

Cornwall did receive the much coveted Class II Roadway Resurfacing grant.

This will allow us to proceed with the stabilization and paving of the remaining gravel section of the Swamp Road. We are vigorously trying to schedule this work so as to coincide with the completion of the covered bridge project which is presently anticipated to be middle to late July. As part of the stabilization process, after the cement is incorporated, final grading and compaction completed, traffic should be kept off it for 3–5 days. Then the paving will begin and due to the lay of the land, so to speak, the road will need to be closed during that process as well. So obviously getting the project done while the bridge is closed will be advantageous and less aggravating to all.

Mowing is underway. We will make a first pass all around town and clean up intersections then we'll start working at mowing back as time and other projects allow.

The resurfacing of James Road and the north end of Cider Mill Road has been completed. For the

most part chloride has been applied where planned. The preferred gravel has not been available much of this spring, so we have not been able to do as much resurfacing as was hoped, but we're way out of money anyway.

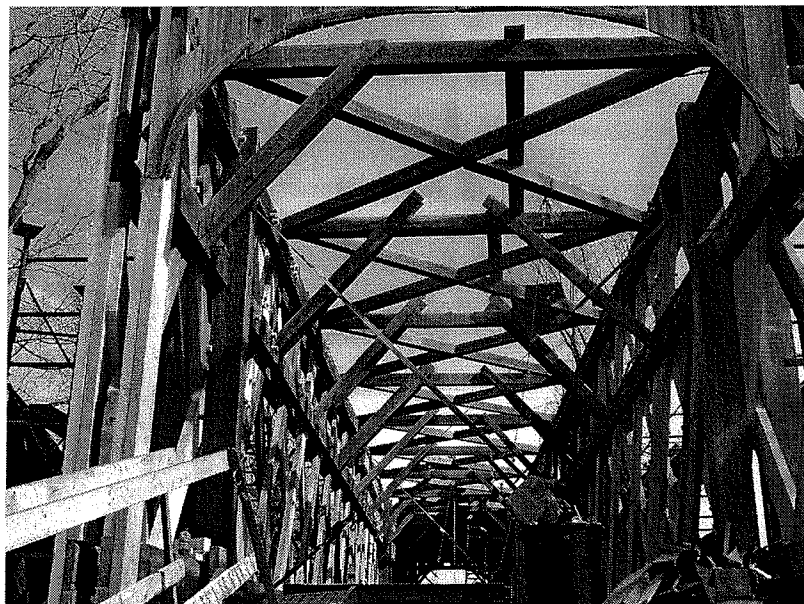
I'll use that downer as a segue to the not so good stuff. No one needs to be told about fuel costs, but a heads up as to what else is affected is in order. As of July 1, gravel—up 7%, Chloride—10% with surcharge for delivery, and the biggy—salt up 13% with a delivery surcharge. Speaking of salt, there have been several meetings around the state and locally regarding salt availability and the situation we found ourselves in last year. Everyone will agree last winter was unusual and I'll add could've been worse. Believe it or not, we got a few breaks when we had no salt. The supplier and distributor tells us it was just an unusual winter, they are not going to do anything different and chances are everything will be cool, pun intended. Well this has most road managers nervous and we're scrambling for ideas as to how to prepare for a repeat. Most of us are skeptical of the ability to replenish

stockpiles when there is a high demand. Most towns, us included, have already filled their sheds, partly to beat the price increase, but also to allow more storage in state before the winter season begins.

So what's that all mean to you? There may have to be some adjustments made in the way we use salt. Not just Cornwall, but everyone, other towns, VTrans for sure, which may mean poorer driving conditions more often. May I suggest you start thinking now about real winter tires for your vehicles especially if you travel at off peak hours. I'm not talking all season—Florida winter treads here, we're talking traction tires maybe with studs. Look into a second set of rims to save changing the tires twice a year.

Talking about snow tires and salt in July, you're probably wondering about my mental status. Well, I do have moments, but thinking down the road and investigating new techniques, products, cooperative purchases is what is being done by most of the road crews in the county and beyond to provide the best cost effective service we can. It will be a challenge with

the increases we're expecting. On that happy note, have a good summer.



LOOK OUT FOR LYME DISEASE!

"The following article about Lyme Disease was written by Kristin Bolton (Cornwall resident) and originally appeared in the newsletter of the Middlebury Natural Foods CO-OP. It is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

"Lyme Disease is in Vermont! It's transmitted by (black legged) deer

ticks, which are active whenever the temperature gets above 40 degrees.

May through October are prime tick times, but ticks can be active during winter thaws too. Deer ticks are small, and can transmit the disease both as adults and

"babies" (nymphs) which can be as small as a pin prick. Deer ticks can also carry other diseases.

Lyme disease, when caught early, can be easily cured. When it is not detected until later, it causes chronic illness affecting different areas of the body: joints, skin, the immune system, and the nervous system, including the eyes, ears and brain. It's complicated and expensive to treat at this stage, and very difficult to eradicate. Lyme Disease can have devastating effects on children, particularly since

they can't explain the symptoms of malaise that are the early warning signs.

Preventing Lyme Disease
DEET is only slightly protective against ticks and it's toxic to young children. Alternative "herbal" sprays are probably not protective at all against ticks. Cutter makes a product with an EPA-approved, safer DEET alternative called picaridin. You can also treat your outside clothes and boots with a permethrin spray, which kills ticks on contact. Using a tick spray alone is not enough to prevent Lyme Disease: avoid tick infested areas, wear protective clothing, and do tick checks.

Mice, squirrels and chipmunks, as well as deer, carry ticks, and so you'll find ticks where you find the deer and rodents: among wild apples, garden veggies, stone walls, woodpiles, the leafy mulch around your plants, and in the tall grass, shaded and wooded areas. Keep your lawn mown short (3") and open to the sun, and keep children's play areas out of the woods.

Wear a hat, long sleeves, long pants, and tuck your

pants in your socks when you're outside. Many people have gotten ticks in their own back yard. Then, just before you come inside, do a ritual tick check on yourself and your kids. (This is especially important if you decide not to wear the long clothes.) Look and feel all over your body... armpits, groin, and on your head. Ticks can sneak under your clothes without your being aware of it. Be on the alert for something like a freckle that might feel as small as a poppy seed or as large as a soft sunflower seed. Also check your pets carefully, particularly if you sleep with them.

If You Get Bitten

If you find a tick attached to you, remove it carefully with tweezers and put it in a plastic bag. Never squeeze a tick with your fingers as you could get infected from that fluid. Treat the bite area with antibiotic ointment or tea tree oil, then take it with you when you see your doctor. To see if it is a deer tick (not a wood tick), go to [<http://www.lymenet.org/pictures.shtml>] <http://www.lymenet.org/pictures.shtml>.

Many people with Lyme Disease don't remember getting

bitten. Early symptoms of Lyme disease are fever and flu-like symptoms of achiness, fatigue, or stiffness. Less than 50% of people get the "bulls-eye rash" indicative of Lyme disease.

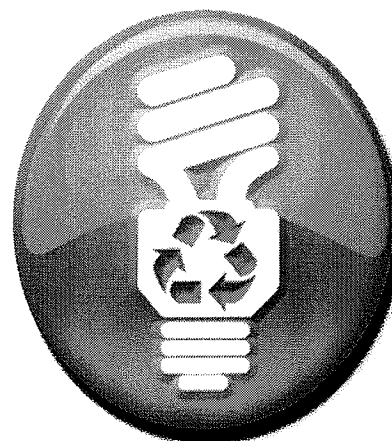
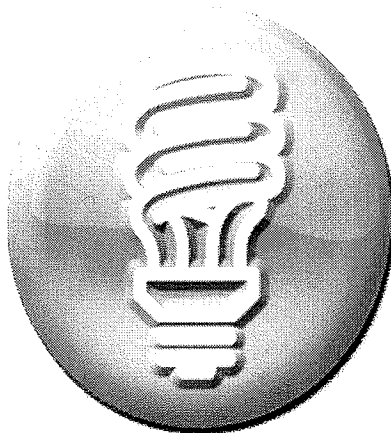
If you experience any of these symptoms (even if you don't remember getting bitten) see a doctor immediately. Tests for Lyme are expensive and not 100% reliable, so it's often cheaper and safer to get a course of doxycycline antibiotics to kill the Lyme bacteria. Unnecessary antibiotic use is not usually recommended, but in the case of Lyme disease, many doctors with experience treating Lyme feel that it's wiser to use antibiotics prophylactically than to wait until the patient is diagnosed with a life-changing disease which is difficult to cure.

For more information, see the Vermont Lyme Network ([<http://www.vermontlyme.org/>] www.vermontlyme.org) or the Lyme Disease Association ([<http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org/>] http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org).

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Many households have been switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Certain precautions should be taken with the installation and disposal of CFLs since they contain small amounts of mercury. Special care should be exercised when cleaning up after a CFL has been broken. *A Fact Sheet: Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs*, can be found at <http://www.mercvt.org>

David L. Anderson, Health Officer



CORNWALL HOUSES AND THEIR INHABITANTS BY STUART WITHERELL CONTINUED ...

In 1944 this writer started converting the barn into a cold storage, the first in Addison County. He was one of the first to use an airplane to dust and spray his apple plantings. A few of the original Stark's Red Delicious are still bearing. It was on this property that Thomas Pritchard purchased a narrow strip of land on the proposed highway to build his stone blacksmith shop in 1791. One sale from this property by the Hurlburts in 1880 was to Curtis and Marietta Lane Sampson—land in back of the shop, which allowed them to build a house and wheelwright shop. He lived here until his death in 1933. She died in 1918. His shop was popular, and he prospered. The property was sold to Sanford H. Lane Jr., and later to Stuart and Jessie Witherell, for a tenant house. Sampson had planted some 25 apple trees sometime before 1890, which bore well. The Civil Works Administration cut them down in the mid-1930's. Walter and Emma Wood owned the place a few years, then the Norinsberg Company and now it is Cornwall Orchards Bed & Breakfast owned by Bob & Juliet Gerlin.

On the left side beyond the Medical Col-

lege is a small house owned by the Lew Castles, both active in community affairs, and now by Nellie Jacobs, a secretary at Middlebury College; and next, the duplex home of Cede-lia, a nurse, and Lucien Charlebois, a carpenter. Lucien was a justice of the peace, and on the zoning administration, now owned by Kevin & Carla Berno as a rental unit. The property across from the Hurlburts was originally owned by Hurlburt's grandfather, Elisha, and later by his parents, Julius and Lois Fuller Hurlburt. Upon their death, Nathaniel Wing purchased, passing it on to his son James. The house ell was built early, and it appears that when Julius married, the larger part was attached to his father's, as there are separate cellars, this being the custom in early times. The farm, with its Merino sheep, extended east through the swamp to the Middlebury line.

When James S. Wing married Jennie Rockwood in 1880, they built a house some distance north of his father's. He was mechanically inclined, and invested in machinery for threshing grain, baling hay, drilling

wells, and sawing wood. He hired Benjamin I. Boardman and family to live in his father's house down the street, and to work his machinery wherever the need appeared. Mr. Wing purchased one of the first Reo runabouts sold in the area. Later, about 1914, he acquired one of the first Buick cars, with a four door, five seating capacity. This was his pride and joy, and nearly every Saturday he cleaned and tuned up the automobile and drove his wife with the top down to Cornwall center to the First Congregational Church. The couple wore long duster coats, with Mrs. Wing in a hat tied down with a long veil. They both sang in the church choir, and died about 1926, leaving no children. His sister, Abby, continued to live here. Mr. Wing was the town road commissioner who supervised the widening and rebuilding of the main road in the years before World War I. The writer recalls when as a small boy, he and his brother sat on the front lawn and watched the difficult road work: removing large stone and resurfacing the highway with gravel, all done by horse power. Someone in the last years of the building had an Avery tractor that hauled the scraper.



TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753
Phone: 802-462-2775
Fax: 802-462-2606
Email: cornwallvt@shoreham.net

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

MOSQUITO WATCH

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) was set up by the towns of Cornwall and Bridport in 2006 to administer a Vermont State sponsored mosquito abatement program that is based on identifying mosquito larvae in our towns' wetlands and aerial spraying these areas to kill larvae before they hatch. The LFICD owns an aircraft for aerial treatment which it makes available to neighboring towns and the Brandon Leicester, Whiting, Salisbury Insect Control District.

The program relies on volunteers living near the wetlands to dip for larvae after rainfall of one inch or more and report their findings to the LFICD Field Coordinator. Dipping is relatively simple and can be easily and quickly learned. If you live near such wetlands and would like to support this program, please notify our Field Coordinator Tom Vanacore (stones32@sover.net). Land owners can also help by clearing up stagnant water deposits or dropping commercially available larvicide donuts in small wetland areas on their lands. Ponds usually contain enough predators to keep mosquitoes from breeding in them.

We all would like to avoid repeating that misery of 2005-6. So far, the 2008 season has been relatively dry, and mosquitoes in the LFICD area have not been reported at nuisance levels. Preparedness and vigilance are the keys. Everyone can help!

Present LFICD Board members are: From Bridport: Tom Baskett, Margaret Klohck, and Bob Pegram. From Cornwall: Tom Bechtel, Charlie Grigg, and Misse Smith.