



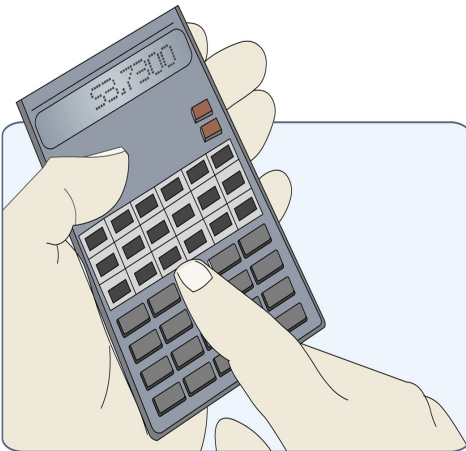
Cornwall Newsletter

Town of Cornwall

Volume 6, Issue 1

Taxes and Tax Rates

Well, I am sure you are all waiting with bated breath to received your tax bills. As you may remember, the town voted in March at Town Meeting to send the tax bills



out on September 15. This was done to accommodate the completion of the town wide reappraisal, which is

just in the finishing stages. The BCA tax appeal hearings were recently held and those decisions will hopefully be completed by the end of August. If this is the case, the tax bills may be out a little sooner than September 15.

I can report that with the grand list information that was reported to the Tax Dept., which included grievance changes, but does not include any BCA changes, they have set the education tax rates at:

Homestead: \$1.3741

Non-residential: \$1.3532

These rates are down from last year approximately \$.60 and \$.54 respectively. At this point, the General Fund rate is estimated at \$.18, down \$.08 from last year and the Highway rate is estimated at \$.15, down \$.03 from last year. Our Grand List has increased by about \$60,000,000 over last year.

If you want to do a cursory check of your property tax amount, you need to divide your assessed value by 100 and then multiply that number by the various tax rates and add those totals together. You will have an estimate. The tax rates could change due to additional changes to the Grand List from the BCA appeals.

Inside this issue:

<i>Treasurer Info & Advice</i>	2
<i>Pleasant Hill Farm Market</i>	2
<i>Green Up Thank You</i>	2
<i>Select Board News & Cornwall Free Public</i>	3
<i>Highway Dept.</i>	4
<i>Emergency Management</i>	5
<i>History of Cornwall cont.</i>	6
<i>Pictures around town</i>	7
<i>Ode to 911</i>	8

Special points of interest:

- *Taxes and Tax Rates*
- *Lemon Fair Insect Control*
- *Green Up Thank You*
- *Emergency Management*
- *Highway Department*
- *Select Board News*
- *Pictures around town*
- *Pleasant Hill Farm Market*
- *Cornwall Library*

Lemon Fair Insect Control District Summer News

The spring and summer season has been a very active time for LFICD. With all the rain we have received we have treated heavily and consistently within the towns. The reports from residents have been positive. At this point in the summer we expect that we will continue to treat as needed.

The field coordinator, Tom

Vanacore and his assistant, Craig Zondag have been very active and vigilant with their work in the field, their reporting, and organizing the treatments. In addition we have many volunteers who are testing areas and give the information to the field coordinator.

The board continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each

month @ the Bridport Town Clerk's Office @ 4:00. The representatives are: Cornwall: Liam English, Katherine Branch, Wendy Lynch

Bridport: Tom Baskett, Tom Maxwell, Bob Pegram.

If you have any questions please call one of the board members.

Town Treasurer Information and Advice

This most recent tax collection proved to be a very frustrating one for your Treasurer. So much so, that I felt it would be important to remind everyone about the items related to taxes that are voted on at each and every Town Meeting. First, each year you vote to have property taxes due and payable on November 1 and May 1. Because we have two payments, the payment on November first if not paid or partially paid is only considered late and thus you would only be charged the 1% interest per month. The second payment on May 1 is considered the final payment and so as voted at Town Meeting each year, tax payments that are made after

May 1 are considered delinquent. The town votes to charge 1% interest per month and an 8% collector's fee per month. The town does accept post-marks, so I do not turn over the warrant to Rodney Cadoret, our Delinquent Tax Collector, until I am sure all post-marks have arrived. This is usually 6 – 8 days after the 1st depending on what day the 1st falls on.

I heard many reasons for late payment of taxes, including the signs weren't up around town. I decided this spring that the signs looked quite unsightly and felt I had done enough in the way of reminders by sending out a second copy of the bill and putting a legal notice in

the paper for several weeks. I do plan on replacing the signs for the November payment. However, the most important piece of information related to Property Tax payments is that taxes have been due on November 1 and May 1 since a vote at Town Meeting in 1988 to change to a fiscal year. Suffice it to say that you can count on owing a portion of your Property Taxes each year on November 1 and May 1. I am always happy to take prepayments, post dated checks or whatever arrangement works for you if you will be out of town or for some other reason that it would make sense to make arrangements early.

Lavalley Store/Pleasant Hill Farm Market

As a first step in restoring the historic Lavalley property, a group of neighbors got together on a Saturday morning in May to clean and paint the sheds. This was in anticipation of the opening of a summer-to-fall farm stand selling fruits and vegetables (along with pastries and Sunday newspapers) in 'center' Cornwall and to bring attention to the sorry state of the building - and its potential. The committee has submitted a grant for building stabilization to the Walter Cerf Fund (we should

hear the outcome of that application in late August) and other grant writing and fundraising efforts will begin this fall.

The restoration project was featured in the Memorial Day edition of the Addison Independent, noting that it has been almost 70 years since the store at the junction of Route 30 and 74 has been open for business.

With thanks to the Select Board for their support, we move ahead with hope that many of our neighbors

will help us to Re-Store Cornwall!



Green Up Day Thank You!!

It was another good turn out from the town of Cornwall for Green Up Day! We weighed in with .72 ton of solid waste, 16 tires, and 2 cubic yards of scrap metal. Thank you to everyone who participated on May 2nd. A special shout goes out to the dedicated early birders who lead the charge in April with clean up efforts as well as those who continue collecting and cleaning throughout the year on daily walks. Thank you!

Vanessa Wolff

Green Up Coordinator

Select Board News

Things have been reasonably quiet with the Select Board. In addition to the routine paying of bills and reappointing Town officials (e.g. Regional Planning Commission representative, Mosquito Control Board member, Weigher of Coal, etc.) we've okayed borrowing \$135,000 to buy the new Highway truck, appointed a Domestic Animal Control Officer, agreed to put a fire detection system in Town Hall, signed a deal with the State necessary to get the Rte. 125 bridge over the Lemon Fair underway, approved the use of the Lavalley store as a summer fruit & vegetable stand and formally given up a couple of hundred feet of Ledgemont Lane.

Voters approved the truck purchase at Town meeting and Stu has done a very careful job getting the best value vehicle. The Domestic Animal Control Officer is Bruce Payne and he'll be backed up by Andrew Munkres. The job is to take care of domestic animals – not just dogs – that create a nuisance or danger in Town. The fire detection system will cost about \$4,500 and we hope to get a grant to pay for half that. We got \$500 from the State on the Rte. 125 bridge deal and it would cost more than that to explain why. Mike Merrill is meeting your produce and other needs out of the Lavalley store shed. The Ledgemont Lane agreement shortens a dead-end road and gives the Town trucks a proper turnaround.

The June 15 "rain event" – i.e. the torrential downpour that dumped 2-4" of rain on us – prompted a review of culvert adequacy that will continue through the year. This fall we will be reviewing the issue of Town and State road speed limits and the enforcement thereof with the assistance of the VT State Police and the Addison County Sheriff.

Cornwall Free Public Library

StoryWalk Addison County

Cornwall was one of nine Addison County libraries to participate in the StoryWalk Project this spring. Introduced in 2007 as a collaboration between the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition and Montpelier's Kellogg-Hubbard Library, a StoryWalk comprises a series of laminated posterboards, each an enlarged page from a popular children's picturebook – typically 30 pages or less. The boards are affixed to stakes and then stuck in the ground along a sidewalk, hiking path or anywhere accessible to someone on foot. The idea is to encourage kids, parents, teachers and caregivers to get outdoors together and enjoy some gentle exercise as they follow the story from board to board.

Town Hall's proximity to Rt. 30 made putting up our StoryWalk – "A Hat for Minerva Louise" – a dicey proposition from a safety standpoint. Fortunately Linda Kautzman, Cornwall School's librarian, stepped up and agreed to host our story on school property. Our original plan was to swap the StoryWalks among the participating libraries every couple of weeks throughout the summer. Unfortunately, the word is that several of the StoryWalks didn't hold up well to wind and heavy rain and need to be refurbished. Watch the Ad-

dison Independent in late summer/early fall for updates on future StoryWalk locations.

State Parks Pass and Leahy Center Pass

The Department of Libraries, in partnership with Vermont State Parks, has made a family park pass available to every public library in Vermont this summer. The pass is valid for daytime admission for your entire family to any state park in Vermont and can be signed out for 3 days at a time. In a similar vein, the Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (www.echovermont.org), has provided to each library a pass that provides for a \$2.00 single-day family (up to 5 people) admission to the center, which is located on the waterfront in Burlington. These passes are available throughout the summer and offer an easy – and inexpensive! – way for your family to get out and explore the beauty of Vermont and its lake resources. To reserve one of the passes, contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, or stop by Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Following a period of inactivity, the Library Board of Trustees met once

again on June 17. Among the items of current business, Sue Johnson reported that last December's book sale at Town Hall yielded \$150, which was roughly half the total from the sale in 2007. Proceeds from Cornwall's annual book sale go toward purchasing new titles for the library. The board discussed ways to enhance interest and participation in the sale, including the possibility of moving the date from December to a Saturday in late spring, in order to attract those who are looking for titles for summer and vacation reading.

At the close of the meeting Sue suggested that it would be good and healthy for the library if another board member were given the opportunity to serve as chairperson of the Board of Trustees. New board member Chris English expressed an interest in taking on the responsibility. Following a brief discussion, and with nominations ended, the board voted in Chris as the new chair of the Board of Trustees for the Cornwall Free Public Library.

The board would like to thank Sue Johnson for her long and dedicated service as chairperson, and for her continued service as librarian for the Town of Cornwall.

Highway Department

All things considered, its been a quiet early summer. Yeah we had the 3" plus deluge in June that caused some issues. This storm again pointed out several places in town where the present culverts, that have worked for years are no longer capable of handling these unusual events. Whether these, up til recently , unusual events are caused by climate change, development, natural filling of low land areas or just bad luck, we need to deal with them. Unless someone can convince me there won't be anymore for another 25 years. The culvert line in the budget is now sitting here in the yard at the town garage and shortly the excavator will appear. Nearly all the culvert work will be on the south end of West Street. It will take several days and be disruptive for sure. Signs will give some advance warning.

We were able to get a jump on mowing this year as we had no money left to do anything else. The mower held together remarkably well, knock on wood. We'll start a second round between excavator work and other projects.

The south end of Cider Mill Road is scheduled to be resurfaced the beginning of August. After looking at other treatments, I decided to use the same rubberized asphalt product we've used the last two years. The other products just don't seem to be as good a quality. I'll let others try it some more first. The next few years, we'll probably go back to the traditional Hot Mix Asphalt.

The new plow truck should be here the beginning of September. The '94 truck will go up for sale shortly thereafter. This is a heads up to any townsfolk that might be interested. At this point I have to get new numbers and fix a few things, but if you are interested in looking at it let me know.

We recently took a short class on invasive plant species. Everyone is talking about the wild parsnip right now, as its in full bloom and people are getting the burns from it. There are a bunch of other plants that are going to become problems at some point in the future, some are as noxious and others just overtake the native species. Another complication in maintaining the roadways. The timing of mowing will be our best weapon. Spraying at this point is not an option for the town, but the land-owner can use off the shelf products on their own property. There are opportunities to learn more about these problem plants through the Nature Conservancy. I have contact info if you are interested.

Stu



Cornwall Congregational Church Offers Emergency Food Bags

The Cornwall Congregational Church has set up emergency bags of food. The large bag of dry goods contains non-perishables for two people for four days. These are located at the Cornwall Town Hall and will be distributed as needed. Please speak to a church member who will refer you to a member of the Mission Committee, or call our Town Clerk, Sue Johnson, 462-2775 for further information.



Brandon American Legion Looking for Members

The Town Clerk received a phone call from Harold Adams in Brandon looking for information on local veterans. The Select Board felt that the best solution was to put this blurb in the newsletter. To contact Mr. Adams call 247-5557.

Stu Johnson Achieves Vermont Road Scholar Level 3 Status

At the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, the Board congratulated Stu Johnson on achieving the Vermont Road Scholar Level 3 status. Stu is the first person in Vermont to reach this level. The Vermont Local Roads office sent a plaque to the Select Board commemorating the occasion, which Joe Severy delivered to Stu. Stu is working toward the next level, which would be the Master Road Scholar. The Vermont Local Roads Director also thanked the Select Board for their support of the continuing education of the highway department. Congratulations to Stu!!!!



Emergency Management Network: Getting the Word Out

Saturday 5 a.m. I've just fired up my computer, restacked the paperwork on my desk, and the lamp flickers and goes out. My laptop screen dims, but it's the silence from what had been the BBC prattle on the radio that makes me realize, the power is "out." I shut off all I can remember having turned on and get another cup of coffee, realizing it won't stay hot for much longer.

I dutifully telephone CVPS—from my non-electric powered telephone—because reporting helps them identify outage locations. There's nothing on their current list of outages.

In what might be considered over-exuberance in my role as Emergency Manager (but really, there's not much else I can do at home until it's lighter) I head out to look at the power lines that connect me to the major feed on Morse Rd. I see nothing, but hear a few generators all the way to the Middlebury side. I call CVPS again, from my cell phone, and punch through the options until I am speaking with someone directly. I tell her I believe the entire feed to Cornwall is out; she informs me that 3,000 customers are out because of a sub-station problem. So much for my detective work. She has no idea when service might be restored.

At this point, my catastrophic planning mode kicks in: if this were to extend through the day, how would we reach people? How can we, the Emergency Management Network, get information to people in town?

This conversation also came up at the most recent EMN meeting where we discussed how updates on the Route 74 closure could have been improved, and what resources we have in Cornwall to convey public information. Following is some of what we determined, and what we will continue to develop:

Response Areas is an idea under consideration by the EMN; this would break the town into smaller sections (almost along the lines of the early school districts) and an EMN member would be the immediate contact person. The member would check with anyone who indicated a concern or special need in a specific situation, and would be the contact for dealing with information and issues for that area.

Local Radio Stations: stations already carry the Weather Alerts as well as Emergency Alerts, but there's discussion about working with stations to provide specific local details.

2-way Radio: announcements provide updates to first responders, and those residents with scanners, but again, subject to power outages.

Door-to-door: contact would be made if very a specific emergency warranted, such as an evacuation.

Town Hall phone/answering machine: includes Sue's home number for emergencies (462-2324), can include mine if "incident" is ongoing (462-2182) as well as information during an emergency... BUT there's no answering machine when the power is out.

Highway Department phone/answering machine for Stu: same as above.

Signboard at Town Hall: can be used for immediate/critical information such as road closures, shelter facilities, etc. We need to get this type of information to other parts of town as well, though.

VT 2-1-1... is a toll-free referral service, and though generally thought of as a resource for social services, is trained and has resources for handling emergency situations. Cornwall is going to begin using the following system, and I actually used it on that Saturday morning power-outage.

If there is something that happens in Cornwall that causes or poses a hazard, I will call 2-1-1 and provide the following information:

What is happening, Expected duration, Actions to take, if any, Resources available, Local contact

Cornwall will provide 2-1-1 with information when roads are closed due to weather issues or structural failure, when the power is out and we establish shelters, and other situations where people cannot continue as usual.

If you need information during an emergency or disaster, call 2-1-1 and ask for updates from Cornwall Emergency Management. VT 2-1-1 is answered 24hrs (*but you need a push-button/tone phone to access the "after-hours" call center), and works with Vermont Emergency Management during larger-scale incidents.

Excerpts from A History of Cornwall Houses and Their Inhabitants by Stuart Witherell (March 1989) continued

We left off last time at the original Daniel Foot pitch, which was later bought by the Kinghorn's and is now owned by Dave and Diane Guertin.

At the foot of the cow lane, where the Kinghorns built a garage, the original proprietor Daniel Foot, located his log cabin. Foot's wife was Ellen Scott, a sister of Huldah Scott Stowell, wife of Nathan Stowell, who after his death, married Nathan Eels.

I should mention about the flourishing seed business carried on by Henry Lane. He furnished seed to many other local seed growers, who would carefully segregate their plots to guarantee seed produced to be true to variety. Great quantities of onion and beet seed were needed to fill his orders to the old seed houses of the country—Peter Henderson Seed Company for one. He cross-pollinated flowering sugar beets to originate a strain of high producing quality, and good keepers. His patent received was for the best strain, known as "Lane's Imperial Sugar Beet." His records show one order for a seed house in Boston for one thousand pounds, to be bagged and ready for distribution. Five hundred of this order was headed for Russia. Imagine the number of bags required to fill that order! He specialized in different strains of onions as well. The best loam soils of this town and others offered a thriving seed business for many farmers. Lane and his brother Rollin combined their talents to produce some of the finest Merino sheep foundation stock to be found anywhere.

The meadow south of the old Lane place was purchased by Sanford H. Lane in the settlement of Mrs. Mary Porter's estate. Apple trees were still evident. He cleared the land and it became productive, having lain idle for so long. It is now owned by Joel Fifield, along with many acres of the Lane farm extending to the swamp. Dr. Marcus Porter's widow lived across the way, and on her death the house was sold to Charles and Sarah Lane, who moved here in 1877, their second year of marriage. Their four children were brought up here. The large Norway spruce tree on

the north side of the house was nine years old when moved from Charles' father's backyard in 1877. It still guards the house from lightening one hundred years later. The Lane family continued ownership until 1975. Charles Lane served as Town Clerk for fifty years and his widow continued the office for another ten. Mrs. Sarah Lane furnished items to state and local papers for more than fifty years. She organized and was elected first regent of the Mary Baker Allen chapter of the D.A.R., and helped persuade Mrs. Porter to give the Chapter House and arrange a room in it for the Cornwall Library.

The house was next owned by this writer, a descendant, and at present by Malcolm B. Harding III, a graduate of Middlebury College employed by the Middlebury Inn, who married the writer's daughter Ellen (recently deceased at an early age). Malcolm lives here now with his wife Barbara, who works with the youth group in the Cornwall Church. The house has been remodeled several times, and today shows care. This was and is, the location of the Cornwall Volunteer Weather Station. It was moved here from the Henry Lane place in 1887, continuing until 1950, when this writer carried on the family tradition and moved it to the two locations of his residence. It went back to the Charles Lane place in 1980 when Malcolm Harding qualified as an observer. A 98-year record to date of volunteer weather-observing in one family!

The next home south of the Lane place was originally the Jeremiah Rockwell pitch, upon which he built his first frame house and outbuildings. Dr. Marcus Porter renovated the original and added the front two story addition about the year 1860. It is a handsome, well proportioned house of distinction, set back off the road. Porter's son, Dr. Edward O. Porter, a surgeon, served in the medical corps in the Civil War. He amputated with alcohol—the only anes-

thesia at that time. On his return he married Mary Rockwell and practiced medicine from this house the rest of his life. He died in the middle twenties. Mrs. Porter taught piano and painting to the young ladies of town. She lived here until her death. The house was purchased successively by the Shaw's, by the Colonel John McLane family, by the F. Guernsey Austin's, and by the Ivan Hager's, who sold to Mrs. Hope Ryan, an avid gardener and widow of a British Colonel in the Indian Army. Mrs. Ryan sold to the Chaloner Schley family. Chaloner is a real estate broker and Page a potter and gardener. (this property is now owned by John & Sherry Klinck) There is an apartment in the former barn built by Col. McLane as a horse barn. Mrs. Ryan built a handsome modern home some distance in the rear for herself, which was later sold to David and Connie Claghorn, who reside here still. The property extends west to the little Beaver Brook. David Claghorn is a retired Ayrshire dealer. Connie comes from Springfield, Vermont, and is related to the Senator Flanders family. (this property is now owned by Bob & Penny Campbell).

On the corner of Robbins Road and Route 30, Franklin Hooker built a large Victorian house which the family later sold to Ralph Robbins when he married Anna James. They lived here many years until Anna's father died. Her mother needing care, they moved to the James farm. The Hooker house was occupied by a family or two until Arthur and Irene Atwood Parkhill bought it; they lived here until their deaths. Henry and Beatrice Parkhill Whitney lived in the rear apartment until they built their own ranch. The house was sold to the Nicholas Clifford family, who presently reside there. Nicholas is the W. R. Kenan Professor of Asian History at Middlebury College and author of works on China. His wife Deborah is an historian and teacher who published with Atlantic Monthly Press a biography of her ancestor, Julia Ward Howe: Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory. The couple have four daughters. (this property is currently owned by Eric and Kathleen Davis).



June events in Cornwall!!!
Do you know where these
were taken???



Town of Cornwall

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

911 Signs, How We Love Thee (Kate Gieges, Emergency Manager)

Sonnets from the First Responders (with extreme apologies to E. B. Browning)

911 Signs: How we love thee, let us count the ways...

We love knowing that glowing green ahead means a house number, even before we can read it;

We love seeing those white letters reflect in the headlights,

And we love seeing the numbers on both sides, since we arrive from different directions;

We love not having to guess which mailbox goes with which house, and not wondering if the number is a 911 or an RR 2;

We love seeing signs staked at splits in driveways, so we don't have to waste precious time wondering which way is yours;

And we've heard-tell, utility companies love to pull into the right house the first time,

and wrecker drivers don't have to prowl the roadside trying to spot an ailing car,

and we'd love to see FedEx go by once, instead of three times searching for an address;

We love not trying to explain to the ambulance exactly where we are;

We love the fact that the Fire Department will install the signs,

assuring proper placement for best visibility,

and not cutting off the phone line putting in the stake,

and just for a donation;

We love thee 911 signs, because every second counts.