



CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Town of Cornwall

Volume 6, Issue 3

Winter 2010

Town Meeting Is Coming!!!!

So I know it seems like Town Meeting is a long way off, but the preparation for the meeting begins now.

Firstly, I would like to let you all know that we have several open positions for town officials. The positions include a 2 year Selector position, a 3 year Auditor's position and several 2 year Library Trustee positions. If you have an interest in running for any of these open positions or any position for that matter, you must pick up a petition at the Town Clerk's office, obtain at least 9 signatures and return the petition to the Town Clerk's office on or before January 25, 2010. The office is typically closed on Mondays, but you are welcome to drop your petition in the green drop box on the front porch of the town hall on the 25th. I hope that you will consider running for office. Please feel free to call or stop by the

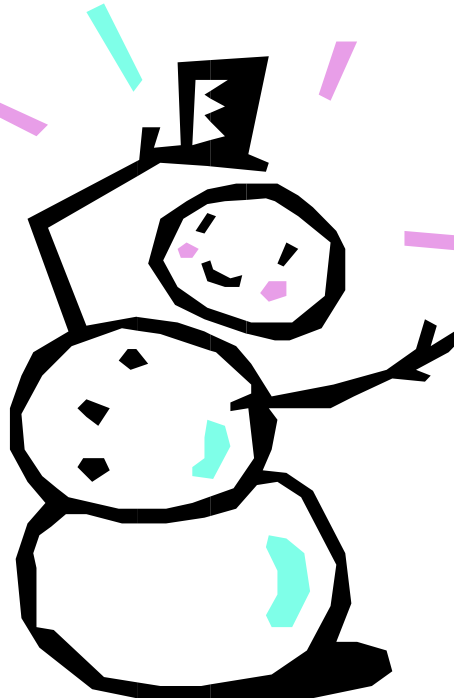
office to find out what is involved in any of the town official positions.

Next, the month of January is

when the town report is created in order to get to the printer at the very beginning of February, so I am busy working on that as well throughout the month. If any of you should have information that you think is appropriate to be printed in the report please let me know and an attempt will be made to fit it in.

Town meeting itself will be held on Monday night, March 1, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at the Bingham Memorial School. Australian ballot voting will take place the following day, March 2, 2010 at the town hall. Polling hours are 7AM–7PM. We will not use the vote tabulator for the town meeting election, so I will be looking for folks to help with the ballot counting on Tuesday night.

Stay warm out there!!!!!!



Hats Off To All of You!! Happy New Year!!!!

Special points of interest:

- *Town Meeting is Coming!!*
- *Now is the time to obtain and return a petition to run for office.*
- *Food Shelf available.*
- *CVFD visits school*
- *Safety tips from VEM*
- *FOCS fund raiser continues*
- *Email notification system*

Food Shelf Available at the Town Hall!

A limited food shelf has been set up at the Cornwall Town Hall. If you or someone you know is in need of emergency food to tide you over for a few days, please feel free to come to the town hall during office hours (Tuesday–Friday 9AM–

5PM) and help yourself to the supplies that are available. You do not need to ask anyone to have access to the food, simply help yourself, no questions asked.

The shelf is located in the small hallway toward the back

of the downstairs meeting room. If there is a need for food during off hours, you may call Nancy Kemp at 462-2370 for assistance. The food shelf is sponsored by the Cornwall Congregational Church.

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CVFD Members Visit the Cornwall School



On October 12th, 2009 members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department donated additional time to present fire prevention topics at the Cornwall school. This year the department was able to obtain the State of Vermont's fire safety trailer. The safety trailer is designed to present realistic safety educational programs for children and the general public. The safety trailer is equipped with various home hazards in a miniature home environment. All students were able to participate, and really seemed to enjoy this unique learning environment. Of course, they enjoyed the fire engine as well. We look forward to going back to school in the future to see our many young friends and neighbors.





CVFD News That You Can Use!!

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department asks all residents with smoke and carbon monoxide warning systems that are connected to an emergency service to provide CVFD the name of a local keyholder, or provide a key to the department, so firefighters won't be delayed making sure an unoccupied home is safe.

Normally, these services alert 911 when an alarm goes off, and the 911 dispatchers call out the fire department. When firefighters arrive, we do our best to avoid entering a home forcibly, and having quick access to a key can further reduce those chances. Keyholder information or keys can be left with the town clerk, who will get them to the fire department.

The last quarter for the fire department has been quiet in town. Traffic accidents and medical calls have been the bulk of the service provided, as well as mutual aid to our neighboring towns. In December the fire department helped Santa wrap and deliver toys in support of the Toys for Kids program. This was a new undertaking for the volunteers and one which we look forward to continuing.

Safety Tips from Vermont Emergency Management!!

Heavy snow conditions could cause power outages and make driving conditions hazardous. Vermont Emergency Management urges residents to prepare for any storm and use caution during this and other snow events.

- If while traveling you get stuck in deep snow, do NOT let your engine idle if your exhaust pipe is buried. Idling with a buried exhaust pipe also risks carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Other tips for the road

Check road and weather conditions before leaving; visit www.511vt.com or call 511 for this information.

Avoid traveling unless necessary and always allow yourself extra time to get to your destination.

Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition with snow tires and winter windshield wiper blades.

Watch for and expect changing road conditions, black ice, blowing snow, high winds or whiteout conditions can appear when you least expect them to.

The single most important rule is to drive at a speed that matches the prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions. The posted speed limits are for dry, clear conditions only.

Be sure to leave yourself plenty of extra room, extend the following distance from other vehicles ahead.

Residents should use caution when digging out from any snow storm. Excessive snow shoveling can cause a range of health problems, from back injuries to heart attack, if not done in moderation. Take frequent breaks from shoveling.

Check snow pack on roofs and remove snow if necessary and if it can be done safely to avoid a possible collapse.

Vermonters who are able to help elderly neighbors and others who need assistance in removing snow are encouraged to do so.

The elderly and those with special needs should contact their local power company and local community officials prior to the storm to alert them of those needs in the event of a power outage.

As always, it is advisable to have an emergency preparedness kit on hand with some or all of the following items:

Flashlights and batteries in your home and car;

A battery-powered radio or NOAA weather radio to listen for advisories;

Bottled water; 1 gallon per person, per day is advised;

- If snow piles up ensure all outside heating vents are clear of snow. A blocked vent can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in the home and CO poisoning. Initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, but without the fever and may include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. If you suspect that you are experiencing CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately and call your local fire department for assistance from a safe location. It is advisable to have CO detectors on all levels of your home.

- If power is lost and you run a generator, it is important that the generator is outdoors; an improperly operated generator can lead to CO poisoning; check your owner's manual before operating a generator.

Also ensure your generator is installed according to manufacturers' standards; an improperly installed generator can feed back onto power lines, creating a hazard to line workers.

For road conditions call 511 or visit 511vt.com. For personal assistance, like shelter or other information, call 211.



January is Radon Detection Month!

Complimentary

☐ Radon Detector!!!! ☐

Courtesy of

Vermont

Department of Health

*Simply fill out the requested information below and
mail today.*

Detector Number: _____

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

(State) (ZIP)

Physical Address _____

City: _____

(State) (ZIP)

Daytime phone: _____

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Offer applies to Vermont properties only.

☐ For more information, call:

(800) 439-8550

SEND TO: Vermont Department of Health

Division of Health Surveillance

P.O. Box 70, 108 Cherry Street

Burlington, VT 05402



FOCS Fund Raiser for the Cornwall Cougars!!

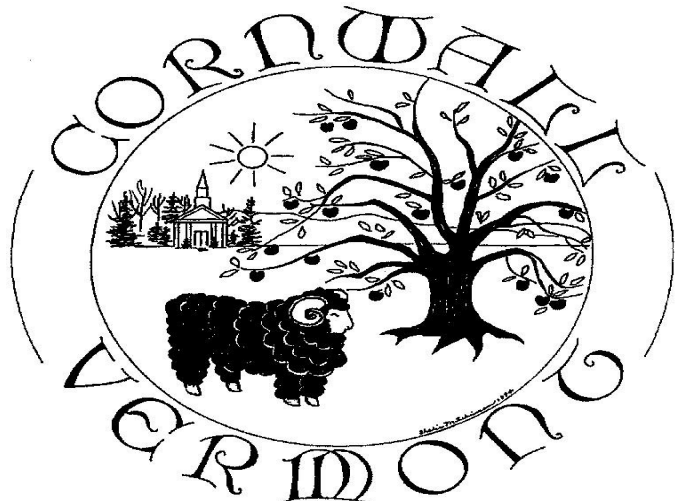
Show Your School-and Town-Pride!

In a school-wide vote, students at Cornwall Elementary have chosen a mascot: the Cougars! To build awareness, show pride and raise funds for the Friends of Cornwall School, we're rolling out the inaugural line of Cornwall Cougars apparel. Choose from T-shirts in two different colors (black imprint on muted yellow or white imprint on Carolina blue); a special long-sleeve T (Carolina blue only); a crew-neck sweatshirt (ash); and a hooded sweatshirt (ash), all with the distinctive, throwback "pouncing Cougar" logo. They make terrific stocking stuffers and gifts for family, friends and grand friends, both here and away!

Except for the long-sleeve T, which comes in adult sizes only, choose from seven different sizes: youth S, M and L; and adult S, M, L and XL. T-shirts are \$12 each; long-sleeve Ts are \$17 each; crew-neck sweatshirts \$19 each; and hoodies \$25 each.

PLUS: "The Cornwall Classic!" Remember the merino-sheep-and-apple-tree design from two years ago? We have some T-shirts left-in red and blue for kids, and red, blue and grey for adults. Same pricing as above, with a long-sleeve T also available for the grown-ups. But hurry: Sizes and quantities are limited!

To order, call Alex or Vanessa Wolff at 462-3138. Or check out the gear table at school events through the rest of the calendar year, beginning with the Harvest Fest at Cornwall School from 2:30 to 4:30 on Friday, October 30!





Cornwall Emergency Management Network

The Network continues to meet each month to share ideas and discuss plans. Recently we've been reviewing the Town's Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOP), which has names, numbers, and resources for use at the onset of an emergency or disaster. More detailed information is contained in the Local Support Functions, each of which focuses on a particular resource type, such as Communications or Shelter and Mass Care.

These documents make up the primary response information we would need for Cornwall. Part of our ongoing process is looking at the information and considering if it is actually relevant in Cornwall. When we find a gap, or feel we have a lot of information about something that doesn't fit in the outline, we make up a new resource sheet. For instance, *snowstorms*! Most of these documents have their origin in Washington, D.C. (okay, that's just a guess) but if we're going to document our potential challenges, we obviously need one that addresses snowstorms.

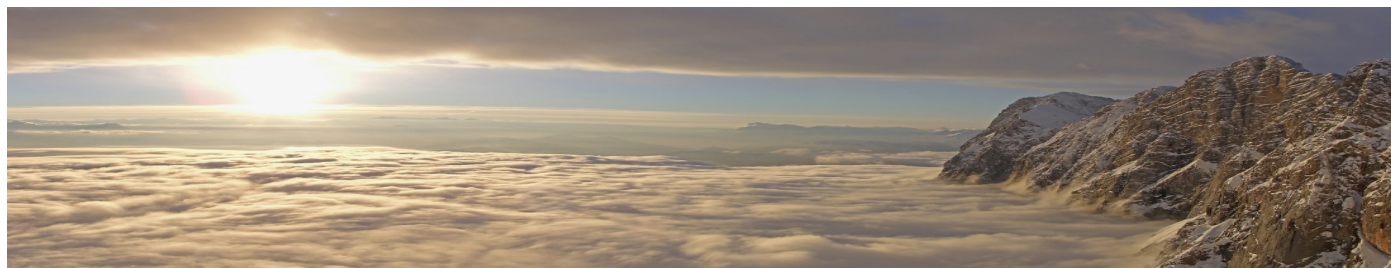
The elements of our "Winter Weather Annex" include: planning for sufficient stocks of fuel at town sites, checking the plans of back-up personnel, checking with members of the EMN about preparedness and availability, running through the list of immediate resources for the community... And if we hit day three of snow and people are stuck at home, we start in on the section about checking on folks and trying to make sure people have what they need.

Some of the topics covered in the Local Support Functions (LSFs) prompt us to look at new ways to carry out the tasks. Communications is one of those, where just putting the information out on the radio isn't as likely to reach as many people anymore. This is what got us to consider the use of Vermont 2-1-1 as an information relay service, and to the idea of an email list (see the Cornwall Connection article on Page 10). Vermont 2-1-1 is where you can call to get details on an emergency situation. This helps us by diverting calls that would otherwise come

to Town Hall, and provides you with a resource that can share information from Cornwall, but will also know what is happening in other communities.

In any disaster or emergency, the Emergency Management Network plans to come to one location designated as the "Emergency Operations Center" and, using the documents we've assembled, work to provide the necessary resources to first responders and community members. But the more prepared you are to manage in an emergency—the baseline is three days without outside help—the better we will all do as a community.

The Emergency Management Network meetings are open to all, whether you want to learn how you can help, or have a question. We're at the Town Hall at 5:30pm on the third Thursday of each month. You can contact Kate Gieges, the local Emergency Manager, at 462-2182 or gieges@shoreham.net.



Green Up Day 2010

Did you know?

"The first Green Up Day was on April 18, 1970. The idea came from Robert S. Babcock, Jr., then a full time reporter for the *Burlington Free Press*. It had its genesis on a clear spring day in March 1969 when Babcock, driving to work in Montpelier from his home in Waterbury, became appalled at the devastation caused by spring snow run-off and the unsightly litter thus revealed. Upon arriving in Montpelier he came to my office in the State House

and proposed the inauguration of a state-wide effort, to be supported by the State Highway Department and large groups of volunteer citizens to clean up the highways of the state. . . . When the big day came we were thrilled to see over 70,000 Vermonters out on the roads picking up trash, hauling trash and supervising the action."

—As described by Governor Deane C. Davis, August 30, 1984

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Green Up Day. Help celebrate on Saturday, May 1st, 2010. More information regarding Green Up Day garbage bags, gloves, etc., will be available in the next town newsletter. Until then, enjoy the white stuff!

Vanessa Wolff
Green Up Day Coordinator



Cornwall Highway Department

Well, we sure enough had an easy fall as far as the weather. But winter came into it in December and here we are with over a foot of snow, the first week of 2010.

The new truck we received in September has worked out well. The calibration system has taken some getting used to, but it does allow for better control and uniform application. Over time the system will pay for itself in salt savings. That said, if the season continues as the last month, our overall salt use will be way up. The savings will be in the amount of salt we didn't buy. For those that squawk about us having a third truck, it again proved useful when we blew a radiator hose New Year's Eve on a front line truck and were 2 1/2 days getting parts. Other towns without back up trucks are really put behind the eight ball when they lose a truck. So we're in a good place. So along with plowing the roads comes the complaints of smashed mailboxes. The policy has been that if we physically hit them with the plow, we'll fix or replace them. If the snow off the plow takes them off or

there is an inadequate installation, something I've mentioned before, then it sucks to be you I guess. The bottom of the box is supposed to be 42" off the ground. The wing will go under a good installation, but stacking blocks on a post that is all but fallen over isn't going to do it. And do everyone a favor and leave the plastic ones at the hardware store. A lot of this could be avoided if folks would fortify their mailboxes in the summer and fall, which includes making sure the mailbox door stays shut.

The town has been invited to submit a comprehensive application for installation of a geothermal heat system at the town garage to try and suck some heat out of this water we're pumping over the hill 24/7. This is part of the stimulus funding to save the economy and jobs. There is a page on how to calculate how many jobs this will save or create. Want to see some voodoo economic crap..... Anyways, I'm counting on a few people with better understanding and a lot better attitude toward such things to help me through this.

The design is still being worked out but we might save a third of our heating fuel, oh yeah and .0237 jobs.

Here in the next few days I intend to start mixing a new abrasive product into the sand. It is clean and mostly a white-gray color. On snow you may not even notice it but it will be a little more aggressive as far as traction. It is competitively priced and will be more volume/ton. Several towns are interested in trying it, so we'll see. We've got to try some of these new products and concepts to see if they work better and/or cost less.

Speaking of new concepts.... VTrans and salt brine. It will work and work well most of the time, and will save them some money. But the rest of the time when temperatures fall below 10–15° look out. Hopefully they are learning and learning fast. Emails received today indicate they are adjusting formulations to hopefully make it work better.

Select Board News

Select Board activities have been by and large routine since mid-October. Since then we have:

- Worked out an arrangement with our "swat team", the Lemon Fair Insect Control District, to put \$6,000 in the budget to subdue mosquitoes next season with the proviso that the LFICD won't ask for the money unless they need it.
- Accepted delivery of a splendid new Highway Department truck that has recently demonstrated its value in our first big snowfall.
- Charged the Cornwall Historical Society to deliver by 12/10 a final report on the viability of their project to restore the Lavalley building adjoining Town Hall.

- Agreed to ask for Town Meeting approval for acquiring an emergency generator for Town Hall as part of our Emergency Management program. A grant is being sought to offset up to 50% of the estimated \$10,000 cost.
- Accepted the recommendation of the Capital Budget and Planning Committee for continued funding of our capital expenditure program in the amount of \$120,000.
- Drafted a General Fund budget for your approval at Town Meeting.

Additionally we will request \$10,000 for administrative support for the Select Board. This new item is provoked by two needs: first, for professional help to write grants and, second, for assistance with the growing administrative burden of governing even as small a town as ours. If approved this money would be spent only when we identify a specific need and find competent

help. Well-written grants enable us to get Federal, State or private foundation money for eligible town projects - for example, the emergency generator project. Money spent to land a grant produces funds well in excess of the cost thus we conclude paying for effective grant writing is a good investment.

Frankly, we can't predict specific administrative support that will be needed. A current example, however, is the requirement as a matter of law that we produce a full-blown personnel policy manual to cover our two town employees. Similar Federal and State requirements continue to grow with no sign of slackening.

We do not request these funds lightly and the ideal solution would be to have competent volunteer help for both tasks. If you have such talents and are so inclined please contact us immediately.



Cornwall Free Public Library

We'd like to offer a big THANK YOU! to everyone who responded to our appeal in the fall issue of the newsletter for donations of new and gently used books, audio books and videos to the library. Thanks to your generosity, we have added a good number of new adult fiction titles to the shelves in recent weeks, including some current best sellers. Weybridge Elementary School also made a very kind donation in December of several boxes of like-new children's picture books left over from their holiday book sale. Stop by and see what's new! And remember, we are happy to accept your donations throughout the year. Those titles that we can't use in the library will be put into the annual book sale fundraiser.

On a related subject, the Board of Trustees has committed to devoting more time in 2010 to collection development. Like many small libraries that depend upon book donations to build out their collections, Cornwall's collection has developed over the years as an expression of individual tastes and interests, the shelves gradually filling with titles that to a large degree reflect the personal reading histories of the library's most frequent users and benefactors.

One natural consequence of this "organic" approach to collection development is that our library has come to offer a little bit of everything for everyone: popular fiction, romance novels, mysteries, biographies, children's picture books and easy-to-read fiction, mass market paperbacks, audio books, VHS tapes and DVDs. It does this, however, at the expense of creating a rich and carefully managed "core" collection that addresses the interests of the broader community. Such a collection, by definition, has more depth and is better focused, encouraging residents to visit the library regularly, knowing that they will always find something new and interesting.

The truth is, today we hold many titles and even entire genres in the collection that rarely circulate, if at all. And with shelf space so limited, a "something for everyone" strategy risks serving no one particularly well in the end.

Using a combination of circulation analysis and community engagement, the Board's goal over the next few months will be to devise a collection development policy that focuses on acquiring books that Cornwall residents want to read rather than on titles they have already read. This will mean weeding the current collection of non-circulating books. In some cases, it may dictate the elimination of certain categories of books altogether, in order to create space for growth in areas of greatest interest to users. Once completed, the policy will also help us to reach out to the community in a more informed way, seeking book donations within specific genres or by particular authors that we know will enjoy a wide audience.



Our intention is to do this work thoughtfully and with input from you. So let's begin with this offer: if you are a regular user of the Cornwall library, or if you have ever wished the library had more to offer, we want to hear from you. Tell us your thoughts about authors, topics and genres that you would like to see the library consider for the collection. Contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, cornwallvt@shoreham.net, or stop by Town Hall.

An Update on Circulation Automation

November and December have come and gone and we are still waiting for our barcodes and scanner to arrive from ResourceMate. Now that the holidays are over, we expect to receive them in short order so we can begin the process of barcoding the collection.

In the Next Issue: Downloadable Audio Books Come to Cornwall!

Chris English
Library Board of Trustees



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

The James farm extended on both sides of the highway (Route 30), and when Henry James was married, the only son in the family, he built a home north of his father's, now owned by Lachlan Field, a retired Army Colonel and free lance artist. His wife Martha was on the Porter Medical Center Auxiliary and active in other community affairs. They have two children, Doug and Peggy, who currently own the house. In this house Rodney and Grace Brothers Robbins started house-keeping and raising their family before moving next door to the James homestead. The farm was in part the original ministerial holding of some 100 acres, and the large home set back on the hill was built about 1816 by the Reverend “Father” Jedidiah Bushnell, a graduate of Middlebury College. Here he spent his last days. It was later owned by the Potters and bought by Curtis James, who built spacious barns. Mr. James died in 1923, and the Ralph Robbins family has carried on the farm to this date. Rodney and Grace Robbins moved here after his father died. Rodney served as town clerk from 1937 until Clara Ringey succeeded in 1961. He has been an active member of the Cornwall Church. Large portions of this farm are rented annually. After his wife's death he married the former Margaret Payne. The sugar maples east of the highway have produced gallons of syrup and sugar over the generations. Attached to the horse barns is the old Red Schoolhouse that was originally located on the south corner, opposite the present schoolhouse built in 1858. The location of the Red Schoolhouse was also the site of the first church building, that was never finished. This meadow was originally a part of the John Holley farm, and owned later by Martin Peck. The schoolhouse served No. 2 district well, a place of learning for at least four generations.

Opposite the east entrance to Sperry Road is a house and lot which had been owned by Curtis H. James and used by him as a dwelling for his farm help. Soon after Mr. James' death in 1923, the house and lot were sold to Albert and Antoinette Martin. In 1943 they sold it to Alexis and Alice Denis, who are still residing there. (Actually Alex and Alice's granddaughter, Lisa and her two sons are living there now. The house is currently owned by Rita Glidden, Alex and Alice's daughter.) When the schoolhouses were put up for bids, Alexis purchased the No. 2 school and converted it into a garage. This has been his place of business until recently. Alexis has been a member of the Cornwall Fire Department for many years.

The first frame church building, previously mentioned, was purchased by Abraham Balcom, who tore it down and used the timbers to build the house directly across the road and to the south of Alexis Denis' home. Since the 1900s that house has been owned and occupied by Will Church and family, by Joan and Evaline Angel, by Carleton and Edna Lafountain Donah, by Lorraine and Peter Bourdeau, by Andrew and Roxana Kvasnak, an elementary school teacher in the Cornwall school, by Jay and Margaret Leshinsky and presently by the Jim Hogan family. Most of the land of the John Holley pitch lies west of the present Route 30. (It had originally been the Stephen Holley pitch, but the brothers exchanged farms.) John built a house on the north corner of the present Morse Road. Later this farm was owned by Benjamin Parkhill, who lived on it until his grandson, George B. Parkhill, took over. George raised his family here. Edith taught in several local schools and was church organist. George and Edith played piano and violin duets. After his death Edith sold the farm to Edward H. Peet. With the exception of six acres

east of the Parkhill house, the farm is now owned by Edward H. Peet's grandson, Edward Velazquez-Peet.

South of Morse Road on the east side we find the original Kellogg homestead, which was built about 1830. In 1961 Samuel Everts was again appointed postmaster, and it was to his house townspeople came to pick up their mail. Later the property was owned by Linus Peck and Martin Peck. In 1919 Edward H. and Lucy C. Peet bought this farm, and on New Year's Day, 1920, they moved their family onto the Peck place. After the purchase a neighbor commented that all Mr. Peet got was chicory and a view. Mr. Peet had the belief that he had a duty to improve whatever place he was in. On the Peck place he built new barns and built up the soil until it became highly productive. He was a successful farmer. During his lifetime he bought and combined five farms into one farming operation, thus becoming the largest landholder in Cornwall. He was active in public affairs. He was town representative, county senator, county side judge, and served on several state commissions and boards. He was executive secretary for the Co-operative Fire Association of Vermont, president of the Addison County Trust Company, and president of the Community Light and Power Company. Today Cynthia and Edward Velazquez-Peet own and live on the Peck place with their four children. Edward maintains Jersey cows, produces maple syrup, and is a commercial pilot. Cynthia, a native of Springfield, Vermont, is active on the school board and Republican Town Committee and works at Middlebury College. Actually, at this point the children have moved on to their own careers and Ed is no longer farming, but still owns the farm and rents to various folks.

Town of Cornwall

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753



E-Mail Notification System to be Established

The Town of Cornwall Emergency Management Network has recommended, and the Select Board has approved, the establishment of an e-mail based notification system for the dissemination of important Town information. The system is called the **Cornwall Connection** and will be managed by the Town Clerk. It will be used to send e-mail messages about important events, deadlines, emergency situations and other matters of particular significance in the Town.

Anyone may subscribe to this service by sending an e-mail message to Sue Johnson at

cornwallvt@shoreham.net with **Cornwall Connection** in the subject line. Should you subscribe, your e-mail address will not be revealed to other subscribers and you will not be permitted to respond to other subscribers. If you wish to react to a message on **Cornwall Connection**, please send a message to Sue Johnson at the e-mail address listed above. Clearly there are limitations to such a notification system. Subscribers must have e-mail service and electrical power is required. Nonetheless, the Emergency Management Network believes this system is an

inexpensive and relatively easy way to share critical Town information and you are encouraged to subscribe.

Dave Anderson for the Cornwall Emergency Management Network which meets the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.