

Cornwall Newsletter

CORNWALL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE!

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite all Cornwall townspeople to our chicken barbeque on Sunday, August 9th from noon until 2pm (or until we run out of chicken.) Like almost everything these days, we've had to rethink how to make this work. This year we'll be serving up our chicken as a drive-thru pickup or by delivery. While we'll miss seeing familiar faces gather around the long tables at our station, we're looking forward to greeting everyone as they stop by to pick up instead.

To help with traffic management we'll be doing the drive-thru at the Cornwall School parking lot rather than at our station. We are requesting a pay-what-you-can donation this year. A department member will take your cash or cheque made out to Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (we won't have change available) and then direct your car to a line where you can order and receive your chicken dinners (including baked beans, salad, a roll and a cookie) or plain half chickens. We will have bottled water available on request.

While we won't have tables set up, there will be limited parking at the school for those who would like to bring a blanket or lawn chairs to eat on the school grounds (note that there will be no access to the building or restrooms however.) We ask that people observe physical distancing recommendations if eating at the school.

We are also offering a pre-order delivery option for Cornwall residents who are unable or uncomfortable to pick up at the school. For this option we are asking that folks place orders by Sunday, August 2nd. Email the number of dinners and/or plain half chickens you want, along with your street address and a contact phone number to Raph Worrick at raphw@shoreham.net, or you can call your order in to 989-2568 (leave a message if no reply and we'll get back to you.) No advance payment is needed, you may make a donation when delivery is made. We will do our best to make all deliveries between noon and 1pm on the 9th.

We look forward to seeing our friends and family from the community!

With thanks,

CVFD

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STATE PRIMARY SLATED FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 2020. ABSENTEE/EARLY BALLOTING GOING STRONG!

I hope this mailing finds you safe and well. We are preparing for our biennial State Primary. As you know, the Secretary of State sent a postcard to every active and challenged voter in the state. This was in preparation for mailing every active voter a ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Their office hoped to clean up bad addresses and the like so that ballots mailed for the General Election would reach their destination without a problem.

Back to the Primary Election coming up in a few weeks. I have sent out close to 400 absentee/early ballots to date. Of course, not all of them have been returned yet, but this is unprecedented for the State Primary Election. That is roughly 38% of Cornwall voters requesting ballots.

The polls will be open at the Cornwall Town Hall on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 7 AM—7 PM, but I am encouraging as many people as possible to vote by absentee/early ballot. I will be allowing only 2 people in to vote at a time, and we will have a minimal number of poll workers that day. You may have to wait outside or in your car depending on the weather that day. The absentee/early ballot has proved easy and effective and saves in person contact at this very tricky time.

You can request an absentee/early ballot; in person, by regular mail, by email, by phone or online at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. I have become a streamlined collating and mailing machine, so please don't hesitate to make the request.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the upcoming election. Phone: 462-2775, Email: cornwallvt@shoreham.net or townofcornwall1761@gmail.com.

Be safe, Sue

CORNWALL TOWN HALL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FACIAL COVERINGS REQUIRED!

The Cornwall Town Hall reopened to the public on July 7, 2020. In preparation for that event, we had a very handsome sneeze guard installed at the counter. Although we do have that in place, I am requiring facial coverings to be in place when you enter the building. At this time, I am requiring that land records researchers make an appointment in advance. I am scheduling one appointment during the morning hours and one appointment in the afternoon. I am not allowing anyone in the vault at this time, so I am available to retrieve requested items.

You are still welcome to deposit any items in the green drop box on the front porch if you would prefer that. Just a side note, the green drop box is for EVERYTHING!! Books, correspondence, payments, documents, etc. Please be sure that whatever you are putting into the drop box goes down the slide and into the bottom of the box. If you sit something on the shelf, it is accessible to everyone.

Stay Well! Sue

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Field Conditions

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District (“LFICD”) field conditions continue to remain dry. The few spring and summer rain events have not produced sufficient standing water in the Lemon Fair for mosquito eggs to hatch.

Adult mosquito trapping from June 9 to July 17 has yielded 5,180 mosquitoes (87% *Coquillettidia perturbans*) compared to 20,885 (37% *Coquillettidia perturbans*) for a similar period in 2019. The *Coquillettidia perturbans* is known as the “Cattail Mosquito”. Of note, the need for aerial treatment is generated by the *Aedes vexans*, aka “Floodplain Mosquito”, and they have been in little evidence.

Funding

The LFICD recently received its new Grant Agreement from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture (“VAA”). Previously, the Grant Agreement has been for one year (July 1 to June 30) and totaled \$70,000. In June, Vermont passed a one quarter budget (July 1 to September 30) reflecting a desire to better understand the impact of Covid-19 on the state’s finances before passing a longer-term budget. Accordingly, the LFICD’s Grant Agreement was renewed for July 1 to September 30 at 25% of our annual \$70,000 or \$17,500. The VAA advised that our Grant Agreement may continue on a quarterly basis and may be limited to \$17,500 each quarter. This will be a challenge for us given that our reimbursable costs are generated primarily from April to September.

In mid-July, we contacted our Legislators to determine if there was funding flexibility. Senator Chris Bray (Addison) approached the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair and the Vermont Finance Commissioner, and it appears that there is additional flexibility. As of the date of this newsletter, we are awaiting details from our VAA Grant Administrator.

We are very much aware of the financial challenges facing Vermont and the VAA and are very appreciative of their support and guidance. We are also fortunate to have the support of our legislators and thank Senator Bray for his quick and helpful response.

Additional Information on the LFICD can be found at:

<https://lficd.org/index.html>

David Dodge

Chair LFICD

July 20, 2020

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Some of the activities of the Conservation Commission have continued, in spite of the pandemic. We participated in the review of several development applications to the DRB, addressing their impact on natural resources. Participation in the Swamp Reclassification Project has continued. We also attended several of the Planning Commission monthly meetings and met with the Select Board to report on the CC's work.

The Trail Camera Project is well underway and data is coming in. The results to date from the four camera placements have been interesting. In two of the placements, we have documented constant passage through the area by a wide range of animals, including larger predators (bobcat and coyote.) In the two other settings, very limited use was recorded.

It is especially interesting when newborns or young'uns show up. I was particularly smitten by the pictures of a large family of racoons. In the first photo the mother was followed by one kit; the next picture added a second; the next, a third; then a fourth; and finally by a fifth kit bringing up the rear. The last little one was a bit smaller, but not by much.

We plan to keep the two cameras at the busy locations and move the other two. We welcome help with this project. If you have animals traveling through your property with some frequency, would you be willing to use a trail camera to record and share this information with us. We would be happy to work with you on this.

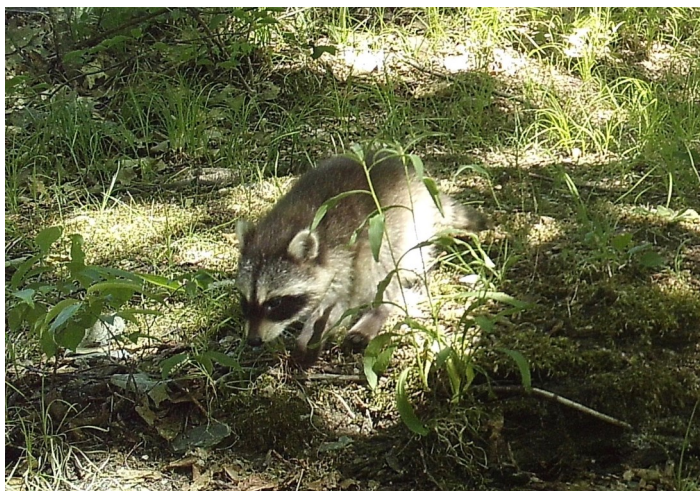
Additional details on the project. The Conservation Commission received two grants to pay for the cameras: one from the Cornwall Trustees for Public Funds and one from Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. Landowners whose properties have a camera have granted permission for their placement.

We would like to welcome Anna Burns as a new member to the Conservation Commission. She moved to Cornwall two years ago and is already deeply involved in a reforestation project on Foote Farm where she lives. Together with others in the development, Anna and her husband have planted almost 275 trees, expanding the existing forest that borders Beaver Brook. In joining the CC, one of Anna's goals is to promote a greater understanding of our precious natural resources, both individually and communally, and the importance of utilizing them wisely.

Finally, we would like to thank Bethany Barry who is leaving the CC after many years of loyal service. We are deeply appreciative of her commitment and hard work. Bethany brought enthusiasm, leadership, skill, and grace to all our endeavors. We will miss her and wish her well.

Mary Dodge mdodge@middlebury.edu, 462-2899

Family of Six, Mother with 5 Kits



Last in line: “I think I can, I think I Can.”

The West Cornwall Backyard Concert Series:

August 15thJava Sparrow

August 29thCarol Reed

September 12thMark Sikora

Schedule is subject to change

All events are weather permitting, rain dates pending

Show times are 5-7pm behind 14 Audet Road. Rain dates would be Sunday or the following Saturday. Seating is on the lawn. Please feel free to bring lawn chairs, bag chairs or unfold a blanket and enjoy a picnic on the lawn. Popup canopies or other means of portable shade are welcome. We ask that while arriving and departing you wear facial coverings. Please maintain social distance during the show. The Shows are admission free but we will graciously accept donations, all of which will be offered to the performers. There are no sanitary facilities available on site. If you have questions about upcoming shows or would like to be added to our mailing list for updates about the West Cornwall Backyard Concert Series email us at wcbcs.mgmt@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Unfortunately, the library is not open to the public, **BUT** fortunately we do have curbside pickup. If you are interested, you can reserve items through the Web OPAC system, which is our Online Public Access Catalog. This will allow you to sign in to the library digitally to reserve an item to pick up through the curbside option. This site has **ALL** of the materials in the library so you just need to search for the title or author and you will see if it is available. (This is a site that can be used by those of you who have an account with the library.) If you are not a patron or need help, call Sue Johnson at Town Hall, and she will set it up for you. Getting back to curbside pickup – there is a plastic bin on the front porch of Town Hall that has the books in individual bags with your name on it. **ALSO**, if you have books to be returned, you can drop them into the green drop box.

We have also invested in an **Audiobook Program called RB Digital** through the Vermont State Library. What do you need to use this program - your library card, smartphone/tablet and the RB Digital App. Sue mailed (to patrons of the library) a step-by-step guide on how to access the items in this digital library. If you need a copy of this or need help, just call Sue!

Sadly, we are not able to take donated books right now. **BUT** if you have books that you'd like to donate to the library, we're hoping that you have space to store them until we're able to take them "off your hands". With so many things up in the air these days, we're not sure if we'll be able to have a Used Book Sale this year, but hopefully we will be able to have one in the future. **SO**, your used books are needed. Thanks for keeping them for us!

We are continuing to buy new books, audiobooks and DVDs to add to our collection of materials at the library. So, check out the Library Section of the town website, **cornwallvt.com** to see the complete listing of these materials.

Here is a sampling of the new materials – there are lots of good things!

LIBRARY NEWS CONTINUED

FICTION

Conjure Women - Afia Atakora, *The Vanishing Half* - Brit Bennet, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* - Abi Dare', *Beach Read* - Emily Henry, *28 Summers* - Elin Hilderbrand, *The Jane Austen Society* - Natalie Jenner, *The Book of Longings* - Sue Monk Kidd, *A Burning* - Megha Majumdar, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* - Kim Michele Richardson, *All Adults Here* - Emma Straub, *Redhead by the Side of the Road* - Anne Tyler, *Big Summer* - Jennifer Weiner, *The Book of Lost Friends* - Lisa Wingate

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Walk the Wire - David Baldacci, *Pretty Things* - Janelle Brown, *Fair Warning* - Michael Connelly, *The Goodbye Man* - Jeff Deaver, *One Last Lie* - Paul Doiron, *The Guest List* - Lucy Foley, *Camino Winds* - John Grisham, *Devoted* - Dean Koontz, *Ghosts of Harvard* - Francesca Seritella, *The Last Trial* - Scott Turow

NONFICTION

Officer Clemmons - Francois Scarborough Clemmons, *wow, no thank you* - Samantha Irby, *Hidden Valley Road* - Robert Kolker, *So You Want to Talk About Race* - Ijeoma Oluo, *My Vanishing County* - Bakari Sellers, *Countdown 1945* - Chris Wallace

YOUNG ADULT

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes - Suzanne Collins, *Stamped* - Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

CHILDREN

One and Only Bob - Katherine Applegate, *Curse of the Witch* - Alex Aster, *The World Needs More Purple People* - Kristen Bell, *Our Friend Hedgehog* - Lauren Castillo, *Hair Love* - Matthew A. Cherry, *Mary Underwater* - Shannon Doleski, *Pet* - Akawaeki Emezi, *Teddy Spaghetti* - Dorothea Benton Frank, *Teach Your Dragon About Diversity* - Steve Herman, *The Little Blue Cottage* - Kelly Jrdan, *We Dream of Space* - Erin Entrada Kelly, *You Matter* - Christian Robinson

AUDIO

The House on the Lake - Nuala Ellwood, *The Nickel Boys* - Colin Whitehead, *The Book of Lost Friends* - Lisa Wingate

DVDs

21 Bridges, *Ana*, *Bridges*, *Danger Close*, *The Gentlemen*, *Grand Isle*, *The Invisible Man*, *Just Mercy*, *Knives Out*, *Last Full Measure*, *Little Women*, *Trolls*, *The Way Back*

CORNWALL SCHOOL NEWS!

Hello Cornwall community,

Once again, it feels a little strange to be writing without school having been in session in person for some time. Despite the unusual situation we have found ourselves in, the end of the school year still brought us the usual flurry of communication and activity along with some reflection and deep thinking about how it was coming to an end, especially for our 6th grade students who were finishing their last year at Cornwall School.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the last day of school special for the 6th graders and the rest of the students - from decorating outside the school building to making signs for each 6th grader; to putting together a website; to escorting (thank you Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department!), participating in, and coming out for a car parade through town after the promotion. All of that effort made a potentially difficult day feel good!

The last week of school was also made particularly busy because Cornwall, along with the other six elementary schools in the district participated in a virtual International Baccalaureate (IB) Authorization visit. Since the IB "visitors" couldn't be here in person, we created videos to introduce the school and our programs while teachers, parents, and administrators from around the district met with the visitors remotely. The purpose of the visit was to give IB an overview of what we and the other schools have done to implement the Primary Years Program (PYP), and to help us determine what work we may still need to do before authorization. We anticipate hearing back from them in the fall.

Hopefully by the time the summer newsletter is printed, there will be more information and clarity around what school will look like this fall. To prepare for coming back to school, district teams consisting of teachers, parents, administrators and central office staff have been meeting this summer. Teams have been focusing on plans for health and safety, policy and operations, communications, and curriculum and learning. We have been developing plans for each of those categories in multiple phases - in person learning with safety guidelines, hybrid models which might include some in-person and some remote, and all remote learning. Our priority will be, following state and CDE guidelines, to optimize learning as best we can while also preserving the health and safety of students, families, faculty and staff.

And, lastly, I would like to share a message from the Gilligan committee -

Hi Cornwall! Have you ever wondered how things like artists-in-residence workshops, science programs, and athletic outings happen at Cornwall School? It's because of the Gilligan Fund. We are a committee charged with managing this fund to provide enrichment opportunities for the kids at our school. Before COVID-19 changed our lives completely, in 2019-20 the Gilligan Fund sponsored the kids' participation in a workshop in Capoeira (a Brazilian martial art/dance), a Shakespeare play, Nordic skiing at Rikert, introductory tennis lessons, and the Odyssey of the Mind problem-solving competition. We were also planning a science-oriented event about bird migration for late April, and we are hoping to do this in the spring of 2021.

The Gilligan Fund has a long history of enriching our kids' educations at Cornwall School. Gilligan has funded the Four Winds Nature Program for the past 15 years and supported grades 1-6 Nordic skiing at Rikert for at least that long. The artist-in-residence workshops over these years have included Circus Smirkus, Linda Lemke book making, No Strings Marionettes, and several storytelling workshops. We once had VINS come to introduce the kids to some hawks and owls! Finally, some of the playground improvements were supported by Gilligan. The Gilligan Fund has played a big part in making Cornwall kids' experiences at the school special.

The Gilligan Fund was established by Thomas and Marion Gilligan in memory of Thomas' parents, Patrick and Nancy Gilligan. We think that Patrick and Nancy had a house here in Cornwall in the 1920s, and that Thomas attended the school (but we don't know when, or if this was in Bingham Memorial School or one of the one-room schoolhouses in town). Here's where you come in - do you know anything about the Gilligan family? We'd like to know where they lived after they left Cornwall, when Thomas and Marion passed away, and anything else about the family. Town history detectives, please get in touch with us!

CORNWALL SCHOOL NEWS CONTINUED!

Bruce Byers, Mindy Harvey, Heather Raabe, Michael Sheridan, Laura Fetterolf, and Kristi Tolgyesi (the Gilligan Committee)

Stay safe!

Heather Raabe, Principal, Cornwall School

RECOGNITION FOR KRISTI TOLGYESI AND HER VOLUNTEERISM AT THE CORNWALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!

June 10, 2020

Kristi Tolgyesi,

With our deepest gratitude we Thank You!

We thank you for your many years of tireless work on behalf of the Cornwall School: supporting our students, our faculty and staff, and the entire community. You have given your time, your boundless energy and creativity and skill, to enrich the learning experience of our children, to broaden their exposure to new adventures, to help them cultivate new and meaningful competencies, and to foster a love of learning through exploration and discovery. The entire Cornwall community has benefitted from your years nurturing the heart of our community, our children. You have served and volunteered your time by leading Odyssey of the Mind, the Archery Club, For the Birds Club, the local Girl Scouts troupe, among so many other programs; teaching the Four Winds Nature Program; driving to every field trip, with or without your own children; participating in cross-country and downhill skiing programs; and always ensuring the school's grounds—and garden—remain beautiful for years to come. You created the beautiful Cornwall School Garden banner, which is a sign of welcome to all. Year after year, with your mother Judy Grief, you shared your beautiful hand-made flags representing countries from around the globe, opening up the entire world to our students. And for many years you selflessly served on the Cornwall School Board, protecting and advocating for our local school.

For all of this and more, you received the STAR Award, in recognition of your exceptional and outstanding service to our community.

Your legacy will live on always through the inspiration and passion you have instilled in our children to explore that which drives their curiosity, to find joy in the wonder of learning, and to serve with their hearts and their minds.

The Cornwall Community celebrates you and all you have given of yourself on behalf of our children, our teachers, our families.

Your legacy will live on always.

We will miss you Kristi!

With Our Deepest Gratitude,

The Cornwall School Community



CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS!

There is much to do in our world making it hard to find a way to contribute to our community in a meaningful way. At present, the Cornwall Planning Commission is in need of additional dedicated and enthusiastic members. We work together bound by a shared sense of responsibility and individual work ethic to develop and create documents that will guide and prepare our town as it evolves and develops in the future as well as maintain the things that make Cornwall a nice place to live.

The past few years have been challenging for the Planning Commission. We are in real need for several members of the community to step up and share the load of planning for our small town. Without the broader range of experience from more volunteers, the work of maintaining the functional structure of the town becomes the onus of just a few community members.

The Town of Cornwall has many empty positions which can be filled. There is much in the world that grabs our attention and takes it away from our quiet town. Some of the concerns and issues we grapple with have analogs right here at home. If you are feeling moved to contribute - in a long term and meaningful way - please consider volunteering your time within our town. The culture and success of Vermont as a community has long depended on the meaningful contributions of citizen-governments at the town level. Please join us in continuing the good work of our predecessors.

Please know the work of the Planning Commission involves lots of reading, frequent research in planning and land use topics, and writing. Constructive conversation is the lifeblood of the commission. If you would like to learn more, please contact Conor Stinson - stinson.cpc@gmail.com.

CORNWALL RECREATION COMMITTEE

Many of the Recreation Committee events, including: Movie Night, Game Night, Tie Dye Day and the yearly bake sale on Green Up Day had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 virus. We are unsure at this point about the Pumpkin Carving Event. We will evaluate the situation as it gets closer to October. In April we did organize the 30 miles in 30 days event and there were participants that took part in this event. Congratulations to all that participated.

The Recreation Committee took on the task of placing Memorial Day Flags in each of the six cemeteries in town prior to Memorial Day. The school children have completed this task for many years, but since the school was not in session, the Recreation Committee took on the task. There are many veterans in our cemeteries and we are pleased to replace the flags each year and to pay homage to them all.

The Recreation Committee will meet again on August 6. We will keep you informed of any virtual events we might hold. Take care all and Stay Safe.

***Constable's First
Report by
Gary Margolis***

The loose cow on the main
road,
doesn't fall
in my jurisdiction.
I have my hands full with my
children
and the hummingbirds
who protest I haven't left
them
enough sugar water.
Haven't made it look like
flowers.
No one told me much
about the oath I took.
To what I was raising
my right hand.
To whom I was pledging
my allegiance.
The turtle crossing the road.
An oriole's nest, a ball
of thread, swinging
from a willow branch.
A turkey feather I never
swore
it was my job to track down
the hen who lost it.
To ask if she was okay
without it.
If she didn't mind me
not following her
back to her roost
in the forest.
As I had other things,
I've learned, I have

to check on.
Walking around
the neighborhood.
Where no one lives
that close to each other.
Where there's a good field
between houses.
If anyone sees a light on,
over there
in what appears to be
an empty room,
a stall,
they don't think
to call the constable.
Knowing me well enough
to know I'd ask them first
to step outside
their comfort zone.
Walk across the field
with a flashlight.
To see if anything
was going on
over there, they thought
I needed to be informed
enough about.
To take me away from my
children. Sitting
on the porch, alone,
watching the hummingbirds
circle the flower-looking,
sugar water. It's my job,
at least, every so often,
to see if they need more
of my hand-made
fledgling nectar.

***Woodchuck by
Gary Margolis***

Earthmover, rock-pusher,
hole digger, my certain God
of Uncertainty. Entrance,
exit-entrancing. Such a dry
summer, my tunnel builder,
border-crosser. My random
God. Here one minute.
Isn't gone another way
to say here?
The earth between us
and the light at the end.
Suddenly a thought
of a plan arises.
Cherry bombs and mothballs.
No teargas. A flute song
known to the hamlet.
My granddaughter
practicing her recorder.
Asking her mother
if she's bothering me.
Which has me thinking
if you've come so I can
leave well enough alone.
Practice living together
outside, inside the earth.
If it wasn't for my roses
you're eating. And below,
the city of roads going
every which way. My God,
my God of Arising.

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

EDUCATION TAX RATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE.

Nearly on time, the Vermont Department of Taxes sent out the Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Unfortunately, the news is not good, as we might have expected with the pandemic and the economy in a turmoil.

The 2021 HOMESTEAD RATE is \$1.7235. This is an increase of \$0.1391 (\$0.14 +/-) from last year.

The 2021 NONHOMESTEAD RATE is \$1.6742. This is an increase of \$0.0791 (\$0.08 +/-) from last year. What used to be called NON RESIDENTIAL is now NONHOMESTEAD.

The Municipal General Fund, Highway and Local Agreement rates have not been calculated yet. The 2020 Grand List has not been finalized as of this date but is expected to be very soon. The Grand List number is required to set the tax rate. The Selectboard plans to set the Municipal rates at their August 4, 2020 Zoom Meeting. Tax bills will be sent out at the end of August or early in September. If you have questions, I will try to answer them.

Take Care, Sue