

Town of Cornwall

Fall Volume 19, Issue 1

### Cornwall's Town Treasurer Selected As Town Treasurer of the Year for 2022!

#### Congratulations!

Hello Cornwallians! Thank you for letting us borrow a corner of your newsletter this quarter! As an incredibly proud family we wanted to recognize Sue (aka mama) for recently being selected as the Vermont Town Treasurer of the year!

Each year, at their annual clerks and treasurers conference, attendees nominate and vote on their peers for this honor!

Throughout 22 years (and countless number of tax bills printed, payments collected, bills paid, etc.) we are grateful for Mama's commitment to the Town of Cornwall. In addition to daily clerk/treasurer tasks there are a lot of "other duties as assigned" that come up in the day to day and we are so proud of mama for showing up every day with the perseverance and dedication of someone who has committed their career to the town. And we haven't even started talking about the role of librarian! (By the way — will I see you at the Cornwall Library book sale this year?! ~Martha)

While we of course would nominate mama for mom/wife of the year every year please join us in celebrating this extra special accomplishment and recognition for our mama/wife this year as Vermont Town Treasurer of the Year!

Stu, Martha, Joe (Reese), and Ben (Karen)



#### **DISCLAIMER**

The opinion's expressed in the newsletter are those of the citizen's writing the articles, not those of the Town of Cornwall.

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# We're Bringing Fast, Reliable High Speed Internet to YOU!!!

### What's the story with Maple Broadband?

Maple Broadband is building a fiber optic network that will provide fast high speed fiber internet and local telephone service. Construction began on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and over the next several months you will see construction crews in and around Route 125, Route 30 (as in the photo below!), Route 74, Morse Road, Cider Mill Road, and James Road. Service launch is planned for early 2023.

Throughout 2022, Maple Broadband's focus has been on preparing to build and launch service on our fiber optic network, as well as obtaining the necessary grant funding to pay for the initial portions of the network.

Grant funding available through the State of Vermont, while substantial, will not cover all the costs of building fiber throughout Addison County. Every grant dollar raised reduces the amount of loans (and corresponding interest) that Maple Broadband must incur, which results in lower prices for subscribers.

Early portions of Maple Broadband's network are paid for exclusively through grant funds. These grants require that we prioritize building to addresses considered underserved and may require us to avoid building areas where another provider plans a fiber build. As a result, there are large sections of Cornwall that we may, or may not, be able to build in the coming months.

### What do I need to do?

If your home or business is in one of the areas we are able to build, you'll be receiving more information as we progress through the project. In the meantime, you can visit our web site, **maplebroadband.net**, to register your interest in fiber internet service.

### **About Maple Broadband**

Maple Broadband is Addison County's Communications Union District (CUD). CUDs cannot tax their member towns or the residents of those towns. A CUD must fund its operations by grants, debt, and



donations. As a local initiative run by and for people like you, we're committed to building the essential connections our friends and neighbors need to thrive.



#### PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The summer and fall have been productive times for the Cornwall Planning Commission. Over the past year we hosted several Public Information meetings to discuss drafts of amendments for sections of the Town Plan; including the Population, Housing, Education, and Economy sections. These offer a broad overview of the current trends for these topics in Cornwall. In addition to that, new sections covering Act 171 Forest Fragmentation and Flood Resilience will be added. Our hope is to complete a hearing draft for a hearing date set just after the holidays. Keep your eyes peeled!

As we look ahead, the Planning Commission is hoping to revisit the zoning regulations and develop a filing and document archive for our work.

If any of this interests you, please feel free to contact Conor Stinson <a href="mailto:stinson.cpc@gmail.com">stinson.cpc@gmail.com</a> or Don Burns <a href="mailto:dburnscpc@gmail.com">dburnscpc@gmail.com</a> for more information.

## CVFD FIRST ANNUAL REUNION FOR MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department held the first annual reunion of current and former members of the department at the home of Chief Dave Berno on September 18. It was a potluck affair with hamburgers and hotdogs as well. The fleet of trucks were on display, including the brand new front line Engine 1. (seen in the picture). There were approximately 40 people in attendance. Sounds like it will become an annual event. Thanks to Dave and Dawn for their wonderful hospitality.



#### 2022 LFICD MOSQUITO SEASON

What a difference a year makes. As we compare the last six years of mosquito data, each year is very different. There is no way to predict what one mosquito season to the next will hold. Diligent mosquito larval surveillance followed up by weekly CDC Light Trap analysis tells us where to focus our energies for potential larvicide treatment.

Larval activity was low to moderate in early to late Spring. Light Traps yielded moderate numbers of adult mosquitoes from June to the middle of July and a sharp decline in August to September. Rain events promulgate hatches. But the rain accumulation must provide enough water to puddle and remain a puddle at least for 4-7 days for mosquito eggs to hatch and larvae to develop and eventually emerge as adults. If the puddles and/or floodplain dry up before the larvae can emerge, the larvae will die in the mud, grasses, or leaves. Mother Nature worked with us this year to prevent the need for larviciding. There was an average of 0.63" of precipitation per rain event over 14 recorded events from June to September with 1.7" being the largest amount recorded. These infrequent rain events significantly reduced upland and floodplain mosquitoes.

The LFICD purchased a new Maruyama Backpack Sprayer this year which can spray the same *Bti* granules we use for aerial treatment and cover 6-14 acres of treatable habitat at a time. The sprayer was put to the test in June in a section of the Cornwall Swamp. With the assistance of Judd Markowski, a little over 6 acres were treated with 98% effectiveness. While there are acreage limitations to the backpack sprayer, it will enable us to "stamp out fires" of concentrated larval activity throughout a season.

This year's field interns were graduates of UVM. Nicholas Steinthal and Arianna Morton contributed significantly to daily field operations and lab duties. Both Nick and Arianna helped fulfill the "Pesticide Resistance Monitoring" project as required by the State. They participated in outreach and education through our Annual LFICD Open House in July and served as representatives at the Addison County Fair & Field Days at a table provided to us through the Home and Garden Center in August. One hundred eighty visitors stopped by our Field Days table to talk about mosquito control. Unfortunately, we didn't get as many residents from our three towns as we would have liked.

Both interns gave power point presentations at the Vermont Agricultural & Environmental Lab which included 6 years of mosquito statistics. These statistics are presented using pie charts, graphs, etc. and are available at <a href="www.lficd.org">www.lficd.org</a>. In addition, Middlebury College's Bill Hegman (Teaching Fellow) provided a GIS-Lidar Mapping Intern for the second year in a row. This was Phase II of the Lemon Fair River watershed mapping project which helped us identify areas of importance for larval surveillance and potential treatment. Yude "Alex" Xu was the Middlebury intern for this project and presented his data and maps at our LFICD Open House.

We continue to learn by focusing attention on potential treatment areas. This focus helps us treat smaller target areas with the Backpack Sprayer. Rarely do we get enough treatment acreage (i.e. 1,000+ acres) to bring in a helicopter service. Long term, we feel a treatment drone could be an effective tool for acreage greater than we can treat by hand, but less than helicopter minimums.

We are always open to visiting private properties and helping property owners assess potential mosquito breeding habitat and making recommendations on what can be done to reduce the impact of mosquitoes around their homes.

Lemon Fair Insect Control District

## Trunk or Treat!

A group of Cornwall community members will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 29th. It will be 1-3:30pm at Champlain Valley Motorsports. This will be a fun opportunity for town members of all walks and ages to gather while our children go trick or treating in a safe and consolidated space. We plan to have some other fun activities and hope to have a table with Hot Apple Cider and other refreshments too.

For more information keep an eye out in Front Porch forum or on a Flyer posted around town. You could also contact Ian Ross at addison.department.store@gmail.com

#### CORNWALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS!!

Hello Cornwall community,

It feels good to be writing this on a crisp fall day! We are now finishing our 5th week of school and have settled into schedules and routines, both indoors and outdoors. We were able to hold our Back to School Potluck in person, which for many families, was the first time they had gathered together here at school!

We have welcomed several new staff members to Cornwall School this year. Patricia Roeding has joined us as our special education teacher, Abby Adams has joined us as our librarian, Sierra Thornton has joined us as our PE teacher, and Stephanie Rotax will be joining us as our school nurse in October. We have also welcomed two paraeducators - Roxanne Ross (from here in Cornwall!) and Katrina Yepez (who I used to work with in Colorado!).

Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) remained active during the pandemic and was able to partner with various organizations and arrange for after school activities for students including outdoor education with MALT, classes with Middlebury Community Music Center, and classes with the Middlebury Studio School. Thank you to the Cornwall Select Board for allocating recovery funds to these programs so participation for students is free. And, thank you to the Town Hall for providing the space for some of the programs!

Lastly, many people have been asking about enrollment. Enrollment is up to 93 students this year. We are looking forward to growing and learning together throughout the year.

Warmly, Heather Raabe

Principal, Cornwall School

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

<u>Invasive Plants: Find 'Em and Do 'Em In!</u> On Saturday, August 13 from 9:30-11:30, Travis Hart, habitat biologist, led a well-attended workshop on identifying invasive plants and the various options available to property owners for removing them. He also explained why they are harmful and led demonstrations of special tools like the "Uprooter" and "Extractigator" which can help manually remove tough to handle invasives. The Conservation Commission has purchased a limited number of these tools to have available for community borrowing from the library this fall.



Demo of the "UPROOTER"

Recent Cornwall Swamp Events On Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at sundown, Greg Pask, Assistant Professor of Biology at Middlebury College and Cornwall resident led an insect adventure, collecting and identifying several moth, orthoptera, and stink bug species that live in our very own backyards! In spite of the rain, we had a great turnout of 18 people, ranging from toddlers on up! On Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the Conservation Commission sponsored a Walk in the Swamp, led by natural resources experts. We had over 30 people in attendance and the highlights were taking a cedar core from the wooded swamplands and the beautiful full moon and sunset as we walked back through the meadow from the swamp.



Finding moths in the Blacklight.



Taking a Cedar core.

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED......

<u>Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park Visit</u> The Conservation Commission organized a group tour of the Marsh Billings Rockefeller (MBR) National Historical Park in Woodstock on Saturday, October 1st. This tour, specially -designed for us, included a conversation about the evolving and sometimes controversial history of conservation and land stewardship in America, a discussion of options for managing emerald ash borer, an up-close examination of a living American Chestnut (which is considered functionally extinct in the U.S.) and lovely maple, hemlock, beech, birch and ash trees.



Looking up to the canopy at MBR

#### **Ongoing and Upcoming Commission Events:**

Emerald Ash Borer Cornwall Tree Warden, Stu Johnson and Sue Johnson have completed the count for the number of ash trees in Cornwall that are in the public right of way or on Town property. Thank you Stu and Sue! They found 353 ash trees along Cornwall roads, and many have died or are dying. Discussions of next steps are ongoing. If you are interested in learning more about ash trees and the impact of their impending loss, check out the Heartwood podcast, Episode 6, <a href="https://www.ourvermontwoods.org/heartwood">https://www.ourvermontwoods.org/heartwood</a> or how to manage them on your property from Vermont Invasives <a href="https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont">https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont</a>

#### Conservation Commission blog, Instagram and Facebook pages

Do you want to *Get Wild?* Would you like to learn more about the birds and wildlife that live right here in Cornwall? Do you wish you could do a better job composting? Or find out how to improve the soil in your garden? Maybe you'd really like to help out native pollinators but don't know where to start. Well, we've just launched Cornwall's very own conservation blog. You'll get answers to your questions and can join in the conversation about all things 'conservation' right in here in Cornwall! Find us at <a href="https://getwildcornwall.wixsite.com/getwild">https://getwildcornwall.wixsite.com/getwild</a>

#### Conserved Land in Cornwall: A Love Story and a Legacy

Every piece of land has a story behind it. When the Conservation Commission interviewed Mary Dodge and Michael Katz about how they came to conserve their land, they said, "It was a love story," but one based on the advice of their

accountant. Since moving to their property off Sperry Road in 1998, Mary and Michael had been impressed by the diversified, wildlife-friendly qualities of the land. The 58-acre plot contains clayplain forest, wetlands, successional meadow, a perennial stream and pond area, and steep ravines that are home to

deer, bobcat, coyote, beaver, and many bird species. Although conserving their land had crossed their mind before, it wasn't until 2010 that their accountant alerted them to the substantial tax benefits that they might gain by its conservation. It was then that they decided to proceed. With a forest management plan in hand, Mary and Michael worked with the Middlebury Area Land Trust to craft an easement that restricted any future subdivision or development and then embarked on an extensive program to manage invasive species on the property. Ten years later and with other land adjacent to theirs now also conserved, the positive impact of their decision is clear and has

also been magnified. "Through conserving our land, we created a legacy for our family and a protected place for wild-life, preserving its financial and environmental value via a personalized easement. It is a gift that will live on through the land," said Mary. If you are interested in land conservation, feel free to contact the Cornwall Conservation Commission at cornwallconservationvt@gmail.com

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED......

<u>Trail Camera Project</u> Bears, bears have been showing on many of the project cameras. But, a recent favorite capture was a fox that stopped in front of a camera and seemed to pose for its picture, looking first this way and then that, before moving on. (See the attached profile shot.) If you are curious about the wildlife that visit your backyard, let us know and we will try to get one of the five project camera set up at your house before the project ends next spring. Contact mdodge@middlebury.edu



A local resident rests in the shade

Submitted by Kristina Sargent, CCC Member

#### CORNWALL RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS!

We hope you were able to enjoy all the activities the Cornwall Recreation Committee offered to you this past summer.

We are eager to share with you our plans for the upcoming Fall.

Next will be **The Great Pumpkin Carving.** Save the Date: Saturday, October 29 at the Cornwall Town Hall 10am - Noon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to carve out a pumpkin in time for Halloween. Bring your own pumpkin and see what you can create! So carve out some time to carve out a pumpkin for Halloween.

Get ready to read in November! We are proud to announce the **Mary Jane Broughton Memorial Book Challenge**. We look forward to supplying you with a list of books to use, if you wish. The launch for this very exciting event will be October 25th. The Challenge will go through November 30th. Keep an eye out for the details in upcoming emails.

Also the Park and Historic Passes can still be signed out until the parks close.

All the best to you this fall!

The Cornwall Recreation Committee

#### **Town Clerk and Treasurer News**

Happy Fall to you all! It has been a glorious fall so far. One of the very special Vermont treats!

It is a great honor to have been named Town Treasurer of the year by my peers. The Selectboard received a letter from the President of the Vermont Municipal Clerk's and Treasurer's Association which included the following: "Sue is dependable with a quietly competent demeanor, which engenders the trust of those attending her trainings. "These words are very inspiring to me and I am left speechless with appreciation for this recognition.

The highlights for the Town Clerk-Treasurer 's office over the next few months are as follows:

You should have received your **tax bill** at the beginning of September. I am still processing Homestead Declarations and Property Tax Adjustment payments as they come in from the state. If I do receive an updated notification for your property, you will receive a revised tax bill. Please destroy the original bill and pay your tax installments from the revised bill. The final deadline to file a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment is October 15. After that, I believe they still process them, but there will be no more downloads to the

The due dates for tax payments HAVE CHANGED THIS YEAR!! They are November 15, 2022 and May 15, 2022. November 15 is a Tuesday, so normal office hours that day, 9 AM-5 PM. Postmarks are accepted for on time payments. You can drop your payments into the green drop box on the front porch of the town hall.

The town office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 19, **20 & 21.** I am taking a few days to assist family.

The **General Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The polls will be open from 7 AM-7 PM. You should have received a ballot in the mail. These were sent to all active voters by the State of Vermont. You have many options for returning them. They can be mailed in the postage paid envelope, you can drop them off at the town hall in the drop box or inside if the office is open. You can come to vote in person at the polls, but please bring your unvoted ballot with you. If you do not, you will have to sign an affidavit affirming that you have not already voted in the election.

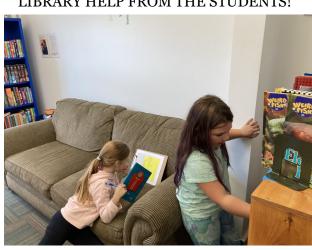
The Town Clerk-Treasurer's office will be closed the entire Thanksgiving week. Wishing you all a wonderful and food filled Thanksgiving!

The Town Clerk-Treasurer's office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day and will reopen on January 3, 2023.

Have a great fall! Sue



LIBRARY HELP FROM THE STUDENTS!



#### CORNWALL LIBRARY REPORT

#### The Book Sale is Coming

It's that time of year again — time for the Cornwall Library Book Sale so mark your calendars for **Saturday**, **November 12<sup>th</sup>**. We have a **large** collection of gently used books, DVDS and audio books that you won't want to miss. **AND** a craft sale will be held upstairs in the Town Hall at the same time. The money that the vendors pay for the tables will be donated to the library. So it's a win-win for everybody — the library and for you, the shopper!

This is the perfect time to stock up on books for winter reading when the days are cold, long and dark plus reading is a perfect way to wait out winter. You can climb under that fleece blanket or cozy up to the fireplace and read away to sunnier and warmer days.

The Cornwall Library Book Sale will be open from **9AM to 3PM at the Town Hall**. Once again, we will have a **Take What You Want/Pay What You Think is Fair** or **What You Can!** Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the library shelves with new releases purchased from the Vermont Book Shop in downtown Middlebury, as well as DVDs. Come check out the book sale on **Saturday**, **November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **New Additions to the Library Collection**

Come on in and check out the materials that we've added to our collection at the library. If you prefer to see what's new from your home, you can see the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website **cornwallvt.com**. Below is a **sampling** of the new items in our collection.

#### **FICTION**

The Winners – Fredrik Backman, Fellowship Point – Alice Elliot Dark, The Measure – Nikki Erlick, The Many Daughters of Afong May – Jamie Ford, The Last White Man – Mohsin Hamid, Lessons – Ian McEwan, The Marriage Portrait – Maggie O'Farrell, Carrie Soto is Back – Taylor Jenkins Reid, Lucy by the Sea – Elizabeth Strout, Night of the Living Rez – Morgan Talty, Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow – Gabrielle Zevin

#### LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

#### **MYSTERY/THRILLER**

The 6:20 Man – David Baldacci, Marple – Agatha Christie, Upgrade – Blake Crouch, The Rising Tide – Ann Cleeves, What She Found – Robert Dugoni, Daisy Darker – Alice Feeney, The Family Remains – Lisa Jewell, Fairy Tale – Stephen King, Fox Creek – William Kent Krueger, The Bullet That Missed – Richard Osman, Shattered – James Patterson, Portrait of an Unknown Woman – Daniel Silva, The It Girl – Ruth Ware

#### LARGE PRINT FICTION

**The Homewreckers** – Mary Kay Andrews, **The Magnolia Palace** – Fiona Davis, **Coffin Road** – Peter May, **The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek** – Kim Michele Richardson

#### **NONFICTION**

Life on the Mississippi – Rinker Buck, Tanqueray – Stephanie Johnson, Path Lit By Lightning – David Maraniss, Glad My Mom Died – Jennette McCurdy, An Immense World – Ed Yong, Solito – Javiar Zamora

#### YOUNG ADULT

Lightlark - Alex Aster, The Inheritance Games - Jennifer Lynn Barnes

#### CHILDREN'S

Amari and the Great Game – B. B. Alston, Odder – Katherine Applegate, Monsters in the Fog – Ali Bahrampour, Farmhouse – Sophie Blackall, Spy School: Project X – Stuart Gibbs, Berry Song – Micaela Goade, Invisible – Christina Diaz Gonzalez, Search for Treasure – Mary Alice Monroe, A Little Ferry Tale – Chad Otis, Patchwork – Matt de la Pena, Giant Island – Jane Yolen

#### **AUDIOBOOKS**

On Mystic Lake – Kristin Hannah

#### **DVDs**

1883: A Yellowstone Original Story, Blacklight, The Contractor, Downton Abbey: A New Era, Elvis, Fantastic Beasts 3, Jurassic World Dominion, The Lost City, Minions, Where the Crawdads Sing

#### CORNWALL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The fire department recently took delivery of our new front line engine which, like our other recent apparatus, was built by the Dingee Machine Company of Cornish, NH. This truck is equipped with a computer controlled pump system which eliminates many of the complicated skills needed to run a mechanically valved pump. Having this system will allow more of our members to be able to run the pump at scenes, increasing our ability to respond effectively to fire calls both in Cornwall and as mutual aid to our neighboring departments. Our previous engine, built in 2003, will remain in service and be based at our West Cornwall station on North Bingham Street.

After a two year hiatus, we'll be hosting another Open House at our Rt 30 Station on Sunday, October 23 from 12PM to 3PM. In addition to showcasing our new engine, we'll play host to the LifeNet medical transport helicopter and a fire extinguisher training opportunity. Ever wanted to see a helicopter land? Ever wanted to try out a fire extinguisher? Come and join us for some refreshments and fun at our Open House!





## Notice of Closure of the Sperry Road Entrance to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Route 30 Station

The CVFD wishes to inform the townspeople of Cornwall that as of November 1st 2022 the entrance to the Route 30 fire station from Sperry Road will be blocked to vehicular traffic. Unfortunately the use of this entrance as a short cut between Route 30 and Sperry Road has increased both in frequency and speed, and this poses a danger both for the fire department as well as to vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians on the two roadways. The driveway and parking area are not designed as a public roadway and are unsafe to be used as such.

Thank you, CVFD

#### **ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT**

Greetings Cornwall Residents,

With the leaves changing color, it can only mean one thing, that summer went by way to fast, and winter will be here before you know it. Let us hope that old man winter does not show up too soon, I could get used to these cool nights and warm days. I hope that everyone had a great summer and that you were able to enjoy all that summer in our beautiful state has to offer.

Since the last update in the summer newsletter, Ken and I have been busy mowing roadsides, hauling in gravel for the roads and getting it out on the roads that need it most. Ken and I completed a Grants-in-Aid project on Cutting Hill Road. We added ditches on both sides of the road to help keep wash outs from occurring on the first hill just west of the dairy farm. We also added a culvert at the bottom of the south ditch to help prevent the farm road access from being washed out.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have hauled just over 1700 tons of winter sand, and it is stored away in our sand shed patiently waiting for its time to shine on our gravel roads. Thanks to the Towns of Weybridge and Shoreham we were able to haul all the sand in house so that we did not have to contract out the work, and in the end, it saved on our budget.

With the cooler weather rapidly approaching and looking like its going to hang out for a while, we will be starting to switch over to our winter tires and get the plow frames on and wings hooked up. Most likely, the next time you see one of the Cornwall trucks driving around don't be surprised if you see it sporting a nice freshly painted bright orange wing or maybe even the plow too. (fingers crossed we don't need to actually used them for a while and they are just decoration). Also, with the cooler weather we will be starting to tackle some of the tree work around town, we are currently out and about with the tractor and roadside mower cutting brush back and trying to widen the roadsides.

I will keep this one short and sweet. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of fall and gets to spend some time outside before it gets too cold. My family likes to pick apples and get some tasty treats from Sunrise Orchards and then make the whole house smell like apples. As always drive safe and have a great day. See you out and about.

Road Foreman Steven Rheaume

## **EARTHBOUND by Gary Margolis**

You didn't expect to feel this much joy for the slug pushing up the dirt roof of his house.

For the rainbow of husks rotting in the compost. Decomposing like bricks of uranium

under a mountain.

Joy for the pure joy of seeing the invisible breeze lift the dead

branch of the linden, effortlessly, lowering it, so, it seems, it can be raised, time and time

again. Like the chorus of bluejays protesting anyone threatening

to disturb a mountain.

Joy for the leaves in their splendor.

Willing to excavate your heart.

Where, really and symbolically, every feeling tunnels and rises. Each in its good time.

Like the joy you feel coming upon last night's city of mushrooms. Some you dig up and eat.

Some you leave well

enough alone. Trusting they'll last. As long as they need to.

As long as it takes anything to disappear into the unconditional rich earth.

#### HER HERO by Gary Margolis

At the start of the school year, the teacher asks her new class to write

a few sentences

about one of their heroes. My granddaughter, my daughter tells me, looks at a picture

of me. Before she begins telling the story of her great-grandfather. Who's still alive. Who, she reports,

pushes his false teeth in and out with his tongue. Who, she writes, expects great things of her. Like helping her family. Taking

the dog out for his walk in the stream

of the city. Learning whom to trust.

Whom to walk by. As if they were

invisible. Which, she includes, is

impossible to see herself doing.

Given how he taught her a human being is a human being.

How a deer is close to being

a human being. Especially the doe, he told her, who walked over

to him in the woods. Asking for mercy.

A word, she includes, even without

knowing what it means yet. Having a feeling greatgrandfather wouldn't

say anything that wasn't true enough.

Which, she tells me, make him a hero

in her book.

Town of Cornwall 2629 Route 30 Cornwall, VT 05753

## Fire Safety Reminders from the

#### **Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department**

E911 Signage - In an emergency, clearly marked house numbers are *critically important* to First Responders. If you need assistance in obtaining and installing a standard green and white E911 sign at your home, do not hesitate to contact the CVFD for assistance. Captain Ken Manchester can help! Give him a call at 462-2136 or talk to any member of the department!

Alarm Systems - Do you have an alarm system at your house? If you do, please consider investing in a Knox Box to ensure timely access to your home. This device, which can only be opened by the CVFD & you, holds keys and important information about accessing your home in an emergency.

Brush Burning - If you have questions about burning brush or obtaining a burn permit, please contact Forest Fire Warden Tom Frankovic at 802-462-3137 or 989-4473.

Alarm batteries - Do your smoke and CO detectors need fresh batteries? If so, please change them twice a year. Consider doing so on solstices or time changes, it's an easy way to remember!