



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 29 : NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 2019



## POCD 2020

The final public hearing on Cornwall's Plan of Conservation and Development 2020 (POCD) was held at 7 P.M. on November 12 at town hall. More than 40 interested members of the community attended on a frigid night as chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), David Colbert, brought the meeting to order.

Colbert's opening remarks recognized the contributions of the many people involved in preparing the plan and underscored the valuable contributions made by the citizens of Cornwall. "This is the big opportunity for P&Z to involve the community as much as possible and we took this seriously," he said. The meeting served as the final time that residents could offer their thoughts and opinions after more than two years of work by subcommittees, public hearings, and a survey.

According to Colbert, "the objective was to have varied and representative views from the community. Each of the four subcommittees—Economic Development; Housing; Natural Resources; and Community, Cultural, and Youth Resources—was comprised of one to two members from P&Z and four to six members from the community at large." In addition, he noted that he was very pleased

with the "large response rate" of the survey, with nearly 25 percent of all residents weighing in.

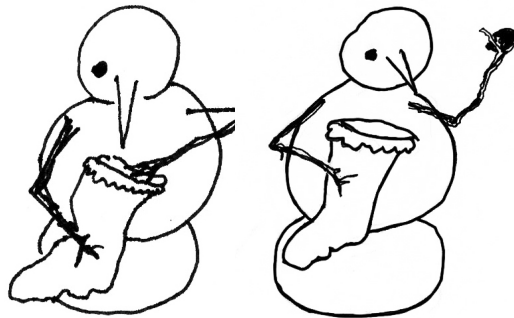
Attendees at the meeting were allotted three minutes to ask questions or comment, and several, including Bart Jones of the Cornwall Conservation Trust, thanked the commission for its efforts in involving the town and the hard work in preparing the plan. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway added his admiration for the commission's "innovation, foresight, and efforts to encourage input." Ridgway went further and singled out Colbert for his leadership on P&Z over the past 19 years, noting that this is the second POCD he has overseen and his last meeting as P&Z chair, while presenting him with a gallon jug of "anonymous" maple syrup as a token of gratitude

for his service.

Bruce Bennett then asked, "What is the process going forward; how does the plan get implemented?" Colbert explained that while "the subcommittee devoted to creating the POCD will cease to exist upon adoption of the plan, the various town committees will be responsible for using the document as a guideline for their actions going forward." After the passage of the previous POCD, Colbert noted that "P&Z prioritized recommendations and created a task list in order to turn recommendations into regulations. This process can hardly be overstated. Our work needs to be legally compliant and easily enforceable."

After several more comments about the need for affordable housing and attracting young families, there was a motion to close the public hearing, which carried, and was followed by a brief and detailed discussion among committee members of adjustments to the final report.

Nearly two hours into the meeting, Colbert was encouraged as his final act as chair of P&Z to make the motion to close the discussion and "adopt the 2020 plan as posted, discussed, and amended at this meeting." The motion was passed unanimously and with a hearty round of applause, the Cornwall Plan of Conservation and Development 2020 went into effect. This plan will



## DECEMBER 2019

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 ♦ What's the Word? Group 11 am Library ♦ Region One Board of Education 6:30 pm HVRHS Library	3 ♦ Inlands Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Office Bldg. ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	4 ♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10 am–Noon Library ♦ Bend & Stretch 10 am Town Hall	5	6	7 ♦ UCC Christmas Fair 9:30 am–3 pm ♦ A Mix of Oil & Water Artist Reception 5 pm Library ♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
8	9 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC Day Room	10 ♦ Econ. Dev. Comm. 9 am Town Hall ♦ Monthly Senior Lunch Noon UCC Parish House ♦ WasteWater Comm. 5 pm Town Hall ♦ P & Z Comm. 7 pm Cornwall Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	11 ♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10 am–Noon Library ♦ Bend & Stretch 10 am Town Hall	12	13	14 ♦ Book Signing with Valerie Fisher, Craft Workshop, Santa Noon–3 pm Wish House
15 ♦ Deadline: January Chronicle Copy ♦ Jim Terrall Talk on Africa Trip 4 pm Library	16 ♦ Peter Vermilyea Talk on "The Vote" 5:30 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Cornwall Library	17 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	18 ♦ Bend & Stretch 10 am Town Hall ♦ Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS Library	19 ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 6 pm Cornwall Library ♦ Board of Finance 7 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ Hot Cocoa with Santa 5–6 pm UCC Parish House ♦ Annual Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 pm UCC	21 ♦ Indoor Co-op Farm Market 9 am–12:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Annual Christmas Pageant 7:30 pm UCC
22 ♦ SNOW DATE Annual Christmas Pageant 4 pm UCC	23	24 ♦ Library Hours Noon–3 pm ♦ Candlelight Services 5 pm and 8 pm North Cornwall Mtg. House	25 CHRISTMAS DAY ♦ Library Closed	26 ♦ Library Hours Noon–3 pm ♦ Boxing Day Reading 4 pm North Cornwall Mtg. House	27	28
29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	<b>Every Week This Month:</b> ♦ Mondays: Mat Squad, 6:30 pm UCC ♦ Tuesdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Tai-Chi, 5–5:30 pm and Qui-Gong, 6–6:30 pm UCC; Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874 ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library ♦ Sundays: Yoga, 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229; ASW Method Mat Class, 1–3 pm Library			

\*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

serve as a guideline for the conservation, development, and strategic direction for our town for the next decade. It can be found on the town website (cornwallct.org).  
—Bob Meyers

## What's Brewing in West Cornwall

Not only is coffee now brewing at the Covered Bridge Electric Bike Shop, but other changes are happening in town. Bob Ensign reports he has a shipment of beautiful new E-bikes for sale in response to 35 percent of renters asking to purchase one. The bike shop will be open during the winter months. According to Ensign, appropriately dressed winter bikers can have a real adventure. He is searching to find good trails of about 10 miles for seasonal riders.

Ian Ingersoll is renovating the old wagon shop, which appears on the cover of *Cornwall in Pictures* as Sturges & Co., trying to restore it to its former glory. Its use is not yet determined, but there is an apartment upstairs. Ian, impressed with the beautiful architecture, remarks that just as a harbor of antique wooden boats must be kept up, the support of citizens, as well as owners, will be what makes WC thrive.

The local residents who form the West Cornwall Development Group LLC and have purchased the former "Pink House" and red barn are busy working on permits and paperwork. They hope to soon be able to announce their plans for a "convivial community-oriented" venture.

Lights are on and the sign is up at the Union, housed on the first floor of the former pottery store. The new use of this space is an idea that percolated when the board members of the Hughes Library determined their own building was not adequate for all they would like to do, including providing materials and education about the environment in partnership with the Housatonic Valley Association. The library, however, has a dirt cellar and no bathroom, nor space for large meetings. The library board unanimously decided to use the former pottery store as an extension, where people can work, hold events, and use hi-speed internet, through a library grant. Janet Carlson Sanders of the EDC and the One Eleven Group says partners see the Union as an evolving place for the community.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School is working in partnership to provide on-site interns as staff, welcoming locals and visitors alike, while providing paying jobs to area teenagers.

The Union is holding health care enrollments by Health Pathfinder on Friday and Saturday of each weekend through Decem-

ber 15, and will be available for events and meetings beginning in January 2020.

Farnsworth Book Store has also been used during the fall by Susan Hellman, who added crafts and furniture for sale. Andrew Farnsworth reports this may close in the winter, but the future of the building depends on the outcome of the septic system.

The restaurant RSVP usually closes for the winter season, but the Wish House, Souterrain Gallery, and One Eleven Group have remained open for business throughout this transition time for West Cornwall. There are more things on the horizon, so stay tuned as things continue to brew.  
—Ann Gold

## The Gift of the Magi

The Christmas bazaar of my youth was an annual event during which, for a few dollars, my brothers and I could purchase all of our Christmas presents in one shot. The lovely old ladies of the Congregational Church who did the pricing in those days (the mid-eighties), marked their wares according to perceived usefulness rather than value, so a clean pair of wool socks might cost the same as a set of golf clubs. Even then there was a long tradition of accidentally buying back the old lawnmower you'd donated last year or of calling out to warn someone that the puzzle they had tucked under their arm was missing a corner piece.

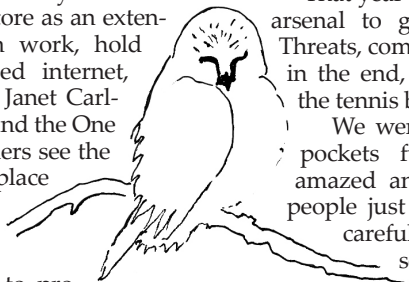
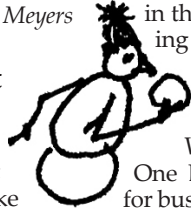
Weeks before the event, our mother would start her campaign to get us to donate one of our "collections" to the bazaar. "Why not give them all these old medicine bottles?" she'd say, referring to the thick glass we'd dug out of the woods behind our house. Or, "You have so many stuffed animals. I bet some other kids might like some too."

In particular, she was keen to get rid of my brother's tennis ball collection. The thing about tennis balls is that they never stay collected for long. Something that is fun with one tennis ball is 50 times as much fun with 50 tennis balls, and I believe there was a year or two when the sound of a bouncing tennis ball caused our mother a certain amount of dread.

That year she tried every trick in the arsenal to get rid of the collection. Threats, compromises, and bribes; and, in the end, she simply declared that the tennis balls had to go.

We went to the bazaar with our pockets full of coins and were amazed anew at the treasures that people just gave away. We shopped

carefully for each other and for a select few friends who were worth spending actual money on. One of these friends was Juliet Lyon. We saved the most mystical treasures for her: a rotting leather suitcase with foreign stickers on it, an oil lamp with no wick, and a box full of typewriter keys. We saw her a few days later and all of us made dark



## Welcome

Elliot Simon Kirschner  
to Lesley Gyorsok and Jonathan Kirschner

## Land Transfers

Douglas L. Weier and Kathlyn C. Weier, Trustees, to Lisel Joline Donaldson, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 16 Cogswell Road for \$390,000.

Estate of Byron F. Hall to Tamara Polk and John Finstad, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 42 Hall Road for \$60,000.

Eileen B. Hain to Robert C. Tremper, half interest in land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 5 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$139,500.

Estate of Donald L. Hain to Robert C. Tremper, half interest in land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 5 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$139,500.

Seal Rock Development, LLC to Max Steven Pitman and Day Rose Kornbluth, property at 189 Great Hill Road for \$600,000.

hints about how awesome each other's Christmas presents were going to be.

At some point the presents were wrapped and delivered. We were keen to open the one from Juliet because it was large and had a promising heft to it. Sure enough, there on Christmas morning was the exact same group of dirty and spring-less tennis balls.

We met Juliet later and she beamed at us. "Can you believe it?" she called. "More tennis balls for your collection!"

—Hope Bentley

## What's the Word?

If you're the type of lexophile looking for more and more words, there's a type of game, a type of art, inspired by certain types of words, going on monthly in the meeting room of the Cornwall Library.

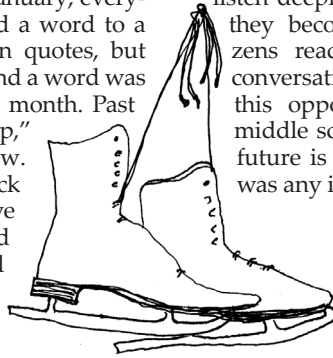
According to Connie Steuerwalt, the



idea for the group activity came from her sharing her daily word and drawing journal with friends. A word is selected for each month, and participants are invited to interpret the word in any type of fashion—drawings, prose, mobiles, sculptures, tin-types, action figures, collages—any form or expression, serious or whimsical, that represents the chosen word.

At the initial meeting in January, everyone in the group contributed a word to a figurative “hat” (which is in quotes, but could also be in italic type), and a word was then picked at random each month. Past words include “cast,” “ship,” and “lacuna,” to name a few. “It’s kind of like a potluck dinner,” Connie says, “we never get a dozen tossed salads.” The “hat” will need to be replenished for next year. All contributions are welcome.

The word for December is “type.” The next meeting is on Monday, December 2, at 11 A.M. This is not hype; it’s type.  
—Gregory Galloway



### Deep Listening Sparks Civic Engagement

Critical thinking. Multiple perspectives. Interviewing, editing, and public speaking skills. All were on display Sunday, November 3, at the Cornwall Library for a crowd of 50 at the screening of six eight-minute films produced through the Civic Life Project and the Cornwall Consolidated seventh- and eighth-grade classes of Will Vincent last year.

Facilitated by Dominique Lasseur and Catherine Tatge, the students chose topics that they then turned into short documentaries. School taxpayer costs, veterans’ services, girls in the Boy Scouts, health care affordability, and the Second Amendment were all covered. Each of the films was produced by a group of three to five students who had to figure out how to work as a team while they interviewed local leaders to gather information on their various topics. Hours of interview footage were then edited down to eight minutes.

Three of the filmmakers—Spencer Markow, Harry Sanders, and Dana Saccardi—were also present to answer audience questions about their process and product. All commented on the experience of asking

questions and learning to elicit a range of information and viewpoints despite their own pre-conceived opinions as they started the project.

The end results were clear, professional, and thought-provoking (the films can be viewed at the Civic Life Project channel on YouTube). It was evident that Cornwall’s middle school students are learning how to listen deeply to a variety of positions as they become engaged, informed citizens ready to navigate complicated conversations. Civic Life hopes to offer this opportunity to all Region One middle school students next year. Our future is in good hands, if this group was any indication!  
—Virginia Gold

### How We Voted

Most of the races in this year’s local election were uncontested, resulting in the lowest voter turnout in 12 years. Only 39 percent of registered voters participated.

Gordon Ridgway was elected to his 15<sup>th</sup> term as first selectman; Priscilla Pavel was re-elected and Marina Kotchoubey was elected for her first term on the Board of Selectmen.

Richard Bramley did not run for selectman this election, ending his 14 years on the board. On November 5, State Rep. Maria Horn presented Richard with a certificate from the state legislature honoring his service, and Gordon presented him with a pitcher made by Jane Herold. Richard’s service to the town continues without interruption, however, as he was elected as town treasurer, replacing John Green, who retired after 18 years.

Vera Dinneen might have only needed a single vote to be re-elected to her seventh term as town clerk, but she received 415, which was 100 percent of the votes cast.

Jean Bouteiller was re-elected as tax collector; Janet Carlson and Zejke Hermann to Board of Finance (with Simon Hewett and John Brown Jr. as alternates); Hugh Cheney, Iris Hermann, and Rachel Matsudaira were elected to the Board of Education; Roger Kane and Blaine Matthews Jr. to Board of Assessment Appeals; Keith Bodwell, Ben Gray Jr., and Stephen Saccardi to Planning and Zoning; Donald Bardon, George Wolfe, and Joanne Wojtusiak to Zoning Board of Appeals.

—Gregory Galloway

### Mr. Miller Goes to Town

These days this old geezer needs help getting around and on Election Day my 16-year-old grandson Max from far-away Dobbs Ferry, NY, held my hand to get me into town hall where I filled in my ballot and then went to the Parish House to chow down.

I sat at a table with an assortment of friends and neighbors with names like



June, Hugh, Huntsy, later joined by Jean, Nita, and Lisa. The gang slurped a variety of familiar soups such as mulligatawny made by Cate-the-Great Tatge, and Pat (bless her heart) Blakey’s corn chowder with bacon.

Halfway through the slurping who should walk in but our newly re-elected first selectman, Gordon R., escorted by son Ian and daughter Liz. The mayor (I call him the mayor) got his political start in our town over 30 years ago when he strode into a Democratic caucus one fateful day and challenged me for the party’s nomination for selectman. He, farmer/syrup-maker, won and began a fabulous career. I, former netman/syrup-lover, lost and entered political oblivion.  
—John Miller

### Cornwall Briefs

• **Goodbye Joyce!** Sometime in January, Joyce Hart is retiring as administrative assistant to the selectmen after 29 years in town hall, 22 of them in her current position. In addition to finding someone to replace her, the town is also seeking to fill a vacancy in the highway department. Qualified applicants should contact the selectmen’s office.

• **Volunteers needed.** There are opportunities to serve on a number of boards and commissions, including the Conservation Commission, the Cornwall Grange Trust Fund Advisory Committee, the Economic Development Commission, the Inland Wetland and Water Courses Agency, Park and Recreation Commission, the Sydney Kaye Fund Advisory Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term lengths vary. Contact the selectmen’s office at 672-4959 for more information. Or contact [cwselectmen@optonline.net](mailto:cwselectmen@optonline.net) indicating your interest and experience.

• **Bridgework completed on Cream Hill and Lake roads.** The concrete replacement of the 1955 steel pipe flood culvert on Lake Road should be good for another 65 years.

• **Berry, Berry & Larson:** Ryan Berry has joined his father, Will Berry, and station operator Ted Larson as a part-time employee at the town transfer station.

• **Cornwall earns bronze:** The town is one of 23 municipalities being awarded a Bronze Certificate by Sustainable CT, a

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### CVFD Count for November

- 11 emergency medical calls
- 9 power lines down (7 in one night)
- 3 motor vehicle accidents
- 2 false alarms
- 2 assist utility company with traffic
- 1 propane leak
- 1 structure fire
- 1 mutual aid call

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statewide program run by the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern CT State University. An awards luncheon will be held on December 3 at Foxwoods.

• **A Civil War veterans memorial**, the brainchild of Spencer Markow for his CCS eighth-grade project (he is now a freshman at Housy), was installed and dedicated on November 10 next to the Sedgwick Monument on Cornwall Hollow Road. Taking part in the ceremony were Markow, Sam Waterston, Civil War reenactors, many living veterans, and descendants of those named on the granite stone.

• **Cornwall's winter storm parking ban** is now in effect: when parking during storms, keep at least ten feet away from any town road. —Paul De Angelis

**Events & Announcements**

For updates, changes, and additions, check the online calendar at [cornwallchronicle.org](http://cornwallchronicle.org) or [cornwallct.org](http://cornwallct.org) (it is the same calendar). And for reminders, see the *Chronicle* Facebook page.

**Art in Cornwall**

At the Cornwall Library, "A Mix of Oil and Water," a group show of nine Litchfield County painters, all students of Marija Pavlovich McCarthy, will be shown December 3 through 31, with a reception on December 7 from 5 to 7 P.M.

The Toll House Gallery showcases paintings by Lennart Swede Ahrstom, landscape photographs by Ian Ingersoll, and newly added work by Dan Bracken. Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

"Cornwall Covered Bridge & Barns," watercolors by Robert Adzema at the Sou-terrain Gallery, continues through Decem-ber.

**Annual Christmas Fair** at UCC, Sat-urday, December 7, from 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Local holiday decorations, lunch-eon, shopping, raffle, holiday photos, and apple pie contest.

**Traditional New England Country Dance:** Saturday, December 7, at 7 P.M. at town hall. Dances taught and called by Jim Gregory. Music by Betsy's Band. Suggested do-nations: \$5-8/child, \$10-15/adult, \$25/family. For more information contact [Debra@Motherhouse.us](mailto:Debra@Motherhouse.us) or 672-0229.

**Senior Monthly Luncheon:** Tuesday, De-cember 10, 12 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Cost is \$8/per person for a buffet lunch. RSVP by Friday, December 6, to Jen Markow at 480-0600 or [prcornwall@gmail.com](mailto:prcornwall@gmail.com).

**The Wish House:** Holiday crafts workshop on Saturday, December 14, from noon to 3 P.M. with elf Joe Brien of Lost Art Workshops; Valorie Fisher will be signing her book *Now You Know What to Eat*; and a photo opportunity with Santa Claus.

**At the Cornwall Library**

On Sunday, December 15, at 4 P.M., Jim Terrall will give a talk about his recent trip climbing the Rwenzori Mountains in central Africa, which includes seven peaks over 16,000 feet, a glacier on the Equator, and the headwaters of the Nile River.

On Monday, December 16, at 5:30 P.M., historian and teacher Peter Vermilyea will present the third evening of his six-part series "The Vote: America's Most Fragile Right," addressing 19th century reforms, including Jacksonian Democracy, the Four-teenth and Fifteenth amendments, and the push for secret ballots.

In January 2020, the Cornwall Library is switching from Bibliomation to Auto-graphics. Patrons will keep the same library cards and numbers, and services will con-tinue without interruption, except Overdrive (downloading ebooks and audio books), which may be interrupted for a short period. Information sessions will be sched-uled in January.

**Hot Cocoa with Santa:** Friday, December 20, from 5 to 6 P.M. Cornwall Park and Recreation will host Santa Claus at the UCC Parish House.

**Indoor Co-op Farmers' Market:** Saturday, December 21, from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at town hall.

**Christmas Pageant:** Saturday, December 21, at 7:30 P.M. (snow date, Sunday, December 22, at 4 P.M.) at the UCC Village Meeting House. Traditional readings and carols, and the giving of "white gifts." Please bring a toy wrapped in white paper to donate to children in need. Refreshments following the pageant in the Parish House. Those who want to be in the pageant **MUST** attend rehearsal at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, December 21. For more information call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:** 5 P.M. and 8 P.M. at North Cornwall Meeting House.

**Boxing Day Reading:** Thursday, December 26, at 4 P.M. at the North Cornwall Meeting House. Tom Walker will read from a ghost story by M.R. James, whose custom was to invite friends over at Christmas to hear his latest story of strange happenings in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Britain.

**New Year's Day Pancake Breakfast** will be held in the UCC Parish House from 9 A.M. to noon. But-termilk pancakes, sausage, Corn-wall maple syrup, orange juice, coffee, cocoa, and tea will be served. Donations will benefit the church outreach programs.

**CORNWALL CHRONICLE**  
[cornwallchronicle.org](http://cornwallchronicle.org)

**THIS MONTH**  
*Elisabeth Cumick*, Illustrations  
*Gregory Galloway* and *Jacque Schiller*, Editors  
*Jacque Schiller* and *Cara Weigold*, Facebook Posts

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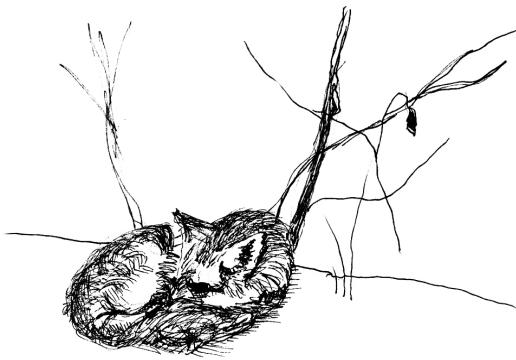
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We need fuel! Keep your local paper warm with your gifts this holiday season. (See insert.)

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