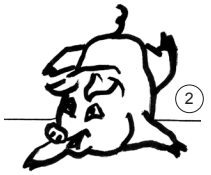


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 29 : NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 2019



No Food Stamps in February

As the federal government shutdown lurched into its fourth week, word came that food stamps funding will not be available in February. Heather Dinneen, interim social services director for the town, said the last day to get the food assistance funding was January 20. No funds will be released for the program in February.

A CBS News report in January said that staffing at the Department of Agriculture, which administers food and nutrition support programs of all kinds, was slashed 95 percent by the shutdown. At the time of this writing, no plans have been announced to resume the food stamps program.

The Cornwall Food Pantry issued a call for more food donations to support local families. The pantry needs canned goods (soups, tuna, vegetables, beans); condiments (mayonnaise, ketchup, vinegar, and oils); and cereals, cold and hot; pasta, rice, coffee, sugar, flour, and kids' snacks. Non-food items like soaps, paper towels, and personal hygiene products are welcome too.

Financial contributions may be sent to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall CT 06753. Also helpful are gift cards from the Big Y and Stop & Shop. These can be dropped off at the town office.

—Lisa L. Simont

Of Forests and People

The Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) has been working to purchase a 72-acre parcel on Johnson Road. This land has no dwelling and is shaped like an hourglass. Within the forest is critical wildlife habitat and watershed protection.

Conserving this parcel would directly connect Mohawk State Forest with 300 acres of forest land already owned and conserved by CCT; like a missing piece of a puzzle, it fits between. According to CCT part-time conservation director Harry White, "the property's conservation value is remarkable."

CCT is applying for state and federal grants to cover approximately 90 percent of the purchase price. The appropriate agencies rate grant requests as they come in, taking into account a variety of factors. While rating focuses on conservation value, it also takes into consideration public support. Therefore, CCT and its president Bart Jones asked the town to endorse the purchase and write a letter of support. The letter of support could increase rating, therefore possibly more grant funds.

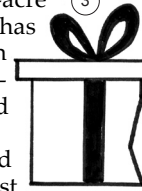
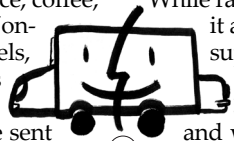
Meetings and correspondence between CCT and the Board of Selectmen ensued.

CCT as a private organization does not require town support, but it would like to have it —not only for the grant matter, but in an effort to work together. Questions were raised by the selectmen and others regarding the loss of potentially buildable acres in town with road frontage, which could generate tax revenue for Cornwall if developed. Comments about the lower section being spun off for a buildable lot were echoed.

Mixed into this discussion was also the potential need for affordable housing. Everyone agreed that this particular location is not suited well for affordable housing, but the topic often emerges in housing discussions. While the Cornwall Housing Corporation is an active organization in town, Cornwall itself does not have a plan for affordable housing nor specific information on how many units are indeed needed.

In the previous Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) out in 2010, it was recommended that a study and plan for affordable housing in Cornwall be produced. But that has not yet happened, so information is incomplete.

Meanwhile, as part of the new POCD (due out in 2020), the Planning and Zoning Commission engaged HVA (Housatonic



FEBRUARY 2019

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Pickleball, 6-8 pm CCS; 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, 5:30 pm and Qui-Gong, 6 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					1	2 ♦ Colleen Hurst Drawing Class 10 am–Noon Library ♦ Film: <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> 4 pm Library ♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Ice Skating for Cornwall 7–8 pm Hotchkiss
3 ♦ CCT Hike 1 pm Hart Farm Preserve ♦ Green Burial Process Presentation 3 pm Trinity	4 ● NEW ♦ What's the Word?! Group 11 am Library ♦ Region One Board of Education 6:30 pm HVRHS Library	5 ♦ Inlands Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Office Bldg. ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	6	7	8	9 ♦ Colleen Hurst Drawing Class 10 am–Noon Library ♦ Ice Skating for Cornwall 7–8 pm Hotchkiss
10	11 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC Day Room ♦ Park and Recreation Commission 7:30 pm Town Hall	12 ☾ 1st Q ♦ Valentine's Day Lunch Noon UCC Parish House ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	13 ♦ Economic Development Commission 9 am Town Hall ♦ West Cornwall Septic Comm. 5 pm Town Hall	14	15 ♦ Deadline: March Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Colleen Hurst Drawing Class 10 am–Noon Library ♦ How Cornwall Works Forum 4 pm Town Hall ♦ Ice Skating for Cornwall 7–8 pm Hotchkiss
17	18 PRESIDENTS' DAY	19 ○ FULL ♦ Planning & Zoning Commission 7 pm Cornwall Library ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS Library ♦ Assessment Appeals Application Deadline	21 ♦ Senior Trip Hartford Flower Show 9 am–2:30 pm ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 6 pm Cornwall Library ♦ Board of Finance 7 pm Town Hall	22	23 ♦ Colleen Hurst Drawing Class 10 am–Noon Library ♦ Film: <i>Being There</i> 4 pm Library ♦ Ice Skating for Cornwall 7–8 pm Hotchkiss
24	25 ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library	26 ☾ 4th Q	27 ♦ Region One ABC Committee 7 pm HVRHS Central Office	28 ♦ Deadline for return of Town Plan Survey		

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

Valley Association) to produce a map. It's an overlay which shows land in Cornwall that could be used for possible building sites. From the total 29,000 acres in Cornwall, this map takes into account land that is un-buildable (too steep or too wet for example) as well as land already protected.

Land already protected consists primarily of state forest, deed restricted (or elimination of development rights), and CCT-owned land, and totals 11,000 acres. The new map overlay identifies 5,000 acres, or approximately 9 square miles, that could be built upon.

At the selectmen's meeting January 22, the board declined to endorse the CCT purchase. Emphasizing that Cornwall needs people, housing, and buildable lots, as well as the large percentage of land already protected in Cornwall, the selectmen and others in attendance did not think the project was something the town should support. A primary point was that once owned by CCT as proposed, this land is forever protected and therefore never would be available for a home, even on the section right on Johnson Road.

Informal discussions considered splitting the property, but that was not the proposal at hand. This does not stop CCT from purchasing the Johnson Road property as it has every right to do. Perhaps an important conversation about land use in Cornwall, and finding common ground on shared goals, will continue and grow. It should also inform the next Plan of Conservation and Development, being worked on right now.

—Emilie Pryor

The Dog Person

At the end of December, with forecasted temperatures in the 20s, I placed a small tarp on the hill overlooking the stream behind our barn. The tarp would help keep the ground from freezing, making it easier for me to dig his grave.

I have always been the Dog Person in our family...the instigator of each canine acquisition, the scratcher, the hiking partner, the groomer, the food buyer and feeder, the vet arranger, the bather, and the worrier.

Nearly eight years ago and the day before Major arrived at a local kennel from Chattanooga, we still had not selected a name. I was leaning toward my grandfather's old-sounding name, Elmore. Whenever I mentioned this, wife Gail's eyes would get squinty and her nose would wrinkle. That evening at a party the name got a trial airing and all our friends lifted their legs on the selection.

Driving home, still dog-nameless, Gail reminded me that her grandfather had been an Army officer and the family always referred to him as The Major. "That could be a perfect name for a big dog," she said.

It was, and so was he. From that moment on and much to her surprise, carrying her grandfather's name meant that Gail loved

the guy even before she had seen him.

But now he was quickly slowing down, having great difficulty moving and even standing. Tests and more tests. Appetite was good. Weight was excellent. Bloodwork results were perfect, though X-rays did show the inevitable arthritis. Each time I would see him collapse, part of me would as well.

Finally, it was suggested that we set an appointment with a veterinarian neurologist and for an MRI. By this time, I was feeling beaten. What good could come from yet another test except more painful and fearful days for our boy? Gail, though, absolutely insisted that we proceed.

As we drove to the appointment, I kept thinking about the tarp on the hill and the home visit I would be scheduling with our vet tomorrow.

Three discs in the neck portion of his spine were found to be compromised. Surgery was not practical, but effective relief was available via a human-oriented pain med. The improvement has been astonishing with an additional two or three years of being together possible.

I suppose I remain the family's primary Dog Person. However, I now know that in our house there live two Dog People. I found him, but Gail named him and Gail saved him.

—Jeff Jacobson

When Love Electrified West Cornwall

Wendell Willkie is remembered today, if at all, as the Republican party's dark-horse candidate, groomed to unseat Franklin Roosevelt in the fateful 1940 presidential election. Up until that year, however, the power Willkie wielded was not political, but electrical. The Indiana-born attorney had risen to head the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation headquartered in New York City. He now controlled the largest electrical conglomerate in the nation. If, like Willkie's own, the name of this company doesn't ring a bell, it is because it grew so huge that Congress decided to break it up after World War II.

Blessed with a tolerant wife and an industrial-strength libido, Wendell conducted several extra-marital liaisons in his day, but the last and most enduring was with the book review editor of the New York Herald Tribune. Her name was Irita Van Doren née Bradford, the wife from 1912 to 1935 of critic and biographer Carl Van Doren. In her, the small-town Midwesterner acquired not merely a love interest, but a mentor who introduced him to the social and cultural life of the big city and encouraged his political ambitions.

Irita's house on Cream Hill Road would often have been the scene of their trysts and what a cruel joke fate had played on him. The electricity mogul who provided light and power to millions would spend many of his leisure hours in a "world lit only by

Welcome

Martine Juliette Mirren
to Jill Perno and Basil Mirren

Good-bye to Friends

Conway MacLean Day
Peter Kalmes
Ledlie Laughlin
Jean Nimkin
George Romano
John F. Scott
Janet Tenney

Congratulations

Allison Lacko and Franklin Sosa-Aria
Hamilton South IV and
Manuel Bellod Alvarez de Lorenzana
Caroline Paul and Wendy MacNaughton

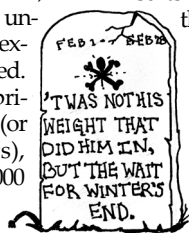
Land Transfers

Paul A. Silver, Trustee of The Greylegde Trust,
to Cornwall Conservation Trust,
200 acres of land on Johnson Road.
John J. O'Donnell to Keryn Elizabeth
O'Donnell, 3,003 acres of land on
Cogswell Road, for \$55,000.

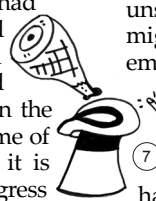
fire." Chef Ramsay doomed to vacation where the only fare was TV dinners would constitute a much less irksome deprivation. One imagines Willkie, in moments when he was not engaged in other pursuits, poring over business documents by the flickering orange glow of a kerosene lantern. If his shirt was wrinkled and he had scheduled a pressing engagement upon his return to the city, what irony that it would need to be smoothed out with an implement heated on a coal stove. This could not long be endured.

And lo, all at once, the trucks came rumbling in. The poles went up. The wire was unspooled. "Let there be light," Wendell might have thundered, and West Cornwall emerged from its age-old Stygian blackness. The lights shone forth on the Mohawk ski slopes and the ATM at National Iron Bank buzzed into action. Well maybe it didn't all happen that quickly. Quickly enough, however, that rumors flew through the county that West Cornwall had managed to jump the queue as other towns waited in vain for the electrons to flow. One cannot help but wonder, what connection, if any, did the affair between the editor and the utility tycoon have with Cornwall's electrification? Was love responsible for the erection of the poles at this early date? Evidence is only circumstantial but I'd like to believe that it was Cupid who threw the switch.

—Matthew Collins



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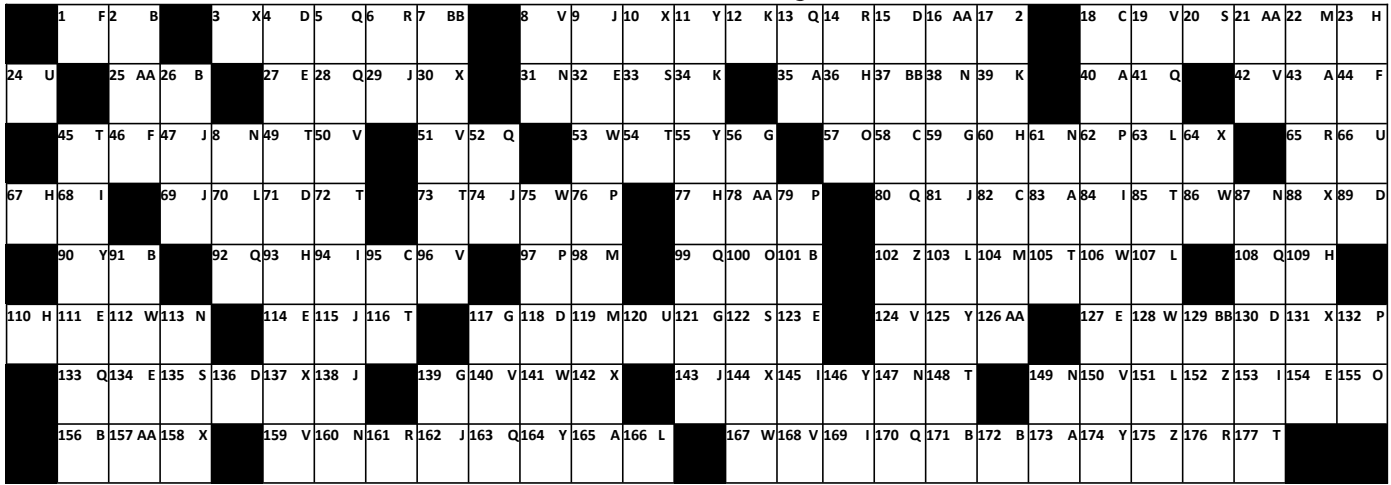
88888
88888
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DAYS

6

CVFD Count for January

- 13 emergency medical calls
- 5 false alarms
- 1 carbon monoxide
- 1 tree on wires

Cornwall Chronacrostic by Annie Kosciusko



CORNWALL CHRONACROSTIC: Guess the words from the clues given below. Fill in the grid above by transferring the letter corresponding to the number below each dash in your answers. As you fill in the grid above, a quote from a Cornwall history book will be revealed. Fill in the grid below with the first letter of each answer to create an acrostic that reveals the author, title, and section of the book. -- Annie Kosciusko

A. Annoying insect cloud

35 43 173 40 83

B. Town ____, closed on Fridays

26 156 2 171 172 101 91

C. Pierce ____

95 18 82 58

D. She keeps track of us

89 136 4 15 118 71 130

E. Educated at the Foreign Mission School

111 134 114 127 27 32 154 123

F. Poison ____

1 46 44

G. Buy one from Maria for \$.55

139 56 121 59 117

H. Blows their horn at 2:00 a.m.

110 23 67 36 109 93 60 77

I. Latest drug crisis

153 169 84 94 68 145

J. Scenic Highway (2 words)

9 81 143 69 138 162 47 29 74 115

K. We have just one.

12 39 34

L. Reverend Cady's game

103 70 63 107 151

M. Cornwall's celebrated type

22 119 104 98

N. Hurlburt, Stevens, Locke et al

149 147 61 31 160 87 113 38 48

O. The herald of Lyme

57 165 155 100

P. Triturus viridescens

132 97 62 76 79

Q. Cornwall ____ School

80 41 13 92 163 170 108 5 28 99 52 133

R. Furthest from the center

176 6 65 14 161

S. Woven fabric

135 33 122 20

T. Lost hilltop hamlet

116 54 85 148 45 72 49 105 73 177

U. "Be quiet"

24 120 66

V. Nash Pond floodplain (2 words)

159 140 168 19 96 150 50 51 42 124 8

W. Covered Bridge's most recent floor repair

106 86 128 167 141 53 112 75

X. Let there be light

30 137 88 158 144 10 3 64 131 142

Y. Purported lost hilltop hamlet denizen

146 125 164 174 90 55 11

Z. No central one at the North Meetinghouse

102 175 152 166 17

AA. CCS mascot

16 78 126 157 25 21

BB. The night before

129 37 7

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	BB
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

Puzzle Solutions

Acrostic solutions can be found online at cornwallchronicle.org or on our Facebook page.

Rebus (a drawing that also represents words related to the month of February) Solutions for every illustration in this issue can be found on page 4.

Medication List at The Ready

At the CVFD, we encourage our residents to expect the unexpected. One way to accomplish this is to have an updated list of medications prepared in the event you need to rush to the hospital. This information is particularly helpful in the event you have a communication impairment (think stroke).

We are trained to look on your refrigerator for this document. Please include your name, date of birth, and all medications with the dosage and frequency you take the medi-

cation. Example: Aspirin 81 mg once a day. Other helpful information includes medical history, allergies, physician, home address, and next of kin contact information. This information is helpful to both the EMS personnel as well as medical staff in providing the most appropriate care.

When you are out and about, keep a copy of this document with you (maybe in your purse or wallet). The CVFD does have forms for this purpose. Interested in the form? Please contact any CVFD member.

—Elizabeth Ridgway

Chronicle Website Redesigned

The *Chronicle* is happy to report that its website redesign has been completed under the guidance of Cara Weigold and C Designs. The site is now much friendlier to mobile devices and tablets and highlights the frequent additions to our Facebook page. It also continues to allow searches of our

archives. The project was made possible by a generous grant from the Cornwall Foundation, which encourages all non-profit entities that benefit Cornwallians to submit grant applications through its website, info@cornwallfoundation.org.

—The Editors

Events & Announcements

Also: check our Facebook page for event reminders and Cornwall updates

Tax Credit: The assessor's office is accepting applications for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners tax credit. Applicants must be 65 years old or 100 percent disabled and a homeowner. The income limit for this program is \$36,000 for single and \$43,900 for married. The filing period is February 1 to May 15. Please contact the assessor's office for an application.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

At The Cornwall Library:

Saturday, February 2, at 4 p.m., the Winter Film Series continues with *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940), considered to be one of the greatest American films.

Drawing classes with Collette Hurst: Beginning drawing skills workshop using graphite and colored pencils including basic shapes and shading to create still life, landscape, portrait, and wildlife drawings. Bring 2B drawing pencil, kneaded eraser, and acid-free drawing pad. Additional supply list will be provided. \$100 for all four classes. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, February 2, 9, 16, 23.

How Cornwall Works: On February 16 at 4 p.m., the library will host a forum at town hall at which officers and staff of the town will talk about their roles in making Cornwall the attractive place to live that it is. Moderator Priscilla Pavel will introduce short presentations designed to explain the what, why, how and outlook for the functions represented by the speakers before opening up the floor for questions. This is every Cornwall resident's opportunity to learn how his/her town functions, and how it may evolve.

Saturday, February 23. The Winter Film Series continues with *Being There* (1979) with Peter Sellers, at 4 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Groundhog Day Dance: The Cornwall Community Country Dance will be held Saturday, February 2, at the town hall. Warm up with waltzes starting at 6:45 p.m. Square, circle, and contra dancing to start at 7 p.m. with teaching caller Peter Stix and live music by Betsy's Band. All ages welcome. Suggested donation: \$5-8/child, \$10-15/adult. For more information contact Debra@motherhouse.us or 860-671-7945.

Winter Hikes: Join CCT President Bart Jones for an informal hike on various CCT trails this winter. Hikes will start at 1 p.m. each Sunday in February with the first hike on February 3 at Hart Farm Preserve. Future dates and locations, as well as

Be Our Valentine?

The *Chronicle* survives without a lot of praise and hoopla. But that doesn't mean we aren't interested in seeing some of the love the community has for its 28-year-old volunteer newspaper. Write us a nice check and we will be thankful!

weather cancellations, will be announced at cornwallconservationtrust.org and on our social media pages.

Green Burial: The CT Green Burial Council's Elizabeth Foley will give a presentation on Sunday, February 3, about the process and meaning of a "green burial." The event will be at 3 p.m. at the Trinity Retreat Center conference hall.

What's the Word?! Looking for an outlet for your creativity? This newly formed group will choose a word and then create a drawing, poem, song, or whatever, and return with our depiction at the next meeting. January's word is CAST. The group will meet on February 4 at 11 a.m. in the library community room, and plans to meet monthly on the first Monday. Those with questions should contact Connie Steuerwalt at 672-2861 or csteuerwalt@gmail.com.

Valentine's Day Lunch: Tuesday, February 12, at the Parish House at noon. It will be a special lunch because there will be no cost. It's Cornwall Park and Recreation's thank you to our wonderful seniors. An RSVP by Friday, February 8, is a must. Reply to Jen Markow at prcornwall@gmail.com or leave a message at 860-480-0600.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings on real estate assessments dated October 2018. Applications to schedule a hearing are now available at the town clerk's office. Applications must be received by the town clerk before February 20, 2019. Approved applicants will be contacted by the BAA to schedule hearings during March.

Hartford Flower Show: On Thursday, February 21, Park and Rec is sponsoring a trip for seniors to the Hartford Flower and Garden Show. Leaving from the Cornwall Congregational Church parking lot at 9 a.m. and returning around 2:30 to 3 p.m. Space is limited, so RSVP to Jen Markow, prcornwall@gmail.com.

Adult Pickleball: Monday nights from 6 to 8 p.m.-ish in the CCS gym. We have all the supplies needed, you just need to bring your sneakers! Easy to learn, fun to play. No pickleball on Monday holidays or when school is closed.

Who Are We? What Defines Cornwall? Are changes needed? What, how, when, by whom? The Planning & Zoning Commis-

sion has developed a survey to help define plans for Cornwall's future. (See insert in this issue.) Paper copies will be available at the town hall and the library. Online: simply go to Cornwallct.org, click 2020 Town Plan on the opening page just below the photo. While there, check out progress reports by various subcommittees.

Art in Cornwall:

At the Parish House, the show of Lazlo Gyorsok's photographs "Summer Dreamin'" will continue until March 10. The exhibit may be viewed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sundays from 10 a.m. until noon, and by appointment with Lazlo (672-6729).

The Toll House Gallery continues to exhibit works by Lennard Swede Ahrstrom, Ian Ingersoll, and Don Bracken. Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are new to town: Every fall, the Cornwall Association hosts a Newcomers' Tea to welcome those who recently purchased homes and land here. We also want to include new renters, but there is no public record of rental properties. If you are a renter new to Cornwall within the last few years—or know of anyone who is—and would like to be invited to our Newcomers' Tea, please contact us through cornwallassociation.org, so we can send you a personal invitation.

Rebus Solutions

- 1) Super Bowl, 2) Groundhog,
- 3) President, 4) OS Car,
- 5) Dead of Winter, 6) 28 Days
- 7) Abraham, 8) Snowbird, 9) Valentines,
- 10) am over it, 11) Washington

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

cornwallchronicle.org

THIS MONTH

Jacque Schiller, Illustrations
Annie Kosciusko and John Miller, Editors
Ben Gray, Jr. and Cara Weigold, Facebook Posts

NEXT MONTH

Tom Barrett and Bill Goulet, Editors
thomasgb@earthlink.net or wgoulet@optimum.net

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Epstein

MARCH CALENDAR EDITOR Louise Riley
calendar@cornwallchronicle.org

ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR Valerie Fisher
valorie@valoriefisher.com

CIRCULATION Hunt Williams, Nan and John Bevans

DIRECTORS

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