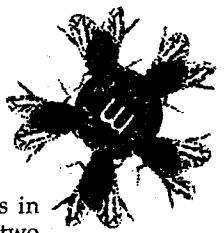


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 10 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2000



Forging Ahead on CCS Plans

Our School Building Committee is nearing the end of its Herculean task to bring before the voters a plan to add a gymnasium and additional classrooms to Cornwall Consolidated School.

A \$5,686,000 plan has been submitted to the State. This is the architects' maximum estimate for the entire job. It includes building costs, site costs, engineering fees, and all peripheral costs such as revisions to the water supply, septic system, and a sprinkler system for the whole school. The application is the basis for a request for reimbursement by the State.

But this is just the beginning. At the meetings I attended in July, a big effort was being made to find ways to reduce the cost below the \$5 million figure. Cost reduction is twice blessed; not only does the cost to the taxpayers get reduced, but the 16.1 percent reimbursement rate from the State goes up. This is because the rate is set by a formula based on the number of square feet per child. Small schools suffer from this state formula because they require just as much core service space (for gymnasiums, offices, libraries, etc.) as a school with a larger population. The plan submitted to the State has more space than the formula allows for, so the reimbursement rate is reduced. Reducing the

amount of space—i.e., fewer square feet per child—causes the reimbursement rate to go up. Complicated, isn't it? One begins to see what the committee had to contend with.

The committee is basically in agreement with a revised plan—Plan F1—recently submitted by the architects. This plan includes a new entrance to the school with a lobby area and bathrooms on each side. To the left will be the old part of the school with the old gym broken into four rooms of variable sizes. To the right will be a new building containing a gymnasium large enough for a standard middle school basketball court, some buffer space, and bleachers. The new building will also have a music room, an art room, a multi-purpose room doubling as a stage, and a kitchen.

The bathrooms downstairs will be enlarged, and the present art room will become a science room.

It is anticipated that tweaking Cream Hill Road so that it enters Route 128 a little west of the firehouse, rather than moving it more drastically, will provide enough parking on the school side of the road, even though the gymnasium building will occupy part of the current parking lot.

If this is not crystal clear, go to a Building Committee meeting and see the drawings and hear what is planned. There are two

more committee meetings in August (see calendar) and two informational meetings in September. The nine members of the committee have spent many hours and labored mightily on our behalf; surely we should spend a couple of hours finding out what they have come up with.

—Celia Senzer

The La Casa Experience

This spring 37 volunteers from the area, under the leadership of Jim Whiteside and Jerry Blakey, traveled to Mexico to build houses for the unbelievably poor people just below the U.S. border. The three houses they built cost \$4,000 each in materials, and the volunteers paid \$370 out of pocket to get there and return. Planning the trip and staging fund raisers was a full year's work. Actual construction took three days. The Woman's Society contributed 47 articles of hand-made clothing to be distributed by the volunteers, and the Cornwall community provided financial and moral support.

The Chronicle asked Ben Hammond, one of the 24 youth volunteers taking part, to give us his take on this year's La Casa venture.

When I look back on the trip I realize the most incredible part of it to me was not hanging out late at the ranch, playing with the children in the town, or even when the houses were finished and we were able to talk with the families in their new homes.

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 2000

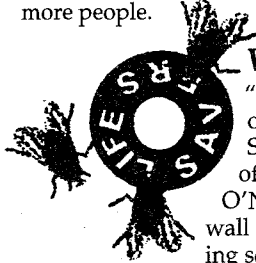
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall *	2 Junior Story Hour 7 P.M. Library	3 School Building Comm., Bd of Selectmen, Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS	4 Preschool-K Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Rose Algrant Art Show Opening 5-8 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.3)	5 Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.3) Cub Scout Pack 15 Family Cookout, 4 P.M. Housatonic Meadows
6 Stretch Exercise Every Sunday 10 A.M. Town Hall Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.3) Opening Reception, Ruth Gannett prints 4-6 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.3)	7 Lifeguard Certification Course begins, 9 A.M.-6 P.M., Hammond Beach Water Sports Day 11:30 A.M.- 4 P.M. Hammond Beach Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	8 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	9 Junior Story Hour Japanese Fish Printing 7 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4) Cornwall Association 7:30 P.M. UCC Day Room (p.4)	10	11 Preschool-K Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Kids' Nite Out Film <i>Andre</i> 7 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.3)	12
13 Cornwall Library (p.3)	14 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	15 Deadline: September Chronicle Copy School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	16	17 Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	18 Peter McEachern Jazz Quintet, 8-10 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Assn. (p.4)	19 Local Craft Open House 3-5 P.M. Hughes Library (p.3)
20 Tea Tasting 4 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	21 Friends of the Library 4 P.M. Cornwall Library	22 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Cornwall Child Center Registration 9 A.M.-noon, 5-6 P.M. (p.4)	23 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	24	25	26 Potluck Picnic and Jam Session 5-8:30 P.M. Hammond Beach
27 	28 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall *	29 	30 CCC and CCS Open Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	31 		

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

For additions and updating, visit www.cornwallct.org

(continued from page 1)

The most incredible moments were when we were driving from the airport to Rancho La Poloma. Driving on narrow roads that weave through the valleys of enormous desert mountains past villages that covered the valley, I got a new taste of poverty. The houses that covered the hillsides were constructed of scraps of wood, box springs, cardboard, or anything that could serve as a wall. They looked as though they would just crumble into a heap at the slightest touch. The only shade was from tarps which were draped from one side of the house onto a fence or a dust covered car. I felt overwhelmed. Here were all these shanties and we were going to build two, maybe three houses. I realized some of these people will never have a real home, a house with walls, a roof, and a floor. I tried to look at the bright side, that there will be three more houses than there were. However, I still had trouble thinking about how the families were picked. How could one family be classified as more needy than its neighbor? They all need houses, but thirty or so people can't build hundreds more houses every year. I hope that the large group this year will expand next year so that more can be done. I have already committed to next year's trip and I am continually trying to find more people. —Ben Hammond



What's It To Us?

"All politics are local," observed former Speaker of the House of Representatives Tip O'Neil; and the Cornwall selectmen are studying several regional issues

from that viewpoint.

Perhaps the most disturbing issue is the lawsuit brought by a group of Falls Villagers who are attempting to revise the way the regional high school is funded. The suit proposes that citizens pay student fees at HVRHS that are related to the value of the Grand List of the town in which they reside. Thus, residents of Salisbury and Cornwall, for example, would pay substantially more than Falls Villagers. Currently, each town pays an equal amount per student, a system agreed to and adhered to since 1939.

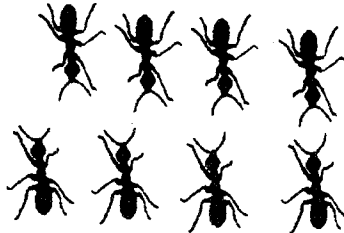
Attorney General Blumenthal is expected to declare the suit without merit. However, the final say of whether the suit goes forward will be up to the courts. Whether or not Cornwall should join Salisbury in "intervening" in this suit, with the attendant legal fees, is the decision our selectmen face. It is difficult for many people to believe that the courts will support the logic of a town such as Cornwall being assessed a cost per high school pupil determined in part by another town's tax base.

The possible sale of non-profit Sharon Hospital to a for-profit company in Tennessee is also of concern to Cornwall and thus to the selectmen. What Cornwall can do or wants to do about it has yet to be ascertained. No precedent for such a sale in this state ex-

ists to help them anticipate all the possible ramifications.

On a more reassuring note, our 911 Litchfield County Dispatch (LCD) service has upgraded its phone-answering policy. The operators have been trained to give emergency medical instructions to stressed callers as well as to send them the appropriate help. LCD will now stay on the line with callers until the EMTs or paramedics arrive on the scene.

No town is an island. —Scoville D. Soule



Mr. Coope Comes to Town

Teacher, guidance counselor, administrator, Peter Coope, the new CCS principal, comes at his profession from several different directions. His approach stems from his liberal arts background which encourages a well-rounded education rather than one of specialization. His mission, as he sees it, is to help children identify worthy goals for themselves and to encourage them to adopt a positive outlook on life.

Coope tells the story of how one of his eighth grade students once caused him to throw away the script of a prepared commencement speech. The girl preceded him in the exercises with a talk on "packing your bag for the future." One of the items she packed was a magical pair of sunglasses which forced her to see that life's glass was half full for her, not half empty. Her tag line advice to her peers was "and don't forget the sunglasses." Coope, knowing when he'd been upstaged, rebuilt his own address on the spot to affirm the girl's positive philosophy.

Coope sees a child's education as a triangle with one side being the parents, one the child, and one the teachers. He is delighted to find the exceptionally high level of parent involvement evident at CCS. Looking at the impressive standard test scores and the program itself, he has concluded that "a lot of good things are going on here."

Talking to Coope, one soon recognizes a high vitality level, excellent communication skills, and deep convictions concerning education and life. He sees parents, teachers, and students all basically striving for the same goals, namely, the success of the student. One of his basic tenets is the importance of respect for self and for others. The biggest challenge in teaching, he said, is to motivate the child to learn. If this is done successfully, everything else falls into place. In 1995-96 he served HVRHS as Acting Assistant Principal, a post in which his duties involved disciplinary problems, an experience which reaffirmed his belief in the importance of motivation.

He is looking forward eagerly to being part of the Cornwall community and coming to know the individual students and teachers on a by-name basis. He had kind words to

say of his predecessors who, he said, have made the task before him easier.

Coope lives in New Milford with his wife, Marsha, a fourth-grade teacher. He has one son who is teaching American history. His daughter is a junior at St. Lawrence University in a liberal arts program. —Scoville D. Soule

Welcome

Morgan Charlene to Ginger and Donald Betti Matteo Zabriskie Ruffo to Valerie Zabriskie and Aldo Ruffo

Pia Louise Labalme to Jeanne McMullin and Henry Labalme

Good-bye to a Friend

Mary S. Schieffelin

Congratulations

Keirsten M. Huttig to Philip C. Williams

Debbie Laigle to Richard Hageman

Eleanor Truman to Peter Schmidt

Deborah Vanicky to Jeffrey Wuchiski

Land Transfers

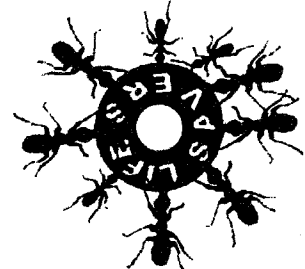
Deborah C. Jones to Ingrid G. and David G. Ellen, house and 30 acres on Popple Swamp Road for \$645,000.

Scott W. and Thao P. Matlock to Joseph and Gretchen Sailer, house and 3.4 acres on Town Street South for \$430,000.

Jayne Knoll Prabhudas to Ronald S. and Alice Borodenko, house and 1 acre on Hickory Lane for \$159,000.

Karen R. Athearn to Stephen C. and Robin K. Tyler, house and .63 acres at 7 River Road South for \$165,000.

Robert L. Harris Trust to Jill M. Sperrazza and Leonard P. Ciccarelli, Jr., house and 1 acre at 232 Kent Road for \$93,500.



What's Red and Black and Invading Our Lakes?

Why, the Cornwall Swim Team, of course! If you venture down to Cream Hill Lake most summer afternoons, you are sure to come upon these swimmers sporting their stylish red and black team suits, working to master their strokes.

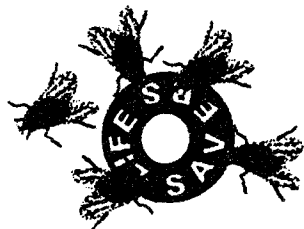
The team, which is in its fourth decade, is comprised of children who are spending summertime in Cornwall—permanent residents, summer residents, visiting nieces, nephews, and cousins. All kids are welcome. The team has had members as young as four and as old as 18.

Coaches Sandy Twadell and Dan Blair lead practices on Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday afternoons. During practice the swimmers participate in stretch exercises, swim serious laps as well as some fun laps—such as relays in which they must bark like dogs as they swim. An ending game of Sharks and Minnows often produces squeals of laughter. These children work hard, often swimming two hours a day, but they certainly seem to have fun.

Cornwall typically has meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, racing twice against Canaan, Sharon, and Salisbury. In early August, the league championships climax the season. The meets are a raucous affair with whoops, hollers, and loud cheering. At least ten parent volunteers are rounded up for each meet to help with ribbon writing, scorekeeping, timing, snack set-up, and more.

So if you happen to spot red caps on the waters of area lakes, don't be puzzled—it is all part of the summer fun. —Eileen Rogers



Events & Announcements

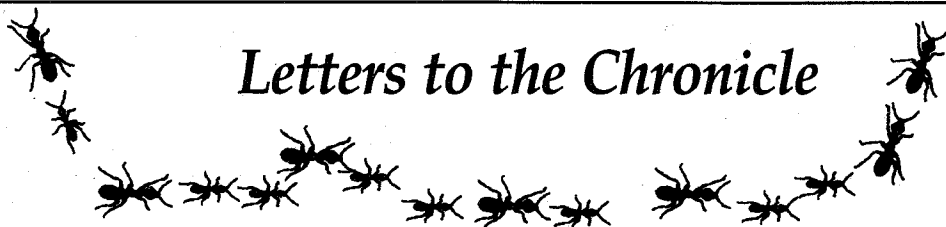
Art in Cornwall: The Friends of Rose Algrant will present their annual exhibition of Cornwall artists at the Mohawk Mountain Ski Lodge. The three-day show will open on Friday, August 4, from 5 to 8 P.M. and will continue on Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. After expenses, all commissions from sales will go to the UCC Parish House Renovation Fund.

Andy Charleton will be exhibiting photographs during the month of August at the National Iron Bank. Joan Hinchman's show of photographs from around the world will continue through August at The Wish House.

Ruth Gannett's prints and drawings will be on view at the Cornwall Library from August 6 through September 23. The prints are a gift from a local donor and some will be for sale. The proceeds will benefit the new library and the conservation of a dozen Gannett prints the library will keep and display. A reception to open the show will be on August 6 from 4 to 6 P.M. at the Library. Call 672-2659 for more information.

Kids' Nite Out: On August 11 at 7 P.M., *Andre*, a true story of a Maine harbor master, his family, and an orphaned baby seal, will be shown at the Cornwall Library. This movie is 94 minutes long and recommended for ages six and up.

Hughes Library in West Cornwall will exhibit the work of local craft people beginning with an open house on August 19 from 3 to 5 P.M. The exhibit will be on display during regular library hours, Tuesdays 4 to 7 P.M. and Saturdays 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., for the following one or two months. Those wishing to enter their work are encouraged to phone Estelle Stetson at 672-6769 for particulars.



Letters to the Chronicle

ON THE FENCE

To clarify the remarks made by Mr. Zinsser in the July issue of the Chronicle: First, the dummy was built by my future step-daughters (five and nine years old) who had yet to build a scarecrow. My parents (Bill and Joyce) came over from Torrington to spend the day helping the girls build their special dummy. Once finished, they decided to display her on their dad's tractor for all to see. We needed the tractor so they decided the dummy should then "climb the fence" in three steps (one side, top, other side). I would like to say that several people stopped by to talk to the dummy, thinking it was Don!

Second, NO, the dummy was NOT amusing for Halloween; Kaci and Jessi are raised as Christians and they do not celebrate Halloween; the REALITY of this dummy is that two young girls spent a lot of time and creativity on the building and placement of their dummy.

Third, I don't think that they believe that anyone could be offended by the dummy and I seriously doubt that they were building it in reference to this horrific crime. It would take a warped sense of imagination to see our dummy as a murder victim! I guess the girls, at ages five and nine years old, somehow should have known that it could be possible for people to associate their dummy with the "horrific, degrading, and barbaric crime"; but it is beyond me how people could have such a misguided sense of interpretation!

The favorable comments and humorous suggestions for the dummy's next activity, along with enjoying the sight of my parents and the girls building the perfect dummy is truly a memory I will always treasure.

—Diane Sikora

CLIMBING THE BERLIN WALL

Few in Cornwall can be unaware of the recent tenth anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall. Driving east out of Cornwall Bridge on Route 4, one sees on the left a figure climbing a fence. Obviously this mannequin represents the plucky East Germans who risked their lives to cross to liberty in the West, so their children would no longer get bad Marx in school.

I hope whoever placed this memorial will keep it there as a silent tribute from freedom-loving Cornwallians to those brave Berliners.

—Matt Collins

AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

The Cornwall Housing Corporation has been a godsend for those who live, work, and parent here within our community. It gives hope for those who want to root here. This is an opportunity which would not exist if this organization had not been created.

If we were to rename land parcels and call them sugar, let Kugeman Village be flour, and housing packages be cans of soup; it could be

said affordable housing's cupboards are bare. Acreage for land parcels is needed, a pre-existing house or two would be terrific. The shelves need restocking.

The CHC has some means to purchase property if it is a viable purchase, and there is a tax benefit for donations. So if you have excess acreage or if mom's old house hasn't sold in the last ten years, call Maggie Cooley, Peter Hammond, or Ken Keskinen. Do something good for yourself and for others.

—Alicia Eaton

LIGHTNING BALL

A recent New York Science Times described "The Mystery of Ball Lightning."

According to my diary of July 24, 1980, I was driving downhill near McKitis's Corner, now Berkshire Country Store, when I "saw a ball of lightning hurtling downhill—50 feet from the ground—trailed by a tail of the same color. Irregular course. Looked about five inches in diameter." This impressed and mystified me.

I thought you Cornwallians would like to know that this has happened in your own home town.

—Peter Barry

THANKS TO RESCUE SQUAD

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Cornwall's volunteer ambulance crew—Skip Kosciusko, Fred Bate, Marie Savin, Gary Heaney, Paul Wiske, and the unseen driver for their swift response, professionalism, and compassion when Alex had to be treated for anaphylaxis on May 20. Their familiar faces were extremely comforting at such a stressful time!

—Alicia, Mark, Ben and Alex North

MUCH OBLIGED, TURTLE

A few years ago a snapping turtle laid some eggs in my garden and failed to cover them with dirt. The publisher and the vice president of your esteemed publication were driving by and buried them properly, a unique example of Cornwallian neighborliness. Fast forward to the early evening of June 2. I looked outside and saw this immense snapping turtle by the road near our garage. I immediately telephoned the publisher and vice president. Spencer Klaw evinced no proprietary interest in the reptile, but suggested I might see it safely across the road and report on this in the Cornwall Chronicle. Even though I had read in a recent Chronicle letter that "snapping turtles are misunderstood," I was having none of this.

Then the turtle, by this time named Shaquilla because of its size, turned 180 degrees and marched into a part of my garden. This was serendipitous as "she who does not care for gardening" had instructed me to weed and thin that very section. This boy won't go near that spot this year.

—James J. Fishman

Hammond Beach News:

• Lifeguard Certification Course: August 7 to 10, 14, and 15, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. with a C.P.R. Challenge on August 10. Get certified in Red Cross Lifeguard, C.P.R., and First Aid. Students must be at least 15 years old at the time of the course. Call Jane Prentice at 672-6101 for more information and registration.

• Water Sports Day on Monday, August 7, 11:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. Come play for the day. Contests, prizes, and a cook-out. All ages welcome.

• 3rd Annual Potluck Picnic and Jam Session, Saturday, August 26, 5 to 8:30 P.M. Bring your favorite dish and musical instrument. Hot coals, cold drinks, and a good time provided.

Beach open through Monday, September 4.

Free Jazz Concert: The Peter McEachern Quintet will perform on August 18 from 8 to 10 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Association. These world-class musicians will perform many of their own compositions as well as some standard jazz repertoire. The group features Peggy Stern, piano; Mario Pavone, bass; Michael Savin, drums; George Sovak, saxophone; and McEachern, trombone. Sponsored by Park and Rec.

Cornwall Cup Softball games will be held on Saturday, September 9, at the CCS field, from 1 to 5 P.M. (Rain date: September 10.) Food and entertainment will be available. Players from sixth grade through adults should sign up in August by calling these team captains: Cornwall Bridge, Bill Dinneen (672-6740); Cornwall Village, Craig Simons (672-0111); West Cornwall, Dave Cadwell (672-3283). The Cornwall Cup is currently held by West Cornwall.

Dog Jokes for Dog Days

Here's what these breeds would answer if asked: "How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?" **Border collie:** "Just one. And I'll change any wiring that's not up to code." **Poodle:** "I'll just blow in the border collie's ear and he'll do it." **Cocker spaniel:** "Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark."

We'll be glad to send you *your* dog's answer if you send in a *Chronicle* donation (or even if you don't). Just ask.

The Cornwall Agricultural Fair will take place on September 23. Prepare your gardens now in order to enter your prize-winning flowers and vegetables. Anyone interested in working with the Cornwall Agricultural Commission members, or anyone with a special idea for the fair, please call Peter W. Ripley, 672-6716.

Firefighter of the Year: Adding to his growing list of titles, Hunt Williams has been named Firefighter of the Year by the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). His peers applauded Williams when the award was announced at the annual CVFD banquet in June. According to Chief Earle Tyler, the officers based their recognition on his "continuing contributions to the Department, an outstanding level of response to emergency calls, and his regular participation in training drills."

In his other community activities Williams chairs the Emergency Preparedness Committee, seeing to the needs of neighbors impacted by severe weather conditions or power outages, and heads the Zoning Board of Appeals.

CCC Registration: The Cornwall Child Center will be open for fall registration on Tuesday, August 22, 9 A.M. to noon and 5 to 6 P.M. Three-, four-, and five-year-old children must be up to date with their immunizations and have seen their physician during the last year. Questions? Please call Pam Brehm, director, after August 14, 824-1289. Starting on August 30, the Center will be open from Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

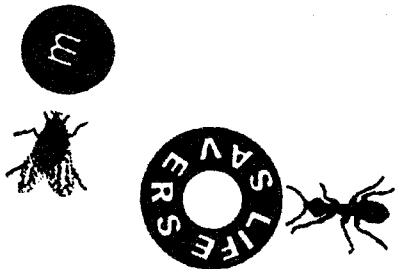
Wannabe A JP? Any unaffiliated or minor-party elector who'd like to be a Justice of the Peace for a term starting January 1, 2000 and ending January 3, 2005 can pick up an application from the Town Clerk's office between August 1 and November 1.

Tea Tasting: On Sunday, August 20, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Library, Alexander Scott and Sebastian Beckwith, whose company is called In Pursuit of Tea, will tell us about their search for teas around the world. They will show slides and offer a sampling of teas. The program is presented by Friends of the Library and there will be a small charge. The proceeds will go to the Library Endowment Fund.

Community Focus Reunion Plans: All are invited to attend the August 9 meeting of the Cornwall Association at the UCC Day Room at 7:30 P.M. to discuss plans for a pot luck supper in the fall at which each of the five groups formed at the Community Focus event last November will report on what they have been doing and what has been completed so far. The Community Focus Report is available for reading at the Library and through the Cornwall Association. For more information call Lori Welles at 672-0281 or E-mail her at theballyhack@earthlink.net.

Delinquent Dog Owners: Are you on the list now posted at the Town Clerk's office? Get off the list! Come in and make your dog legal by purchasing a 2000 license, or notify the clerk if you no longer have the dog you licensed last year. This month the Animal Control Officer will begin handing out fines for unlicensed dogs.

Fish Printing at the Library: For the last Junior Story Hour, August 9 at 7 P.M., we will try Gyotaku, the ancient Japanese art of fish printing, originally used by fisherman to catalog the day's catch. Jill Gibbons, a printmaker, will instruct us. Inks and paper will be provided, but participants must bring their own whole (dead) fish. Flat fish work best. Extra fish may be available for rod-less artists if you let us know in advance. Pre-registration is necessary. Call 672-6874.

**CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

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Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

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