



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 12 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2002



A New Visitor's Guide

Cornwall's 2002 Visitor's Guide and Business Directory has just been published by the Association of Businesses in Cornwall (ABC). Five thousand copies are being distributed in local stores, the Post Offices, and through the Litchfield Hills Travel Council. Listings show more than 175 businesses. So next time your guests ask, "What do people do for a living around here?" you can show them the Guide.

While almost all advertisers are located in Cornwall, ABC did solicit ads from Cornwall residents who own businesses in other towns and those who are just over the Cornwall line.

Tom McKenzie, ABC's president and Cornwall Inn owner, said, "This guide fills two real needs: the need local residents have to know about local services and products, and the need to have a publication that will encourage visitors to include Cornwall in their travel plans." To meet that need, there are articles on walking and hiking, boating and fishing in Cornwall. There is also a center-fold map and much fascinating local information, as well as some tidbits of Cornwall's history. The ABC plans to make the guide an annual production, each better and more useful than the last. McKenzie hopes that ABC's activities will help build understanding and mutual respect among those living and working in Cornwall. For more information on ABC, call 672-1200. —Joanne Wojtusiak

A Trip to the Dump

As it's been about a year since Fred Bate III and his assistant, Steve O'Neil, took over the Transfer Station from Art Breaun, I thought I'd drop in and take a good look at it.

The first thing you notice is how neat and clean everything is. I mean it's cleaner than my kitchen! Neater than my desk!

Next you notice there are fewer bins. Now bottles and plastic containers are all thrown in together. After making sure I had no returnables, I dumped in my collection.

Returnables are not the only items Fred saves. On the table by this bin is a cardboard box containing labels from Campbell Soup cans. These go to the Grange and eventually to help crippled children.

On the other side is the "loose paper" bin. Cardboard used to be a no-no here; now it's O.K. as long as it's not corrugated. Magazines and catalogs used to go here too. Now they go in with the newspapers. I wish the people who make these rules wouldn't keep changing them.

Meanwhile Steve is taking trash from the back of my wagon. I hurry back in time to prevent him from taking the other stuff that is there, mistaking it for trash.

If you're like me the dump is just a stop on your rounds of errands, and you don't loiter. This is too bad, because you might not notice

the little vegetable and flower garden, complete with birdbath and bird and other objects, or the hanging planters, or, inside the shed, paintings by local artists, all rescued from oblivion by Fred and Steve. On a table in back are quality paperbacks, free for the taking. And take a peek inside Fred's office, furnished, with a couple of exceptions, from people's "trash," including a microwave oven, an air conditioner, a stereo system, tables and chairs. The things some people throw away!

Is a "clean dump" a contradiction in terms? Fred doesn't think so. "If it looks good," he says, "people will pick up what they drop. Neatness counts." How true. And now, if you'll excuse me, I have some work to do in my kitchen. The desk can wait. —George Kittle

Get a Horse

"I'm not a purist," Debra Tyler declared. "I would use a car if my situation required it, but when mine gave out a year ago I decided to try to get along without one. I was brought up to believe that a person should leave this world a better place than when she entered it, and one way I can is to cut down on the consumption of fossil fuels."

I asked Debra how her new life style has worked out. "Great, there have been a number of unexpected benefits. Since I can't hop in the car and run to Baird's for a pound of (continued on page 2)

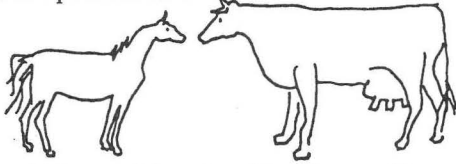
AUGUST 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. St. Peter's Church	2 Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library Rose Algrant Art Show 5-8 P.M. Mohawk (p.4)	3 Rotary Meeting: 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Inn Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Mohawk (p.4) Corn. Assoc. Annual Mtg. 4 P.M. UCC Parish House (p.3) Chamber Music at CHLA 7:30 P.M. (p.4) Corn. Play Area Opens 10 A.M. (p.4)
4 Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Mohawk (p.4)	5 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. St. Peter's Church	7	8 Adult Swim Workshop Hammond Beach 5:30 P.M. (p.4) CCS Bldg. Comm. 7 P.M. CCS Library	9 Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library CCS Building Comm. Public Input 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym (p.4)	10 Rotary Meeting: Nick Belantoni, CT State Archeologist 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Inn Hughes Memorial Library Reception 3-5 P.M. (p.4)
11 Ecumenical Community Service on the Green 10 A.M. (p.3) Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta, Noon, Hammond Beach (p.4)	12 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	13 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14	15 Deadline: September Chronicle Copy Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	16	17 Rotary Meeting: Ex. Dir. Green Chimneys 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Inn St. Bridget's Tag Sale 9 A.M.-2 P.M. (p.3) Animals in the Movies 3 P.M. Cornwall Library Cornwall Historical Society Tool Show 10 A.M.-1 P.M. (p.4) Astaire Night 7 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)
18	19	20	21 Drive-In Movie Night 8 P.M. Town Green (p.4)	22 CCS Bldg. Comm. 7 P.M. CCS Library	23 Cornwall Child Center Fall Registration 9 A.M.-Noon (p.3)	24 Rotary Meeting: Women's Support Services 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Inn Water Sports Day 11:30 A.M.-3 P.M. Hammond Beach (p.4)
25	26 ZBA 8:30 P.M. Town Hall*	27	28 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	29	30	31

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

sugar, I make long-range plans, prioritize and organize my shopping habits. I get most groceries from the monthly coop deliveries; and with my own meat, eggs, and dairy products, I trade for vegetables. I mail order clothing and farm supplies. My life is much more peaceful now."



Debra and her daughter live on Pierce Lane, an uphill walk from Local Farm.

"Margaret and I are both in better physical shape because of having to walk to and from home," Debra said. We are also in closer contact with our neighbors, whose lives are so full we wouldn't meet except for the chance lift up Pierce Lane. We get delightful visits with friends who take us along on trips to Kent or Torrington, where in the past we would have gone alone."

Are there any disadvantages in the new life?

"Yes, my biggest fear is that I will impose on friends for doctor and dental visits, and other errands."

Debra has hoped that some day she might acquire an Exmoor pony and use it to pull a cart, so she made her pasture fences horse-safe (more visible electric wires, since horses don't see as well as cattle). She was therefore able to say yes to a milk customer who asked if she could board a couple of horses. The horses, a 13-year-old Friesian and a miniature horse, turned out to be retired circus animals. She loves them and, from the way the Friesian nuzzles his nose against her neck, they seem to love her.

After two months, however, the ten cows have not adjusted to their presence (Horse in our pasture! There goes the neighborhood!). The six calves, however, are more accepting and Debra is able to put them together with the horses.

While I was at the farm, Anouk Schmitt, the owner and trainer of the horses, showed up. I had already noticed photographs on the barn wall showing this petite lady standing on a horse's rump, or causing him to rear up on his hind legs. Anouk offered some knowledge about animal training. It seems that elephants are harder to train than horses because the pachyderms are "mischievous" and tend to butt or run away. If a trainer uses a food reward the horse becomes "mouthy," drools a lot and pesters the trainer by pushing his nose into pockets, looking for treats. Ms. Schmitt has found rewards in the form of pats and hugs work very well with horses.

Tzigan, the black Friesian, retired from circus performing five years ago because of a leg injury, but he's still capable of being ridden or pulling a buggy. Debra looks forward to the day when she can hook Tzigan to a buggy and gallivant around the Cornwall roads. In the meantime, she has a small two-seater for Tino, the miniature, and she

and her daughter will soon be trotting up and down Pierce Lane in style.

—Bee Simont

July Fest

Cornwall's Annual July Fest took place under a sunny, warm sky, hazed over by smoke from Canadian forest fires. The Grand Finale had the brothers Rick and Howard Stone at the Cornwall VFD 1,500-gallon pumper. A very good and wet time was had by all. Skip Kosciusko coordinated the Republican versus Democrat volleyball game and tug-of-war. Congratulations to the Democrats. Johann Winsser, who directed the road races, reports that R. J. Thompson won the 6- to 8-year-old heat, Eli Ingersoll won the mile race, and Jeanne Theleen, the first girl to finish, was third overall. Watermelon, ice cream, warm smiles, lots of laughter and simple pleasures.

—Skip Hunt

A Mission to Mexico

On June 22, a crew of 50 U.S. citizens (mostly from Cornwall) headed into Mexico as part of the La Casa project. During three days, living in conditions some would not have thought possible, they would build three small houses for families now living in tiny plywood or scrap-wood huts with barely room for two people.

There, everyone would have to get up at 6 A.M. (or miss breakfast) and leave for the work site at 7:30 A.M. Once there, the volunteers would split into three assigned groups and start work immediately. As the day went on and the temperature rose, and rose, to no less than a scorching 100 degrees, it became difficult for the workers, especially the youths, to work a full eight hours.

Nevertheless, everyone worked hard to accomplish building the three houses. Once, when all of us "gringos" were nailing the roof, a group of nine Mexican boys decided to show how it's done. They took our hammers and began to work. We were amazed at how fast and efficiently the boys did this, and it hit us that most of their families couldn't even afford to buy a hammer.

Those of us on our first trip to Mexico were shocked by the living conditions of many of these families. We realized how lucky we are to live where we do, and how amazing it is to have a working toilet!

—Rachel Whiteside and Isabella Moschen

(Editor's Note: This was Isabella's first trip and Rachel's fourth. Rachel says that the most important lesson she has learned is to appreciate what she has. "I know that I, too, can be happy without the latest design shoes or the \$50 purse.")

News from the Town Office

The selectmen are working on a fund raising campaign for the school renovation. Gordon Ridgway, with the help of Hendon Chubb and others, will be looking for pledges this summer. In the fall, the PTA and the Student Council of CCS will join in giving benefits

and organizing sales.

There will be a slow-down campaign for drivers (including more police spot-checks), inspired in part by the fact that there were five auto accidents in various parts of Cornwall during the first week in July. —John Zinsser

Welcome

Lilah Gray Miller to Micah Rafferty and Ivan Miller

Odin Miles Beardsley to Danielle Julian and Jonathan Beardsley

Congratulations

Sonia del Tredici to Benjamin Kennedy

Theo Spencer to Tracy Toon

Francesca Faridany to Stephen W. Zinsser

Jennifer Grodin to Jonathan Ellis

Louise Ryan to Thomas Riley

Josslyn Shapiro to David Ho

Susan Finch to John Goodrich

Land Transfers

Cheryl C. Evans to Kenneth C. and Lori A. Baird, five acres on Cornwall Hollow Road for \$70,000.

Estate of Roxana S. Hammond to Curtis W. Hanson and Deborah K. Bodly Hanson, 400 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$150,000.

Gustav Haller and Ralph J. Gulliver to Sandford and Lyndee Stalter, 108 Kent Road for \$64,000.

Thomas J. Hubbard to John B. and Juliet A. Hubbard, 8 School Street for \$425,000.

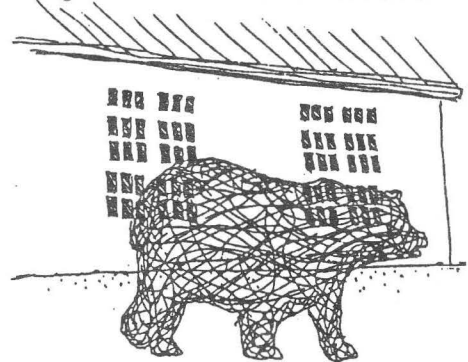
Kevin R. and Nancy J. Whitney to Robert F. Budny and Margaret A. Czerna-Budney, 5.7 acres with improvements on Cornwall Hollow Road for \$85,500.

Anthony and Sharon Hartwick Antonios to Lawrence B. and Nancy O. Cohen, 8 Flat Rocks Road for \$1,035,000.

Joseph and Gretchen Sailer to Bryan and Dana McCoy, 30 Town Street South for \$585,000.

James F. McClelland III to Woodbury Mountain LLC, 75 acres on Cook Road for \$370,000.

Michael A. Price to Adam M. Weiss and Lydia Callaghan, 263 Dibble Hill Road for \$1,350,000.



Ladybug, Fly Away Home

Hey! I meant your home not mine!

Well, it's that wonderful time of year again when your windows are poked with those pesky pustules. Actually, if you count

the spots on those horrid hemispheres and come up with 19, you probably have not ladybugs but the more irksome pest—the Asian Lady Beetle (from the same folks who brought you the Japanese beetle).

The good news is that they want out as much as you want to get rid of them. If you open the windows on the sunny side of your house, many of these light-loving critters will clear out (of course, they'll be slowed by flying upstream against the hordes of wasps and flies rushing in).

A vacuum is a better bet. If you put a thin, porous cloth across the tube before you slide on the end attachment you can stop them before they get sucked down into the bowels of the machine. Otherwise you'll have to throw away the bag which will make your house smell like a Limburger factory the next time you vacuum (the odor is a defense mechanism to tell predators they are not dealing with anything particularly yummy).

You may have to resort to chemical warfare (the Saddam option). Spray insecticide into cracks around affected window frames where eggs are laid.

The good news is that, besides being unsightly and having an unsettling talent for landing in your coffee cup just as your lips reach the rim, they mean well and if they ever manage to get outside will help rid your garden of aphids and other more noxious bugs.

—Matt Collins

From Library to Town Offices

Renovations to the old library building to make it suitable and efficient for the town offices will be accomplished in four phases.

First will come removal of the bookcases in the old library, then patching and painting its walls, and sanding and varnishing the floor. The children's wing will be prepared for the town's financial office, with cabinets installed. Arrangements for plumbing and handicapped access will be made.

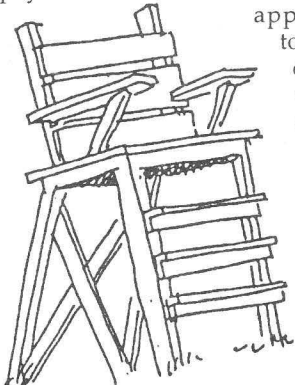
In the second phase the First Selectman's Office will be moved to the old library, and his previous office will return to being part of the enlarged stage.

The third phase will entail construction of a modest addition to the south side of the present office building. There will be the same number of offices but they will be larger.

The final phase will be furnishing. To pay for all this the sum of \$125,000 was

approved by the town at the time of the library vote. Workers are aiming to get the former library building done this summer and the other building in the fall.

—Gordon Ridgway



Letters to the Chronicle

WATERWORKS SCHEME

Further to Carla Bigelow's appreciative letter in the June Chronicle about the wetland/pond on Rattlesnake Road...It's in the early morning or the late afternoon that the light on the grasses and water is especially beautiful. One afternoon last week we came upon Lawrence Van Valkenburgh, the property owner, deeply engrossed in a waterworks scheme to outwit the beavers and keep them from flooding the road and thereby losing their pond as they had last year (see the July 2001 Chronicle).

He told us that if the water moved at all, they'd sense a current and drag branches over to block the flow. Pointing to a pipe, he said that he had caged it, but if the beavers succeeded in blocking it, he had a plan to put in an extremely long pipe that would be so far from the current pouring through the culvert that they wouldn't sense any flow and would leave it alone.

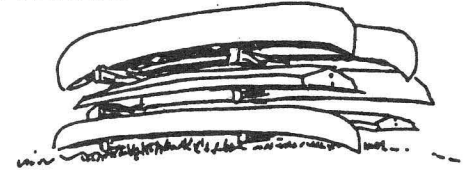
He had just been out in his canoe and offered it to us so that we, too, might explore the backwaters beyond the beaver lodge. Paddling along the water paths surrounded by high grasses, we took one passage after another and were led into a labyrinth world of wildlife. It was quite odd to be unsure which passage would lead us back.

When we returned, Lawrence was watering the plants he'd brought over to shore up the bank by the culvert. Single-handedly, he is sustaining the lovely world we had further explored. This, like Carla's, is a letter of appreciation and thanks.

—Anne Zinsser

MAKING A SPLASH!

As many of us are beating the summer heat by swimming in Cream Hill Lake, I would like to thank some of the people who have helped



make Hammond Beach a success this summer. Jane Prentice has fortunately returned to the helm as beach director. The lifeguards and Water Safety Instructor are doing a fine job with swimming lessons and keeping us afloat. Peter Russ expanded the docks while Richard Griggs and the Scoville clan helped with their installation. Finally, Jeff Fox spruced up the beach house with a fresh coat of paint. And thanks go to Jim Hayward for the donation of the sand on the beach. Some of this work was financed by the recreation bequest from Mary Schieffelin, which also helped with the installation of the new playscape in Cornwall Village. Thanks to all.

—Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman

NO FARMER'S MARKET

It is with regret that I inform you that the Association of Businesses in Cornwall (ABC) will not be holding a farmer's market in Cornwall this year. We have repeatedly attempted to contact all of the members of the agricultural community in order to urge their participation. Having sent out 36 letters, we received a total of four responses, and two of those said they would not be able to participate.

The lack of response was particularly disappointing since ABC was willing to underwrite the more than \$500 in insurance fees to provide liability coverage.

If the agricultural community has a change of heart, ABC stands ready in the future.

—Tom McKenzie, President

Events & Announcements

The Cornwall Child Center's fall registration will be on Friday, August 23, from 9 A.M. to noon at the Center at 8 Cream Hill Road. If this time is not convenient, parents are encouraged to call the director, Pam Brehm, at home at 824-1289 for another appointment.

Art in Cornwall: The Cornwall Library is hosting the Cornwall Invitational, a show of 27 of Cornwall's finest, working in a variety of media. The show will continue through August 31.

The National Iron Bank's artist for the month of August will be Brendan O'Connell, who will be showing oil paintings. At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the current show, featuring the work of Erica Prud'homme, Richard Griggs, and Harvey Offenhartz, will continue through August.

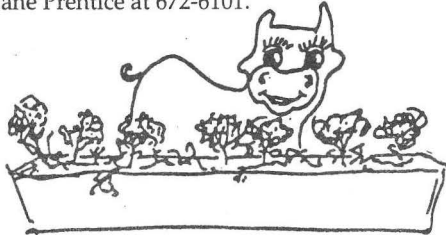
An art happening at the Wish House will take place on August 17 from 5 to 7 P.M.

Cornwall Association Meeting: A reminder that the annual meeting of the Cornwall Association will begin at 4 P.M. on Saturday, August 3 at the UCC Parish House. The first selectman will provide a State of the Community message.

St. Bridget's Annual Tag Sale will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, August 17 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the church grounds in Cornwall Bridge. There will be toys, attic treasures, baked goods, a farmer's market, and dealers offering an assortment of goods. Refreshments are available all day. Dealer space, available for \$25 per space, may be reserved by calling Sandi at 672-6716.

The 4th Annual Interfaith Service, to be held on Sunday, August 11 at 10 A.M. on the Town Green, will draw from the Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Quaker, and Hindu Traditions. Refreshments follow the service.

Hammond Beach Happenings: Adult Swim Workshop, Thursday, August 8, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. Work with the swim team coach to improve or learn new strokes and pick up some safety tips. Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta, Sunday, August 11, noon. Bring your homemade craft powered by rubber bands and we'll see who gets to the raft first. Open to all ages. Water Sports Day, Saturday August 24, 11:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Games, prizes, and BBQ. Not just for kids! For information, call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.



A Chamber Music Concert by the group Musicorda will be presented at the Cream Hill Lake Association on Saturday, August 3, at 7:30 P.M. sharp. All Cornwall residents are invited. There will be no charge. Bring chairs. Refreshments will be served.

Grand Opening: Park & Rec. announces that Saturday, August 3, at 10 A.M. will mark the opening of the Cornwall Play Area next to the tennis courts on Pine Street.

Wednesday, August 21, at dusk (about 8 P.M.) starts drive-in movie night on the Town Green. All are welcome at no charge. Bring chairs, blankets, etc. Popcorn and beverages will be available, but bring your own picnic if you wish. One film will be a classic and the other a recent film. Call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058 for titles.

Park & Rec. needs soccer coaches for the upcoming season at the following levels: U-8; U-10 boys; U-10 girls; U-12 boys; U-12 girls. To volunteer or for more information call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058. Remember, without generous volunteering of coaches, the program cannot be offered.

CCS Building Committee will hold a public input meeting August 9, at 7:30 P.M. in the gym. The architect and project manager will be there to answer questions.

Vacation Time

August is traditionally a month of holidays, but here's the dilemma—where do you go that's more inviting than Cornwall? Wasn't it E. B. White who wrote, "What's the point of traveling if you're already there?" That sounds a bit smug, so go ahead, hit the road, and when you return, the *Chronicle* will fill you in on what you missed (as long as you keep us in business with your donations).

The Rose Algrant Art Show will open at Mohawk Ski Lodge on Friday, August 2, from 5 to 8 P.M. It will continue on Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Astaire Night: Friends of the Library will host a light supper followed by the showing of two 1980 documentaries on the career of Fred Astaire at 7 P.M. on Saturday, August 17. *Puttin' on His Top Hat* covers Astaire's career through his movie partnership with Ginger Rogers, and the Emmy-winning *Change Partners and Dance* the post-Ginger period. John Miller, who wrote the documentaries, will be the evening's host. The event is limited to 40 people and reservations can be made by calling Ellen Hubbard (672-0189). Tickets are \$15.

Welcome to R.S.V.P.: Charles Cilona and chef Guy Birster announce the opening of R.S.V.P., which they describe as a tiny French bistro. They said that it is much more satisfying for them to serve 15 great meals than to try to keep up with the numbers (about 100) at larger restaurants.

The menu at R.S.V.P. changes constantly, depending on what the markets offer that is fresh and of the best quality. Reservations are required (call 672-RSVP). Bring your own bottle, and pay by check or cash, no credit cards accepted. The restaurant is at 8 Railroad Square, in the same space that was formerly Lally's Cafe.

Hughes Memorial Library will be celebrating the art of William Braun, a benefactor of the Library for many years. The show and sale will open August 10 with a reception for the artist from 3 to 5 P.M.

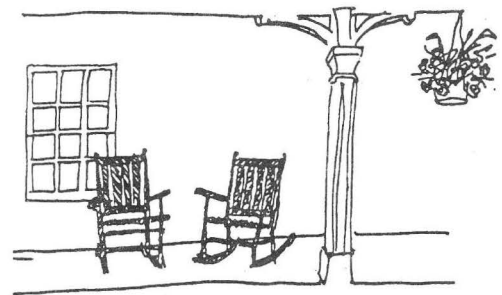
A Tool Show will be featured at the Cornwall Historical Society from Saturday, August 17 through August 31. The hours are Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., and Tuesdays, 1 to 3 P.M.



Scholarship Awards: The Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving, a community foundation located in and serving Northwest Connecticut, has awarded Apalonia Stanulis Scholarships to the following Cornwall students: Chelsea Bardot, Corey Fontana, Jason Lynn, and Nicole Geysealaers. To apply for next year's round of scholarships, volunteer on a scholarship committee, or to establish a scholarship fund, visit www.tafpg.org or call (860) 626-1245.

4-H Is Celebrating its 100-year anniversary. 4-Paws 4-H Dog Club is looking for memorabilia of Cornwall 4-H alumni for a display at the Ag. Fair. Call 672-0089 if you can help with this.

PTA Lake Compounce Trip: The PTA's Choices enrichment program will sponsor a day trip on August 20 (rain date August 22) to Lake Compounce Amusement Park. Anyone is welcome to join us for this trip. The cost for a day's admission is \$15.50. A 10 percent discount is available on food and souvenirs. For further information call David Samson at 672-0616.



An Osteoporosis Seminar will be given in the Cornwall Town Hall on Thursday, September 5 from 1 to 2 P.M. There will be a slide presentation about osteoporosis, a disease which causes fractures but is highly preventable. Learn about prevention, causes, and treatment.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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