



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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New Restaurant Scene

There's a new restaurant scene in West Cornwall with the opening of two new establishments and the expansion of service at a third popular eatery.

The new West Cornwall Grill opened on Dec. 15 by serving dinner to 70 people attending the West Cornwall Merchants annual dinner party. According to Todd Aichele, "Everyone had a wonderful time, and the food and service were all that could be desired. The staff did a great job in getting the restaurant open and operating so well."

One of the dinner guests was part-time Cornwall resident Whoopi Goldberg. According to an anonymous diner, in a wonderful gesture Ms. Goldberg paid for all the dinners, requesting that the diners contribute what they would have paid for their meals to Comic Relief, an organization that provides medical care and shelter for homeless people.

The owners of the West Cornwall Grill are Cornwall resident Richard McCarty and former Freshfields chef Randy Nichols. Both men were associated with the popular West Street Grill in Litchfield and currently operate the Harvest Roasterie in Torrington.

Located in a newly renovated building in the West Cornwall station plaza, the Grill is now open for dinner Thursday through Sunday and for lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

In an adjacent building in the station plaza is Sarah's Tearoom and Espresso Bar. Operated by Sarah Kochman, daughter of Sue Kochman of New England Catering and Food Company in Cornwall Bridge, the Tearoom serves gourmet teas and espresso coffee. Fancy breakfasts and light lunches will also be served, but the emphasis is on teas and accompanying goodies served in the English style.

Sarah's also plans on catering children's parties, with entertainment provided by local talent. Entertainment for adults will also be supplied on occasion.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and until 6 p.m. on Sundays. According to Sue Kochman, "We will add hours and services to meet the public's needs." Sue also said that Sarah's "is not really in competition with the restaurants in West Cornwall; our focus is on serving teas and espressos in a coffeehouse atmosphere, not on serving grilled foods or full meals."

And, finally, the popular Cadwell's Corner recently added Thursday night din-

ners to its regular early breakfast and lunch service. Diners are given a choice of two dinner entrees (one of them vegetarian), dessert, and beverage for a bargain price of eight dollars. On a recent Thursday more than 50 guests enjoyed the food and active social scene. The number of diners appears to be growing each week.

— Stephen Senzer

Barbara Isn't Really Leaving

On the first Monday in January, after eight years as Assistant Town Clerk, and twelve years as Town Clerk, Barbara Dakin will be replaced by the newly elected Cheryl Evans.

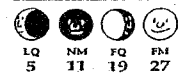
How things have changed since 1974 when Barbara became Kay Fenn's assistant! In those days Kay and Barbara did everything pertaining to the business of the Town of Cornwall. Kay was secretary to all the boards and commissions in the town and attended and took the notes for all meetings. Barbara typed them all on an old manual typewriter.

Real estate transactions in 1974 fitted easily into one 700-page volume. Now two books are used each year and in the 1980s, when real estate was really moving, as many as three volumes were filled. Before the advent of the copying machine, Bar-

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JANUARY 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Candlelight Carols was changed from 7:30 to 5:30 p.m. after we went to press. We hope you saw the notices the church put up in time not to miss a lovely event.			We also hope everyone giving us times of future events will ask for an asterisk (as below*) if there is any chance the time or place will be changed.			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
2	3 †† Bd. of Selectmen 7:30pm Town Hall* Skating Mondays 8-9pm Salisbury School Rink	4 Inland Wetlands 7:30pm Town Hall Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Office	5 W. Cornwall Merchants Assn. 10am Cadwell's	6 Budget Meeting with Selectmen, Bd. of Ed. & Bd. of Finance 7:30pm CCS (p.2)	7	8 Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's
9 Fire Dept. Drill W. Cornwall Firehouse 8:00am	10 P&Z 7:30pm Town Hall	11 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Rep. Party Caucus 8:30pm Town Hall (p.2) Dem. Caucus 7:30pm W.C. Firehouse (p.2) Hous. River Comm. 7:30pm CCS Library	12 Fire Dept. Rescue Drill 7:30pm W. Cornwall Firehouse CCS PTO 7:00pm CCS Conf. Room	13	14 Travelog (Spain) M. Simont 7:00pm CCS Lib.	15
16	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	18 †† Bd. of Selectmen 7:30pm Town Hall*	19 Cornwall Lib. Art Show Arthur Getz	20 Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC† Bd. of Ed. 5:45pm CCS Library	21	22
23	24 HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7pm HS Lib. ZBA 7:30pm Town Hall* Bridge Meeting Masonic Lodge 7:30pm (p.4)	25	26	27	28	29
30 Mark Van Doren film Corn. Lib. 4pm (p.4)	31					



*Check time and place at Town Office. † United Church of Christ

(continued from page 1)

bara typed the same complicated property descriptions for deeds and mortgages as well as for entry into the Land Records volume. Friday afternoons were spent proofreading. Now, with a copying machine, property descriptions can be copied directly on the forms and into the book.

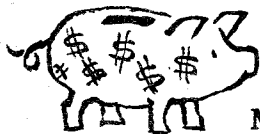
Another Herculean task was the preparation of the Grand List and the Rate Book, and the mailing of tax bills to Cornwall property owners. The numbers on the Grand List and in the Rate Book were entered in pencil and, once the numbers balanced, they were inked in and then the penciled figures were erased. Eight or ten years ago, the town hired an assessor and now, with her help, a computer does most of this work.

The best thing: Barbara has really enjoyed the number and variety of people she has met on the job. Handing out licenses to would-be newlyweds is a rewarding task. People bring their newly licensed dogs to be introduced. New babies are very welcome — almost required — to check in at the Town Clerk's office.

The worst thing: the office is like a corridor with people constantly passing through, allowing no privacy and making it very difficult to concentrate. The copying machine, which is available for public use, shares an office with the Town Clerk. That is why copying can be done only in the afternoons — a full day of copiers is more than the Town Clerk can bear.

And the good news: Barbara has a new job. Starting on the first Monday in January, she will be Assistant Town Clerk again, working one day a week and providing a seamless transfer of responsibilities.

Thank you, Barbara, for years of service to the Town of Cornwall and for your caring and efficiency. — *Celia Senzer*



Town Budget Meetings Set

Cornwall's budget season opens just after the New Year in an atmosphere of collaboration among the boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education.

Finance Chairman Ralph Gold, in a letter to each member of the boards, said, "Our collective strength has been our willingness to compromise and modify so as to reflect a balance of our judgment and the voters' wishes." He added that there are many "resources besides money. We need to work harder to use them effectively."

Gold urged "open communication" among the boards and forum-style meetings so that voters will have the opportunity to participate in the early stages of budget preparation.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

(Abbreviations: BOE, Bd of Education; BOS, Selectmen; BOF, Finance; TH, Town Hall; CCS, school.)

JANUARY

- 6th Joint BOF, BOE, BOS 7:30 pm CCS.
- 12th PTO 7:00 pm CCS Library. Open session with BOE for public comments.
- 13th BOE Budget Workshop to set objectives 12:30-3:30 pm CCS.
- 20th BOE 5:45 pm CCS Library. BOF 7:30 pm CCS Library.
- 27th BOE Budget Workshop 12:30-3:30 pm CCS.

FEBRUARY

- 10th BOE Budget Workshop 12:30-3:30 pm CCS.
- 17th BOE 5:45 pm CCS Library. BOF 7:30 pm CCS Library.
- 24th BOS presents budget to BOF 7:30 pm TH.

MARCH

- 10th BOE presents budget to BOF 7:30 pm TH.
- 17th BOE 5:00 pm CCS Library. BOF meets with BOS and BOE to discuss change requests, 7:30 pm CCS Library.

APRIL

- 7th BOF hears BOS and BOE on budget changes, 7:30 TH.
- 14th BOF meeting if necessary.
- 21st BOE 5:00 pm CCS Library. BOF 7:30 pm CCS Library.
- 29th PUBLIC HEARING 7:30 pm TH.

MAY

- 20th TOWN MEETING to vote on budget, 7:30 pm CCS Gym. BOF Special Meeting follows to set mill rate.

— *Lisa Lansing*

Zoners Plan

Taking the opportunity of a winter building lull, Planning and Zoning Commission members concentrated on planning during their December meeting.

Discussion centered on proposed regulations that would allow four levels of home occupation or business under specific special permit requirements. Tom McGowan, the town's planning consultant, had helped draft these new sections after a meeting with members to talk about Cornwall's particular needs.

Members also reviewed proposed additions to the regulations concerning right-to-farm protections and definitions of agriculture. These are part of Connecticut General Statutes, and the Agricultural Advisory Committee had requested they be included in Cornwall's regulations as well.

All proposed amendments will probably be ready for public hearing in February. — *Ginny Potter*



Parties to Caucus

The chairmen of the Town Democratic and Republican Parties have both announced caucuses for Jan. 11.

The Democratic caucus will be held in the West Cornwall Firehouse, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Republican Town Committee will meet in the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m., and the caucus will follow at 8:30. The main purpose of the caucuses is to

nominate and elect members to the Town Committees, which are the governing bodies of each party. The Republicans will elect 25 members, and the Democrats will elect up to 28.

Assemblywoman Mary Ann O'Sullivan and State Senate candidate Dan Dwyer will speak at the Democratic caucus.

Both John Miller, Democratic chairman, and Jack Forster, Republican chairman, are looking for new committee members. All registered party members are encouraged to attend their own caucus and run for a committee slot or vote for those they deem worthy. — *Stephen Senzer*



Hurrah for Jack

Through highly placed friends of Jack Preston, the town has acquired from the state several thousand dollars worth of used guardrails to make our roads safer — for the sum of \$35. That is an impressive saving! — *Celia Senzer*

Welcome

Schuyler James Ebersol to Peter and Carol Ebersol

Goodbye to a Friend

Alice T.A. Waterston

Congratulations

Peter Charles Russ to Barbara Straiton Heaney

Land Transfers

D. Edward LaPorta and Laura Ann Rosenbeck to John LaPorta, house and .25 acres on River Road for \$110,000.

Estate of Diane L. Carpenter and Raymond J. Augustyn to Paul and Irene M. Fossati, house and 8 acres on College Street for \$160,000.

Peter D. Meier to Melanie Legendre and Janis Patella, 1.28 acres on Route 7 and Whitcomb Hill Road for \$60,000.

Get Ready for Winter

I would like to offer some ideas for coping with winter weather. Be prepared with good supplies of food, water, alternative heat and light sources, a radio with fresh batteries, and snow tires. Consider four-wheel drive if you live on a hill.

Anticipate variation in the weather during a storm. East Cornwall and Cream Hill can be different worlds from the Valley or West Cornwall. Stay put if possible. Abandoned cars on town roads were a problem last winter.

When there's snow on the roads, please drive slowly. If the weather is severe, the Highway Department, the Fire Department, and their friends will be working hard to help everyone get through it.

— *Gordon Ridgway*

Editor's Note: Filling your bathtub with water is a good idea. Alternative light

sources could include flashlights, candles, oil lamps — and matches.

Joan Edler Shows Her Colors

In her watercolors and pastels, now on exhibit in the Cornwall Library, Joan Edler shows skillful, thoughtful, and interestingly varied use of color. She has an eye for the unusual in her subject matter. Rather than giving us blazing masses of fall foliage, she gives us "Last Leaves," a pastel of a tree past its foliage prime, a few yellow leaves still clinging. "Milkweed," my favorite in this exhibition, is a fine example of minimal color used to great effect. "Landscape, Late Afternoon" presents an interesting contrast: stark, bare, and gray, the stalks of trees stand out against a soft background of mountain, hill, and pasture. You can enjoy Joan Edler's recent works through January 15.

— Alfred Bredenberg



New Rules for Recycling

At their Nov. 22 meeting, the selectmen voted to renew for four more years the contract with Paine's Recycling for hauling and marketing some of the town's recyclables.

We are able to stick with the way we have been collecting recyclables with two exceptions: First, tin cans should be flattened. Second, plastics need to be thoroughly rinsed out, especially milk and liquid detergent containers. Also, the tops need to be removed, since they are not made from number 1 or 2 plastic.

If anyone is unsure of how the system works, there are handouts at the landfill and at the selectmen's office.

— Chris Hopkins, Recycling Coordinator

The Emerald Isle

On Dec. 10 Tom Bechtel presented another in the series of Travelogs sponsored by Park and Rec. His subject was Ireland. Tom had made a day-by-day video account of his ten day trip to western Ireland last July. The many landscape scenes left the viewer with an overall impression of green, green, green . . . dotted with flowers, cows, and white sheep. A surreal note was added by the day-glo colors with which the sheep are spray-painted to identify them.

After the video Tom answered questions from the audience, telling of the friendliness of the Irish people and the relatively low cost of accommodations there. He recommends it as one of the few bargains still available to travelers.

— Bee Simont

Four Corners Correction

The service station at the Four Corners was not originally built by A. J. McKitis as stated in last month's *Chronicle*, but by Larry Doyle, with the backing of Larry Sturges. About 1935, McKitis bought it, put on an addition, and added a lunch counter.

— Bee Simont

Letters to the Chronicle



WANTED: RECRUITS

Two town organizations that we all rely on are the Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Fire Department. Both crews are now a bit thin, due to several emergency medical technicians leaving town, and too few young recruits. There is plenty of work for interested people.

A course for would-be emergency medical technicians is being offered in North Canaan starting in February, while a course for fire personnel will get under way soon in Warren. People wanting more information are asked to call Ingrid Laigle (Rescue Squad), 672-6409; or David Williamson (Fire Department), 672-0042.

— Gordon Ridgway

prices of land sales. We think there is a difference between what is public information and available on request from its public custodian, and what is essentially knowledge made public so that the curious need not admit their curiosity or actually do anything to feed it.

At a recent power lunch in the Town Office we had fun compiling a list of those facts which are also public information, and which could be published in a monthly Nosibodies column just as easily as the dollar amounts for land transfers: death certificates, tax liens, delinquent dogs, preferential tax assessments, home improvement costs, will provisions, and estate valuations.

In these tough times, we should all know who isn't paying taxes on property or dogs, or who is paying less than the rest of us, right? Who is renovating and how much will their tax assessment increase? It's harder to pin down our need to know what Jane Doe was worth and how she carved it up, but this is public information, too. Birth certificates are off limits to just anyone, but you could certainly list causes of death.

As you can see, the opportunities for unnecessary disclosure can easily outstrip bad taste. We will help anyone to public records at the Town Office, but feel the *Chronicle* should not raise the exchange of money to the level of a Vital Statistic.

— Margaret Cooley, Cheryl Evans, Joyce Hart, Jayne Ridgway

GROWING XMAS TREES: NO CINCH

Have you ever tried to raise Christmas trees? Sounds easy but, well, it ain't.

I undertook this entrepreneurial venture about eight years ago, figuring you couldn't lose if you bought the little darlings at \$14 for 250 barely visible plants. Stick 'em in the ground and away they go. As it happened, more than one did go away, unable to survive two dry summers and not enough watering. The onslaughts from wildlife have been an even greater hazard. More often than not, the night after a planting the skunk community waddled forth and carefully dug up the newly turned soil looking for grubs.



The survivors more or less made it, but grew into bizarre shapes as the years went by. Two reasons: I neglected to shape them into proper postcard forms, and much more devastating, the deer wandered about sampling them. I was desperate. Then I heard that deer are repulsed by the smell of human hair, and indeed they are. For a time I haunted every barber shop and hairdresser in northwestern Connecticut. This collected treasure I stuffed into many small baggies and festooned my trees with them. It worked for a time but, alas, mice are not repulsed by hair. Quite the opposite. I produced a gold mine for them for their winter nests.

Friends suggested urine pots. Ah, but the collecting points and pots created a problem. I thought briefly of a massive beer party. Then — success! Lifebuoy soap keeps anything away, even your best friend. Chunks tied to each tree have brought relief for now, until rain reduces, over time, the small, white soap bits.

At last, my first crop went to market. Happy New Year everyone!

— Lydia Wolf

A MATTER OF TASTE

We would like to echo the sentiments expressed in last May's letter from Jessica Meyer on the ultimate tackiness of printing the

RUMSEY REDUX

After years of hot debate, the future of Rumsey Hall still remains in question. Besides conversion to town offices there have been a number of suggestions for Rumsey's re-use, some of them less practical than others. Through this long and sometimes painful process it has become clear that the key phrase is "economically viable."

But we are getting closer to a resolution, albeit through the process of elimination. The last town meeting voted to authorize the selectmen to seek a purchaser or leaser for the building. If this effort is successful it could effectively preserve and restore this landmark structure, while turning it into an economic asset instead of a liability. This (as yet unknown) user could benefit the town in many ways, such as: generate money from the sale, increase town tax revenues, and even possibly provide a few new jobs.

Locating such a user will not be easy, and we will have to cast a wide net and go beyond the town, county, and state. But then again, there are many people in Cornwall with access to that broader world. If you're interested in participating in forming a committee for this effort, please call 672-6596. Let's tap all our available resources and give Rumsey a new life before it's too late.

— Carol Nelson

Events & Announcements

Selectmen's Selections: In the past few weeks the Board of Selectmen has made the following appointments:

Paul Baren as Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace Nick Edler, who has become a full member.

Joseph Gwazdauskas to Park and Rec. to fill a vacancy made by the resignation of Maureen Donahue.

Vera Dinneen as an Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission (reappointment).

Chris Hopkins as Recycling Coordinator to replace George Brown, who has retired.

William Hurlburt, M.D. Simont, and Arthur Lorch to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Also, Jean Boutellier, for a four-year term, to replace George Brown, who retired after many years of service to the commission.

Kugeman Village Application Forms are now available. Those interested should call 1-239-2539 or write to Community Housing Management at 165 Clintonville Road, North Haven, CT 06473. Information regarding details of living at Kugeman Village (from pet policy to community rules) is available for perusal in the Town Office.

Little Skiers: The Skiwee Program for children in grades T, 1, and 2 starts on Jan. 6 and will be held every Thursday for eight weeks. The children will be bussed from school to the ski area and picked up by their parents at the end of the day's activities.



Chronicle Sweepstakes! Free Prizes!

To celebrate the completion of our third year, we announce the first annual Chronicle sweepstakes, in which you can win one of the following amazing prizes:

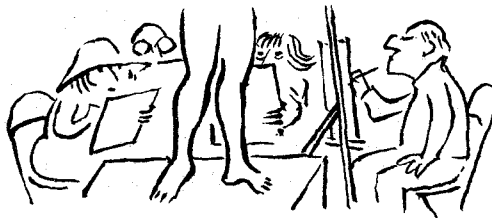
Grand prize: A framed print of Chronicle art by the artist of your choice.

First prize: A bound volume of the Chronicle: the First Year.

Second prize: Dinner for two at Cadwell's.

All you have to do to enter is write your name and address on the coupon below and send it in. You don't have to include a contribution to enter, but it certainly would be a convenient time to do so, wouldn't it?

Sweeps coupons will also appear in the February and March issues. Winners will be selected by a random drawing and announced in the April issue.



Life-Sketch Group will meet on Mondays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Cornubia Hall beginning Jan. 10. Fees: \$11 a session. For information call 672-6203 or 672-6144.

Grandson's Portrait of a Poet: At 4 p.m., Jan. 30, at the Cornwall Library Adam Van Doren will present his recent film on his grandfather, Mark Van Doren. The film is a documentary portrait of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, critic, and long-time resident of Cornwall. The film traces the poet's life from his upbringing in the Middle West at the turn of the century to his career as an influential professor at Columbia University and a poet of distinction. Interviews with prominent poets and critics, such as Alfred Kazin, Allen Ginsburg, and John Hollander, will be included in the film, as well as reflections by his wife, Dorothy Van Doren. The screening will be prefaced by a brief introduction by the filmmaker, and questions will be welcomed afterward.

Saturday Yoga at Cornubia Hall: Starting Jan. 3 there will be Saturday yoga classes at 10:00 a.m., in addition to those on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Jan Troy teaches Iyengar yoga, which pays particular attention to stretching and strengthening. The classes are invigorating, calming, and fun — a great way to welcome your body to the New Year! Call 491-4063 for preregistration as classes are limited.

Bridge Meeting: At 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 24, at the Masonic Lodge, the Board of Selectmen will discuss with residents plans to replace the bridge over Furnace Brook on Popple Swamp Road.

Taconic Learning Center: Two courses are scheduled in Cornwall for the spring semester. On Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Ken Keskinen will continue his creative writing class at the CCS, and on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. John Leich will direct an eight-week course on Great Decisions, to be held at St. Peter's Church. Other TLC classes in the neighborhood taught by Cornwallians are Spencer Klaw's "Making the News," on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Academy Building, Salisbury; Phyllis Wojan's "In-

roduction to Today's Genetics," Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., also in the Academy Building; and John Leich's "Conversation et Composition Française Avancée," Mondays at 3:00 p.m. at the Holley-Williams House in Lakeville.

On three Tuesdays, March 1, April 5, and May 3, Anne Chamberlain and John Miller will discuss and perform "Musical Comedy Melodies" from 7:30 to 9:30 at Noble Horizons in Salisbury.

Most classes will begin the last week in January. The complete list of TLC offerings and registration forms can be found at the Cornwall Library.

Town Office News: Starting Jan. 3, the town offices will open and close a half hour earlier than usual. New hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Should any Cornwall resident need to do business with the Town Clerk's office at a time when the office is closed, call Cheryl Evans at 672-2709 or -0094 to arrange a mutually convenient time. Appointments, night or day, with First Selectman Ridgway can be arranged by calling 672-4959.

Women's Emergency Services: If you are being hurt by someone you love, there is help available to you. WES provides free, confidential services to all victims of domestic abuse in the Northwest Corner. These services include crisis counseling, legal and medical advocacy, transportation, support groups, safe shelter, and community education. Please call 824-1080 — help is available. Volunteers are needed for these and other services. WES will sponsor a 22-hour free training session for interested volunteers, beginning Jan. 5, for four weeks on Wednesday evenings and two Saturday mornings. Call 824-1080 or 824-1491.

Save This Date: On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 6 there will be a gala concert by Cornwall musicians at the UCC. Half of the concert will be given by our own matchless Coltsfoot Chorus, half by that dynamic musical duo, John Miller and Anne Chamberlain, performing songs of the American musical theater. The concert will benefit the Jubilee School in inner-city Philadelphia.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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