



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 24 : NUMBER 12 JANUARY 2015



2014 in Review

The theme for 2014 might very well have been food. The farmers' market, open every Saturday on the Wish House lawn between May and October, celebrated its eighth year. The Berkshire Country Store reopened under the management of Ryan Craig and Natasha Travieso; a welcome thing for skiers, tourists, and townspeople. The Cornwall General Store in Cornwall Bridge celebrated a strong first year and added a handsome paint job to its new look.

The food event of the summer, however, was the dinner put on by Community Table of Washington inside our covered bridge. The event (top price \$250 a head plus a bus ride from midtown Manhattan) raised hackles and cheers in equal measure from Cornwall people. The fire department, which received a donation of \$2,000 from the proceeds, had few complaints. Local merchants, hampered by the closing of the bridge and the lost traffic on a major fall weekend, had plenty to say. In the end, it was reportedly a good party and the next day life went on as usual.

Besides food, another basic need—housing—made the news last year. In June the *Chronicle* reported that there were 29 residential properties for sale in town. They ranged in price from very reasonable to the multi millions being asked for the Castle in

Cornwall Valley. Mortgages continued to be hard to find and one local real estate agent reported that all her sales in 2014 had been for cash.

Trinity Conference Center didn't sell to the Zen Center of Brooklyn after all (a blow to the potential for serenity in town), but the Cornwall Conservation Trust completed an agreement to purchase 317 acres of Trinity's mostly uphill land. Add to that two more acquisitions near Town Street and the trust finished the year 420 acres to the good.

The Pink House in West Cornwall Village became the creamy yellow house, at least on the façade facing the street. This was the latest of the many colors that have

graced the 158-year-old mansion.

Susan Francisco retired from her job as Board of Education clerk after 27 years.

Rocco Botto won the first Run the Valley 5K race, which had a field of 150 participants and benefitted the non-profit PharmaCares.

The CCS girls basketball team is Region One champ yet again.

And it was the summer of the historical society's imaginative and moving Civil War exhibit and the events that enlarged upon its story.

The year ended with a splendid new lighting array for the Cornwall Bridge tree, powered, of course, by solar panels.

—Lisa L. Simont



Children in Need in Cornwall

Even with a median income higher than much of the state (\$78,021 a year vs. \$69,519 a year), Cornwall has slightly more families living in poverty than the rest of the state (12.3 percent in Cornwall compared with 10 percent). More surprising? More than a quarter (27.4 percent) of the 325 children in Cornwall live in poverty, nearly twice the statewide level.

According to Jill Gibbons, the town's

(continued on page 2)

JANUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall; Men's Basketball , 7–9pm CCS gym Wednesdays: Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Tai Chi , 5–7 pm Town Hall; Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library; Adult Volleyball , 7:30 pm CCS gym Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library Saturdays: Skating, 7–8 pm Hotchkiss Schmidt Rink (starting Jan. 10) Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

(continued from page 1)

social services director, some of the economic strain is because many Cornwall residents are self employed (and therefore lack benefits), plus many of them work seasonally. Of course, when it comes to helping kids and families in need, income is only part of the picture.

Several local social services help children in need:

Cornwall social services: Any Cornwall families in need of support: financial, emotional, or practical, should make Jill Gibbons their first call (672-2603). For nearly 30 years, the town's social services program has helped families connect with the resources in tough times. From the Heating Fuel Assistance Program to the Food & Fuel Fund to the food pantry, struggling families can get confidential help. Families may be eligible for more than they realize. For example, a family of four with income up to \$62,528 a year may be eligible for heating fuel assistance.

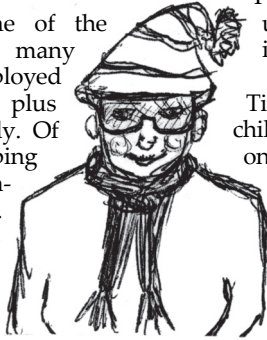
The Cornwall Library: For the 10 and older set, the library offers an informal afterschool program where kids can go by themselves, and the librarians will keep an eye on them. More formally, the child center offers a library program once a week with its afterschool group. Tweens and teens may enjoy spending time in the newly established teen area, developed with support from the Cornwall Foundation. A 2014 experiment offering summer camp went so well that the library plans to expand summer camp to two full weeks in 2015 (likely \$10 a week). In July, the library offers Wednesday evening educational and entertaining programs, such as presentations by the Children's Museum. The library is also seeking grants to expand early literacy training for caregivers of very young children.

Beyond Cornwall's borders, four organizations are key:

The Foundation for Community Health (Sharon): FCH provides funds for mental health, oral health, and access to services, as well as research and education programs for youth and families. For example, FCH offers prescription assistance and funds dental cleanings in all Region One schools.

Northwest Corner Prevention Network (Falls Village): A volunteer coalition of service providers, NCPN receives funding from the state to improve the health and well being of youth and families in Connecticut.

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (Falls Village): Offers mental and behavioral health programs to kids ages 4 to 21 years old.



Programs include Peers Educating Peers, Empowering Young Women, and Youth in Philanthropy. HYSB also sets teens up with valuable summer internships.

The Time Out Foundation (Lakeville): Time Out's mission is to help children and young adults who need ongoing, non-judgmental support. The two main programs are wilderness-based therapeutic mentoring (more on Ed Thorney and that program in this issue) and equine-assisted therapy, which allows children to learn leadership, strength, courage, compassion, and trust as they care for horses.

—Kerry Donahue

Sanders Named to Region One

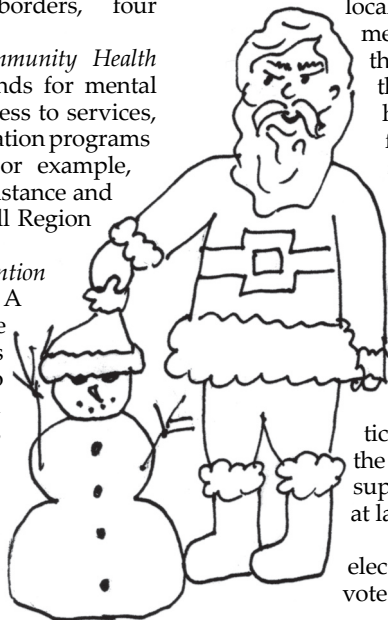
John Sanders is Cornwall's new representative on the Region One Board of Education, replacing Phil Hart, who had served us ably in that capacity for 10 years. Commonly known as the "high school board," the six-town panel also handles special education and other shared services directed by the superintendent's office.

Sanders, a five-year resident of the town, grew up in several states and graduated from Franklin College in Indiana. He operates a varied marketing and medical business out of the old railroad station in West Cornwall with his wife, Janet. They have two children in Cornwall Consolidated School. Sanders volunteered for the regional position and was the unanimous choice of the CCS board.

This transition marks the latest step in what has become an ongoing controversy: how shall Cornwall's Region One member be selected? At present, town regulations state that the local elementary school board appoints our Region One representative. Although that person does not have to be on the CCS board, tradition has it that the

local board appoints one of its members, the theory being that articulation between the two schools is best handled by a person familiar with both. The same procedure is followed in Kent. However, in the other four towns, the Region One member is a separate ballot position, thus chosen by the majority of voters in a municipal election. A good case can be made that this more democratic procedure guarantees the representative strong support from the community at large.

Proponents of direct election put the matter to a vote at a special town meeting



back in May. The result: a 37-37 tie. The motion for direct election did not pass; thus the current procedure remains the rule.

So it is notable that the CCS board has now appointed John Sanders, who is *not* one of its members. Sanders will attend CCS board meetings to keep informed on local issues and share regional decisions with the town. Rachel Matsudaira, a CCS board member who was also willing to fill the vacancy, will continue as our alternate on the Region One board.

"I'm enjoying the meetings at the high school" Sanders states, "especially the people. There's a lot going on in Region One, and this board will be busy and active. I'm ready to jump right in." —Bob Potter

Goodbye to Friends

Craig Behn

Norma E. Lake

Agnes Estella Kling

Franz Martin Oppenheimer

Margaret Oppenheimer

Land Transfers

JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC, Brian Johnson and Diana Johnson to Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC, land with improvements thereon at 12 Hickory Lane for \$154,000.

Carl A. Pallok, Jane Pallok, Lora P. Grantmeyer, Carl R. Grantmeyer, Nancy M. Renzi and John E. Renzi to Joshua E. Smith and Elizabeth K. Cusack, 19.30 acres on Cornwall Hollow Road for \$60,000.

Carl A. Pallok, Nancy M. Renzi and Lora Grantmeyer, Trustees of the Marion K. Pallok Revocable Trust to Joshua E. Smith and Elizabeth K. Cusack, real property with improvements thereon at 271 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$380,000.

Deborah Howe to Gary Steinkohl, land with improvements thereon at 73 Pritchard Road for \$305,000.

James Eddy Blake to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., five acres of land on Buck Mountain (Dibble Hill Road).

Winter Bird Feeding

For those of you just starting out, here are some suggestions.

Black oil sunflower seed is nutritious, high in fat, and favored by the majority of birds that are likely to visit your feeder—like chickadees, titmice, cardinals, nuthatches, and many others.

Fine cracked corn is preferred by ground feeders such as juncos, sparrows, and mourning doves. Scatter the seed within 10 feet of, and also under, good shrub cover.

(continued from page 3)

(including January). This means that even if you pay on February 3 you will be charged for two months interest. No additional bills will be mailed for second installments. Please use the bill you received in July.

Taxes may be paid at the Tax Office on Mondays from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. and on Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and 1 P.M. to 4 P.M., or sent by mail, addressed to: Cornwall Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. Taxpayers also have the option to pay online at www.invoicecloud.com/cornwallct, but there is a 2.95% charge for this service.

—Jean D. Bouteiller, CCMC, Tax Collector

Events & Announcements

The New Year's Day Pancake Breakfast will be held in the UCC Parish House from 9 A.M. to noon. This year's donations will contribute to the preservation of the North Cornwall Meeting House and will be doubled by an anonymous matching grant.

Art in Cornwall

At the library: New Works on Paper, oil pastel, and graphite by Jennifer Ebner, January 6 through February 21. Artist's reception Saturday, January 10, from 4 to 6 P.M.

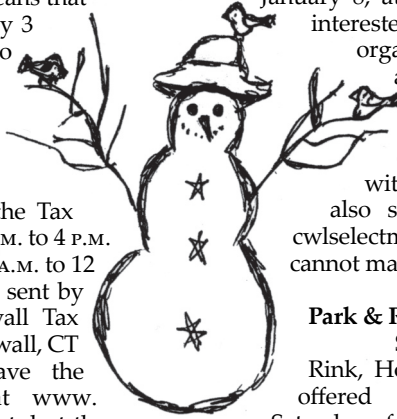
At The Souterrain Gallery: the exhibit Corbeaux and Dark Horses, works by Danielle Mailer and Louise W. King, creator of the Mud Pony, runs through January 4.

The Woman's Society meeting will be on January 8 at 10:15 A.M. in the Cornwall Library. Raymonde Burke will speak about the organization of the United Nations in general and its mission. She and her husband, Terry Burke, worked for the UN in Switzerland, France, Kenya, and the USA. Refreshments will be served.

Happy 275th Birthday Cornwall! A planning meeting for the celebration of the 275th

Renewal

Still hung over from 2014? Wipe the slate clean by renewing support for your neighborhood newspaper—and watch out for the twists and turns of 2015!



anniversary of our incorporation as a town will be held at the town hall on Thursday, January 8, at 7 P.M. We have many interested individuals and organizations ready to create a memorable home-grown celebration, something Cornwall does best. Please come with your ideas. You may also submit ideas earlier to cwselectmen@optonline.net if you cannot make it to the meeting.

Park & Rec

Skating at the Schmidt Rink, Hotchkiss School, will be offered for eight consecutive Saturdays from 7 to 8 P.M. starting January 10.

The third annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will be held on Saturday, January 10, at Cornwall Consolidated School. This year we are inviting players age 12 and up, and we will create divisions based on age groups. Teams must be registered by December 29. Registration cost is \$20 per team. For more information, contact Becky Hurlburt at prcornwall@gmail.com.

Senior Events

Free blood pressure clinic on Monday, January 12, from noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. For information contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Senior luncheon: A royal repast at a peasant's price on Tuesday, January 13, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose Café. For information contact Bob at 672-6191.

At the Cornwall Library

An Après Ski gala will be held on Saturday, January 24, from 5 to 7:30 P.M. Open to all. Classic cocktails, including the Dashiell Hammett, and wine will be served with hearty appetizers for adults; and hot chocolate, apple cider, and popcorn for the kids. Music by Still, the Homegrown Band and movies for the kids. Tickets are \$25 for adults. Children 16 and under are free. Tickets may be reserved by email at CornwallLibrary@biblio.org, by calling 672-6874, or by visiting the library website at CornwallLibrary.org. Walk ins are welcome and kids must be accompanied by adults.

Family Movie: *Lego Movie*, Friday, January 16, at 7 P.M.

The winter film series: *The Innocents* on Saturday, January 17, at 7:30 P.M. *The Lady*

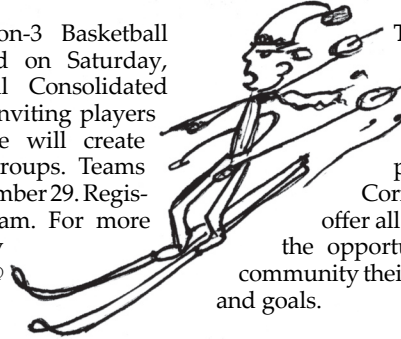
with a Dog on Saturday, January 31, at 7:30 P.M.

Dance Movie: *Erick Hawkins-America*, Wednesday, January 21, at 7 P.M.

Creative Writing 2: Follow up to creative writing class offered in the fall. Cost is \$50. Limited enrollment. Previous writing instruction required. Six weeks starting Wednesday, January 28, at 6 P.M.

Valentines & All That Jazz: Annual winter jazz evening of great food, dancing, and the music of Bob Parker's Jive by Five Band. Tickets are \$25 and should be purchased in advance as space is limited. Save the date: Saturday, February 14, 6 to 9 P.M.

The library will close at 5 P.M. on New Year's Eve and will reopen at 10 A.M. on January 2.



The Planning and Zoning Commission

will hold a special meeting on January 31 at 10 A.M. in the town hall to review the progress of planning in Cornwall. This meeting will offer all commissions and groups the opportunity to share with the community their recent accomplishments and goals.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings by appointment in March 2015. Applications to schedule a hearing will be available at the town clerk's office beginning January 2, 2015. Applications must be received by February 20, 2015. Applicants will be contacted to schedule hearings during March.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE cornwallchronicle.org

THIS MONTH

Ania Hubbard, Illustrations
Celia Senzer, Jane Bevans, and Lisa Simont, Editors

NEXT MONTH

Paul DeAngelis, Elisabeth Kaestner, and Carol Schneider, Editors
Paul@abouttown.us,
ekstudio@optonline.net, and carolschneider56@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Epstein

CALENDAR EDITOR Louise Riley
calendar@cornwallchronicle.org

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans

Denny Frost

DIRECTORS

Paul De Angelis, PRESIDENT
Annie Kosciusko, VICE PRESIDENT
Pam Longwell, SECRETARY
Tom Barrett, TREASURER

Tom Bechtle • Audrey Ferman • Edward Ferman
Ann Gold • Erin Hedden • John Miller
Jonathan Landman • Lisa L. Simont
Tom and Margaret Bevans, FOUNDERS

THE CHRONICLE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you enjoy this on-line edition of the Cornwall Chronicle. Remember that all our revenues come from readers like you, and we need your help to continue producing this electronic edition along with the print edition. If your contribution is \$15 or more, we'd be glad to mail the print edition to any out-of-town address. Please mail your tax deductible gifts to: Cornwall Chronicle Inc. PO Box 6, West Cornwall, CT 06796. Comments, letters and news may be E-mailed to the publishers at: info@cornwallchronicle.org