



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 26 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2016



Be Fruitful

One of the greatest pleasures of a Cornwall summer is picking your own fruit at a nearby orchard or farm, with the sweet juices dribbling down your chin and the anticipation of strawberry shortcakes and apple pies. Below are the nearby options for public picking this summer.

But first, the bad news: During one of the mildest winters on record, below-zero temperatures on February 13 and 14 wound up killing the buds on most of the peach trees in southern New England. It was the coldest night in 35 years, according to one of the growers. The chill wind destroyed 95 percent of this year's crop and caused Mary Concklin, a UConn crop expert, to call it "the Valentine's Day Massacre." The trees survived, but peach lovers will have to wait until next year for local peaches.

There will be plenty of other fruits for picking, however, and here is a list of nearby places to pick them. Remember to call before you go for current hours and picking conditions, and directions if you need them.

- Averill Farm, 250 Calhoun Street, Washington Depot. Apples and pears mid-August through October. 860-868-2777, averillfarm.com.
- Autumn Harvest Orchard, 879 Winchester Road, Norfolk. Organic apples

August through October, 203-592-0554, email JDCharon@comcast.net or autumnharvestorchard.com.

- Deeply Rooted Farms, 91 Terryville Road, Harwinton. Strawberries, June through October (they have a late-bearing crop), raspberries, and rhubarb. 860-921-3434, deeplyrootedfarms.com
- Ellsworth Hill Orchard and Berry Farm, 461 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4), Sharon. Strawberries, cherries, raspberries, blueberries, plums, and apples. 860-364-0025, website on pickyourown.org
- Ruwet Farm, East Pearl Road, Torrington. Strawberries in June, blueberries July-August. 860-866-6338, ruwetfarm.com.
- Starberry Farm, 47 Kielwasser Road, Washington Depot. Their celebrated peach and apricot crops were destroyed, but they hope to have a small crop of cherries, plums, raspberries, and blueberries for PYO. 860-868-2863, starberry@snet.net.

If you feel like picking farther afield, Dutchess County in New York state has more farms than you can shake a stick at.

You can see the whole group if you Google "pick your own dutchess county" (The url is too long to reprint here.) Most are in the Hudson Valley, but we found one that isn't too far away:

- Thompson-Finch Farm, 750 Wiltsie Bridge Road, Ancram, NY. Organic strawberries June and July, blueberries July and August and apples in the fall. 518-329-7578, thompsonfinch.com.

A final note: if you wind up with more fruit than you can use, consider donating your leftovers to the Chapel of All Saints, whose volunteers make the wonderful jams and jellies sold at the Ag Fair in September. Call Joanne Wojtusiak at 672-6646.

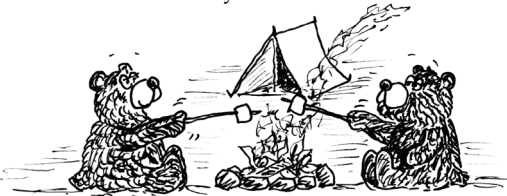
—Carol Schneider

90 Years Old and Moving

Extra! Extra! Read all about it. The Rummage Sale, in its 90th year, is moving its entire operation (almost) to the newly renovated Mohawk Ski Lodge, which last year enclosed an additional 2,000 square feet of space.

So the Cornwall Woman's Society, 35 members strong under the leadership of President Ann Hummel, decided to move the sale, which will be held July 16 through 18, from scattered parts of the United

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JULY 2016

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 ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Stitch 'n Spin , 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ 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 call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga 8:30–10 am Library; ♦ Saturdays: Farmers' Market, 9 am–12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1 pm call Debra 672-0229						1	2
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY ● ♦ Grumbling Gryphons Camp Play 11 am Town Hall ♦ Activities on the Green following the Play Noon	5 ♦ Zumba 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Inland Wetlands 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	6	7	8	9	
10	11 ♦ Camp Eureka ☾ Forestry Week begins 1st Q ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC Day Room ♦ Agricultural Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office	12 ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ Zumba 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Planning & Zoning 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	13	14 ♦ WC Water-Septic Committee 5 pm Ingersoll's Shop	15 ♦ Deadline: August Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–2 pm Mohawk ♦ Farmers' Market at Mohawk 9 am–12:30 pm ♦ Film: Far from the Madding Crowd 7 pm Library	
17 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm Mohawk	18 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–Noon Mohawk	19 ○ FULL ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ Discussion: The Variety Life Offers 2 pm Library ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	21 ♦ Knitting Group/Hats for Cancer Patients 10 am Library ♦ Cornwall Conservation Comm. 7 pm Library	22 ♦ N.E. Accordion Museum Presentation 4 pm Library	23 ♦ Family Art Day 10 am–2 pm Historical Society ♦ Artist's Reception Pamela Bramble 5 pm Library	
24	25 ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library	26 ☾ 4th Q ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	27	28	29	30	
31							

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

Church of Christ, such as the Day Room and the Parish House, out to the new Mohawk space.

Please don't get in your car on the big day and drive to the UCC. It won't be there (the Rummage Sale, that is!).

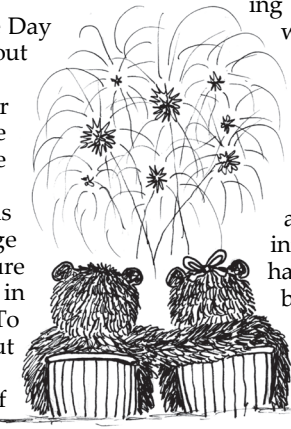
The only element of this year's sale not at the ski lodge will be the upscale furniture collection which will remain in the big room at town hall. To sum up, everything but furniture will be at Mohawk.

Here is some more stuff you might like to know:

- The usual menu of burgers and franks will be provided by the folks of St. Peter's Lutheran Chapel. Their operation will be located outside on the lawn on the north side of the lodge.

- The Cornwall Farmers' Market will set up nearby on Saturday in the lodge parking lot rather than at its usual venue on the lawn at Wish House.

The Rummage Sale dates all the way back to 1926. Imagine, 90 years of books and clothing and anything else you can think of changing hands from Cornwall neighbor to neighbor, and for a good cause. The proceeds are distributed as gifts to Cornwall graduates who go on to college or a variety of specialty schools to further their education.



—John Miller

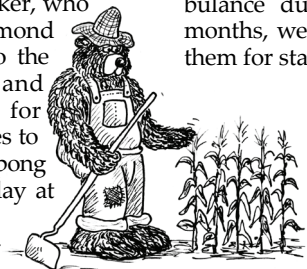
A Lovely Summer Ahead

What do cedar waxwings, ping pong paddles, and s'mores have in common? You can find them all at Hammond Beach on Cornwall's Cream Hill Lake.

Hammond Beach was gifted to the town of Cornwall by Roxana Hammond in 1988 so Cornwall residents and their guests could enjoy swimming in the lake without having to own waterfront properties or pay association dues. Her gift enables the town to continue providing its comprehensive swim team, swimming lessons, and water safety instruction every summer. In 1990 an efficient beach house was built by volunteers to provide roomy bathrooms, changing rooms, and the lifeguards' quarters.

The 2016 season is going swimmingly, thanks to the experienced direction of former Cornwallian Tammy Decker, who is in her 12th year as Hammond Beach director. In addition to the popular S'mores Nights and Water Sports Day planned for July and August, Tammy hopes to launch a kayak program, ping pong tourney, and arts and crafts day at the beach.

I cannot imagine a Cornwall summer without Hammond Beach as center stage for our family. I quite literally have a lifetime of summer



memories taking swimming lessons, teaching swimming lessons, and now watching my kids take swimming lessons there. One of the highlights of all my days there happened last summer while I was taking iPhone videos of my kids doing wacky jumps off the docks. Out of nowhere a majestic adult bald eagle swooped down into our chaos, making what would have been the world's best photo-bomb, except that I'm old school and preferred to watch the moment with my bare eyes, rather than through my phone lens. Maybe he'll dive with us again someday soon. There's

still plenty of summer ahead so get your beach passes at town hall so you can enjoy all Hammond Beach has to offer!

Rescue Squad: The Early Days

Back in the early 1960s, then Fire Chief Cliff TenBroeck asked for volunteers interested in forming a squad. One of the volunteers was Jerry Blakey, who said the others were Louis Paniati, Dick Ohman, Ray Herman, and Roger Scius.

Jerry told me the squad got some of its crude early equipment from an army surplus warehouse. Such things, he said, as a desk, file cabinets, something called a line gun that could shoot a nylon rope great distances, and even K-rations.

They took training from a variety of people, including Rolly Fenn, who taught them the science of rope rescues. Additional schooling came from Chief TenBroeck, who was an auxiliary cop and a certified Red Cross trainer who taught the squad out of a Boy Scout handbook. They learned such things as simple splinting, creating a three-corner sling, and an early form of CPR working with a body dummy known affectionately as "Annie."

It was several years before Cornwall got its first ambulance. Before that they used a small school van equipped with a portable oxygen tank and an army cot with straps for a stretcher. Eventually the cot was replaced with a Stokes stretcher and an aluminum basket.

These men were real pioneers, and with a brand new, beautifully equipped ambulance due in the firehouse in a few months, we can appreciate and remember them for starting it all.

—John Miller

Artists and Authors

The Cornwall Historical Society's 2016 exhibit, "Artists and Authors," opened with a grand reception on June 24 at the society's 7 Pine Street headquarters. The show will run until October 30.

According to Executive Director and Curator Jamie Cantoni, the creative stream in Cornwall's history runs rich, wide, and deep. Her research shows that the town's creative impact worked on artists of every stripe: the painters and writers who visited the area for the day or a bit longer; semi-permanent or Yelping Hill seasonals; those who traveled away and returned; and those who made Cornwall their permanent home.

A common theme that seems to make this history unique is that so many of the artists and writers were not isolated folks. They became involved in community activities and developed wide friendships. Jamie has discovered, for example, that gardening was a common "leveling" influence among creative weekenders who turned to local farmers for hints on planting.

The historical society's 2016 activities will include "Artist and Author" programs including:

- Family Art Day with Joe Brien and Danielle Mailer;
- "He's Got His Wires Crossed," a talk by sculptor Peter Busby;
- "The Write Stuff," readings by Cornwall writers; and
- "Tell Us a Story," recalling Cornwall's creative past, with Richard Schlesinger.

—Jeff Jacobson

Welcome

Charles Nolan Cameron to
Rebecca Harris and Michael Cameron

Foster Doskow Mejia to
Annette Doskow and Matt Mejia

Congratulations

Brenda Singer and Richard Sears
Brittany McAllister and Tyler Cheney

Goodbye to Friends

Cheryl Anne Cadman Evans
Bernice Merz

Land Transfers

Mark Pastre to James J. Pastre, land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 11 Bald Mountain Road, for \$250,000.

Tracy F. Hewat to Theophile J. Meneau and Darcy M. Boynton, land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 23 Johnson Road, for \$780,000.

John B. Hubbard to David J. Hubbard, half interest in land with improvements thereon at 239 Great Hollow Road, and two other parcels on Great Hollow Road, for \$75,000.

Margaret D. Cooley, Alford W. Cooley, and Susan D. Cooley to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. 84.094 acres of land on Cherry Hill Road, for \$782,000.

Paul H. Cohen and Elisabeth A. Mason to Shawn M. and Rosemarie Keating, land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 216 Furnace Brook Road, for \$205,000.

Cooley Land in Trust

The Cornwall Conservation Trust has purchased an 85-acre parcel on Cherry Hill Road owned by the Cooley family since 1940. Described as a “mosaic of farm and forest land,” the property brings the total acreage protected by the trust in Cornwall to 1,698, according to Barton Jones, trust chairman.

The Cooley Preserve is near other protected lands including the trust’s Hart Farm Preserve, the Cooley Conservation Easement, the Vogel Preserve, the Push ‘Em Up Farm Easement, as well as a block of the Housatonic State Forest. Taken together, these lands offer roaming range to black bear and bobcats. Grassland nesters, like the bobolink and the eastern meadowlark, thrive here and the American kestrel, our smallest hawk, has been sighted too.

The Connecticut DEEP contributed an Open Space grant of \$450,000 toward the \$782,000 purchase; an additional \$225,000 came from the USDA’s Farm and Ranchland Protection program. The remainder was raised from private donors. Future plans for the Cooley Preserve include a new loop trail for hikers and birders. It is expected that the open land will continue to be hayed by neighbors, most recently the Scovilles.

—Lisa L. Simont

Merry Men

On a sunny Saturday in June, two teams of Morris men clad in red and white gathered on Lower River Road by the Covered Bridge. With aplomb, they deftly stepped, leapt, and skipped together on the hot tarmac, belting out an occasional shout in unison. Each team was accompanied by English folk tunes played on fiddle or accordion. Bells jingled, white scarves (“hankies”) held by their corners flashed, and short staffs, or “sticks,” were used to whack each other as the dancers performed their classical figures.

Morris Dancing is essentially street theatre that celebrates the coming of spring, and is a living tradition from England passed on from man to man and from generation to generation. It was well known to Shakespeare (he named it in three of his plays), but it has an even longer recorded history, the earliest reference to the tradition being in 1448.

Every year at this time, Morris clubs tour villages and towns in the Northwest Corner to perform for the public and at institutions, some coming from as far away as Washington, D.C.

Our visitors were the Berkshire Morris Men from Great Barrington and the Newtowne Morris Men from Boston, both specializing in dances from the Cotswolds region west of London, which take the traditional form of three men facing three.

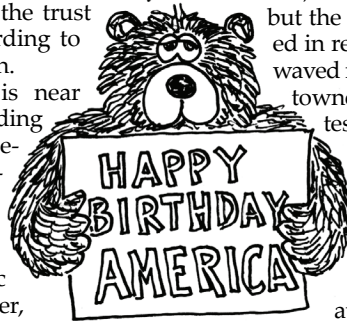
There are some stylistic differences between the costumes and the athletic dance moves of these two groups, derived from the particular village where the dance originated.

Each club wore long-sleeved shirts and britches, white stockings, and black shoes; but the Berkshires danced bare headed in red shirts with white vests, and waved red and white “hankies”; Newtowne wore white shirts with rosettes and ribbons pinned on, grey suspenders and blue hats, and their hankies were all white. The dancers also wore bell pads below their knees holding 20 to 30 bells each, making the slightest motion audible.

Cornwall’s Joe Gwazdauskas belonged for two years to the Wild Turkeys Morris Dancers, founded in the 1980s—a small club that has since gone out of existence. It was an exception to the ancient rules from the start—a mixed team of men and women whose kit included Hawaiian shirts worn over white britches. In 1988, Joe performed with the club in a set of dances at his own wedding.

Back in June, their rituals ended, the Newtowne and Berkshire dancers adjourned, jingling, to the terrace of the Moose. There they put their accordion and fiddle to use for folk songs before decamping for Falls Village and the gathering of all Morris teams performing for us on that golden day.

—Ann Schillinger



Cornwall Briefs

•**Lodging tax:** 1,800 Airbnb hosts in Connecticut are liable to pay the state’s 15 percent lodging tax. The state has announced an agreement with the national rental service to collect and remit the tax. The rule actually passed the legislature back in October 2015, but it’s unknown how many renters are in compliance.

It’s interesting that the lodging tax did not come up as a factor in the recent argy-bargy about the comparative costs of running a licensed inn and opening one’s house to Airbnbbers.

It’s worth noting that if one adds the fees charged by Airbnb to book guests (6 to 12 percent); the 3 percent fee charged to hosts for each reservation; PLUS the 15 percent lodging tax, renters are paying as much as 30 percent per reservation.

•**Lost Motor Vehicles.** It seems the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles simply cannot get a grip on its new computer software. About 50,000 cars and trucks have been assigned to the wrong municipalities. If you get a tax bill for your vehicle from Bridgeport or Plainfield or somewhere else, call

the assessor in that town and have the record transferred to Cornwall. Joanne Dodge, assistant assessor here, says her office will tell the tax collector to issue a new (correct) bill.

•**State Grants:** Some much better news from the state comes to Cornwall via the Northwest Hills Council of Governments. The funding sought for two projects has been approved. First the HouBike Trail segment between Kent and Cornwall Bridge will be given \$26,250 for clearing and creating a bike path. The second award is \$45,000 for the water and wastewater feasibility study in its early stages in West Cornwall village. Nothing else may be moving out of Hartford, but economic development is!

•**Planning and Zoning** has a new full member, former alternate Anna Timell, who takes Josh Tyson’s place on the commission.

•**Park & Rec Director** Sydney Ormsby has resigned. Applications for the position may be handed in at the selectmen’s office asap.

•**Renovations** and building code upgrades at Housatonic Valley Regional High School were resoundingly approved by Cornwall voters June 7. A good thing too. Some of the descriptions of the state of team locker rooms and other phys ed facilities sounded downright unsanitary. The far-ranging changes will include long-postponed roofing repairs, boiler replacements, and upgrades in the science wing. The total cost (after a state grant) is \$4.2 million, bonded over 20 years.

•**The Senior Van,** to be paid for and shared with Goshen, has moved closer to hitting the road. The Cornwall Foundation has granted \$2,500 to support the project.

—Lisa L. Simont

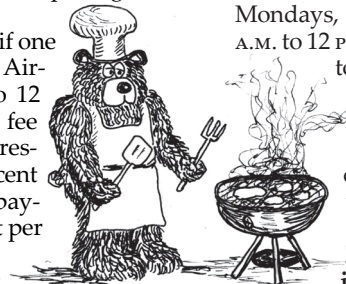
Events & Announcements

From the Tax Collector: The first half payment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2015 is due in full on July 1, as are taxes not in excess of \$100, and motor vehicle taxes. Payments must be post-marked by August 1 to avoid interest.

Taxes may be paid at the tax office on Mondays, 1 to 4 P.M., and Wednesdays, 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and 1 to 4 P.M., or sent by mail to: Cornwall Tax Collector, Box 97, Cornwall CT 06753. You may pay online at cornwall.org but there is a 2.95 percent charge for this service, or pay with an echeck.

The 11th annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held Saturday, July 2, noon to 5 P.M.

For a list of participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, go to cornwallct.org and click “Links,” then “Artists and Writers.”



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Cornwall Community Contra Dance: Come boogie like our forefathers on Saturday, July 2, at 7 P.M. at the town hall. Traditional music by Still, the Homegrown Band with calling by Annie Banks. All dances taught, all ages and left feet welcome, no partner necessary. Suggested donation to pay caller. For more info: Jane at 672-6101 or motherhouse.us.

12th Annual Alex's Lemonade Stand, a special project of Reilly Hedden's, will be on July 2, at the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.



RSVP appreciated but not required to northwestcornertriad@gmail.com or Louise Riley at 672-0222.

Accordion Man Paul Rumunni, founder, raconteur, and performer of the New England Accordion Museum in Canaan, will perform at the Cornwall Library at 4 P.M. on July 22. The concert is sponsored by Cornwall Park and Rec and Committee for Seniors, but all ages are invited!

Grumbling Gryphons: On July 4 at 11 A.M. at town hall, the Gryphons' 20th annual Theater Arts Campers, age 6 to 16, will perform their original musical, *The Mixed-Up Fairytale: A Wild and Wonderful Weave of Fantasy and Fiction*. Following the play at noon, Cornwall Park and Rec will have food and activities on the Green. For more information, contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or grumblinggryphons@gmail.com.

Concert: The Hevreh Ensemble will present a concert at the Prentice barn, 129 Lake Road in West Cornwall, on Saturday, July 9, 5 P.M. Requested donation is \$45. The concert is a fundraiser for the group's upcoming concert tour to the Czech Republic, Germany, and Austria in September.

Senior Events:

Free blood pressure clinic: Monday, July 11, noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Day Room. Contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanwv.org.

Senior Luncheon: July's mix of gobbles and gabs will occur on Tuesday, June 12, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose Café. All are welcome and reservations unnecessary.

Rummage Sale: July 16, 17, and 18. All items will be at the new Mohawk Ski Lodge

Fireflies

Here's the best thing about July: fireflies! What beats sitting on the porch and looking over the back field round about midnight. The whole world is alight with flashes and sparkles, the kind of show nature does best. While you are lost in wonder, reach for your checkbook and write the *Chronicle* a nice, glowing check. Thanks!

except for furniture at town hall. See insert for more information.

A discussion, "The Variety Life Offers," will be hosted by the Northwest Corner Triad on July 20 at 2 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Speakers will be from Cornwall's Park and Rec, Cornwall Social Services, the Taconic Learning Center, the NWCT Arts Council, and the Chore Service. While geared to seniors, all ages are welcome.

RSVP appreciated but not required to northwestcornertriad@gmail.com or Louise Riley at 672-0222.

Family Art Day at the Cornwall Historical Society: Saturday, July 23, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at 7 Pine Street. Joe Brien and Danielle Mailer will host lots of art making and other activities for people of all ages. Kid-friendly refreshments will be served. Admission is free, donations welcome.

Dump Directives: Please thoroughly rinse all recyclable food and beverage containers for the health and safety of all. For those teenagers helping their parents with dump duties this summer, please abide by the 5-mph speed limit. There is a new, additional clothing bin to benefit the American Red Cross.

Welcoming Refugees: The UCC in Cornwall, along with seven other churches in Goshen, Litchfield, and beyond, are sponsoring another refugee family to a home in Torrington this August. To help (occasional rides, hospitality, furnishings) please contact the church office at 672-6840 or cornwallucc@aol.com. Funds are also needed to prepare for the family's arrival and support for the first few months. Checks can be made to UCC in Cornwall, memo: Refugees. Gifts are tax deductible.

Art in Cornwall
At the Souterrain Gallery Richard Griggs's exhibit "Elemental" continues through July as does the show of Curtis Hanson's paintings at the Toll House Gallery/Ian Ingersoll Cabinet Makers, open Monday through Saturday.

Krista Narciso's show at the Cornwall Library, "Moments in Flora," will close on July 16. The new show, Pamela Bramble's "Calandra/Lunga Pausa," will open July 19. The title is derived from musical terms that translate to "slowing down/long pause," meant to describe the passing and changing of seasons. Reception is July 23 at 5 P.M.

At the Cornwall Library

Children's Summer Reading Challenge: This year's challenge is simple, with a nice prize at the end: pick up a Summer Reading Challenge bookmark and have it stamped each time you check out books. If you achieve five stamps by the end of July, you win a prize and an invitation to an ice cream party at the library on August 4 at 3 P.M.

CCS has loaned the library a set of Nutmeg Award-winning books for children's summer reading. Anyone with a Cornwall Library card can check them out and they may be returned there.

The original 1967 film of *Far From the Madding Crowd* with Julie Christie will be shown on July 16 at 7 P.M. with introductory commentary by Betty Spence. Free, though donations to the library are always welcome.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

The *Chronicle* regrets the passing of Cheryl Evans, one of the paper's early contributors and a longtime editor.

cornwallchronicle.org

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