

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 13 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2003

Talk of the Town

You may have seen large machinery outside the Town Hall in recent weeks. The digging was for a new septic system and the foundation for an addition to the town office building which will house the Social Services Office.

Inside the Town Hall, the meeting room and new Selectmen's Office are restored with fresh paint and refinished floors and beams. The stage is also in the process of restoration, lights and action to come. The space in the meeting room will be kept open and flexible to accommodate meetings, voting machines, and theatrical events. Contact Joyce Hart at the Selectmen's Office (672-4959) to schedule an event. Visitors are welcome.

The selectmen have been busy with these issues:

Budget: The town has suffered a large decrease in state aid to municipalities.

Ethics: Cornwall was part of a coalition that successfully defeated an ethics mandate bill which would have required a municipal ethics commission and the filing of personal financial statements by all who serve on town boards and commissions.

Emergency Planning: Focus is on a regional approach (e. g., Cornwall and six or more nearby towns) to coordinate communications, resources, and response to medical emergencies.

Land Purchase: Negotiations continue for

the purchase of eight acres of land adjoining Foote Fields for parking and recreational opportunities.

The Highway Department has targeted its summer resurfacing projects for all roads in Cornwall Village and in East Cornwall. Paving will be done in July and resurfacing in August. A half-mile unpaved section of Flat Rocks Road near the bridge will now be paved due to increased traffic, accidents, and cars getting stuck on a remote stretch.

—Roxana Laughlin

No Bridge Dance in '04

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department has voted not to run a Bridge Dance next year after 12 years of sponsoring the popular event. The near unanimous vote was made at the Department's May meeting with only two "no" votes and two abstentions. In making the motion to give up running the dance for at least a year, Dave Williamson said the small number of volunteers who set up the event year after year needed a break. Phill West explained that the reason for making a decision this early was to give any other organization in Cornwall plenty of time in case it wanted to take over the event. The dance, held on May 25, raised over \$9,000, which this year went to the CVFD's Gary Hepprich Scholarship Fund which provides tuition grants for young members or children of members. —Iohn Miller

Fiscally Challenged?

This spring, Cornwall's budget topped \$5 million for the first time, and the town yawned. Only a few people attended the May 16 Town Meeting at which the budget was approved without question.

The selectmen's expenses rose 2 percent and the school budget was up 3.3 percent, but your tax bill (mailed mid-June, due July 31) will show an increase of just under 8 percent. According to Finance Director Lisa Lansing, the difference is accounted for by a decrease in revenues (mostly state grants) and the fact that less money was taken from surplus than in the previous year.

Why is it that renaming a road stirs us to a near frenzy, while the expenditure of \$5 million of our own money only makes our eyelids heavy? We asked a few concerned citizens. Charlie Gold said, "There wasn't one unusual large item to draw attention, just the inevitable smaller increases. And most seem satisfied with the leadership in town."

In truth, the budget rarely draws much attention, despite its importance. Jim Fishman has a theory. "The information is there, but it's murky and complicated, and you don't feel it's productive to get into it, any more than you'd read the prospectus for a mutual fund. It's a kind of rational apathy."

So, should we feel guilty? If the key word is "rational," then maybe not. —*Ed Ferman*

SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY** 1 5 3 INDEPENDENCE DAY July Fest 11 A.M.-3 P.M. Blue Mt. Satsang Meditation for Mothers Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. Every Thursday Town Green (p.4) UCC Day Room 1:15-2:15 p.m. UCC Day Room Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall 12 Annual Rummage 6 7 8 10 11 Reading Safari Program Sale (p.4) Park and Rec. 7 P.M. CCS 7-8 P.M. Cornwall Library Story Hour and Crafts Cornwall Association Housatonic River Comm. Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall (p.4)10-11 а.м. 9 A.M. Cornwall Library 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Cornwall Library (p.4) Meeting Room Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Reception for Bob Keating 5–7 р.м. Wish House (р.4) Deadline: August Chronicle Copy **14** 17 19 13 18 16 Story Hour and Crafts Rummage Sale (p.4) Reading Safari Program Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib NW Corner Artists, 10-11 а.м. Rummage Sale **Blood Pressure Screening Democratic Town Caucus** 7-8 P.M. Cornwall Library VFW Post 9856 Talk by Robert Austin Cornwall Library (p.4) (p.4)3-4 P.M. UCC 7:30 р.м. (p.4)8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse 4 P.M. Cornwall Library Cornwall Lib. M. R. Community Medieval (p.4)P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Potluck 6 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)20 21 22 23 24 25 26 Reading Safari Program Story Hour and Crafts Cornwall Arts Collection Republican Town Caucus Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall 7-8 P.M. Cornwall Library 10-11 а.м. Reception 5-7 P.M. 8 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)Cornwall Library (p.4) (p.4)Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 27 29 30 31 28 Note: Cornwall Library Trustees Reading Safari Program 4:30 P.M. Library M. R. Rose Algrant Art Show 7-8 P.M. Cornwall Library Mohawk, August 1-3 (p.4) ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall* (p.4)

CCS Construction Update

With state and local approval processes substantially completed, earth moving and site work for the Cornwall Consolidated School expansion project is just around the corner. Plans have been reviewed by local officials to ensure they meet all state and federal requirements; the State Facilities Unit must receive and give its stamp of approval to that review. Then the project can go out to bid to the various subcontractors in July, and excavation will begin in August. Dale Cutler, architect, has assured the School Building Committee that buses will be able to deliver and pick up children safely when school opens on August 27.

The building committee, chaired by Jim Terrall, has looked carefully at cost-saving options in order to remain within the \$3.05 million construction budget. On June 5, Casle Corporation, the construction management firm hired by the town to oversee the project, set the guaranteed maximum price for this \$3.05 million amount. With architectural and engineering drawings completed and construction costs guaranteed for the budgeted amount, the CCS building project is on track to begin actual construction—at last! —John LaPorta

New Head, New Hours

There's a new person behind the Land Use Administrator's desk at Cornwall Town Office. His name is Michael O'Neil. Mr. O' Neil was recently hired by Cornwall's Planning and Zoning Commission to replace Ruth Mulcahy, who resigned the position last month.

Mr. O'Neil, the former owner and manager of Besse's Paint in Torrington, has been actively involved in land use administration for several years. He has successfully completed Connecticut's certification course for zoning enforcement officers, as well as the Inland Wetlands training program offered by the DEP. For the past two years he has served

as Barkhamsted's Zoning Enforcement Officer. He has also worked part time as a zoning enforcement officer in Torrington for

the past year.

Mr. O'Neil will be available to assist Cornwall residents and others with zoning and inland-wetlands matters on Mondays from 9 A.M. to noon, and on Wednesdays from 8 to 10

A.M. Mr. O'Neil will also be responsible for zoning enforcement, and providing technical and administrative assistance to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. –Rick Lynn

Team Flying Buttresses

Against the backdrop of the Appalachian Mountains, with roads ominously named "Everest Hill" and "Under Mountain," we are witness to the dawn of our very own cycling legends. Just as whispers of LeMond or

Armstrong began, so too are a new crop of names. Billy "the Bullet" Gold, Peter "I Can Talk up Any Hill" Busby, "I ♥" the LaPorta brothers, "Prince" Tony Scott, Jim "I'll Wait for You at the Top" Terrall and of course, "I Wanna Ride Like Mike" Root.

Having just completed a three-state (Connecticut-Massachusetts-New York), century ride (100 miles in just six hours!), 30-something Billy Gold, with a tear spilling down his cheek, described cycle-sensation Busby gallantly leading the pack to the Millerton border. "He just knows how to fuel up. We're all munching on Power Bars and Gatorade and this guy downs a piece of cheese pizza and starts pedaling with superhuman abilities. He's just not afraid of anything!" Thirty-something Busby responded quietly through a shy, humble grin, "I'm just here for the team."

Even the most seasoned cyclists are well aware of the challenges faced on a century ride: Thighs burning while climbing hills after 70 miles, a drink of water is as refreshing as coming up for air when swimming. Further, one has to keep one's wits about changing a course of direction to avoid weekend traffic. The greatest challenge perhaps is maintaining a positive relationship with the saddle for that period of time. The hundred miles stretch further and further if the saddle is, delicately put, working against the rider. When asked about "sit" strategies, the team grew silent and declined to comment.

What's next for the Buttresses? Well, with all this public momentum, they are taking their safety focus straight to the top in the form of a petition to the first selectman to place nets and hay bales at the base of mountainous roads that end with sharp, heartpounding 90-degree turns; e.g., Everest Hill and Valley Road. "I don't want to do that again," laughed Busby as he held a few odd bike parts and brushed the grass stains —Donna Murphy from his helmet.

Endings and Beginnings

On June 18, 16 students from Cornwall graduated from HVRHS and began a new chapter in their lives. In addition, eight Cornwall students recently graduated from other secondary schools.

Graduating from HVRHS: Jessica Bate, Eastern CT College; Megan Cadwell, traveling Europe; Weston Cadwell, California bound; Jamie Cantoni, Ohio Dominican College; Lucas Cruse, Naugatuck Valley Community College; Patrick Dinneen, working locally; Laura Fox, Johnson & Wales College; Daniel Hammond, college (undecided); Ariana Holmes, Merrimack College; Kristin Ingvertsen, working locally; Brian Lynn, UCONN Storrs; Jessica Maher, Wheelock College; Meagan Pastre, UCONN Storrs; Jennifer Scott, Allegheny College; Matthew Walzer, construction work; Steven Zimany, work and school

Graduating from other schools: Brittany Zuckerman (Kent), undecided; Samuel Bruehl (Millbrook), Wheaton College; Elizabeth Cady (Millbrook), Muhlenberg College; Sara Buck (Miss Porter's), Macalester College; Justine Ingersoll (Miss Porter's), Vanderbilt University; Jason Elliott (Oliver Wolcott), art school; Ryan Hurlburt (Oliver Wolcott), Northwest CT Community College; Amanda Hunter (Choate), MIT.

Best of luck to all! —Brian Lynn

Congratulations

Jennifer Blesh to Jeremy Gardner

Good-Bye to Friends

Howard Andrews William A. Dinneen, Sr. Bernice Harmon Esther Lockwood

Land Transfers

Elena & Edward H. Dodd, III gifted to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 22.7 acres on Lake Road. Elena & Edward H. Dodd, III gifted to Cornwall Housing Corporation, two lots on Lake Road.

United Investors Partnership to Rosemary Pepitone and Paul W. Heintzinger, 5.1 acres on Cornwall Hollow Road, \$70,000.

Hart Cherry Hill Farm, Inc., to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 96.22 acres on Cherry Hill Road, \$675,000.

Loi, Meehan Bid Farewell

Memories ran rich and deep at CCS on June 22, when scores of people turned out to honor the retirements of two senior teachers: Lynn Meehan and Jo Loi. Their tenure added: 50 years.

Colleagues, board members, former colleagues, former board members, students, former students, friends and well-wishers alike - all came to express their thanks. Not to mention parents, particularly parents who were once students of Jo Loi, a generation in-

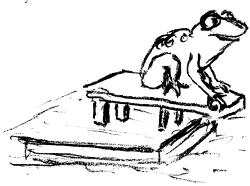
> cluding names like Ridgway, Dinneen, Laigle, Hedden, Hurlburt, and Frost.

"I loved it here," said Lynn Meehan, who has taught mostly social studies, but has also handled math, English, and now science. "Of course, I can remember those bad days but no bad weeks, months or years. When I started, Doug Carlson used to expect good manners from the kids. And the kids knew what he meant. Now, sometimes, we have to teach manners." good laughed. "But hey, I'm not complaining. Our problems here are nothing compared with the rest of the world."

Jo Loi's longer perspective allowed her to look back at five principals: Lou Filippelli, Griggs Irving, Ed Dickinson, Bill Oros, and Peter Coope. Back in 1970, Jo Loi was Cornwall's first physical education teacher. "The year I started," she said, "I had boys and girls in separate classes. And very little equipment to work with. Then came Title Nine—gender integration—and over the years enough equipment to make a real difference. No more only three balls for a whole gym full of students.'

Asked if they felt that CCS really is a "different kind of school," both teachers answered yes. The relatively small school, and particularly the often small class size, do make that difference. "In some schools," said Jo Loi, "it's easy for a child to get lost between the cracks." "But here," added Lynn Meehan, "that's really hard. No child can get lost."

Asked the traditional question—What do you intend to do now upon your retirement?—both teachers beamed. "Just enjoy the things I've never had time to do," said Lynn Meehan, "for instance, more reading, travel, and gardening." Jo Loi's husband, also "technically retired," has accepted a teaching position in Italy. "I'll be learning Italian," Jo said with that twinkle a lot of us lucky ones know so well. —Bob Potter



Eighth Graders Move Up

On June 19, the 23 members of the CCS class of 2003 applauded speakers, performers, and prizewinners, then received their diplomas. Emery Gray and Isabella Moschen, class speakers, reminisced about their years at Cornwall Consolidated School; Kevin Budge, a 1988 CCS graduate, encouraged the graduates to accept and learn from the challenges they would face.

When the clapping ended, 15 students had been recognized for excellence in at least one area. Emery and Meredith Gray shared the Dottie Hermann Memorial Award; Garrick Dinneen received the VFW Citizenship Award. Each year the Civic Club supports awards in Art, Music and Physical Education. This year's winners for Art were Emery Gray, Meredith Gray, and Katelynn Guerra. Winners for Music were Isabella Moschen, Rachel Whiteside, Garrick Dinneen, and Michael Savan. Winners for Physical Education were Isabella Moschen, Rachel Whiteside, Kyle Robinson, and Dan Simons.

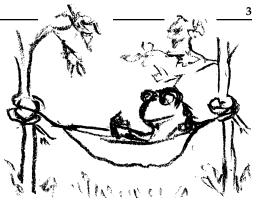
Students were recognized for excellence in each of the academic subjects. Charlotte Buck and Isabella Moschen received the Mark Van Doren writing award and Garrick Dinneen, the Edna Peet award for most improvement in writing. The Social Studies award went to Ryan Watts; the History and Science awards both went to Tyra Lindholm. The prize in World Language was won by Rachel Whiteside; in Algebra by Nina LaPorta and Radha Patel; and in eighth-grade math, by Ashley Hurlburt and Meredith Gray. Isabella Moschen was the recipient of the award for Academic High Honors.

Letters to the Chronicle

SIGNS DO NOT SPEAK

The signs have finally come down, but until recently, there were three on the green at Cornwall Bridge: in the order of appearance, Support Our Troops (Well, of course, we support our fellow citizens, whatever that means.); War Is Not The Answer (To what?); Unfortunately War Is The Only Answer Evil Understands (Really? Would God agree?).

Like most of the sound bites on TV, signs like these contribute little to an understanding of the problems we are experiencing in this country and in the 🛍 world. Sadly, when there was a town meeting in Cornwall to talk about going to war in Iraq, the majority of the people who showed up to speak were against it; there was only one brave soul who tried to express his point of view in support. There was no discussion and therefore no new thoughts, ideas or understanding. Is this real democracy, when one side is afraid of speaking out? Bumper sticker signs on the roadside are not very informative, and information and discussion are what we need in this country before we vote for our next government officials. -Anne Baren



HAPPY HOUR ON CREAM HILL

Competition at local eateries is heating up. Hunt Williams serves only nibblies, but local and foreign visitors are flocking there in droves. In the past six months they have downed 100 pounds of snacks. Bellying up to the bar are the usual gold- and purple finches, chickadees, nuthatches, hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers (definitely the big Kahuna). Recent arrivals include three pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks, up from Central America, joined by two flamboyant indigo buntings from Cuba. Meanwhile, some 3,422 obese chipmunk bottom-feeders have created an earthen colander around the house. With no marketing budget Williams credits his success to word of mouth (peep of beak, as it were). Or might it be that bear M02 hasn't visited...yet? —Nora Horan

Eighteen of these graduates will enter HVRHS in September, while five will attend other secondary schools: Emery and Meredith Gray will go to Oliver Wolcott Technical School; Nina LaPorta and Isabella Moschen, to Hotchkiss; and Tyra Lindholm, to Exeter. Of Cornwall's eighth graders who did not attend CCS, Tyler Cheney will continue at Indian Mountain; and Christian Ebersol, who graduated from Washington Montessori School, will attend Hotchkiss. Best wishes to all!

—Barbara Gold

Drenched but Undaunted

In Cornwall's Memorial Day exercises on May 26, pelting rain was the backdrop for common themes: honoring the past, hope for peace, and determination to meet the future. At the North Cornwall Cemetery, Charlie Gold guided 12 hardy people who had stripped their flower gardens to decorate the flagged graves of 53 veterans of America's conflicts from the Revolution to Viet Nam. Behind their flags, many tombstones bore the same surnames as those who moved among them in the rain.

Due to the downpour the parade was canceled, and the exercises were transferred to the gymnasium of CCS, packed with upwards of 250 people, many standing. Our town's civic and religious representatives sat on the stage, and at the back, representatives of our next generation—the Scouts and the CCS band, which opened the proceedings.

The 2003 VFW Citizenship Award went to Charlie Hepprich, charter member of

Cornwall's VFW Post 9856, longtime member of the Board of Finance and unobtrusive worker on this community's needs, who served in England during World War II.

John Scott, who was part of the U.N.'s Middle East negotiating team in the 90s, gave the address, tracing the 12-year history of non-violent efforts to disarm Iraq between the first and second Gulf Wars. Scott concluded with a warning: "Reconstructing an alien society is immensely more difficult than building a democratic state. It can only be done with the trust and support of the Iraqi people and a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." After the Honor Roll was read, the national anthem was sung, and the CCS band broke into a zesty rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever" which earned it a standing ovation.

The Carnival was still on despite the downpour. Marc Simont turned out 23 crayon portraits and the lollipop tree was stripped bare. Participants in the cake walk stepped briskly around on soggy carpet squares. Ian Ridgway's frog won the jumping frog contest by leaping exactly four feet. The Carnival's long-celebrated barbeque chefs, Charlotte and Denny Frost, were on duty but will be turning in the spatula after this year.

Despite water pouring off hats, hoods, umbrellas, and tents, Memorial Day was no washout. No downpour could keep townspeople of all ages from enjoying the day. "Tough stock!" remarked a Carnival worker.

—Ann Schillinger

Events & Announcements

The Rummage Sale, run annually by the Woman's Society, will take place on Saturday, July 12, at Mohawk Ski Lodge, the UCC Parish House, and the Town Hall.

The Ski Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M. and will house books, clothing for all ages, jewelry, linens, sewing goods, music, adult puzzles and games, and baby furniture. The area outside the Parish House will have furniture and bargain tables and opens at 9 A.M. Opening at 10 A.M. are the Parish House with art, dishes, toys and the Tiffany table; the Boutique in the church Day Room; and the Town Hall with better-quality furniture. All sites close at 2:30 P.M.

Duplicate numbers will be issued at both major sale sites for the first 200 people. On Sunday there will be a half-price sale from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Mohawk, and at all other sites from noon to 4 P.M. The \$2 Bag Sale and sale of reduced items will be from 9 A.M. to noon on Monday, July 14.

Contributions may be brought to Mohawk and/or the Parish House from 9 A.M. to noon starting June 24 up to and including July 9. Proceeds will provide grants for the continuing education of Cornwall students. Food will be provided by St. Peter's Lutheran Church.



The Cornwall Foundation is ready to make its first set of grants this summer. The CF board is seeking applications for grants. An applicant must be a non-profit (501c3) group, with the funds being sought to enhance the quality of life in Cornwall. If you have questions or would like an application, call Annie Kosciusko, 672-3169, or write to The Cornwall Foundation, P.O. Box 116, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

The Budget for Dummies

The *Chronicle* budget is so simple, even a speed bump can understand it. Total expenses last year were \$7,051, almost all for printing and postage. Revenues were \$7,900, all from your donations. Thanks for your help, but keep those checks coming!

The Democratic Party of Cornwall will hold a caucus on Tuesday, July 15, at 7:30 P.M. at the Library to endorse candidates for municipal offices in the November election. All registered Democrats are invited to attend.

The Republican Party of Cornwall will hold a caucus on Tuesday, July 22, at 8 P.M. in the Town Hall to endorse candidates for the November municipal election. All registered Republicans in the town of Cornwall are encouraged to attend.

July Fest Celebration, sponsored by Park & Rec., is scheduled for July 5, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on the Town Green. A trampoline ride and 35-foot inflatable obstacle course will be featured, plus food, games, running races, decorated bicycle parade, and more.

A Medieval Arts Workshop for children entering grades 3 to 8 will be offered by Park & Rec. Cost is \$75 per child for the four-day workshop with a limit of 20 children. For dates and registration, call Bethany Thompson, 672-6058.

A Medieval Community Potluck sponsored by Park & Rec. is scheduled for July 18, at 6 P.M. at the Town Hall. Festivities will begin with a medieval parade down Pine Street, followed by live entertainment at the feast.

Summer Reading: Children can join the Cornwall Library's *Reading Safari* and hunt for a good book while learning about Africa and its music, stories and crafts. Wednesday evenings starting July 9 will feature a different performer or activity at 7 P.M.

Story Hour with crafts begins on Friday, July 11, at 10 A.M. for ages 3 to 6. All programs will run for six weeks. Pick up a schedule and reading log at the Library, or use your CCS reading journal. Raffle tickets will be awarded for books read, so come to the Library to have your log stamped. A raffle drawing for prizes donated by local merchants will be held at the end of the program. Some programs require pre-registration; call the Library at 672-6874.

The Friends of Rose Algrant Art Show will be held at Mohawk Ski Lodge, August 1, 2, and 3. The opening will be on Friday from 5 to 8 P.M., and the show will continue Saturday and Sunday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. The show includes paintings, sculpture, photography, collage, pottery, and weaving. This year the Cornwall Historical Society has been selected to receive a portion of sales. Cornwall resident artists are invited to exhibit. For an application form, contact Bee Simont at 672-6144.

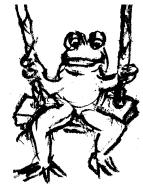
The Cornwall Historical Society will feature during July an exhibit of antique kitchen items from coffee grinders to tea canisters to mousetraps to widgets. Come see the things that used to be in your grandmother's kitchen. Historical Society hours are Wednesdays, 1 to 3 P.M., and Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the show featuring Erica Prud'homme's paintings of the Housatonic, Robert Andrew Parker's watercolors and monoprints of insects, and the work of other local artists will continue through July 19. On July 26, from 5 to 7 P.M. there will be an opening of a new show featuring the paintings of Shaun MacDavid and the photographs of Catherine Noren.

At the Cornwall Library, the exhibit of the paintings of James Henry Moser, an artist active in Cornwall at the end of the 19th century, will continue through July. On July 19, at 4 P.M. at the Library, Robert Austin, author of *Artists of the Litchfield Hills*, will speak about Northwest Corner artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lecture is free and is sponsored by Friends of the Library and the Cornwall Historical Society.

At the Wish House, there will be an opening on July 12, from 5 to 7 P.M., of a show of mixed media sculptures and futuristic drawings by Bob Keating.

At the National Iron Bank, Asher Pavel will exhibit photographs during the month of July.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

JULY ISSUE

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