



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Finances, Fields, and More: Town Hall News

This year's Town Budget Meeting did not set a record for brevity or low attendance. Still, one citizen arrived just a few minutes after the posted time on May 21 only to discover that the 27 in attendance had already unanimously approved the budget. The \$5.2 million for fiscal year 2005 includes a 7.7 percent increase for the town budget and a 2.6 percent increase for the total education budget. After the meeting, the Board of Finance met to set the mill rate at 21 mills, an increase of 0.5. This means property taxes will increase from \$20.50 to \$21.00 per \$1000 of assessed value.

At the same meeting, the selectmen received approval to proceed with the Foote Field expansion project, which will result in a new Little League baseball field (also for use by the CCS girls' softball team and the community), a walking track, and expanded parking. The total cost of the work—up to \$250,000, which covers purchase of the property—will be covered by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway says work should start this summer. The final preparatory step will be a land swap for an easement to walk across the privately owned driveway separating the new parking lot from the current playing field. All plans are, finally, subject to approval at a Town Meeting to be

Spencer Klaw

Spencer Klaw, the man who guided the *Cornwall Chronicle* for many years, died on June 3 at the age of 84. It's not every town that gets a retired editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review* to lead a bunch of amateurs in publishing a town newspaper. Spencer liked his news accurate, clear, concise, fair, and free of the kind of sugary prose he always dismissed as "gush." So there'll be no gush for Spencer Klaw in this space. Just the hard facts: This was a gracious and uniquely talented man, and Cornwall has lost a great gift.

scheduled later this summer.

Another field in the making is the expansion of the athletic field at Cornwall Consolidated School to accommodate both a Babe Ruth-size baseball field and a soccer field. An application for another STEAP grant is in the works for this development; land purchased prior to the CCS building project will enable the expansion. Funds from the same STEAP grant will be used to purchase CL&P property which adjoins the Hughes Memorial Library (the site of the Mallinson Shear Shop for town history buffs) and to improve the library building.

Finally, summer road improvements this year will occur in the northeast corner of the town, including Town Street, Lake Road, and Hurlburt Place. Paving will be done in July; "liquid asphalt" will be laid in August.

—Barbara Gold

The Age of Enforcement





Remember that large area of bare earth on the hill at Furnace Brook Farm? The one that hit you in the eye coming down Route 4 from Sharon? Well, it's not so easy to see now that the leaves are out, but it has not been forgotten. Apart from the unsightliness, every time it rains soil is washed down onto neighboring property, into wetlands, and eventually into Furnace Brook.

The Cease and Desist Order issued last October is being enforced. Under the supervision of Karl Nilsen, Cornwall's Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer, specific plans have been made both to immediately stop the runoff into Furnace Brook and to establish vegetation on the site so that the solution is permanent.

Engineers have been retained by Furnace Brook Farm and by the Town of Cornwall. They have agreed upon a project consisting of some 15 tasks with a dollar cost assigned to each. The Town of Cornwall now holds a bond from Furnace Brook Farm in the amount of

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JULY 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room; Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Town Hall or Library Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5:30 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Saturdays: Chess Club, 9:30 A.M. Library				1	2  Art Show Reception 5-7 P.M. Historical Society (p.3)	3 July Fest 11 A.M.-2 P.M. Village Green†
4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	6  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall	7 Hughes Library Public Meeting 2 P.M. (see Letters) Origami Workshop 6:30 P.M. Library†	8 Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	9  Asian Stories and Crafts 11 A.M. Library†	10 Art Show Reception 5-7 P.M. Wish House†
11	12 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	13 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14 Indian Dance 6:30 P.M. Town Hall†	15 Deadline: August Chronicle Copy  Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	16 Asian Stories and Crafts 11 A.M. Library†	17  Annual Rummage Sale 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. (See Insert) Art Show Reception 5-7 P.M. Cornwall Arts Collection† A Sailor's Saga, Slide Talk 5 P.M. Library†
18 Half Price Rummage Sale 11 A.M.-3 P.M. Mohawk Noon-4 P.M. Other Sites	19 Rummage Sale Bag Day 9 A.M.-Noon All Locations Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	20	21 Shadow Puppet Workshop 6 P.M. Shadow Puppet Show 7 P.M. Library†	22	23 Japanese Music and Folktales 11 A.M. Library†	24 Art Show Reception 4-7 P.M. Outsiders' Gallery†
25 	26 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	27	28 Indian and Mendi Painting 7:30 P.M. Town Hall† Green Party 8 P.M. Library	29	30 Asian Mask and Puppet Show 11 A.M. Library†	31 

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

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\$66,722, and as each task is completed, up to 80 percent of the cost of that step will be released back to Furnace Brook Farm.

The work to be done includes creating a large detention basin (pond) and then diverting the water from the cut slope into it; repairing and cleaning the existing sediment ponds; as well as installing silt fences, grading, and building berms around the site. When the work is done, all the water will be retained on site with zero runoff. Finally the whole area is to be seeded, and the resulting vegetation will establish long-term stability for the site.

The site will be inspected every week and after heavy rain until the vegetation is established and the whole site stabilized. The project will probably last until the end of the next growing season, or September of 2005.

The farm appears to be up for sale and unfortunately the work has not yet begun. If Furnace Brook Farm does not do the remediation in accordance with the plan, it will forfeit the bond and the Town of Cornwall will arrange to have the work done. —*Celia Senzer.*

News From CCS

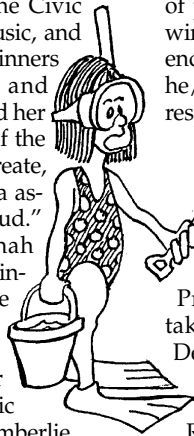
THE PLAY *Full Moon Frenzy*: Teaming up with Leslie Elias to form The Kokopelli Players was a magical experience for six seventh and eighth graders. Imagining themselves characters from myths, fairy tales, or in one case from a cartoon, they created a play. Their challenge—what happens when unlikely characters meet?

What happened were fabulous scenes such as The Big Bad Wolf dancing with Diana, the Goddess of the Hunt and the Moon. Add glorious costumes inspired by Ellen Moon and the scenes came alive.

Leslie suggested to the Norfolk Library that the Players bring their performance to the library's grand hall. Of course the production was enchanting there, too.

AWARDS: At an assembly June 15, CCS eighth graders were presented with awards for jobs well done. Each year the Civic Club supports awards in Art, Music, and Physical Education. This year's winners for Art were Hannah Colbert and Samantha Saliter. Hannah received her award with a nod to the length of the program by quoting Goethe, "Create, artist, do not talk"; and Samantha asserted that "with art my voice is loud." Winners for Music were Hannah Colbert and Stephanie Kearns. Winners for Physical Education were Caroline Kosciusko and Harris Monagan.

Students were recognized for excellence in each of the academic subjects. Hannah Colbert and Kimberlie Gold received the Mark Van Doren Writing Award; and Elizabeth Kavanagh, the Edna Peet Award for most improvement in writing. The Social Studies Award went to Hannah Colbert, Stephanie Kearns, and Zachary Sawicki. Sarah Freedman earned the History Award, and Sarah Brown and Kimberlie Gold the Science Award. Elizabeth Kavanagh



received the prize in World Language. Math Awards went to Hannah Colbert for Algebra and to Stacey Turbessi and Zachary Sawicki for Grade 8 Math. Stephanie Kearns achieved Academic High Honors. Congratulations to all. —*Anne Zinsser*

A Glorious Graduation

The last graduation to be held under the tent took place on Tuesday, June 15, with 25 eighth graders receiving diplomas from Cornwall Consolidated School. Student speakers Sarah Brown and Sarah Freedman reflected with thanks on their years at CCS. Guest speaker and CCS graduate Annie Kosciusko addressed the changes wrought by technology advances and the challenges presented by the adolescent brain.

While most of the awards had been presented at a school assembly in the morning, three were saved for the evening ceremony: Hannah Colbert received the Dottie Hermann Award and Stephanie Kearns received the Citizenship Award and the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Two adults, Janet Gold and Wynne Kavanagh, were recognized by the Board of Education for their volunteer work in the school.

Stephanie Kearns presented the eighth-grade gift of swings to the school. At the conclusion, after the recessional, mortar boards flew into the night air in farewell.

—*Barbara Gold*

Preparedness

On May 11 Cornwall invited its neighboring "mutual aid" towns, along with several assisting agencies, to participate in a Tabletop Exercise for emergency response. The four-hour practice drill, held at the West Cornwall Firehouse, was conducted by Warren Hall and Peter Sandgren of Connecticut's Office of Emergency Management.

The scenario, presented as a surprise to the participants, was a freight train derailment and fire in West Cornwall, with a cloud of pollution spreading over the village and windborne as far as CCS and Trinity Conference Center. Each participant was asked how he/she would respond and carry out his/her responsibilities.

Participants included Selectmen Gordon Ridgway and Ken Keskinen, CVFD Fire and Rescue officers, Highway Foreman Don Reid, Social Services Administrator Jill Gibbons, Animal Control Officer Rick Stone, and CCS Principal Dr. Kathleen Fitzgibbons. Also taking part were representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford, Sharon Hospital, American Red Cross in Waterbury, The Housatonic Railroad, the Office of Emergency Management Area 5 in Litchfield, Connecticut State Police, Trinity Glen, and fire and medical personnel from several of our mutual-aid towns.

Those attending felt it was a valuable evening and expressed interest in a more advanced field exercise.

—*Huntington Williams*

Welcome

Reilly Kathleen Hedden
to Erin and Bradford Hedden
Sylvie Celeste Labalme
to Jeanne McMullin and Henry Labalme
Linda Grace Petersen to Lesley and Chip Petersen

Good-Bye to Friends

Franklin G. Kesl, Sr.
Spencer Klaw
John T. Welles

Land Transfers

Daniel Algrant to Joseph Algrant, 3.5 acres and buildings at 163 Cream Hill Road for \$150,000.
Frank and Elizabeth Ferrari to Kathleen Campana, 4 acres and buildings at 368 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$320,000.
Rowan and Webb Dordick to Dermot and Darilyn Woods, 1.488 acres and buildings at 368 Kent Road for \$257,000.
Sergei Bouteneff, Jr., to Suzanne Stait and Joseph DeRocco, house and 2.33 acres at 197 Town Street for \$300,001.
Brian Billings to William and Susan Lynn, Lots 4 and 5 on Day Road for \$180,000.



"Cornwall Report" from Geer

As of this writing, there are five Cornwallians in residence at Geer Village, the retirement center in Canaan. Jack Forster, Jean and John Leich, Alice Read, and Helen Tennant have moved north. Jack especially likes the dining room's policy of encouraging the residents to vary their dinner partners, and appreciates the respect for the residents' privacy. Alice notes that the staff members "are so friendly. They actually appear happy to see you...." The Leichs commend Geer's hospitality toward members of the community at large and consider the new YMCA wing a major contribution in that direction. Other Cornwall natives now living in the Geer complex are Harriet Forster and Lydia Wolf; Larry Pool was a vivid presence for the past year.

The Village's three levels of care are under one roof, so that all facilities, including the attached YMCA wing with its pool and exercise equipment, are accessible even in the depths of winter without setting foot outdoors. Apartments for independent living have one or two bedrooms, one to one-and-one-half baths, and a full kitchen. The apartments are on the small side, but some are large enough to hold a surprising quantity of household furnishings and two full-size adults.

All this comes at a price, of course, but the rent covers utilities, household help, a competent nursing staff on call for emergencies, free transportation to local doctors and the hospital, and membership in the YMCA. There is a growing library on the premises, and books can be requested from nearby

town libraries. Excellent meals are included in the rent, one per day for independent residents, three for all others.

On the down side, of course, is the inescapable evidence everywhere of aging and physical decline. At the same time one quickly realizes that each resident has enjoyed a lifetime of interesting experiences to share and that many follow the current political and cultural scene with interest, concern, and constructive comment. There is wide participation in a variety of programs; Jack Forster and John Leich, for example, add their voices to the Geer Chorus.

New settlers arrive almost every week; who will be next from Cornwall?

—Jean and John Leich

Historical Flowers

The Historical Society's summer exhibit will feature flower paintings and landscapes of Cornwall native Lydia Brewster Hubbard. Lydia Hubbard grew up at the Brewster farm on Cream Hill Road (now Hedgerows Farm). She married Rollin Massey and lived in Ohio, but found time to study art in New York City. Her Cornwall progeny include Beers, Golds, Hubbards, and their descendents. Hubbard's works sold well enough to help put her son Bruce through Yale. The show opens with a reception from 5 to 7 P.M. on July 2; it will be open through the Fourth-of-July weekend and runs through July. Holiday hours, in addition to the opening reception, are 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on July 3, 4, and 5. Regular hours are 1 to 3 P.M. on Wednesdays and 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Saturdays.

—Charles Osborne

A Day to Remember

A bright sun at 9 A.M. hinted at fine weather for the 2004 Memorial Day observations, which started at the North Cornwall Cemetery. Some 40 people, many bedecked in hats and carrying baskets of flowers, listened to Charles Gold as he spoke of the town's veterans from the Revolutionary to the Vietnam Wars. Participants left flowers at the immaculately tended graves.

Another 40 people gathered at 10 A.M. at the Covered Bridge in West Cornwall for the Seaman's Service. After a brief prayer by Scott Cady, a small contingent of veterans marched to the bridge, from which a wreath was thrown to wend its way to the sea. Taps lent a mournful solemnity.

In Cornwall Village, a large crowd congregated for the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies. The VFW Citizenship Award is always a high point, and this year went to Doug Carlson, honored for his years of service on the Library Board, Park & Rec., and Democratic Town Committee, among other organizations, and his years of dedicated teaching and coaching, not to mention his founding of the Housatonics, a vocal group. Theodore (Ted) Cogswell, a descendant of the family whose name graces the road from the North Cornwall Meeting House to Cream Hill Road, gave the formal address.

The Annual Carnival sponsored by the

(continued on page 4)

Letters to the Chronicle

GREETINGS FROM THE DUMP

Thanks to Kate Wolfe, Helen Vanam, Brian O'Neil, Don Bachman, and Joanne Wojtusiak for their donations of annuals, perennials, and vegetables this spring and in years past. Some day, with continuous public support (more topsoil, please!) we hope to be featured in "Better Dumps and Gardens." Also, kudos to our new librarians Lin LaPorta and Helen Vanam.

Shout out to all for your continuous recycling efforts. During the summer of heat, steam, and stink, please wash all recyclable containers and remove and dispose of all lids and caps prior to dumping. A happy, sunny, and safe summer to all.

—Fred and Steve

CCS WALK-A-THON A SUCCESS

The first annual CCS Walk-A-Thon took place under sunny skies on Tuesday, May 25. The event had been scheduled for the day before, but was canceled at the start line due to a threatening thunderstorm. Principal Kathleen Fitzgibbons gave the word Go, and from under the huge banner that spanned Cream Hill Road, approximately 200 participants (students, teachers, parents, and other community members), dressed in bright yellow Walk-A-Thon T-shirts, set off on their walk. Everyone had a great time, and at the finish line, while enjoying cookies and oranges, many claimed, "I could have walked even farther!"

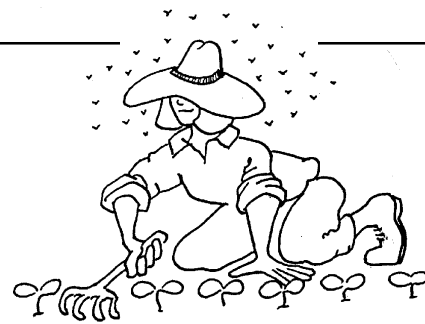
On June 15, at the CCS Awards Assembly students handed a check for an impressive \$2,425 to a representative of the International Rett Syndrome Association. Prior to the walk students had received pledges, of which half went to this year's cause, in honor of Elizabeth Watts, a graduating CCS student who suffers from Rett Syndrome. The other half of the money raised gave students a good head start on their individual class account for their eighth grade trip.

All in all, our first annual Walk-A-Thon was a great event for the school and community. Many thanks to everyone involved in making this event a wonderful success!

—Bente Busby

CHANGING LANDSCAPE

In The New York Times, May 9, Lee Buttala of Northwest Connecticut described the inevitable demise of the eastern hemlock due to the woolly adelgid, with a prediction that it would be replaced by black birch and other deciduous species. As a retired scientist with forest property in Cornwall, including three-fourths of an acre cleared in 1997, thus permitting observation of forest evolution, I would like to share my observations.



The adelgid is killed during cold winters, like this last. Further, a Japanese ladybird beetle introduced by my friend Dr. Mark McClure is proving to be of value. But two species of hemlock scale are widespread in Connecticut; on September 4, 2002, the air above Furnace Brook, under the hemlocks, was "dusty" with them. Scale have no enemies; they will kill the hemlock. A natural enemy should be sought in Asia; such a project has been funded recently.

Equally important, excessive browsing by deer is destroying young forest trees. In 100 years, these species will be gone for lack of replacement. This past winter, I protected young pine with plastic sleeves and bags and "Deer Solution." All 400 survived intact but unprotected young hemlock (300-400) were almost completely eaten.

Regrowth in my clearing was dominated by multiflora rose and black birch, reducing all other tree species, including oak. In snowy winters, pine and hemlock were of course selectively browsed by deer.

—Eugene A. Cornelius

HUGHES LIBRARY SEEKS IDEAS

The officers of the Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall are looking for ways to make the building of greater service to the community. To gather ideas, we're holding a public meeting at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, July 7, in the Library. Present use of the building is limited by lack of restroom and kitchen facilities, but we're looking into the possibility of adding these. What next, though? Community center? Public meeting space? Reading groups? Clubs? Specialized book collections? Speakers? Films? Literacy programs? We'd like to hear your suggestions. For newcomers, the Library is on Lower River Road, just south of the Wandering Moose, on the right.

Hope to see you there.

—Jerry Doolittle

RETIRING

Katie Gannett and Barbara Johnson are both retiring after many years of service to the town. Although they each held a different office—Katie on the CCS and HVRHS School Boards and Barbara as Town Assessor—both served with competence and appropriate humor. We will miss their dedication but understand they have plenty of activities to do in their "retirements."

—Gordon M. Ridgway



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UCC and Cornwall Child Center capped the day's events with food, games, and the inimitable frog jumping contest. A sensational long green dragon, with snarling head and silky many-legged body, made its debut, the creation of several talented young people of the UCC.

Withal, the fun and visiting carried a somber note. It was, after all, a day to remember and honor veterans, and it was also a day when our losses in Iraq surpassed 800 men and women.

—Honora Horan

Events & Announcements

July Fest Celebration, sponsored by Park and Rec., is scheduled for Saturday, July 3, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the Town Green. A rock wall and a bounce house will be featured, plus a free barbeque, an obstacle course, road races, tanker, and more.

New Library Hours will go into effect the week of July 5. The Library will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Saturdays 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and Wednesdays 1 to 8 P.M. It will be closed Sundays and Mondays. Beginning in September, Wednesday hours will be 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Cruise to the Caribbean: Desmond V.

Nicholson will present *A Sailor's Saga*, a slide presentation of his experiences cruising the Caribbean 50 years ago, on Saturday, July 17, at 5 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

Rose Algrant Show: Invitations will soon be going out to artists who might want to exhibit at the Rose Algrant Art Show. If any Cornwall artist wishes to exhibit and doesn't receive an invitational letter by July 6, he/she should contact Bee Simont at 672-6144. The show will run from August 6 to 8 at Mohawk Ski Area.

Hot and Cold

The average temperature for July is 74°, which sounds pleasant but brings to mind the line that according to such statistics, we should be comfortable with one foot in an oven and the other in a bucket of ice. The average donation to the *Chronicle* is \$37, but we are always delighted to get your check, whether it's on the cold or hot side of that number.

Book a Trip to Asia is the theme of the Library's summer reading program for kids in grades K through eight. Participants can keep track of the books they read in a reading log and earn raffle tickets for prizes donated by area businesses. Family shows (adults and children) will take place on Wednesday nights and two Friday mornings, with special performances by Indian dancers, Japanese actors, Chinese storytellers, and puppeteers. Most Friday morning programs feature stories and crafts and are geared towards four- through eight-year-olds. A full schedule of events is available at the Library; pre-registration is requested. Call 672-6874 for more information.

Art In Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library, Curtis Hanson's show, *In the Hollow*, landscapes in oil, will continue through July 10. Beginning July 12, Aron Dwyer will be exhibiting his paintings. In early July, David Colbert will install his sculpture *Meeting Place of an Obscure Order* outside the Library, where it will remain on view throughout the summer.

At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the show featuring photographs by Becky Hurlburt, pastels by Sybil M. Perry, and sculpture by David Colbert will run through July 10. On July 17, from 5 to 7 P.M., there will be an opening of a show featuring works by Cynthia Kirk, Rudi Wolff, and Harvey Offenhardt.

At the Wish House, there will be an opening on July 10, from 5 to 7 P.M., of a show of paintings by Shaun MacDavid.

At the new Outsiders' Gallery in Cornwall Bridge, there will be an opening on July 24, from 4 to 7 P.M., of a show of paintings and drawings by three artists—Lauren Zarembo, Jack Lardis, and Mickey Doolittle—and of political sculpture by Sean Marquis.

At the National Iron Bank, Karl Saliter will be the July artist of the month.

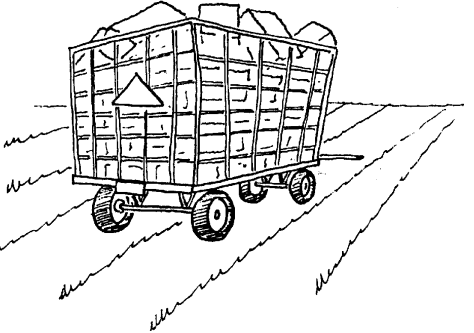
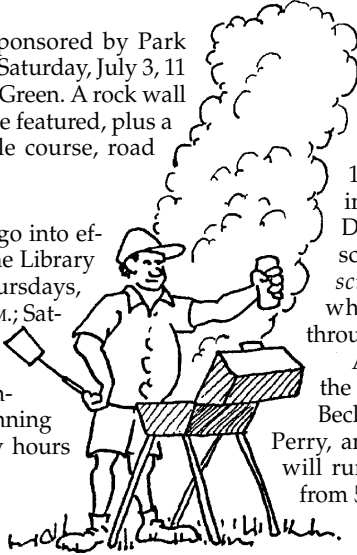
The Rummage Sale, run annually by the Woman's Society, will take place on Saturday, July 17, at Mohawk Ski Area, the UCC Parish House, and the Town Hall. Reduced prices the following two days. See insert for details.

Grumbling Gryphons is adding a program for children ages three to five to its Theater Arts Camp (see June *Chronicle*). Dates are July 7 and 14, 9 to 9:45 A.M. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286.

\$500 Prize in Website Contest: The Association of Businesses in Cornwall (ABC) is celebrating www.cornwallbusinesses.org, its new website, by conducting a contest open to any student connected to Cornwall. In addition to listing the more than 195 businesses in town, the ABC wants to add a video clip or other creative element that will give viewers "a feeling for and a sense of being in Cornwall." Entries (25 MB maximum in WMV or Quicktime format) should be submitted by August 27 to ABC, Box 214, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754. The winner will be announced at ABC's September 13 meeting and the winning entry will be posted on the website.

The cornwallct.org website will include a link to the new site, which will focus on encouraging purchases from not only businesses located in town, but also those located elsewhere that are owned by Cornwall residents. All interested in Cornwall's economic viability are invited to ABC's regular monthly (except July and August) meetings, which will be listed on the *Chronicle* calendar.

Cornwall Agricultural Fair: Coddle your carrots, pamper your peppers, tuck in your tomatoes, and get ready for Cornwall's Agricultural Fair. Ask your out-of-town friends to participate, too. See you Saturday, September 18, on the Green!



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

JULY ISSUE

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