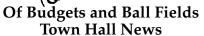
CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 15 : NUMBER 6

JULY 2005



The turnout for the annual budget meeting in late May has been small in recent years, and 2005 ran true to form. Less than 3 percent of those eligible were on hand to approve a \$5,571,197 spending plan, a percentage increase of 7.1. Burgeoning health insurance premiums and an unavoidable high school assessment were among the factors cited for the increase. Right after the public meeting, the Board of Finance approved a mill rate boost of 0.8 for 2005–06, to 21.8 mills.

A second unanimous vote at the half-hour meeting authorized \$200,000 for town purchase of about an acre adjoining the Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall, providing for a septic system and associated facilities, and to upgrade playing fields at CCS. The land purchase, now in negotiation with Connecticut Light & Power, will give the town the largest open area in West Cornwall, a parcel on the Housatonic good for recreation and emergency access to the river. The money will come from the municipal reserve fund and eventually be reimbursed by a state grant.

As for other news, the selectmen report more pluses than minuses. A fire hydrant is now being installed on River Road in West Cornwall, a possible fire insurance benefit. The fencing and backstop for the new ball field on Route 4 are on order. Also, the town has just

been informed that the Covered Bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places, qualifying the structure "for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available. Presently funding is unavailable."

Other good news comes from regulatory bodies far beyond the borders of Cornwall. In New York State, authorities have apparently killed plans for a St. Lawrence Cement Co. plant near the Hudson River. (Did all those "Stop the Plant" signs topple this 40-story dream of a smokestack?) In Washington, DC, an appeals board has vacated an earlier Bureau of Indian Affairs decision granting tribal status to the Kent-based Schaghticoke Tribal Nation. This does not put a stop to this group's hopes for recognition; it means only that they must reapply. "So it's back to square one," says First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. He notes that the recent reversal "relied heavily on written testimony of the Cogswell family [a separate branch of the Schaghticokes granted intervenor status], who have roots in Cornwall." Throughout this controversy, Cornwall has supported the Town of Kent, the State of Connecticut, the Northwest Council of Governments, and other groups with serious reservations about the Tribal Nation's application.

Of course the news is never all good. The DEP has just ordered an end to burning at the landfill (Cornwall apparently being the last

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town in the state to light a legal fire). In the future, probably, people bringing wood to the landfill will be charged a fee, whatever it takes to transport the waste to legal disposal sites. ("Does this make sense?" Gordon asks rhetorically. "Think of all the pollution spewed out by those trucks hauling the stuff up to Chicopee, or wherever.")

Also, the town is becoming increasingly concerned with the problems of Liane and Monte Dunn of Cornwall Bridge, faced with a staggering bill for state-ordered removal of contaminated soil from a gas station operated years ago by Liane's father. State assistance, supposedly available, is backlogged and bound up in red tape. Gordon reports that our voices in Hartford, Roberta Willis and Andrew Roraback, are providing needed help. "Right now we're at the beginning steps of working with our legislators to sort out these issues," Gordon says.

—Bob Potter

It Is Good To Be Alive!

Even the weather reinforced Dave Cadwell's moving speech as hundreds gathered around town to remember and reflect upon our nation's veterans for the 2005 Memorial Day holiday. A warm sun and gentle, gnat-dispersing breeze greeted those who gathered for the first two services of the day. At 9:00, Charles Gold led those assembled at the North Cornwall Cemetery to lay flowers

(continued on page 2)

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Wednesdays: Str	is Month: //Adult Volleyball, 7–9 p.m. CCS (retch Class, 5:30 p.m. Town Hall; Tai ditation for Mothers, 1:15 p.m. UC	Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. CCS (Gym		1	Annual July Fest 10 A.M2 P.M. Town Green †
3	Town Offices Closed	Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen The Time Time Time Time Time Time Time Tim	Family Program: A Knight's Tale 6:30 P.M. Library †	Senior Forum 4 P.M. Town Hall †	8 Children's Program 11 A.M. Library Land Use Forum 7:30 P.M. Town Hall †	Art Opening Reception 5–7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery † Film: The Princess Bride 6:30 P.M. Library
10	Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 p.m. UCC Parish House Agricultural Comm. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	13 Family Program: Modern Craft Workshop 6:30 P.M. Library	Children's Reading Roundtable 3:30 P.M. Library	15 Deadline: August Chronicle Copy Children's Program: Roger the Jester 11 A.M. Library	Annual Rummage Sale (see insert)
Annual Rummage Sale (see insert) Community Picnic 4–7 P.M. Foote Fields †	Rummage Bag Sale 9–11 A.M.	19 Republican Town Caucus 7:30 p.m. W. C. Firehouse † 發發 Bd. of Selectmen 算算 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	Family Program: Puppet Show Jack and the Beanstalk 6:30 P.M. Town Hall	Deciding the second sec	Children's Program 11 A.M. Library	23 Film: Monty Python and the Holy Grail 6:30 P.M. Library Chamber Music Concer 7:30 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Association †
31 Dulcimer Concert 3 P.M. Town Hall †	25 Democratic Town Caucus 7:30 P.M. Library † ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall *	26	27 Family Program: Young Wizard's Show 6:30 P.M. Library Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Children's Reading Roundtable 3:30 P.M. Library	29 Children's Program Fairy Tale Fairy 11 A.M. Library	30

^{*}Check with Zoning Office-672-4957

(continued from page 1)

upon 54 graves spanning the Revolutionary to Vietnam conflicts. An hour later, the Seaman's Service took place at the Covered Bridge in West Cornwall.

At 11 a.m., the town's spiffy new ambulance made its public debut as it led the way past the collected throngs, followed by the fire and rescue squads, veterans, Daisies, Brownies, Girl and Boy Scouts, 4H-ers, and Little League teams. Moving smartly along to the CCS band's urging, Nogard, a very coordinated dragon, and several vintage cars completed the parade.

Having parked the new ambulance, quick-change artist Dave Cadwell sprinted back to the ceremonies in time to celebrate Colleen DeGreenia's winning of the annual VFW Citizenship Award, before speaking of his time in Vietnam. Reminding the crowd that he was only one of three million who served in that conflict, Dave reflected upon the day he considers the worst of his life. On that day in January 1971, four died and eleven were wounded in his company by their own artillery; the casualties included his captain and a fellow medic. Dave explained that he was "returned from the dead" for some comrades, who thought he was the slain medic until they reunited several days later. Dave highlighted his new "band of brothers," the volunteer rescue/fire squad members, his joy at being a father, and his good fortune to live in Cornwall.

Heeding Dave's call, Cornwallians and their guests trooped over to the carnival. In a matter of hours, committed citizens had consumed hundreds of hot dogs, tossed softballs and cheered on 44 jumping frogs, appreciatively ogled the new ambulance, and danced around the cakewalk maypole. Indeed, it was good to be alive!

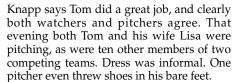
—Virginia Gold

Throw Those Shoes

Each Thursday evening from spring through fall, the Cornwall Horseshoe League assembles in Housatonic Meadow Park, on Route 7 just north of Cornwall Bridge. There, they carry on a sports tradition whose origin, some say, derives from the discus throwers of the ancient Greek Olympiad.

I went out one recent Thursday to observe. About two dozen people were assembled, some pitching shoes, others kibitzing. I soon saw that beer drinking fits well with horseshoe pitching (spectators and pitchers alike can participate). It was also clear that while most pitchers are male, women also throw shoes, with only the modest advantage of standing ten feet closer to the steel stake in the target pit.

There are three sets of pits in the park, built (with state permission) by Tom Baird, organizer of the league. Jim "Gramps"



The Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America's website claims to have 15,000 active members and estimates that 15 million Americans enjoy the sport. Its local roots trace back to British settlers, but in colonial days New Englanders mostly threw circular shoes (called "quoits"). In the Civil War, Midwesterners taught us the merits of using more widely available horseshoes, perhaps to the detriment of the Union cavalry.

Come out any Thursday at twilight. All are welcome. Bring beer if you like.

—Ďavid A. Grossman

No Rain on This Parade

Eighteen eighth graders received their diplomas on a rainy June 16 evening on the stage inside the new CCS gym.

Three prizes were awarded during the graduation ceremonies: Nicole Hamilton received the award for outstanding academic achievement; Melani Reilly received the Dottie Hermann Memorial Award; and Trevor Tuthill received the VFW Citizenship Award. In addition, PTA President Pat Bramley presented each graduate with a gift.

Freddie Scoville, who had just recently received his own diploma from the University of Connecticut, urged the graduates to be themselves and follow their career paths. Nick King spoke for the class. Pat Thibault was recognized for her volunteer contribution to the school. Diplomas in hand and tassels turned, graduates and their friends and family then adjourned to the Gathering Room for a reception. All remained dry throughout the celebration.

Earlier in the day a variety of awards were presented at a special assembly. The Civic Club presented an award in art to Liz Sawicki; in music to Ben Ackerman; and in physical education to Jacquie Underwood and Trevor Watts. In English, the Mark Van Doren Award for best writer went to Jacquie Underwood, and the Edna Peet Award for most improved in writing went to Ethan Naylor. Liz Sawicki received the social studies award and Nicole Hamilton the history award. Science honors went to Melani Reilly and the world language prize to Nicole Hamilton and Liz Sawicki. Math awards were given in two areas: the algebra award went to Melani Reilly, and the grade eight math award went to Emily Thaler and Will Russ. Congratulations to all. —Barbara Gold

Correction

Last month's story on June graduates and their plans inadvertently omitted Adeline De Angelis.
Addie graduated from Kent School on June 5 and will attend Swarthmore College. The *Chronicle* sincerely regrets the error.

Land Transfers

Robert J. and Joan C. McGuire to Arthur Strassle, house and 38.02 acres at 195 Great Hill Road for \$1,000,000

Paul H. Cohen and Elisabeth Mason to Virginia Kindred and Markus J. Kraebber, house and 6.5 acres at 53 Cream Hill Road for \$545,000.

Janet R. Hanna to William Roland Hartley-Urquhart, house and land at 14 Pine Street for \$387,500.

Leonard Ciccarelli to Timber Rocks LLC, barn and 5.06 acres on Flat Rocks Road for \$182,500.

Elizabeth Weimann to Robert G. Cassidy and Maria Luisa Kos, property at 379 Kent Road for \$230,000. Barbara Wolff to Samuel B. and Kathleen D. Francis, property at 49 Warren Hill Road for \$285,000.

Thurber Celebration #2

Four fond friends and his daughter, brought together again by the Cornwall Historical Society, regaled a large audience in the Town Hall on June 11 with memories of James Thurber.

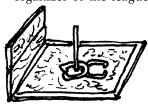
Rolly Algrant, then a student at Rumsey Hall, began doing odd jobs for the nearly blind Thurber, and reading books aloud to him. John Zabriskie attended many literary evenings at the Thurber house with such distinguished guests as Mark Van Doren, Van Wyck Brooks, William Shirer, and Carl Sandburg.

Actress Ellie Jones knew Thurber for less than two years, but she felt she had known him much longer. "I had joined *The Thurber Carnival* as understudy to all the women in the cast and served as secretary to Thurber. We were on the road most of one summer, and Thurber loved it. He became very depressed when the show finally closed."

Rosemary Thurber has vivid memories of summers in Cornwall with her father. "I was around eleven or twelve. He would work late mornings and early afternoons. One of my favorite games was to see if I could sneak up to his room without being heard. I never succeeded. Then he would say, 'Let's go out and set fire to someone's house and throw rocks at the people coming out.' All that time he was drawing on large sheets of paper. We folded them in the shape of an airplane and sailed them out the window."

Marc Simont recalled how he became the illustrator of several of Thurber's books. "At first I had nightmares that there would be some sort of scientific breakthrough, and Jamie would regain his sight, and when he saw my work for the first time, he would know that he should have gotten Saul Steinberg."

In the late 1920s, Thurber went to work as an editor at *The New Yorker*. He shared a tiny office with E.B. White. "White used to take Jamie's crumpled drawings out of the wastebasket," Marc said. "He thought Thurber's sketches were wonderful and told him so. One morning when White arrived at their office, he found Thurber busily shading his drawings. 'No, no, Jamie!' he exclaimed. 'If you try to be any



better, you'd be mediocre!""

The afternoon ended with prolonged applause. A videotape of the proceedings is at the Cornwall Free Library. Don't miss it!

—Carla Bigelow

Arts Alive at CCS

The performing and fine arts at CCS ended on high notes in June. Under the direction of Fred Thaler and with much help from school staff and community volunteers, CCS students sang and danced their way through *The Wizard of Oz*, the classic tale of conquering adversity and the triumph of good over evil. Simple but evocative sets and costumes enhanced the talents of the students who had spent weeks preparing for three performances on June 2 and 4.

On June 5, a tile mural was unveiled during a celebration of CCS alumni and the new Cornwall Fund for Excellence. Directed by art teacher Kathy Good, students, staff, and community members created tiles that are now mounted on the walls around the entry to the school; new tiles will be added regularly. During the celebration, participants enjoyed performances by the CCS jazz band and a variety of choral and instrumental soloists and ensembles.

—Barbara Gold

Cornwall Senior Survey

Of 1,500 Senior Survey forms sent out, 46 were returned, 67 percent of them by people aged 70+. Nine wanted more programs for seniors, and six said they would not like more programs.

Asked what kinds of programs they would attend, seniors most often mentioned concerts; movies, lectures, and exercise classes tied for second; and trips to museums and cultural events placed third.

Among issues to be given priority, chore services led, with transportation coming in second and low-cost senior housing and home health care tying for third. Fortunately, some of these are already in place.

Nineteen people expressed interest in serving on a Committee on Aging, and 12 signed up for the winter storm emergency call list. Additional comments varied: "Programs for seniors don't seem necessary because current programs at the Library, school and churches are open to everyone"; "Please leave seniors alone. Don't label us"; "Reform property taxes."

Complete results are available at the Town Office.

—Jill Gibbons, Social Services



Letters to the Chronicle

THE SCOVILLE PLAQUE

Lisa Simont's sad "Worden Memorial Plaque" in the May Chronicle reminded me of another bronze plaque in another stone wall and of another young man who died too soon.

The North Cornwall Church property is separated from the field to the north by a well-built stone wall. Near the eastern end of this wall, near the road, is a plaque reading "In Memory of / Henry Ward Beecher Scoville / July 13, 1909—March 24, 1924 / He Loved Cornwall."

Although "he loved Cornwall," he loved it in the summers only, for his family spent most of the year in Philadelphia. One day the teenager was riding his bicycle on a busy city street, one hand on the handlebars, the other on the rear end of a streetcar. Suddenly the bike tire caught in the trolley track. The bicycle flipped, the boy as well. Death followed.

The very long carriage shed at the church had recently been demolished (the automobile rapidly replacing the surrey and the brougham). In Henry's memory, the family had the sturdy stone wall built in its place.

At least that's the story as I've heard it from family members. Time may have altered the details, but in essence, it's too heartrending to be untrue.

—Bob Potter

WATCH OUT! TAKE CARE!

On April 25 I had just lowered the scaffolding on the side of my barn and was about to put a small load of recycled lumber to its potentially best use. But, I had neglected to secure the staging properly. It teetered and then sent me off—falling ten feet to the ground.

Thank God my wife Bianca was nearby to call 911. The rescue squad used courage to back the ambulance down our difficult driveway. They were so painless and professional. Soon I was on my way to Sharon Hospital, where I spent a week in ICU (Club Med) being waited on 24 hours

I'm home now, and out and about again, and wiser about possibly risky situations.

Thanks to the rescue squad and the caring community. I hope we don't have to meet up like this again.

—Richard Griggs

CAUCUS CAUTIONS

In the Events & Announcements section of this issue is an official notice of the Democratic Party caucus to be held for the purpose of endorsing (that's the correct term) candidates for municipal offices in the November election.

Some questions have been raised about how a caucus works. First of all, it is one way political parties choose their candidates, who may be recommended and nominated by Town Committees or simply nominated from the floor of the caucus for endorsement. However, only those voters enrolled (registered) in a party are

allowed to participate in their party's caucus.

This means that unaffiliated and otherparty voters cannot nominate or vote, and may not

even be able to speak at the caucus. This policy is in a state statute which also imposes on violators a "fine of not more than two hundred dollars or imprisonment for not more than thirty days or both." Pretty harsh!

The statute also states that a written motion supported by 15 electors is required for a ballot. (The ballot itself is written and is confidential; normal voting is by show of hands and is, of course, apparent to all.)

There is no requirement that endorsed candidates be enrolled in the political party which endorses them.

—Stephen Senzer, Chair Democratic Town Committee

PTA PLUSES

The Parent Teachers Association has over the past couple of years made special programs available and offered outstanding programs for the CCS family. Pilobolus and the speaker from NASA were memorable. More seriously, the PTA brought informed speakers on prevention of substance abuse by our youth—a resident of Mountainside Rehabilitation Center, a representative from the Wheeler Clinic, and Cynthia Bianchi of our Youth Services Bureau. In response the PTA was instrumental in forming the Cornwall Youth Safety Coalition. In other action the PTA contributed much planning for the long-awaited After School Program.

Behind the scenes for much of this direction and scheduling was Pat Bramley, PTA president for the past two years. She will be stepping down, handing the reins over to Bethany Thompson. Pat deserves our thanks for her terrific work, and Bethany our support for the future.

—Deirdre A. Fischer

OPEN SPACE AND PEOPLE

We moved to Cornwall in 1989 because of the beauty of the countryside, not knowing much about the community. We were pleased to learn that in addition to many acres of forest owned by the state, more land was being protected and preserved by the Cornwall Conservation Trust. We were also pleased to learn housing was a concern and that the Cornwall Housing Corporation had been formed to provide affordable housing for residents of moderate/low income. In an area where more and more houses are second homes, it is important that Cornwall do more to protect and provide for full-time residents struggling with the increasing cost of housing. Part-timers cost the town little in the way of services, help the tax base and provide employment for many, but where are Cornwall residents of all ages with income enough for only one home to live? Perhaps in addition to establishing another fund for open space, the town might work on the evergrowing problem of affordable housing for Cornwall's residents. —Änne Baren

Events & Announcements

Midsummer Community Picnic: Sunday, July 17, 4 to 7 P.M., at Foote Fields (parking on upper field). Local grass-fed beef burgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be provided by the Cornwall Association. Bring whatever else you wish to eat or to share. Come with your instruments, including your voices, for musical fun. Jointly sponsored by the Cornwall Association and Park and Rec. For more information, contact Jane Giddens-Jones, 672-2861.

CCC Summer Camp 2005: The Cornwall Child Center is offering a fun-filled summer enrichment program for children between three and six. Sessions run from 8:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. Week 1: July 5 to 8. Week 2: July 11 to 14. Week 3: July 18 to 21. Week 4: July 25 to 28. Contact Director Pam Brehm at 672-6989 for registration information.

Land Use Forum: "Opportunities in the face of change" is the theme of a question-and-answer program on land use and values scheduled for Friday, July 8, at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. Is the present Town Plan adequate to handle increasing development pressure and rising real estate prices? On hand will be representatives of groups most responsible and concerned—the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Cornwall Housing Corporation, the Cornwall Land Trust—as well as the Assessor, State Senator Andrew Roraback, and others.

Junior Fire Department: Response has been positive to the CVFD's recent unanimous vote to involve children and teens in activities that benefit both the kids and the Department. A Junior Division (ages 12 to 18) receives fairly extensive training in fire and ambulance procedures and is allowed to assist in emergencies on a restricted basis. A "Junior Junior Division" (ages 10 to 12) gets training but not actual experience. So far, most juniors are children of CVFD members, but others are needed and welcome. Contact the Selectmen's Office for regulations and application forms.

A Summer Companion

A Cornwall Companion is the essential Cornwall book, a 272-page hardcover collection of stories and drawings from the Chronicle, with a color cover by Marc Simont. "An unexpected delight"—Michael Pollan. "A charming evocation of local life"—Litchfield County Times. Copies available for \$20 at the Library or by mail from us (add \$4 postage). Profits go to the Chronicle's operating budget.

Senior Forum: At 4 P.M. on July 7, the Board of Selectmen and the Social Services Department will host a forum in the Town Hall to follow up on problems and opportunities revealed in the recent Senior Survey. Guest speakers from organizations such as the Library and the Chore Service will address areas of interest. Also on the agenda is the function of a committee of seniors now being formed.

A Democratic Party Caucus will be held on July 25, 2005, at 7:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Library meeting room to endorse Democratic candidates for town offices to be elected on November 8, and to transact other business as may be proper to come before the caucus. All enrolled Cornwall Democrats are invited to attend and participate.

A Republican Caucus will be held on Tuesday, July 19, at 7:30 P.M. in the West Cornwall Firehouse. All registered Republicans are urged to attend. Questions? Call K. C. Baird at 672-6405.

Art in Cornwall: At the National Iron Bank, Ed LaPorta is exhibiting acrylic paintings and mixed media.

The Outsiders Gallery is hosting a reception on July 9 from 5 to 7 P.M. for a show entitled *Summer Fun*. Featured artists are Peter

Brandt, Kathie Olivas, Michael Rivera, and sculptor Robert Hudson. The show runs through August 1.

Emily Buchanan and Brendan O'Connell continue to exhibit their work at the Cornwall Library through

On July 19 the Library will host a show entitled *Altered Books*. For this show the Library is looking for artists of all ages to transform existing books into art. The Library can supply books suitable for altering. Entries are due at the Library July 13. Fifty percent of sale proceeds will benefit the Library. For information, call Amy Buck at

672-6874 or 672-6589.

July 13.

The Library Children's Program "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" starts July 6 with weekly events, movies, and story hours. Program details are available on flyers and on the Library's website (www.biblio.org/cornwall) or at the Library, 672-6874. All are free and best suited for children ages 4 to 14.

Chamber Music: The Cream Hill Lake Association invites all music lovers to a concert at the clubhouse on Saturday, July 23, at 7:30 P.M.

The Thurber Celebration continues at the Cornwall Historical Society during open hours on Wednesdays, 1 to 4 P.M., and Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Other information may be found on the Society's new website: www.cornwallhistoricalsociety.org.

July Fest: Saturday, July 2, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Park and Rec. invites all to enjoy food, children's road races, inflatable rides, the tanker, and more on the Town Green.

Homecoming Concert: Folk musicians Lorraine and Bennett Hammond will give a concert at the Town Hall at 3 P.M., Sunday, July 31. Lorraine, a Cornwall native, will sing songs and tell stories about the local musicians (especially Comfort Starr) she grew up with and learned from. The concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Corn-

wall Library. The Hammonds encourage all to bring instruments and voices for post-concert singing.

Summer Paving: Sections of Cream Hill Road and Dibble Hill Road will be paved in July. In August, some roads in the northwest corner of town will get the oil-and-sand treatment. Be prepared for delays and some slow going.

Vehicle Stickers: The transfer station reminds us that everyone should have a transfer station sticker. If you don't have one on your vehicle, see the attendants. And remember: recycling is required by Connecticut law. Please wash all containers and remove their tops, which go in household waste.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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