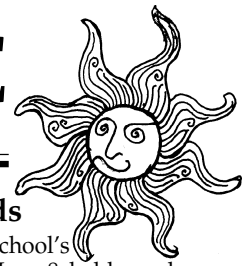


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 16 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2006



Town Buys the Farm

"The final funds didn't come in until two days before the deadline, so we were that close to not pulling it off," Gordon Ridgway said. But on June 2, the town closed on the purchase of 100 acres of farmland on the east side of Route 7 for \$540,000. Half the land is open, half wooded; 17 acres are in Kent.

The first selectman said that the sellers, the Lorch family, deserved credit for their patience and commitment to conservation. (Many years ago the family sold to the state some of the land that is now Kent Falls State Park.)

There were two other components necessary to complete the deal. Chris Hopkins simultaneously bought 20 acres across from the town land, along with a house and barns, for \$450,000. He then signed a five-year renewable lease to manage and farm the town land under the supervision of the Agricultural Commission. He will pay \$200 a year and be responsible for maintaining the land and barn, paying taxes, and providing insurance. In an important part of the lease, he gave to the town certain easements on his land: agreeing to keep it in agricultural use, not to subdivide it, and to preserve the house and barns. In Gordon's words, "the entire environment there will be preserved."

The purchase was completely funded by private donations. Gordon declined to reveal

the identity of major donors or the amounts of any gifts except to say, "Some gave significant amounts; they don't want publicity but were committed to preserving a spectacular and highly trafficked gateway to town." There were more than 80 contributors, 99 percent of them from Cornwall.

This acquisition was not universally approved of, and the first selectman responded to some concerns. "It's not unique or even unusual for towns in the area to be landlords. Southbury and Middlebury own and lease farms, and we own the land under the Child Center. As real estate prices rise, towns must play a more active role in preserving the landscape."

As for the fact that all except six acres of the land was already protected by the sale of development rights to the state, Gordon pointed out that this does not prevent unwelcome changes to the landscape. One needs only to look as far as the former Harriet Clark farm, where a barn the size of Rhode Island sits, to confirm that people do odd things with their land.

Is there any continuing criticism? "The deal is complex, but once you explain it, people usually see why it's important." And if they don't? "Talk is cheap," he said. He didn't add—but we will—"and money talks."
—Ed Ferman

Words and Awards

Cornwall Consolidated School's graduation ceremony on June 8, held now by new tradition in the gymnasium, offered more speeches than usual. Because they valued each student's perspective, teachers selected three graduates to comment on their CCS experience. Sabina Busby described the life values learned as a member of the championship basketball team; Trey Hatcher developed a metaphor of school as a dramatic production; and Mark Selino praised the school and staff for the second chance he received when he entered CCS in seventh grade. Finally, CCS alumna Tracy Gray offered "points of interest," the last of which was an admonition to laugh daily; she reinforced her point with Groucho Marx glasses and moustache for each graduate.

Three awards were presented during the ceremony. Dylan Morehouse received the Dottie Hermann Memorial Award; Nestor Bramley accepted the VFW Citizenship Award; and Sabina Busby was recognized for outstanding academic achievement. Each class member also received a gift from PTA President Bethany Thompson. Sharon Sawicki was recognized for her volunteer work at CCS.

At a school awards ceremony in the morning, other awards were presented. The

(continued on page 2)

JULY 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House; Adult Basketball, 8 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. Call David Colbert 672-6726 for location Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location						1 Outsiders Gallery Live Raptors Show 3 P.M. † Art Reception 3-5 P.M. † <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 8 P.M. Open Air Town Hall
2 <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 8 P.M. Open Air Town Hall	3 Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Legal Holiday Town Offices, Transfer Station Closed	5 Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall	6		8 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. Town Hall Motherhouse Family Cow Workshop 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Local Farm †
9 Hildreth/Lewis Daniel Art Reception 3-5 P.M. Library †	10 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	11 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	12 Family Program Jay Mankita 6:30 P.M. Library †	13	14	15 Deadline: August Chronicle Copy Annual Rummage Sale UCC, Mohawk Ski Area 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. (See insert.) Art Reception: Wish House 5-7 P.M. † Chore Service Benefit Barn Dance, Olds Barn 6 P.M. †
16 Half-Price Rummage Sale UCC, Town Hall 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.; Mohawk Ski Area 11 A.M.-3 P.M.	17 Rummage Bag Sale UCC, Town Hall 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.; Mohawk Ski Area 9 A.M.-noon Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library †	18 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	19 Family Program Riverside Reptiles 6:30 P.M. Library † P&Z Open Space Forum Town Hall 7 P.M. †	20 Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	21 <i>Peter and the Wolf</i> Workshop 11 A.M. Library †	22 Foote Field: Cornwall Cup Baseball 2 P.M. † July Fest, Community Picnic 4-6 P.M. †
23	24 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	25 P&Z Planning Meeting 8 P.M. Town Hall	26 Family Program Butterflies 6:30 P.M. Library † Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	27	28	29 Lorraine & Bennett Hammond Concert 3 P.M. Town Hall † Asher Pavel Photos Reception 3-5 P.M. Library †
30	31					

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

Civic Club provided awards in art to Helen Prentice and Dylan Morehouse; in music to Rebecca Sawicki (instrumental), Kathleen Rogers (voice), and Dylan Morehouse (general music). In English, the Mark Van Doren Award for writing went to Rebecca Sawicki, and the Edna Peet Award for most improved in writing went to Shelby Baird. Sabina Busby received the science award; Rebecca Sawicki the social studies award; and Rebecca Sawicki the world language award. In math, Sabina Busby received the algebra award and Jessica Hurlburt the grade eight math award. The history award, provided by the Cornwall Historical Society, went to Nick Dzenutis. Well done, everyone!

—Barbara Gold

Superior Recycling, Terrific Ladies

It's the event of the summer. People save stuff for it all year long. Weekenders plan their vacations around it. It's so popular that buyers start lining up at five in the morning to get in at ten. It raised over \$20,000 for college scholarships last year. And it's all run by 18 elderly women, about ten dependable young go-fers, and 80 to 100 volunteers.

Thalia Scoville, who has long been involved with the annual Woman's Society Rummage Sale, knows that it is over 50 years old. Cilla Hart Mauro, who guards the Parish House by sleeping in her truck the night before the sale, agrees. "My son was in a playpen when I first began working on it. He's 51 now." It was probably started by Katie Walker; other names associated with those early days are Dorothy Van Doren, Josephine Nuese, Viola Loman, Polly Calhoun—"influential women in the community," as Cilla puts it. As to who works on it now, "Ask me who *doesn't* work on it," says Thalia. "It's very ecumenical. And it is truly a *superior* rummage sale. I test almost all the big puzzles, for example. If they're missing a piece, out they go."

"We get all kinds of junk, of course," says Cilla, "and some people (I won't mention

names) even claim the junk on their tax returns. It's the ultimate recycle event." All unsold items go to local charities, but this recycling takes other forms as well. Nora Prentice once bought a shower curtain to replace a "disgusting" one; it turned out that her mother Marie had donated the new one. "And," says Nora, "people are forever buying back prized childhood possessions that their parents are trying to throw out." Bee Simont remembers Marshall Kenny, then a rebellious teenager, who'd refused his father's request that he get a suit at Brooks Brothers. After the sale, Marshall proudly showed off a suit he'd bought for two dollars. It was one his father had donated.

Mag Cooley tells us, "The Rummage was the germ of a never-buy-new ethic for me and provided many of my happiest experiences from about 1952 on. It was also the first opportunity we had to dress as we saw our own selves rather than as our mothers wished we were!"

In the "unique items found at the Rummage" category, Susan Fox recalls the eight-foot-long, four-holer privy seat. "But the most poignant memory is of the group of mentally challenged adults who found dozens of satiny horse show ribbons. They pinned them on and stroked them with the greatest pleasure." Along with pleasure, thrift, and the green imperative, Dave Cadwell exhorts us not to forget "the ultimate purpose of this event—helping kids with higher education. Let's hear it for these terrific ladies!"

—Ella Clark

Property Revaluation Underway

If there is one message Assessor Barbara Bigos wants you to hear early and often in the process of Cornwall's revaluation of all of our property, it is: Be of good cheer; this is not a raid on your pocketbook. Revaluation, which the state mandates that we do every five years, is *not* a tool to raise revenue, but one to insure uniformity in the way properties are assessed. Although most property values will increase, taxes on the new assessments will be determined by the mill rate, which won't be adopted by the Board of Finance until May 2007, and which will certainly be lower than this year's—possibly only half as high.

Some prime properties that have been low-balled in the past, or which have sprouted gyms or golf courses, may indeed experience a rise in taxes. For the average taxpayer, however, the bite could well be *less* painful or no worse than it is now, and with next year's lower mill rate, motor vehicle taxes will certainly decrease.

The data collection process is well underway—the mailing you should recently have

received from the assessor, asking you to correct or verify "field card" facts, is a key part of it. The August *Chronicle* will include a flyer with additional information, while a comprehensive booklet will be sent to all property owners in November. That's when the notice of your new assessment will go out, too. So breathe deeply and remain calm: It's fair, it's logical, it's state mandated. What's not to love?

—Maggie Cooley

Welcome

Henry Maryon to Tracy and Theo Spencer

Congratulations

Caryn Gregory and Paul Barber

Land Transfers

Bruce W. Berkman and Susan LaMonte-Berkman to Françoise Mouly and Art Spiegelman, house and 5 acres at 155 Dibble Hill Road for \$326,000.

Connecticut Light and Power Company to Timothy L. and Anthony D. Locke, 1/3 acre on Lower River Road for \$20,000.

Jonathan M. and Victoria Estern Jadov to Hamilton and Roxana Barry Robinson, Jr., 61.895 acres off Town Street for \$850,000.

Katherine E. Gannett to Jack Zetkulis, 10.01 acres on River Road for \$190,000.

Scott Cady Moves On

At last the many rumors have congealed to fact: The Reverend Scott Cady is leaving St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church to assume a new pulpit in Manchester. We sat down with Scott to get some facts about that fact—and maybe some opinions as well.

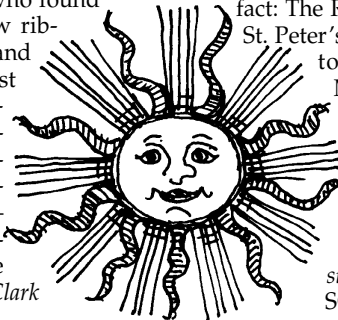
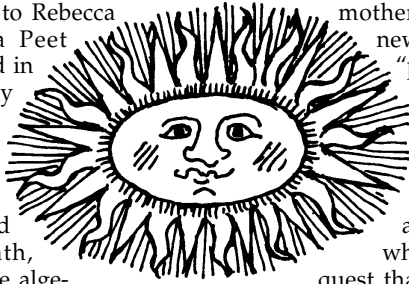
CC: *Scott, the why—or why's—of your move are still in the rumor mill. Can you set us straight?*

SC: Why move? Very few pastors spend their whole ministry in one place. In this case, I suppose there are three reasons. First, it is time for the congregation. After almost 22 years, St. Peter's has received what I have to give, and has borne with my shortcomings too. Second, there's a fine opportunity in Manchester for me to experience an entirely different kind of ministry, to try out a different leadership style, and to deal with a staff and a more urban community. And third, it's a natural time for transition for our family as Maggie finishes up at Housy. My role as dad will be very different when she goes off to college in the fall.

CC: *Is it true that you will continue to live in town and commute to Manchester?*

SC: Yes, that's true. The call I've accepted is for one year, to cover for a pastor on medical disability. Within the year, we'll all know more about that pastor's possible return to service, full or part time, and also about whether I really enjoy the big-church, urban experience. Amy will continue at the Library, and we will be as involved as we can be in local issues. The church in Manchester has a small apartment I can use to keep my commutes down to two or three per week.

CC: *If right now your successor were to ask*



CORNWALL DINNER PARTY / BEFORE RUMMAGE SALE



CORNWALL DINNER PARTY / AFTER RUMMAGE SALE



you for the "lowdown on Cornwall," what might spring to your mind first?

SC: Lowdown on Cornwall? The community is certainly not just a sleepy little hill town. It's lively and active, with a good mix of old-time agriculture to cutting-edge art to pretty much everything in between.

CC: What do you see as your career from now on? More writing? Traditional ministry?

SC: Career? I'm not able to predict. I do like writing and hope to do more. But I fully expect to focus on parish work until I retire. That may be another long-term call, or it may be a series of interim calls. I love parish ministry and intend to do it as long as I can.

CC: Scott, everyone in town seems to know you because of your ongoing civic concern. Why did you devote so much time and effort to this wider mission?

SC: What you call my "wider mission" and the more parochial mission are intertwined, especially in a town this size. As a Christian, my responsibility is to all my neighbors, not just the ones who show up on Sunday or share my theological perspective. Being an involved citizen is part of what it means to be a faithful Christian. I've tried to do that, and have enjoyed it very much.

CC: One last question, Scott. Each and every Cornwallian has a pet gripe about the town. For instance, my gripe concerns those people who park their cars at the dump and then proceed to sort their trash piece by piece as cars pile up behind them waiting. What's yours?

SC: Gripe? My favorite aspect of Cornwall is the gnat. It irks me no end when this unique creature of God is maligned by Cornwallians and visitors alike. All this fascination with mountain lions tends to excite us, while we ignore or vilify our friendly little black flies.

CC: I'll remember that, Scott. And thank you.

SC: And thank you. —Bob Potter

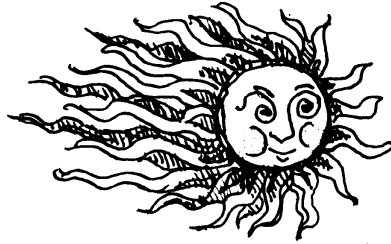
CCS Girls Win Again

Eleven members of the CCS championship basketball team joined up with five other girls and won another Region One championship, this time in softball. There's a 48-inch by 48-inch blue banner with gold letters hanging in the lobby of the school that proudly says so.

The girls, from the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, finished their season with a 9-1 record. Their only loss was in extra innings to Kent (8-2), whom they defeated handily the second time they met.

Tricia Collins, a special ed teaching assistant who doubles as the softball coach, described her girls as "confident and relaxed" throughout the season. "They expected to win and they won," she said.

Shelby Baird was the ace pitcher, relieved at times by regular second baseman Genevieve Terrall. Coach Collins said Danielle Kearns was "the best catcher in the league." She also said that Kathleen Rogers and Kayla Robinson were "big hitters." Perhaps most impressive were two team members who had never played softball before, outfielders Helen Prentice and Apryl Classy.



Letters to the Chronicle

GOOD CITIZENS

The Cornwall Village Improvement Society would like to make a plaque listing the honorees of the Citizenship Award of the Year given by the VFW on Memorial Day each year. We know the first award went to Doc Walker and the last one to Elizabeth Locke, but the between years are hazy. Anyone remembering winners and years please send the information to me at P.O. Box 202, Cornwall, CT 06753. Don't be shy. Thanks.

—Lynn Cheney

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The June issue of the Chronicle has a story about affordable housing in Cornwall. Last month, a front-page story concerned the Lorch Farm project. The conjunction of these stories shows how misguided the Lorch Farm project is.

The lament that Cornwall natives cannot afford to buy a house here has been continuous since I moved here almost 25 years ago. The Lorch Farm project will buy 100 acres of open land and keep it empty. With one-acre plots, that land could hold 100 houses. That would mean 100 homes, 100 new families, shelter for 200

In fact, in one game Helen assisted on a double play with a throw from her position in right field.

There's even more good news: in this 25th year of Little League play in Cornwall, we have five more teams of youngsters playing baseball and softball on our new Foote Fields facility. We're the envy of all the towns around.

—John Miller

Garlic Mustard

Last month I spent a morning pulling up an invasive weed called garlic mustard along Rattlesnake Road. It was growing among patches of spring wildflowers—trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, wood anemones, and toothworts. Little did I know how useful I had been! Several weeks later, an article by Henry Fountain appeared in *The New York Times* called "Garlic Mustard Casts a Pall on the Forest."

Most of us are familiar with this biennial plant. (If you have any doubts, crush the leaves and sniff.) Garlic mustard's early-spring growth allows it to dominate forest sites that otherwise would support native wildflowers. Its roots are thought to release chemical compounds that harm the soil fungi that help native plant roots take up

men and women and their children....

There is a kind of base selfishness loose in the country. It is the motive for actions that a truly selfish man, of whom I count myself one, would not permit himself. An example is the man who buys land and builds a house in a rural community, and immediately joins the local committee to forbid any new housing. People need to think about what they are doing.

—M. Northrup Buechner

SPRING GRANTS

The Cornwall Foundation is pleased to announce the distribution of five grants from its spring grants cycle: the Cornwall Historical Society, for badly needed repairs; the Cornwall Free Library for a new display case; the Town Hall Players for a special Shakespearean theater workshop; the Town of Cornwall toward the purchase of the Lorch Farm; and the United Church of Christ for its Adult Education program entitled Slavery: Then and Now.

Grants are made four times a year. To apply for a grant, visit www.cornwallfoundation.org or pick up an application at the Library.

—Jim Fishman

MEMORIAL DAY VOLUNTEERS

I would like to share my appreciation for the 17 young people who gave a slice of their free time to the Cornwall Free Library on Memorial Day. I was heartened by their response to my call for help at the book sale that day. I had more young people volunteer than I had time slots to fill! There is tremendous energy and good will among the youth in our town, so don't listen to those naysayers who grumble about "the youth of today." Our young people are terrific!

—Deirdre Fischer

water and nutrients.

Dr. Kristina Stinson, a research associate at Harvard's ecology and conservation research center, found that sugar maple saplings and other hardwood seedlings grow much more slowly in soil infested with garlic mustard than from mustard-free areas. It is now believed this plant can have a tremendous impact by changing the composition of our forests.

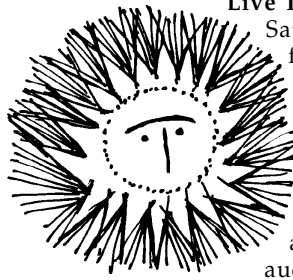
By early July, most garlic mustard plants can be recognized by their stalks of dry, pale-brown seed pods. (A single plant can produce thousands of seeds!) Still, it's not too late to do your part. Grasp a garlic mustard stem at ground level and tug gently until the long root loosens from the soil. Don't stop now. Help save our sugar maples! Tuck all your alien plants in a large plastic bag, tie it, and head for the Transfer Station.

—Carla Bigelow



Events & Announcements

Live Raptors Show:



Saturday, July 1, from 3 to 4 P.M. at the Insiders/Outsiders Gallery. Hope Douglas will show her raptors. There will also be a silent auction of works by Marjorie Strider and Scott Zuckerman as a benefit for the Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, the exhibit of the work of Hildreth and Lewis Daniel continues through July 22, with a reception on Sunday, July 9, from 3 to 5 P.M. Also, Asher Pavel shows *Photographic Paintings Plus* starting July 25, with a reception on Saturday, July 29, from 3 to 5 P.M.

The Insiders/Outsiders Gallery shows *Art for the Wild*, works by Marjorie Strider and Scott Zuckerman, July 1 to August 13, with a reception on Saturday, July 1, from 3 to 5 P.M.

At the Wish House, an opening reception will be held on Saturday, July 15, from 5 to 7 P.M., for *Small Works of Profound Importance*, mixed-media works by Peter J. Ketchum.

Art at the Bridge, a new gallery at the Pink House in West Cornwall, will host its inaugural exhibit of *Contemporary Antiquarians* in the month of July.

Chore Service Barn Dance: Saturday, July 15, from 6 to 9 P.M., rain or shine, at Olds Barn, 39 Jewell Street. Any questions, call 364-1003.

Motherhouse Old-Style Life Skills Workshop: Saturday, July 8, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., at Local Farm in Cornwall Bridge. Learn about caring for your cow. \$35/person or \$50/family.

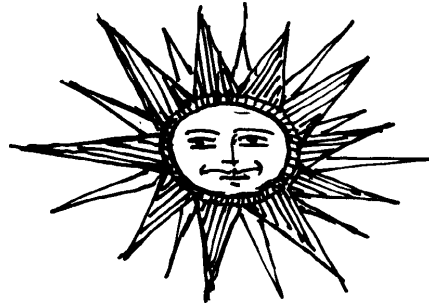
The 46th Rose Algrant Art Show runs from Friday, August 4, to Sunday, August 6, at the new CCS gym. Hours: Friday, 5 to 8 P.M.; Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Sunday, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dog Days

...are upon us, defined as that sultry period between July 3 and August 11, when Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the sun. Siriously, one proven way to relieve the oppression is to write a check to keep the *Chronicle* going. Humidity transmutes to hope. The choice is yours. Thanks.

Folk Musicians to Perform: Lorraine and Bennett Hammond will give their third concert at the Town Hall at 3 P.M. on Saturday, July 29, featuring Lorraine's original songs about growing up in Cornwall. Bring instruments and voices for post-concert singing. For information call 672-6874.

Planning and Zoning Forum: P&Z will host a forum on open space in subdivisions on Wednesday, July 19, at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall. Hear about regulations requiring applicants to set aside protected open space or pay a fee into a dedicated open space fund. Community input welcome.



Library Summer Program for Kids: "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales" starts on Wednesday, July 12, at 6:30 P.M., with a storytelling concert by Jay Mankita. Different programs for families will take place each Wednesday evening at 6:30 P.M. through August 16. Also, Leslie Elias will conduct a *Peter and the Wolf* workshop for children ages four to eight on Friday, July 21, at 11 A.M.

On August 2 there will be a pet show for animals both real and imagined. Entry forms, schedules, and reading logs are all available at the Library.

The Democratic Town Committee meets Monday, July 17, at 7:30 P.M. at the Library. Topics to be discussed include the progress of the Lamont-Lieberman primary race and the Chris Murphy vs. Nancy Johnson campaign.

The Annual Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 15. (See insert in this issue.)

Chamber Music Concert at Cream Hill Lake Association on Saturday, August 5, at 7:30 P.M. Performing will be Benjamin Wolff and musician friends from the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig. Please come on time, and, if possible, bring a folding chair. Refreshments after the concert.

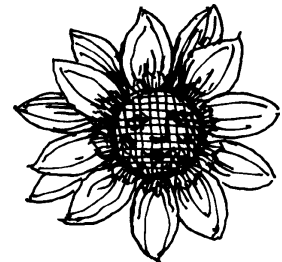
Summer Road Work: In July, the paved sections of Flat Rocks Road and the north end of Town Street will be repaved. In August, Popple Swamp and Whitcomb Hill Roads will be resurfaced, as will town roads off Route 45. Thanks for your patience.

Combined Picnic Event: The Cornwall Community Picnic, sponsored by the Cornwall Association, and the July Fest, sponsored by Park and Rec., will be held at Foote Fields on Saturday, July 22, from 2 to 6 P.M. (rain date: Sunday, July 23). July Fest will provide the Inflatable Defender Dome, giant slides, and picnic food. Free hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be served from 4 to 6 P.M. Bring your own chairs or blankets.

Children's games, Cornwall Cup games, and family softball will start at 2 P.M. The West Cornwall Team will be managed by Phil and Joyce Hart (672-0247), and a combined Cornwall/Cornwall Bridge team by Ted and Donna Larson (672-4888). Call with your family line-up (ages 12 and up).

Library Reading: Alex Prud'homme, co-author of *My Life in France* with his aunt, the French chef Julia Child, will read from the book at the Library on Saturday, August 5, at 3 P.M. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 672-6874.

The Interfaith Service on the Town Green, usually held in August, will not be held this year but will return in 2007.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

JULY ISSUE

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AUGUST ISSUE

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