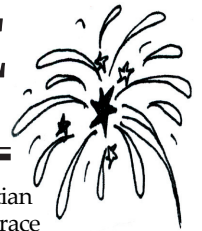




# CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 21 : NUMBER 6 JULY 2011

## CCS Class of 2011

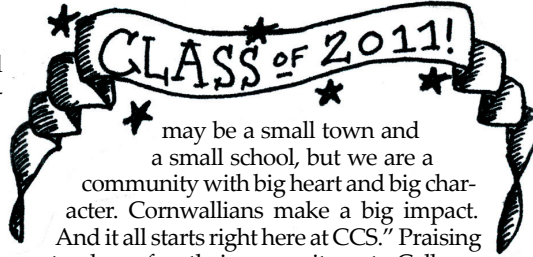
When parents, grandparents, friends and well-wishers arrived at the Cornwall Consolidated School on Wednesday, June 15, for the eighth-grade graduation, they were greeted with a tall white signpost that welcomes the children every morning. Its message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," radiates out across Cornwall and beyond. And there were other good omens on this day of celebration: the first sunny day in weeks and the birth of a new chick earlier in the day in the first-grade classroom.

In his opening remarks, Principal Robert Vaughan told the large audience of well-wishers, "This is an accomplished group of graduates who have excelled artistically, musically, academically, and on the athletic field."

That was evident earlier in the day when the eighth-grade award ceremony was held (see awards below).

Student speakers Connie Benedict and Ian Ridgway paid tribute to their teachers and classmates, noting that most of the graduates had been together for all of their nine years at CCS.

Caroline Calhoun, the 72<sup>nd</sup> CCS graduation speaker and a graduate herself, asked the audience what it means to be a CCS graduate. "What strikes me most about Cornwall, and about CCS in particular, is that we



may be a small town and a small school, but we are a community with big heart and big character. Cornwallians make a big impact. And it all starts right here at CCS." Praising teachers for their commitment, Calhoun noted that CCS alumni have become farmers, film directors, and fashion designers, political activists, Peace Corps volunteers and principals, stockbrokers, scientists, and soldiers and nurses, lawyers, journalists, teachers. "Your foundation for future success has been laid here in Cornwall."

Making the presentation for volunteer work to Jackie Saccoccio for her untiring contributions to the artistic development of students, Board of Education (BOE) member Phil Hart noted that, "Volunteering your time is a very high form of citizenship."

After the presentation of diplomas by Robert Vaughan and Rebecca Hurlburt, BOE chair, the school chorus ended the ceremony by singing "Child of Peace."

**The 2011 Graduating Class:** Connie Benedict, Madison Lynn Caruso, Samuel Dodd Hurlburt,

Bryce Owen Laigle, Christian Alex Logue, Madeleine Grace Longwell, Lydia Anne MacDavid, Savannah Kay-Bell Martin, Eamon Murphy-Saunders, Fiona Cynthia Ocain, Madeline Ovitt, Ian Macdonnell Ridgway, Brianna Lyon Thompson, and Helena Elizabeth Waldron.

**Graduation awards:** Citizenship Award, Bryce Owen Laigle; Dottie Herman Memorial Award, Lydia Anne MacDavid; Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, Ian Macdonnell Ridgway.

**Eighth-Grade Awards:** Brianna Lyon Thompson and Christian Alex Logue for art; Madison Lynn Caruso, Fiona Cynthia Ocain, and Eamon Murphy-Saunders for music; Savannah Kay-Bell Martin and Samuel Dodd Hurlburt for physical education; Brianna Lyon Thomas, the Mark Van Doren Award for English (best writer); Lydia Anne MacDavid, the Edna Peet Award (most improvement in the area of writing); Helena Elizabeth Waldron, the Susan DelGREGO Award (most improved in the area of reading); Samuel Dodd Hurlburt for social studies; Christian Alex Logue and Eamon Murphy-Saunders for history; Madeleine Grace Longwell for science; Savannah Kay-Bell Martin for world language; and Madeleine Grace Longwell for math.

—Brenda Underwood



## JULY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Tuesdays:</b> Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym; <b>VNA Bend &amp; Stretch</b> 1-2 pm UCC <b>Wednesdays:</b> Tai Chi, 6-9 pm CCS; <b>Karate</b> 6:30-7:30 pm CCS; <b>Women's Basketball</b> , 7:30 pm CCS gym <b>Saturdays:</b> Cornwall Farm Market, 9 am-1 pm Wish House Lawn <b>Sundays:</b> Meditation, 1-2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
♦ Rain Date, July Fest Foote Field					♦ Delores Hayden Writing Workshop Library 9 am-12 noon	♦ Jelly & Jam Session Motherhouse 10:30 am-1:30 pm ♦ Baroque Concert CHLA Clubhouse 8 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
♦ CCT Trail Walk Day Preserve 11 am ♦ Dr. Beach Conger Talk Historical Society 2-3 pm	♦ Ag Comm Town Office 7:30 pm ♦ Democratic Town Committee Library 7:30 pm	♦ P & Z Cornwall Library 7 pm			♦ Vietnam War Era Music Library 6:30 pm ♦ <b>Deadline:</b> <b>August Chronicle Copy</b>	♦ Rummage Sale 9 am-2 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
♦ Rummage Sale 11 am-2 pm	♦ Rummage Sale 9 am-12 pm		♦ Democratic Town Committee Endorsements WC Firehouse 7 pm	♦ Board of Finance CCS Library 7:30 pm		♦ West Cornwall Walking Tour 10 am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
♦ CT Trail Walk Rattlesnake Preserve 11 am	♦ ZBA Appeals Cancelled*		♦ CVFD Meeting West Cornwall Firehouse 8 pm			♦ April Stevens & Valorie Fisher Book Signings Wish House 4-6 pm ♦ Brad Martin Book Discussion Library 4 pm
31						
♦ Art Opening Dick Frank 11am-2pm						

\*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

## The Cornwall Community Network at Ten

What do green-winged teals, the Patriot Act, and the Library of Congress National Jukebox have in common? They were all recent discussion topics on the online Cornwall Community Network, which observes its tenth anniversary this month.

With more than 23,000 postings to date, the network still hums. In addition to teals and tunes, members tackle community matters, most recently lamp repair, available kittens, and, for a young mother who is new in town, ways to meet her neighbors.

Known to its devotees as CCN, the group has more than 400 members and has averaged more than 100 postings a month ever since the Cornwall Consolidated School expansion controversy kicked it into high gear in its second month. In the age of Facebook and Twitter, CCN almost counts as old media, but it surges along with the same mixture of civic involvement, outrage, humor, and wide-ranging commentary and ideology that has marked it from the start.

CCN was set up in July 2001 by Cornwall residents who had helped establish the website, [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org). When the Cornwall Association, which sponsors the website, decided not to host a chat room, the CCN founding committee went to Yahoo! Groups instead. Thanks to the generosity and technical skill of Lazlo Gyorsok, the new group was launched.

The first message was posted by David Grossman on July 11, 2001: "I would appreciate seeing the advocates of repealing the approval of the CCS addition explain their position on this discussion page. That would also give an opportunity for the supporters of the CCS addition to explain their positions. We need debate on this important matter before we vote."

David got his wish. Fifty messages were logged in July; in August, there were 260. CCN's most active year so far was 2008 with the presidential election. Activity jumped to 600 messages that July and even more in October and November.

Politics is not the only topic, though it is probably the most frequent and hotly debated one. The CCN page on the Cornwall website states the ground rules: all messages must be signed with the sender's full name, and profanity and personal attacks are forbidden. Moderators enforced these rules in the early years, but now the site is governed primarily by the force of opinion. Hendon Chubb is the group's *owner*, a responsibility he is eager to share, but he views the role as manager, not knuckle rapper. If you want to join, go to the Cornwall website and click on the

Cornwall Community Network link.

On the sometimes raucous CCN, no one gets the last word, but Norma Lake, one of CCN's founders, does here: "The website and CCN, like the *Chronicle*, say a great deal about Cornwall. They are all good, a little quirky, witty, interesting, and intelligent. From time to time, CCN posters add a generous helping of spice. We are very lucky to have all three!" —Julie Schieffelin

## Memorial Day 2011

Memorial Day started with a bang, a huge early morning thunderstorm that poured buckets of rain on Cornwall. Thankfully, by

parade time the weather was sunny and crisp. Ralph Gold, master of ceremonies, thanked the large crowd in attendance for any prayers they had addressed to the deities of their choosing.

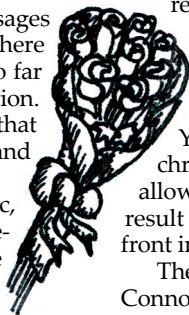
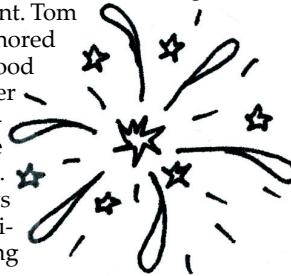
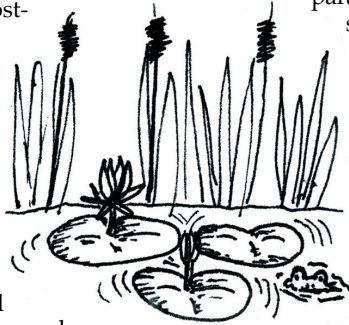
After the usual parade of civic groups, antique cars and enormous, gleaming emergency vehicles, the annual VFW Citizenship Award was announced.

Though the identity of the honoree is always a secret, even to the recipient, this year it was more mysterious than usual because the winner was traveling and unable to be present. Tom Hubbard was honored for 40 years of good counsel and other unpublicized assistance to the Town of Cornwall. This he has always offered with a "quiet and unassuming demeanor."

There were two speakers this year and their theme might be called the "Greatest Generations" because three generations involved in three different wars were remembered and celebrated. Scoville Soulé, himself a wounded World War II veteran, spoke movingly of the courage of his uncle Scoville Devan, who went to France with the YMCA during World War I after chronic lameness kept him from being allowed to enlist. He died in 1919 as a result of a gassing he received near the front in 1918.

The second speaker, U. S. Army Sgt. Connor O'Shaughnessy, who has recently returned from service in Afghanistan, attended the exercises with his grandfather Henry O'Shaughnessy, World War II veteran and retired Cornwall postmaster. Sgt. O'Shaughnessy spoke of his pride and gratitude, saying, "I am not here by myself. I am extremely proud to represent all the men and women in the service who gave their lives for our country and those who continue that tradition of service."

—Julie Schieffelin



## More From the 2010 Census

Recently released U.S. census data adds to the picture of how Cornwall's population changed between 2000 and 2010. As noted in the June *Chronicle*, our town's total population fell slightly over the decade from 1,434 persons to 1,420, a decline of just 1 percent. The new census figures tell us of some significant changes that occurred within our apparently stable population.

One change that will probably come as little surprise to most Cornwallians is that the number of children and youth living here has shrunk. In 2010, census takers found only 303 children and youth below 21 years of age. This is 61, or 17 percent, fewer than the ten years-ago figure for this age group. These numbers probably won't surprise the staff at CCS or the regional high school; both have experienced falling enrollments in most recent years.

Our overall working age group, Cornwallians between 21 and 64 years old, in 2010 stayed almost exactly even over the decade. It gained just two persons to grow from 818 to 820. But if you separate this large group into younger workers (ages 20 to 44) and older workers (those from 45 to 64) there were sharp differences in what happened in the intercensal decade. Cornwall's younger worker group shrank by nearly one-fifth (down by 18 percent) while the older worker group grew by an almost equal amount (up by 16 percent).

This pattern of an aging population was also reflected in the senior citizens category (those of us who are 65 years of age or older). This is where Cornwall experienced its most rapid growth. The number of senior citizens rose from 252 in the 2000 census to 297 in 2010, a gain of 18 percent.

If you want to see more details about what the 2010 census said about Cornwall, there is a longer report posted under "What's New" at [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org).

—David A. Grossman

## Welcome

Zackery Lee Skok  
to Valeria and Jesse Skok

## Good-bye to Friends

Robert Beecher  
Harriette K. Dorsen  
Julie C. Schieffelin  
Timothy Sofia  
Christian Douglas Zenk

## Congratulations

Emmanuella Sainz  
and Nicholas William Xatzis  
Harriet Anne Cleaveland  
and Leo Patrick Bouchard

## Land Transfers

Raymond A. and Carol G. Fontaine to Robert M. Munson and Stephen P. Kocis, land with buildings and improvements thereon, at 27 Cemetery Hill Road, for \$335,000.  
John C. and Kendra S. Shaw to Katherine A. Houk and Frederick R. Scoville, III, land with buildings and improvements thereon, at 66 Kent Road, for \$330,000.



## High (Elevation) Art at the Dump

Every year at the Art at the Dump exhibition we are surprised and thrilled by the creative genius stirring in Cornwall. Among the exhibits this year, one piece captured our attention: George Charleton's three-dimensional topographic map of Cornwall made from recycled corrugated cardboard. Explaining the genesis of the idea which resulted in his picture of our hilly terrain, George said, "I've long been enamored with the beauty of Cornwall." This, along with "an almost forgotten conversation with John Miller concerning Cornwall's streams," and an old piece of layered artwork were three things that conspired to crystallize the idea in his mind. But the biggest challenge in bringing the project to fruition, he said, was completing it in the mere ten days he allowed himself before the show opened.

While the closeness of lines on a regular contour map strictly tell us how hilly Cornwall is, George's three-dimensional map illustrates with superb clarity how all the geographic features are arranged, something that driving around the streets simply cannot do. "George's clever and careful exaggeration of Cornwall's topography gives a great feel for how the hills, valleys, and drainage system all fit together," said Patrick Hare of the Planning and Zoning Commission. "We are like the sherpas in Tibet," he said, "They knew the two sides of Everest but never how they fit together as two sides of the same mountain." With George's map, Cornwall's sherpas can now see the full picture.

"Cornwall's hills are the result of being in such close proximity to the (long defunct) major fault known as Cameron's Line," explained George, who found creating the holistic perspective of his map to be a gratifying project. "It's easy to imagine the glacial carving of that terrain, followed by unceasing water erosion and the general slope of the landscape down from the eastern boundary of town to the river at the western border."

One curious feature brought out by George's display is that although all the water draining out of the town ultimately makes it to the Housatonic River to our west, it leaves town initially in all four directions: to the north into the Hollenbeck and to the east and south into the Shepaug.

George's topographic map is on display in the community room at the Library. —Brenda Underwood



# Letters to the Chronicle

## CAFÉ LIFE IN WEST CORNWALL

Finally we can enjoy a little coffee house culture in West Cornwall! After returning from a semester in Paris, where to have a drink, or *prendre un verre*, is a sacred ritual that may occur at any time of day and for any length of time (though certainly beyond an hour), I was thrilled to discover that the Railroad Street Café has reopened its doors this season. Open from Thursday to Sunday, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., this neighborhood eatery, tucked away from the bustle of main roads, offers the spirit of the French bistro with colonial character. Patrons leisurely chatter over steaming mugs, peacefully peruse the local news publications, type away on their laptops, or absentmindedly nibble pastries à la recherche du temps perdu. In this quaint village that has lost none of its charm since the days of the steam-powered Housatonic locomotive, one can savor a moment of exquisite repose whether on the shaded front porch or the cozy interior. The décor, comfortable and casual, is a tasteful combination of country antiques and contemporary colonial pieces. Ms. Sue Kochman, the creative talent behind the New England Catering Company, has succeeded in tempting all our tastes and appetites. Aside from the classic canon of fancy espresso drinks, the café menu offers a mouth-watering assortment of breakfast goodies, including blue-

berry scones with lemon frosting and the ultimate carrot cake. For a more savory bite, try the bacon, egg, potato, and cheese pie. The lunch fare is an organic, fresh, and nutritious collection of soups, salads, and sandwiches. All the food is prepared in the kitchen on site by Ms. Kochman herself, or by members of her immediate family. Even if you stop in just to grab a coffee on-the-go, be prepared to run into someone you know. Cornwallians and residents of other nearby towns all find themselves to be neighbors on Railroad Street. With a warm cup and a tasty treat, I feel right at home.

—Mary Brunelli

## MISSING SIGN

Perhaps hard economic times and the destruction last year of one of only two Cornwall structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places have renewed interest in the good old days.

Another disappearance was of a sign, custom made with handwrought iron bracketing a Cathedral Pines board, hanging out in front of the former Rumsey Hall School Infirmary on an original stone and iron fence post that documented a small part of our history.

I believe we need such markers, particularly now with the loss of Rumsey. It had just been repaired. Please return. Thanks. —Ben Gray

## Cornwall Briefs

• **Sedgwick Monument:** You know where it is down in the Hollow on Route 43. Well, the old maple that used to stand guard there died, so the other day members of the CCS class of 2011 replaced it with another lovely tree, a beautiful 10-foot maple. It turns out that the original tree was planted by members of the CCS class of 1950. So says a nearby plaque that also tells us two members of that class were relatives of Gen. Sedgwick. The *Chronicle* would like to know who they are and who from the class of 1950 still lives in Cornwall. The general was the highest ranking Union officer killed in the Civil War and one of its great heroes.

• **Paving:** It's coming next month to many of the town roads in Cornwall Bridge: sand and sealer for such outstanding thoroughfares as Popple Swamp, Whitcomb Hill, Bald Mountain, Flat Rocks and my favorite, Pritchard. Also on the repair agenda are portions of Great Hollow and Great Hill.

• **DCS Solar:** This company made and installed the panels behind CCS and the town offices. Now we are about to take them up on a super offer to rent more solar installations at a variety of

town buildings, including the West Cornwall Firehouse, the transfer station, the Town Garage, and more panels for CCS. The price, according to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, is \$1 a month per installation, saving us about \$80 a month per building. How can DCS benefit, we asked the first selectman. His answer: "They get a big tax write-off. They're doing it with a bunch of other towns in the area."

• **Outdoor Furnace:** Donna and Ted Larson's outdoor wood furnace on their property in Cornwall Village is history. Once the CT DEP got into the act their case was lost even though they had obtained the proper town permits before installing the furnace. The Larsons, who are stalwart members of the Cornwall VFD, both work in town and their three kids all go to local schools. Ted said he will install an indoor woodburning furnace before next winter's wind and snow hit the northwest hills.

• **New Head at CCS:** Michael J. Croft of Washington has been hired as the new principal of CCS. Croft will succeed retiring principal Robert Vaughan as of July 1.

• **CCS Chorus and Band:** Competing against middle school and junior high school groups from around the region, the CCS chorus and band won three trophies at the Music in the Parks Competition on May 13. The chorus won the overall first-place trophy for having the highest score out of every chorus.

—John Miller



## Events & Announcements

**Alex's Lemonade Stand**, Saturday, July 2, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M., Cornwall Bridge Firehouse.

**Cornwall Community Barn Dance** with Jeff Walker, Jane Prentice, and Rachel Gall calling, Saturday, July 2, 7 to 10 P.M. at the Town Hall. *Still the Homegrown Band* playing. Suggested donation: \$3/child, \$5/adult. For more information: Jane or Jim at 672-6101.

**Library Events:** Yale professor and Cornwall resident Dolores Hayden will offer "Poets' Landscapes: A Workshop for Writers" Friday and Saturday, July 8, and 9, from 9 A.M. to noon. Time will be allocated for writing and discussion of participants' work. No previous experience is necessary. Limited to 10; fee \$60. Call the Library at 672-6874 to register. Brad Martin, associate professor of history at Bryant University and Cornwall writer, will read from and discuss his book, *The Other '80s: A Short History of America in the Age of Reagan*. Saturday, July 30, at 4 P.M. Brad will have books to purchase and sign.

**Motherhouse Jelly and Jam Workshop:** Learn to preserve the sweetness of summer and take home the fruits of your labors. July 9, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Local Farm. Potluck lunch. \$35/family. MUST preregister by emailing Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 672-0229.

**Baroque Cellobration Concert** on Saturday, July 9, 8 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Assn. Hear 17th- and 18th-century German, Italian, and French gems for solo and two cellos performed on period instruments. Ben Wolff and Christine Gummere performing. Concert free.

**CCT Guided Trail Walks for Families:** The Cornwall Conservation Trust is offering a series of guided trail walks suitable for all ages showcasing trails maintained by CCT and friendly to little hikers. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last about 45 minutes; they are cancelled for bad weather.

## Summer Magic

My grandmother and I used to catch fireflies in Cornwall Village and keep them in a jar. We fed them bits of grass and hoped they would survive. Poor things, they didn't. Don't let this confession deter you from sending a check to the *Chronicle* which definitely won't survive on bits of grass.



• **Sunday, July 10:** Day Preserve. A field and forest walk along an old farm road. Park at Gold's Pines next to the Firehouse.

• **Sunday, July 24:** Rattlesnake Preserve. View old stone bridges and a beaver habitat during this level woodsy walk. Park on Rattlesnake Road, two-tenths of a mile from Cream Hill Road.

• **Sunday, August 7:** Hike up Bloody Mountain to spectacular views of Cornwall Village. Park on Town Street, four-tenths of a mile from Route 128. Trail maps at [cornwallconservationtrust.org](http://cornwallconservationtrust.org). Contact Kristen Bedell with questions: 672-6014.

**Bag Balm and Duct Tape** author Dr. Beach Conger will speak on rural medicine at the Cornwall Historical Society on Sunday, July 10, from 2 to 3 P.M. Air conditioned, refreshments. Call 672-0505.

**One World, Many Stories**, the Library's summer children's program, begins July 13 with a performance of Polynesian hula dance, songs, and stories. New programs each week through August 3. Schedules and sign ups for the reading program at the Library [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org).

**Art in Cornwall:** Library: Jeff Hammond's photographs through July 23. Dick Frank's photographs start July 26. Opening reception: Sunday, July 31, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. *Me & Hue*, Lisa Keskinen's show, will be at the Wish House through the month. National Iron Bank will exhibit Ray Olson's artwork during July.

**War Moratorium: Cornwall Edition** revives at 6:30 P.M. Friday, July 15, at the Library. DJ D (a/k/a Dennis O'Neil) will present the music of the Vietnam War era. CD available free (donations welcome) at the Library or on Dody Wolff's front porch at 147 Popple Swamp Road.

**The Annual Rummage Sale** will take place on Saturday, July 16, Sunday, July 17, and Monday, July 18. (See insert for details.)

**The Democratic Town Committee** is meeting on Wednesday, July 20, at 7 P.M. at the West Cornwall Firehouse to endorse candidates for the November town election. For further information contact Jim Longwell at 672-6175.

**One-Hour Walking Tour of West Cornwall**, Saturday, July 23, 10 A.M. with Denis Curtiss. Sponsored by the Historical Society. Meet outside Barbara Farnsworth, Bookseller.

**Wish House Book Signings**, Saturday, July 30, 4 to 6 P.M. with April Stevens, "Edwin Speaks Up," and Valorie Fisher "Everything I Need to Know Before I'm Five," to benefit the Cornwall Child Center.

**Grumblng Gryphons Theater Arts Camp** for children 5 to 14, August 8 to 13. To register for camp you may call 672-0286 or [grumblnggryphons@yahoo.com](mailto:grumblnggryphons@yahoo.com).

**Senegal Library:** Cornwallian Zach Rudes is establishing a new library in Dakar, Senegal. Zach would like books "focusing on children through young adult, and classics in English and French." If you can help, please contact Tricia Collins at 672-4273 or Ruth Daley at 845-392-2198.

**Tax Collector News:** The first half payment of taxes is due July 1, 2011. Taxes not in excess of \$100, and motor vehicle taxes, shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2011. Payments must be postmarked by August 1, 2011 to avoid interest. Any tax bills not paid by August 1, 2011 will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5 percent per month and fraction thereof (including July). This means that even if you pay on August 2 you will be charged two months interest. No additional bills will be mailed for second installments. Please use the bill you received in July. Taxes may be paid at the Tax Office on Mondays from 1 to 4 P.M. and on Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M., or sent by mail addressed to: Cornwall Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. Taxpayers also have the option to pay online at [webtownhall.com](http://webtownhall.com), but there is a 2.99 percent charge for this service.

**Cans and Bottles:** The Selectmen's Office and the Transfer Station are making available redeemable bottles, cans, and some special metals to interested local charities and civic groups in Cornwall. Contact 672-4959 for details.

## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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