



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



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You're Invited! Regrets Only

Save the date! Saturday, August 1, and if it rains save August 2! The Town of Cornwall is throwing a 275th anniversary bash! Clear your calendar and put on some comfy shoes for dancing! You don't have to worry about parking, food, or entertaining the kids—the planning committee has got that covered!

(For a full schedule of events, please see insert.)

"We want this to be a real town celebration," says Priscilla Pavel, co-chair of the 275th Anniversary Committee. Pavel and Lynn Scoville lead the 10-member planning committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The group has been meeting almost every two weeks since February to fine tune ideas, work through logistics, and manage a \$20,000 budget. The selectmen allocated money for the celebration so that all events are free. Whenever possible, the committee has used local vendors.

Pavel said the committee expects about 500 to 600 people to turn out for the party. Invitations have been extended to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, local, state, and federal officials, as well as members of the area's eight mutual aid fire departments.

The festivities open August 1 at 2 p.m. with what promises to be a magical adaptation of James Thurber's *The 13 Clocks*, as interpreted by the Grumbling Gryphons

Theater Arts campers. Director Leslie Elias says children and artists will draw inspiration for costumes and prop design from illustrations of the late Marc Simont.

For those with a penchant for history, Joanne Wojtusiak, John Calhoun, and their scouts are mapping points of interest in the 11 cemeteries of Cornwall to create a kind of mystery tour. In scavenger-hunt style, visitors can look for spots like the final resting place of Henry, a former slave, who lies below a simple stone in the Scoville family plot. Calhoun will lead the afternoon discussion, "Discovering History in our Cemeteries."

Have a story to tell? Then head to the library where Jeremy Brecher will lend a friendly ear. The Cornwall Historical Society (CHS) has enlisted Brecher to curate an oral history of Cornwall. Stories will be recorded, maintained, and made available on the CHS website. Brecher invites anyone, whether it be a kid describing what she does for fun, or a family member recalling a story passed down through generations, to share his or her Cornwall experiences. (Don't worry about perfect recall. Brecher will edit the stories and correct any mistakes!)

At 4 p.m. color guards will lead out the parade, waving the newly unveiled Cornwall town flag, designed by the winner of

the Cornwall Association's Flag Contest. Local groups—including the Little Guild, members of Yelping Hill Association, and the United Church of Christ Cornwall (which not by coincidence celebrates its 275th anniversary)—are busy crafting floats. But more are always welcome! (Many have fond recollections of the floats prepared for the 250th celebration, like Le Char Allegorique des Artistes!)

At 5 p.m. dinner, music, and dancing begins. Dan Evans will run two spits for a sit-down, pulled pork and salad dinner. Look forward to desserts by Susan Saccardi, Joni Thitchener, and Matthews 1812 House.

With something for almost every age and taste throughout the celebration, the committee is hoping residents will kick back and enjoy their day. —Pam Longwell

Honored in Their Generations

By their affectionate memorials, our peaceful cemeteries link us with the past. On May 25, Ginia Gold conducted an affectionate memorial of her own by leading the service to decorate the graves of the 72 veterans in the North Cornwall Cemetery. Stepping in confidently in place of her late father, Charles, who died in January, she became

(continued on page 2)

JULY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064 Thursdays: Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7:30 pm CCS gym Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation 11:00 am call Debra 672-0229			1 ○ FULL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Tax Due Children's Program Bubble Technology 6 pm Library 	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex's Lemonade Stand 11 am–3 pm Cornwall Br. Firehouse Artist Reception Sari Goodfriend 3–6 pm Souterrain Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Summer Camp Session begins 9 am–5 pm Library Cornwall Ag Commission 7:30 pm Town Office 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall 	8 ☾ 4 th Q <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Program Desserts! 6 pm Library 	9	10	11
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical Society Curator's Talk 2 pm Town Hall 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon UCC 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Wandering Moose P&Z 7 pm Library Public Hearing at P&Z 7 pm Library 	15 ● NEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-Sizing Your Home for Seniors 2 pm Library Children's Program Author Talk 6 pm Library Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library Deadline: August Chronicle Copy 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC 6:30 pm Town Hall 	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–2 pm
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman's Society Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–Noon 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Program Wizard's Lab 6 pm Library 	23	24 ☾ 1 st Q	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Day: Cheese Pleeze 10 am–3 pm Olds' Field Artist's Reception Catherine Noren 4–6 pm Library Republican Caucus 7 pm Library
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCT Guided Walk 11 am Hare Preserve 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grumbling Gryphons Theater Arts Camp begins 9 am–2 pm Democratic Caucus 7 pm Library ZBA* 7:30 pm Library 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Program Pet Parade 6 pm Library 	30	31 ○ FULL	

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

the first woman, and the fifth generation of her family, to conduct it.

Memorial Day began here in 1868, when decorating the graves of Civil War soldiers was proclaimed nationally. Since then it has expanded in Cornwall to include veterans of all wars, including two German soldiers who settled in town after World War II. The North Cornwall graveyard is our fifth oldest cemetery; its first interment was in 1833. Now its management, and the presidency of the North Cornwall Cemetery Association which maintains it, is newly in the hands of Jim Longwell, whose old family plot lies close to the entrance.

How long has Ginia known that this job of leading the service and tour would fall to her? Forever: "The oldest child always took over," she says. Her great-great grandfather, the first Theodore Sedgwick Gold, started the tradition; after him his son Charles Lockwood Gold; his son, Ginia's grandfather Theodore (Ted) Sedgwick Gold; and her father, Charles Lockwood Gold, who led Memorial Day services for 45 years, were each in charge in their turn.

She sees her role as enhancing a sense of continuity with the lives behind all of the names that she cites on the tour. "These were people who lived here as far back as 180 years, yet we still remember them and celebrate them for what they did—for their contributions to the nation, the town and to its institutions, sometimes over many years," she says. Many of those attending have personal knowledge of the people that Ginia talks about. Those ties with the living make the North Cornwall tour a multi-generational event reaching into both past and present. "I love that there's such a mix of people who attend. Some have five or even six generations of their families there; some have one or two and others just join in."

Ginia invites relatives to give her more stories and anecdotes, and looks forward to being able to tell something about each name. She has no plans to make changes in the service, but recognizing how the cemetery has filled up from front to back as more land has been needed, she notes that the tour route could be changed.

Looking ahead, the *Chronicle* asked her what she foresees for the future of this family tradition. Will one of her five children continue it? She's not grooming any of them for the job, she says. She hopes one of them will take it on after her, but for now, "I'm not too worried about it." —Ann Schillinger

Rummage Tales

Cornwall's celebrated Rummage Sale, sponsored by the Woman's Society, is coming right up as you read this. (*Details in the insert.*) Part of the fun is that you never know what you're going to find there. And

the Rummage volunteers never know, either. The most surprising find was a diamond ring that turned up when Helen Hedden, mistress of the jewelry room, was sorting the donations. She wondered why someone would part with it, but luckily noticed an inscription that led to the family that had accidentally sent it along.

Stories abound of purchases gone awry. There's the wife who gave away a dish she didn't want, only to have her husband purchase it, exclaiming, "It's just like the one you have!" And there's Tad Foote's hat that Ruth hated: she would donate it and Tad would buy it back. Bee Simont remembers that former resident Marshall Kenney never owned a suit and never wanted one, but his father insisted. So he grudgingly bought one at the Rummage. It was his father's.

The prize for quick turnaround goes to a hiker on the Appalachian Trail whose Cornwall friends invited him at the last minute to stay and join them at a wedding. But of course he had no appropriate clothes. It just happened to be Rummage weekend, so they completely outfitted him, shoes and all. Everything went back on Sunday.

And of course there were the miscreants, like the dealer of small antiques who gathered up her choices and hid them under a table until "half price" time arrived. Jerry Blakey, who with Pat runs the men's clothing area at Mohawk, donated a good leather jacket of his son's which disappeared along with the shoplifter who was trying it on. The next year he brought another, and again! After a third incident, they figured out the guy's M.O.—he strolled out of the area with the jacket over his arm, as if to check out the books before paying, and escaped through the side door and down the ramp.

Ann Schillinger remembers the years when Priscilla Mauro, longtime co-chairman of the event with Thalia Scoville, slept in her camper down by the Parish House for several nights before the sale because so much furniture was visibly stored outside. Once she was awakened by noises of a car driving up and things moving around under the awning. "She must have scared the driver to death," said Ann, "when she suddenly materialized at his window while his companion was searching and said very politely, 'We open tomorrow at 9 A.M.'"

At one of my own early Rummages, I bought a lavender cotton pullover that I love to this day. I wore it to a party at the lake and noticed a woman circling me, clearly wanting to say something. Someone introduced me to Phyllis Nauts, and after some chitchat she asked, "Where did you get that sweater?" "The Rummage!" I said. "I knew it!" she beamed. "It was mine!"

Many acquisitions bring enjoyment for years to come. Artist Ellen Moon, who recently spoke on creativity to the

Woman's Society, brought along a prized, well-worn doll acquired at the Rummage for 15 cents when she was 5 years old. But what if you buy something you regret when you get home, or tire of after a few years? You just donate it back to the Rummage, of course. It's the Cornwall way of life.

—Carol Schneider

Goodbye to Friends

Jean Ferriss Leich

Daniel Gracey

Congratulations

Elizabeth Sawicki and Erik Walder

Calla Fankhanel and Brian Morgan

Who was Gillie O'Wick?

And why is he or she buried on my Great Hollow Road property? These are the kinds of questions you have to ask yourself when you own a very old house that you suspect has a rich and spooky history.

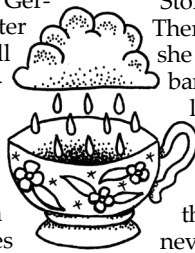
When the snows of this past winter melted to reveal a tombstone on my property, it finally sparked my interest in tracing the history of this house, hoping to learn not only about the tombstone but to find answers to two other burning questions.

First, why was there a big *H* on the chimney? That seemed like a no-brainer. Somebody with a family name that started with the letter *H* had built the chimney and probably, most of the house. This house, after all, started off as a simple one-room structure and was added onto in a number of quirky ways over the decades. So some research at the town hall (thank you, Vera!) revealed that this was probably the case. A family named Hopkins owned the house in the 1840s. Question asked and answered? Not so fast.

In the 1850s, a guy named Edmund Harrison married Ruth Hopkins and it seems likely that the two lived in the Hollow until 1894 when somebody by the name of Hotchkiss bought the place. Will we ever know which of these three *H*'s put his initial so proudly on the chimney?

Next question: Why had somebody embedded what looks like a cube of marble into the back of a built-in bookshelf and engraved "The Wick" on it? First assumption, of course, is that a family named "Wick" lived here and "The Wick" was maybe what their friends and neighbors called their home, as in "Let's all meet down at the Wick for wine and cheese."

However, and now we're back to the tombstone again, there is no record of a family named Wick or O'Wick ever owning this house. Emily Harrison, the granddaughter of Edmund Harrison, did marry somebody named Wick but



it's unclear if the two ever lived here. Further, by 1956 when the tombstone was planted on the property, the house was owned by a family with absolutely no connection to either the Wicks or the Harrisons.

OK, so now all kinds of intriguing scenarios are swirling around in my imagination, but I'm sure that the real story is better than anything I might come up with because, after all, truth is stranger than fiction. So if you've got any clues that could help me get to the bottom of this mystery, please be in touch! My phone number is 860-248-3047.

—Cynthia Williamson

in quivery

what silence said
and said again
the tongue was told
to go ahead
and lick the honey
from the bee
as flowers smiled
in quivery

—Lois Beckwith

Cornwall Artists Try New Stuff

The takeaway from an afternoon of touring Cornwall's art studios is this: Just about everyone is experimenting with computers, relying on them for everything from engineering to color washes.

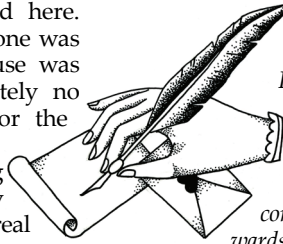
David Colbert has been the organizer of the studio tour for most of the 10 years it's been offered. Held this year on June 6, the tour opened nine studios and shops for visitors.

Tim Prentice's barn had wall-mounted works available for sale. A troop of little kids played with Tim's musical instruments accompanying the wind-driven artworks when I was there. Outdoors the sculptures rustled, shivered, spun in the breeze.

Curt Hanson's studio was open and he was inside painting quietly in the corner surrounded by his work. A laptop beside him showed photographs which referred to the work on the easel.

Richard Griggs's hanging sculptures flickered in the woods beside the drive to his studio. Indoors, Richard was sorting through a box of computer hard-drive pieces which he harvests from a local private school. He relies on "found stuff" like this to supply his imagination.

Catherine Noren's beautiful prints of her photographs show homely things like glasses in the top rack of the dishwasher and parsley in a glass pitcher. Her computer software can alter color and superimpose images, like the 19th-century text of her great-grandmother's wedding contract in old German script over an image of red amaryllis.



RUSTY

A memorial service for Rusty T. Cheney will be held at Mohawk Ski Area on Friday, July 24, at 5 P.M. All are welcome; dress is informal. Afterwards we will celebrate with a barbecue, salad, beer, and beverages. Those wishing to contribute food are asked to bring desserts. Please RSVP if staying for the meal on the website: rustycheney.wordpress.com under "Celebrations." We really need a rough idea of numbers.

Our thanks to all in the Cornwall community for your amazing kindness and support.

—Hugh, Lynn, Hope, Ted, and Tyler

NEVER SAY NEVER

At the town's Memorial Day observance, in an effort to make a little joke, I suggested that Cornwall, Connecticut, "didn't have a dog" in the 200-year-old Battle of Waterloo. I spoke too soon.

Cornwall resident Lucy Fielding stopped me to say that her ancestor Baron Hussey Vivian was an officer on the left flank of the British line. Vivian's hussars made the final cavalry charge of the day sweeping all before them.

Gordon Ridgway then allowed as how his

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ancestor Lt.-Col. James MacDonell of the Coldstream Guards held the gate at the Chateau Hougoumont against the onslaught of Napoleon's troops and received the praise of the Duke of Wellington for his efforts.

The next person I saw was Dominique Lasseur who agreed that he probably had a few relatives at Waterloo—on the French side, of course!

—Lisa L. Simont

THE BEAR'S SIDE OF THE STORY

I'm off in the woods on the Cornwall/Goshen line, rubbing my fat ursine ass on a rotting white birch. It isn't yet noon but I'm very thirsty, so I decide to seek water in one of several streams that originate atop Mohawk Ski Area. This means crossing Route 4 near the top of what is known as Bunker Hill. Just as I'm crossing, along comes this balding geezer in his crummy maroon Honda Element. And boom we collide: foreign car and native species. My right thigh hurt like hell and I left a couple of toenails in his lousy left front tire. I quickly wandered off to nurse my wounds but, hey, hey, best of all, I put the SOB's car out of commission. I smile!



And Don Bracken has got lovely new paintings to look at. There's also *Night Music*, a vinescape twined with fiber optic filaments which pulse and glow with colored lights. All this controlled with a remote!

Bob Parker's studio is an Aladdin's cave of small portraits, bronze "tombs" (a new pursuit), tin soldiers, and much, much more. I could have stayed all afternoon.

The Spotted Dog Gallery and Fine Arts Framers, both in Cornwall Bridge, were open to visitors to show their wares and resources. Frame local!

David Colbert's studio shows the seasonal range of his work. Outdoors are the summer projects like the rusted steel "platonic totems," freestanding, faceted, and tall. Inside the studio were painted aluminum wall plaques in subtle dark colors.

Dave's winter work was up on his laptop, a screen full of fidgeting, interwoven lines which he calls a "geoplatonic web." He's also trying out various 3-D printers.

—Lisa L. Simont

Cornwall Briefs

•**Algrant Show Change:** You have to be 21 years or older to participate. That hasn't changed. But this year artists aged 18 to 20, chosen by lottery, can participate if space is available.

•**CCS 2015-2016:** We visited the school office to try and get a look at the probable fall enrollment. With the current school

year coming to a close, Cornwall had 92 students in K through 8. Fifteen students are graduating and eight are likely moving across the road from the child center. That would put the upcoming student body in the low 80s. All of which is subject to young families moving into and out of town. The other bit of news is that grades one and two will be combined for 2015-2016.

•**CT \$\$:** Did you ever wonder if the state of Connecticut offers any money to Cornwall in lieu of taxes the town can't levy on state park land? The answer is we get some funds, but not much. A check with town Finance Director Barbara Herbst indicates Cornwall got \$18,084 for the current fiscal year, which is expected to go up to \$19,318 in fiscal 2015-2016. But, Barbara added, the item is not counted on by the town because "we're never quite sure what we're going to get."

•**If You Care** where future cell towers are placed in Cornwall and the regulations that control their builders then you should attend a P&Z public hearing to take place at 7 P.M. at the library on Tuesday, July 14. That is when you can learn about and vote on a proposed amendment to the existing rules on locations for cell towers in Cornwall. So far, a lot of talk but no new towers in town.

—John Miller

Addition

The June *Chronicle's* story about Cornwall graduates did not list Billy Cain. He graduated from Salisbury School and is on his way to Cornell in the fall.

Events & Announcements

New Editor. Chris Gyorsok has taken over the reins as *Chronicle* and community calendar editor from the capable hands of Louise Riley as of the previous issue. The email address continues to be calendar@cornwallchronicle.org.

Art in Cornwall.

At the Souterrain Gallery the exhibit of photography by Sari Goodfriend "Home & Away" continues. An artist's reception will be held Saturday, July 4, 3 to 6 P.M.

The Cornwall Library's exhibit "Patterns, Shadows & Reflections" by artist Joan Morosani continues through July 18. Next up is a photography exhibit by Catherine Noren, "Kitchen Light," that opens July 21. An artist's reception will be held Saturday, July 25, 4 to 6 P.M.

Lemonade Fundraiser. Reilly Hedden will host her 11th annual Alex's Lemonade Stand on July 4 from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse. All donations will go to fight childhood cancer.

Historical Society's Raechel Guest will present her curator's view of the CHS summer exhibit "Moo! Dairy Farming Then & Now" on Sunday, July 12, at 2 P.M. at the town hall. The talk and slide show will be followed by refreshments and a viewing of the exhibit at the society at 7 Pine Street. The event is free; donations are welcome.

On Saturday, July 25, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., the CHS will host its annual Family Day, "Cheeze Pleeze!" The event will be held at the Olds' Field at the foot of Pine Street in Cornwall Village. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic on Monday, July 13, noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC main office. Questions? Contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Senior Luncheon. Meet, greet, and eat at the Wandering Moose on Tuesday, July 14, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. No reservations necessary. For information call Bob Potter at 672-6191.

July Celebrations

Don't let all the booms and crashes of illicit local fireworks deter you from sending a fabulous check to the *Chronicle* to keep all the news flowing. Thanks!



Northwest Corner Triad is hosting a presentation for seniors on right sizing one's home and personal possessions on Wednesday, July 15, at 2 P.M. at the library. Speakers will be estate valuation specialist Peggy O'Brien, principal of SoundAdvisors, and Bill Harding, principal of WGH Family Estate and Liquidation Services. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are encouraged by calling Tara Decker at 860-435-5222 X 120.

Grumbling Gryphons is now accepting registrations for a theater arts camp to be held at Cornwall Town Hall July 27 to August 1, Monday through Saturday from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M. each day. An additional theater arts intensive will be offered for older children the same week from 2 to 3 P.M. Monday through Friday. The camp will perform James Thurber's *The Thirteen Clocks* for Cornwall's 275th Birthday Celebration. For more information about theater camp and to enroll, call director Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or email grumblinggryphons@gmail.com. Some partial and full scholarships are still available.

Caucus Season: The Cornwall Republican Town Committee will hold a caucus to nominate candidates for municipal offices up for election this November. Republicans and independents are invited. The caucus will be held on Saturday, July 25, at the Cornwall Library at 7 P.M. Contact Chairman Brian Savin at siwanoy@aol.com or 672-6777 for more information.

The Cornwall Democratic Town Committee will hold its caucus to nominate candidates for municipal office, and to transact other business, on Monday, July 27, at 7 P.M. at the library. Email Chairman Rick Wolkowitz at Richard-Wolkowitz@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

At the Cornwall Library

Children's programs are held Wednesday evenings in July. All events are free, and all are at 6 P.M. Space is limited so please contact the library to sign up.

- July 1, Bubble Technology, presented by the New Children's Museum.
- July 8, Desserts! A parent/child non-cooking class with pastry chef Tommy Juliano.
- July 15, Iza Trapani makes a return engagement to talk about her popular children's books and how she creates her illustrations.

- July 22, Wizard's Lab, presented by the New Children's Museum.
- July 29, Pet Parade, a fun time to show off your furry (or not) loved one.

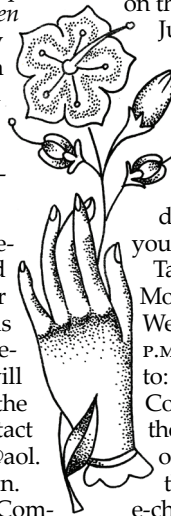
Also: Summer camp for kids, July 6 through 10.

CCT Guided Trail Walks: The Cornwall Conservation Trust will offer a series of guided trail walks to showcase trails maintained by CCT which are friendly to hikers of all ages. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last approximately 45 minutes. Hikes will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain and thunderstorms. The line-up for the summer of 2015:

- Sunday, July 26: Hare Preserve
 - Sunday, August 9: Ballyhack Preserve
 - Sunday, August 23: Hart Farm Preserve
- Trail maps with parking locations can be found at cornwallconservationtrust.org.

Tax Time. The first half payment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2014 is due July 1, 2015. Taxes not in excess of one hundred dollars and Motor Vehicle taxes shall be due and payable in full on July 1, 2015. Payments must be postmarked by August 3, 2015 to avoid interest. No additional bills will be mailed for second installments due in January, 2016. Please use the bill you received in July.

Taxes may be paid at the tax office on Mondays from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. and on Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 P.M. 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 cornwallct.org. There is a 2.95 percent charge for this service. Or you may pay with an e-check.



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