CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 4: NUMBER 5

JUNE 1994

Budging the Budget

The Town Meeting held on Friday, May 20, started off with a motion to adjourn. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway wanted to postpone voting on the proposed budget until it was revised to include the final Region One school budget figures. The lower that budget, he reasoned, the lower the mill rate, and the less likelihood of over-taxation. However he withdrew his motion to allow discussion.

On May 3, for the first time ever, Cornwall voted down the proposed Region One budget, along with all the other Northwest Corner towns. And then on May 18 the voters did it again. The \$120,000 cut that had been made was apparently not enough, and so the Board of Education does not know exactly what Cornwall's share of Region One's budget will be.

The meeting continued with a presentation of the proposed Cornwall town budget by Ridgway, Board of Finance Chairperson Ralph Gold, and BOE Chairperson Dianne Heiny. The highlights:

- Total budget is \$3,598,911.
- Town government is budgeting \$1,411,222, about \$40,00 less than last year.
- Capital expenditures mostly for roads and bridges \$394,955, up \$60,000 from last year.
 - BOE budget \$1,792,734, up

\$113,271 from last year. (Approximately \$686,306 of this sum is for Region One tuition, a \$73,000 increase.) These numbers will eventually be reduced.

Bottom line: Revenue to be raised from taxes is up by about \$152,000, or 5.7 percent, requiring an increase in the mill rate.

Many of the approximately 65 people at the meeting wanted to vote on the budget there and then, particularly as any further cuts in the Region One budget will be relatively insignificant to Cornwall's budget. However, the majority voted to adjourn the meeting until June 3 at 8 p.m. This will allow those people who had been informed that there would be no budget vote at the May 20 meeting to participate.

But if the Region One budget is voted down again on June 2, we'll be back where westarted. Watch for further developments in this complex saga. — Celia Senzer

So Much Owed to So Few

Heart attack, house afire, stranded up a mountain — the Cornwall Rescue Squad is there with trained and caring volunteers. And be assured: those yellow rubber coats putting out a fire in your smoke-filled basement, those comforting fellow citizens easing you onto a gurney, are professionals in every sense of the word — save salary.

Basic training for either firefighter or medic takes 80 to more than 100 weekend and evening hours. Then come the extra courses such as rope rescue for firefighters and IV certification for emergency medical technicians (EMT's). Twice-monthly drills set up by training director Pat Quinn and assistant chief Jim Vanicky, and periodic recertifications conducted by paramedic Joan Pelletier, are part of the program. (With state and federal agencies breathing down their necks, volunteer rescue squads have to maintain the same rigid standards as full-time salaried units.) The rewards for all this labor of love? A close circle of likeminded friends, pride in the dedication and competence of your unit, and fulfillment of a drive for community service.

Aside from the ever-increasing demands for training and the constant upgrading of equipment, the greatest change in emergency response in recent years has been the 911 system. Serving 19 area towns, our 911 center in Litchfield sorts out incoming calls for help with regard to the nature of the emergency and the rescue squads closest to the scene. This information is relayed to rescue personnel by beepers, pagers, and two-way radio. Radio communication has largely replaced the phone and the fire alarm.

(continued on page 2)

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **SUNDAY** MONDAY **FRIDAY** SATURDAY 3 4 Ø. Susan B. Anthony Project: counseling (2) W. Cornwall and support services for victims of sexual The Boys Club 10am Women's Groups FQ FM 16 23 abuse or domestic violence, women in 10am Cadwell's Cadwell's (p.4) 10am UCC***** (p.4) transition, and single parents. Call 672-3291. Economic Develop-For details about a July training program for volunteers ment Program 7:30pm Town Hall (p.4) interested in assisting victims of sexual Computer Open abuse/assault, call Nancy Mason, 489-3798. House 2-6pm CCS (p.4) 10 11 **6**Conservation Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse Kugeman Village dedication 11am Comm. 7:30pm Mill Corn. Housing Corp. (No Poetry Reading **Brook Fishing Pond*** June-Aug.) 7:30pm UCC# Park & Rec 7:30pm 256 Kent Road Canby Singers 8:15pm CCS (p.4) Town Office (p.4)Bd. of Selectmen Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall 8pm Town Hall* 13 12 14 FLAG DAY **15** 16 **17** 18 Dem. Town Comm. Paint-the-Town Day Cornwall Lib. art Bd. of Ed. 5pm Last day to mail in Celebration with voter registration cards (p.4) exhibit: paintings, Marc Simont 7:30pm Town Hall CCS Lib. and Auction (p.4) Jubilee School 7pm Rep. Town Comm. UCC* (p.4) 7:30pm Mohawk Bd. of Finance "Voices" to benefit P & Z 8pm Town Hall Hous. Riv. Comm. CCC 4pm Cornúbia 7:30pm CCS Lib. 7:30pm CCS Lib. Hall (p.4) 19 FATHER'S DAY 20 22 23 24 25 Hammond 21 Beach opens (p.4) Albert Waller's film HVRHS Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse **HVRHS** Senior CCS Graduation "Torrington" 4pm Cornwall Lib. (p.4) Deadline for Soccer Bd. of Selectmen Awards ceremony Graduation 6pm Camp applic. (p.4) 8pm Town Hall 4pm* Last day for dog HVRHS Bd. of Ed. licenses (p.4) 7pm HS Lib. Strawberry Festival 6-8:30pm UCC¶ 26 27 28 29 **30** Bring rummage for the July 30 rummage ZBA 8pm Town Hall* Park & Rec 7:30pm sale to the UCC Town Office Parish House after Iuly 1. For early storage call Polly Calhoun (672-6205) or Priscilla Mauro (672-6969).

(continued from page 1)

The Cornwall Rescue Squad is called out over 100 times a year in all kinds of weather and at all times of day or night. Inthe case of medical calls, two EMTs are

required for every ambulance response. (Medical calls involve stabilizing and, in most instances, transporting accident victims to the hospital under close observation and care.) In the case of the fire and rescue vehicles, the number of trucks going out depends on the nature of the emergency, but generally all of them are dispatched "just in case." Except for purely medical emergencies, both ambulance and fire personnel are usually dispatched.

If it sounds tough to be a volunteer rescue squad member, it is. But fortunately for us, service to the community for some becomes a way of life. Witness Ed Whitcomb, over 50 years a fireman, out there today directing traffic at the scene, and that all-time champ, Fred Bate, over 50 years on both fire and ambulance squads, still driving the ambulance when needed. Add to these the numerous 20- and 30-year veterans from both branches of the rescue squad and be impressed.

Other 20-year vets are in the making, but more trainees are always welcome and needed. Currently, the medics are particularly in need of reinforcements. Volunteering is alive and well in Cornwall. May it ever be so.

— Scoville Soulé

Building Boomlet

The May meeting agenda of the Planning and Zoning Commission showed that spring has stimulated some building activity. Approved were a new house for Lonnie Carter on his Town Street, CHC affordable lot; a pole barn for Jim Prentice; and various additions for the Zuckermans, Edlers, and Yohes.

A communication from P&Z attorney Tom Byrne reported that Toby Cole, et al., have petitioned the Appellate Court for permission to appeal the Superior Court's dismissal of the lawsuit regarding the revised sawmill regulations. Byrne has filed an objection to this appeal and will keep us informed.

— Ginny Potter

How Sweet It Is

Drilling all those holes, lugging sap pails, stoking the evaporator late at night — this is fun? But maple syrup is an ample reward. Many in Cornwall "boiled" during this rather remarkable sugaring year. Heidi Hedden and her family reported excellent, sweet sap — 4 percent sugar in the first two runs, according to Steve. Normal is 2.5 percent. The Quinns of West Cornwall reported voluminous sap. Anita and Allyn Hurlburt reported that they stopped boiling before the sap stopped flowing. The Ridgways & Stevenses — Cornwall's larg-

est producers — spoke of excellent quality, high sugar, and good volume. Other producers included Irv Robbins, the Fred Scoville family, Robert and Don Whitford, Priscilla Mauro, Brian Lorch, Roger and Beth Samuels, and Philip, Joyce, and Ellen (chief taster) Hart at Cherry Hill Farm.

Although the cold weather in late February delayed the beginning of sap season, the continuous winter cold kept all the sap down and available for sugar season. Approximately 425 gallons were made in Cornwall, the majority of which were medium amber. Prices locally range from \$10 to \$12 per quart and \$38 to \$42 per gallon.

Cornwall's syrup makers unanimously agreed that this was an excellent season. While a multitude of factors affect the amount and quality of sap, making prediction difficult, normal cold winters and slow warming in March and April definitely are sweet signs of an abundant year.

— Philip W. Hart

Cover Contest

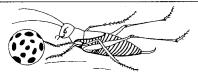
The Board of Finance, which is responsible for assembling and publishing the annual Town Report, needs artistic assistance. The front and back report covers should celebrate the most important thing that happened in the past year. For 1993-1994 it has to be the winter weather.

Photographers and artists working in any reproducible medium are welcome to submit designs for consideration. The winner will express most vividly the rigors of the past six months; children's work is particularly welcome. The contest will be judged ruthlessly, and without recourse or appeal, by the clerk of the board, Lisa Lansing. Please leave entries in her room at the Town Office or with the librarians.



Sunflowers were overall favorites in the Rumsey Hall "Window of Opportunity" competition to choose a mural for the attic window space of the building. Cindy Kirk's exuberant collection of sunflowers was the first entry submitted, and judges Joan Edler, David Orrell, and Gordon Ridgway chose it to bloom at Rumsey from Memorial Day through the year. The popular vote also went to sunflowers, but to the more restrained two blooms painted by Erica Prud'homme. The judges awarded second and third place to Tim Prentice and Peter Ketchum.

Not many of the self-effacing artists such as Goya, Matisse, Picasso, or Michelangelo were present to hear Tim Prentice announce the winner and honorable mentions, but Cindy's beaming face as she held her winning entry was as bright and cheery as her flowers. In her accep-



tance speech she gave credit to Nora's Nursery in Cornwall Bridge, whose owner, in the dead of winter, invited Cindy in to see some sunflowers. Among the honorable mentions and awards were those for the Fire Department Challenge (firey flames in the window), Politically Incorrect (fully clothed men picnicking with naturally clad women à la Manet), Politically Correct (historical Americans), Totally At Sea (marine subjects), Enigmas (works the judges couldn't figure out), and Most Seductive (beautiful women). Although neither a Family Award nor one for the most submissions was announced, the Cruse family would quality for the first and Tim Prentice for the second.

We hope that the success of this event — 32 artists, 58 designs — will ensure its becoming an annual one. — Anne Baren

Congratulations

James F. Longwell to Pamela M. Farrell

Land Transfers

Estate of Diane Stearns to Davis F. Stearns, land on Town Street, \$52,600.

Estate of Herbert S. Whitman to Eric and Janet Stones, house and land on Pine Street, \$186,000.

Fannie Pond to Lawrence N. VanValkenburgh and R. Duane Norris, house and land on Scoville Road, \$160,000.

Ronald J. and Martha K. Bushey to Ronald P. Laigle, Jr., land on Grange Hall Road, \$50,000.

Onward and Upward

The Cornwall Child Center auction on May 1 netted over \$20,000 and the raffle \$3,393. All this wonderful money will assure the completion of the new building — for fall occupancy, we hope. Of course, there will be finishing needs, and additional efforts to raise those funds will be made. Meanwhile, watching the structure take form can be a satisfaction for this community which has been so helpful.

The purchaser of the winning raffle ticket for the Ingersoll Shaker bed was Michael McEachern, uncle of a CCC child.

- Ginny Potter.

High School, Farewell!

The commencement ceremonies for Housatonic's class of 1994 will take place Friday, June 24, at 6 p.m. Cornwall is well represented by this year's ten graduates, whose destinations range from Massachusetts to Brazil.

Clea Fowler is planning an education in recreational forestry at Sterling College in Vermont. Jessica Gelerter has decided on Clark University in Massachusetts to focus on chemistry in a pre-medical pro-

gram. Jason Harmon will be majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Connecticut, Torrington branch. Michael Kesl is heading for the University of Maine at Farmington, Maine, where he will major in elementary education.

Ronnie Lizanna, a graduate of Cornwall Consolidated School who now lives in Sharon, will be working in outdoor education and attending a mountaineer survival school. Sarah Lyon is taking a year-long exchange with Rotary International in Brazil before she continues her education. Justin MacNeil is uncertain about where he will attend college next year but plans to attend a four-year institution. Sean McLoughin, another relocated CCS graduate - he now lives in Canaan plans to attend a school for stunt people. Amanda Roepke will be furthering her education at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, Georgia, and Patricia Rummens plans to attend Northwest State University in Danbury. — Sarah Lyon

8th Graders March On

Nineteen CCS students will take the traditional march up the aisle at 7 p.m. on June 23 to receive their diplomas. As one envious sixth-grader put it, "They love the idea of going on to new schools and new adventures — but they have their regrets, too."

Most of the graduates, as usual, will attend Housatonic Valley Regional High School — Adam Augustyn, Audrey Augustyn, Matthev Budge, Chandra Casteel, Melissa Dolan, Jacob Gingert, Tifinie Haber, Corey Lazar, Davina Piker, Peter Ripley, Eric Rosenbeck, Rebecca Wolfe, and Lea Zimany.

Aleigh Bracken and Janna Kenniston will attend Kent School, and Graeme Clark is going to Salisbury School. Caroline Johnson is heading for Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Massachusetts, Vincent Merola to a military academy in Florida, and P.J. O'Dell to Oliver Wolcott in Torrington.

Congratulations to all! — Bob Potter

A Candidate Appears

Eunice Groark, Lieutenant Governor and 1994 A Connecticut Party gubernatorial candidate, spoke to the May 10 Democratic Town Committee meeting. Her audience: about 75 people. Her topic: Connecticut's economic future. Introducing Ms. Groark, committee chairman John Miller said, "We want to hear what all the candidates have to say."

— Charles Osborne



Cuban Family Awaited

The Refugee Resettlement Committee has been assured the sponsorship of a Cuban family, Humberto and Sara Ane and daughters Estrella, nine, and Alicia, seven.

Committee members are awaiting news of their arrival date, and have been busy preparing a West Cornwall apartment. Joan Edler (672-6789) is coordinating donations of household items and furnishings. Funds are still needed to support the family through their transition time in the U.S. Donations may be sent to the United Church of Christ; checks should be made out to the Deacons' Fund and earmarked "Refugee." Volunteer drivers will be needed once the family arrives. If you can offer a ride once in a while, please call Treasa Pattison (672-4453). Contributions of furnishings, money, or time are most welcome and appreciated. — Jill Gibbons

Chronicle Art on Display

The Cornwall Chronicle is possibly the bestdecorated small-town newsletter in the country. The current Library art show is devoted to Cornwall Chronicle illustrations. Come see all your old favorites, including: Joan Edler's Cornwall gardener - surrounded by gnats, of course (May '93); a lightly-clad beach babe by Marc Simont, sipping a drink through a straw (June '91); Tim Prentice's February '93 drawing of Rumsey Hall decked out as a country store (not a bad idea!); a rocket-powered cow on wheels by Michael Gellatly (July '93); a beautiful ear of corn by Erica Prud'homme (August '92); and much more! For only \$20 you can order your very own signed print of any illustration. - Alfred Bredenberg

Special Olympics Champs

On April 30, Julie Cavanaugh, Natasha Cole, and Wendi Thitchener participated in the Litchfield County Area Games for the Special Olympics. All three received medals for different events in the swim team competition. Natasha has qualified to go on to the state games in New London starting June 10. Congratulations to all.

- Joan Thitchener

Emmy For Jeremy

Our own Jeremy Brecher has just won an Emmy award at the regional Emmy competition in Boston. "Roots of Roe," a CPTV-Connecticut Humanities Council's documentary on the history of the abortion and reproductive rights controversies in Connecticut, won Emmys for "best documentary," "best direction" and "best writing." Jeremy was the writer. The program also won a "Cine Golden Eagle" and Jeremy has revised the script for possible broadcast on the PBS network.

— John Miller

Events & Announcements

Fair Plans: This year's Agricultural Fair, to be held August 27, will honor those who, on a large or small scale, are part of Cornwall's agricultural economy. Residents with goods produced in town may sell or advertise them at the fair. Manufactured items must contain some Cornwall



THANKS TO SO MANY

The Cornwall Child Center would like to thank the whole town of Cornwall for its wonderfully generous response to our appeal for auctionable goods and services, and thanks to those who came to our auction and spent so freely to help us complete our building. Many, many thanks to you all.

— Teddy Bury

DEAR EDITOR

Please ask for my book, The Seven Day Quilt, to come home. Thanks.

I love your sheet. — Polly Calhoun

POETIC RIPOSTE

The gifted Tennysanyone Must be the Muses' favorite son. How startlingly appropriate That he's the Poet Larryate.

– Jim Cooley

agricultural material. Logo design and sap pail decorating are two new fair categories. A free sap pail will be given to anyone to decorate in any way desired and then to enter at the fair. Call Jayne Ridgway (672-4959) for pails and information.

Volunteers Needed: Women's Emergency Services, a domestic violence agency serving the Northwest Corner, is seeking volunteers to provide hotline counseling, legal advocacy, and other services for battered and violated women and their children. A 40-hour training session for anyone interested will begin in late July and end in September. For more information call 824-1491 or 824-1080.

Hallway Art at CCS: Thanks to the inspiration of Art Gingert, and the hard work and dedication of Art Gingert, Cynthia Jerram (CCS art teacher), and some parents and students, CCS hallways have been transformed into an artistic feast for the eyes. Special thanks to the CCS PTO for contributing to this project.

Business Business: At a June 1 (7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall) meeting, anyone interested in Cornwall's economic development or involved in business can have a follow-up discussion of the regional program presented last month by the Northwest Council of Governments. Linda Cardini, NWCOG executive director, will explain the process of applying for development grants. The Cornwall Association will present plans for a local business registry, and there will be time for open discussion.

July 4th Preview: Plans for the big weekend include the picnic on the green on Sun., July 3, 11:30 to 4, with food, games, and a D.J. Rain date is Mon., July 4.

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Events & Announcements

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The "Boys Club" Redux: Once upon a time a group of Cornwall men known as the "Boys Club" met every morning around ten at what is now Cadwell's to discuss and solve the problems of the world. For anyone interested, beginning June 2, Table 8 next to the piano at Cadwell's will be reserved on Thurs. at ten for such a group.

SummerWomen's Groups: Women interested in joining or starting a weekly/biweekly group to meet in members' homes for discussion and support are invited to an organizational meeting Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m. in the UCC Day Room. Or call Anne Baren, 672-6637, or Philla Osborne, 672-6296.

Kugeman Dedication: Connecticut Housing Commissioner Henry S. Scherer, Jr., will be the featured speaker among the dignitaries present for the dedication of Kugeman Village on June 8, at 11 a.m., an event to which all Cornwall residents are invited. Refreshments will be served, and guests will be invited to visit apartments.

Mohawk Five-Year Plan Review: At its meeting on June 6, the Board of Selectmen will hold its annual review of Mohawk Ski Area's five-year plan. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Computer Open House: Parents are welcome to come to the CCS computer room anytime from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7. Students will be on board to show computer illustration. Other students' work will be on display.

Canby Singers: On Saturday, June 11, at 8:15 the Canby Singers will offer their 36th annual spring concert in the Consolidated School gym. Founder and Cornwallite Edward Tatnall Canby will be the MC and anchorman, with Sheila Schonbrunn conducting. Selections include 500-year-old "pop" music in old French and Spanish, as well as such "moderns" as Brahms. Admission is free - no contributions.

Jubilee School Visit: All are invited to a program on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, celebrating the partnership of the Jubilee School in

We are short of space this month — and short of money.
Please send some!

A \$10 contribution will get the Chronicle mailed to an out-of-town address. Other contributions welcome.
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CITY/ST/ZIP	

Philadelphia with Cornwall children. Forty children and adults from the inner-city Jubilee School will be visiting Cornwall June 13-17, pursuing environmental studies and sharing some activities with Cornwall kids. The partnership is sponsored by the United Church of Christ. The program will include singing by several choruses of children and brief presentations by both Cornwall and Philadelphia students.

Earlier Voter Canvass in '94: The registrars of voters will send all voters their double postcards on May 26 this year, and ask voters to mail back their signed cards by June 17. Telephone follow-ups are intrusive and expensive. Call Judy Gates at 672-6568 (Dems) or Maureen Prentice (Reps) at 672-0135 with questions.

Cornwall Voices: On Saturday, June 18, the Cornwall Players will present a celebration of spring, titled "Scenes and Songs for a Variety of Voices," at 4 p.m. in Cornubia Hall. The show will open with selections by Marie Prentice and her Voice Jammers, followed by short readings from modern drama by six local performers, interspersed with show songs interpreted by Judy George and Clint McGowan. Jean Leich is director of the production; Anne Chamberlain is musical director and accompanist. The proceeds are destined for the Cornwall Child Center. Suggested donation is \$5 at the door.

Paint-the-Town Day: The West Cornwall Merchants Association has scheduled the third annual Paint-the-Town event for Saturday, June 18, from dawn until 3 p.m. (rain date June 19). Artists of all ages are invited to come out and paint their pictures of Cornwall. The paintings will be sold in a silent auction from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Cornwall Bridge Pottery Store in West Cornwall. Profits from the sale will go to the Cornwall Child Center and Extras for Kids. For more information, call 672-6545.

The Torrington Story: At 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 19, in the Town Hall, documentary film-maker Albert Waller, of Everett Hill Road, will show — and talk about — "Torrington," a film he produced as a pilot for a prime-time CBS series that never got off the ground. Waller, an Emmy-award winner, has described his projected "Torrington" series as "a cross between a soap opera and social anthropology." Waller's talk is one of a series of Sunday afternoon events sponsored by Friends of the Cornwall Library.

To All Dog Owners: June is dog licensing month. Dog owners are reminded that a rabies certificate must be submitted, and a neutered or spayed dog



being licensed for the first time needs certification from a veterinarian. Fees are \$6 for dogs that have been neutered or spayed — \$16 for those that have not. Licenses may be obtained by mail if a SASE is enclosed for the return of tag and license, or by coming to the Town Clerk's office Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The office will also be open on Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. to noon, to serve those wait-till-the-last-minute pooch owners.

Hammond Beach: Cornwall residents and summer renters may buy beach permits at the Town Office for \$10 (individual) or \$20 (family). Guests pay \$1 a day and must be accompanied by the host-resident. The beach opens June 25 and will be open every day, 11-7, weather permitting, until Labor Day. A swim lesson schedule will be sent home with CCS students and will also be available at the lake. Director Evelyn Gelerter is looking for a good used rowboat for beach use.

Library Summer Story Hour: Interested parents are invited to sign up for a July and August program.

CCC Summer Program: The Cornwall Child Center is planning a five-week summer session, July 5 to August 5, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be held in the art room of the Consolidated School. For information or to enroll your child call 672-6989.

Soccer Camp: The USA Soccer School of Excellence will again hold a camp July 18-22 at CCS. Children 5-17 are welcome. The fee is \$80 per student, with a family rate of \$150 for two and \$220 for three. The camp will run every day from 9 a.m. to noon. Students who want to join must send their registration forms to the camp by June 25. These forms can be obtained from the school office or the Town Office, or from Joan Thitchener (672-6531).

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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