# RNWALL CHRONICL

**VOLUME 14: NUMBER 5 JUNE 2004** 



#### Cream Hill Farm...Forever

Last week another hurdle was overcome in the negotiations by Ralph and Charles Gold with the State of Connecticut to sell development rights to 190 acres of their Cream Hill Farm for roughly \$1.2 million—about one half to come from the state and the other half from federal funds. Because of this, the fields of Cream Hill Farm will remain open and undeveloped.

Farmland preserved through the state program is divided into development and agricultural values. Once the development rights are sold, the owner still pays property taxes but can only use or sell the land for agricultural purposes. Approval from the State Bond Commission came at the end of April.

Because the land would be worth more if sold to a traditional developer, the Golds will clearly make a financial sacrifice in signing this deal. But they want to preserve their land as a manageable farm, and the agreement is thus a great boon to their neighbors and fellow townspeople.

The Golds have been on this land since 1738 when an ancestor, James Douglas, bought three contiguous lots totaling 150 acres, which are the core of what became Cream Hill Farm. Through the years the Golds bought more land and presently have 210 acres in woodland along with the 190 acres of open land.

In this action, Charles and Ralph echo the words of their father's will: "The good effects of long-term continuity of land tenure can be incalculable upon the holder of the land and upon the community where it is held. Long traditions of love for a particular piece of land and for a particular locality, and of devotion to and service for such a locality and community are a precious heritage"—an eloquent statement that describes the kind of feeling many Cornwall people have for their land and for this community, even without the 260-year tradition of the Golds.

The *Waterbury Republican* quoted a jubilant State Senator Andrew Roraback: "Anyone who has seen Cream Hill Farm knows what a special and important place it is," he said. "Hats off to the Golds for bringing the proposal to sell the development rights and to the state for rising to the occasion.

—John Zinsser

#### Cornwall Graduates

Twenty-five students will graduate from Cornwall Consolidated School on June 15 at 6 P.M. under canvas on the CCS baseball diamond. Heading for Housy are: Benjamin Hamilton, Samantha Bate, Ryan Brightman, Sarah Brown, Jonathan Coe, Annelise Collins, Charles Fox, Daniel Hare, Steve Hedden, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Stephanie

**IUNE 2004** 

Kearns, Lauren Kendrick, Thomas Kennedy, Caroline Kosciusko, Molly Packard, Zachary Sawicki, Sarah Smith, Ryan St. John, Stacey Turbessi, and Elizabeth Watts.

Also graduating from CCS are Hannah Colbert (who will attend Hotchkiss), Sarah Freedman (Audrey School), Kimberlie Gold (Forman School), and Harris Monagan (Midleton College in Ireland), while Samantha Saliter will move to Colorado.

Three other students from Cornwall will graduate from independent schools: Eli Macrae Ingersoll (from Indian Mountain), Tristan Kinnear Woodruff (Kildonan School), and Marika Lee Lendl (Montessori School).

The following students will graduate from HVRHS on June 18 at 6:30 P.M.: Robin Cantoni (headed for NWCC), Alexandra Collins (Green Mountain College), Will Evans (Santa Barbara City College), Amy Ingvertsen (University of Rhode Island), Justin Julian (undecided), Amanda Kennedy (NWCC), Cody Oznowicz (Santa Barbara City College), Lucas Root (SUNY Albany or UConn), Cale Williamson (undecided), Robert Williamson (undecided), and Stefan Wolf (undecided). Adriane Davis will graduate from Berkshire School, Benjamin North from Kent School, and Timmy Freydberg from The Gunnery.

Congratulations one and all!

—Norma Lake

| JOINE 2004   |  |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
| Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 p.m. UCC Day Room; Jam Session, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5:30 p.m. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 p.m. UCC Day Room Saturdays: Chess Club, 9:30 a.m. Library |  | 1<br>Inland Wetlands*<br>8 P.M. Town Hall                                   | Play Group 10–11:30 A.M.<br>Playscape/UCC   | 3   | 4<br>Preschool–K Story Hour<br>10 a.m. Library<br>Potluck and Missionary<br>Visit 6 p.m. UCC Day Room            | 5 CT Trails Day 9 A.M. Mohawk Trail† Architecture for Kids 11 A.M. Library† Kite-Flying Picnic 1–4 P.M. Hart Farm Preserve† Art Reception 5–7 P.M. Cornwall Arts Collection† |
| 6  | Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*<br>Housatonic River Comm.<br>7:30 P.M. CCS Library | 9 Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC Hughes Memorial Library Annual Meeting 2 P.M.† Public Hearing: Rate Increases 6:30 P.M. Town Hall† | 10<br>Cornwall Child Center<br>Annual Meeting 8 P.M.†   | 11<br>Preschool–K Story Hour<br>10 a.m. Library  | Art Reception 5–8 P.M. Cornubia Hall†  12 American Girls Club 11:30 A.M. Library UCC Bike-a-thon†  |
| 13   | Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 p.m. UCC Parish House   | 15 Deadline: July Chronicle Copy  CCS Graduation 6 P.M.                     | 16 Play Group 10–11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC   | TO CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.  Bd. of Ed. 5:30 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse | 18 Town Beach Opens 11 A.M.† Annual Beach Party 5–8 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Association† HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. | 19 Cornwall Assoc. 19 A.M. UCC Day Room Great American Bake Sale 10 A.M2 P.M. Bairds & W. C. Market† Reading and Discussion K. C. Frederick 4 P.M. Library†                  |
| 20 FATHER'S DAY  | 21 SUMMER BEGINS  Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS  Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library                  | 22  | Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall   | 24<br>Bd. of Selectmen<br>9 A.M. Town Hall  | 25   | 26 Book Sale 10 A.M.–2 P.M. Hughes Memorial Lib. Thomas the Tank Club 11:30 A.M. Library Manhattan String Quartet 7 P.M. UCC†  |
| 27   | Z8 Tennis Lessons Begin on Village Courts† Swim Team Begins† ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*                          | 29  | 30<br>Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept.<br>8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse  |   |  |  |

#### Searching the Skies

At a time of strict security against air attacks on our homeland, some Cornwall residents can still remember the urgent precautions of 60 years ago.

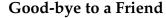
At the beginning of World War II the U.S. government, fearing an air bombardment of our cities similar to those being inflicted on Britain, prepared for sneak attacks by enemy aircraft. Civil Defense, a newly created federal bureau, set up a warning system on both American coasts to help alert our cities and other likely strategic sites to enemy air raids. A network of observation posts was established throughout the rural areas whose assignment was to report regularly on all aircraft that passed over, in order to detect and identify enemy planes if any reached American soil.

In every town, Civil Defense offered training sessions teaching volunteers to identify enemy aircraft. My mother and I took the evening course given by Lou Frost in 1942 to about 25 people in the little chapel in the Village which is now St. Peter's Lutheran Church. I was

twelve years old and the

lumber with wide decks for viewing and equipped with desks, chairs, electrical radiators for taking the chill off, log books for signing in and out, packs of silhouette identification cards, and telephone hot lines to Civil Defense. Spotting stints lasted for two hours and went around the clock in all weather. Standard reporting procedure, day or night, was to immediately call Civil Defense, giving only the post's code name (BRAVO METRO FOUR FIVE BLACK), directional coordinates for planes coming and going, and the exact time a flight was detected.

Spotters, who brought along their binoculars, reading, handwork, and snacks, kept their ears peeled for the first drone of a distant engine. The hours were long, and sometimes friends kept them company. Friendships were born and flourished during those years. Frank Cole, who spotted at night and was usually relieved by Mark Van Doren, MICHE



James Lawrence Pool

#### Congratulations

Bonnie Patience Potter to Robert Andrew Jewett

#### **Land Transfers**

Kathy Lee Collins to Dermot P. and Darilyn Woods, house and buildings, 370 Kent Road for \$415,000.

Anita Wolkowitz to Robin Theurkauf, house and 46.0 acres on Whitcomb Hill Road for \$755,000. Susan T. Costanzi to Leonard Ciccarelli, 5.0 acres

with structure on Flat Rocks Road for \$150,000.

Linda Frankel to Kim Savage Realty LLC, 43 acres on Kent Road for \$80,000.

### Lo, the Red-Eyed Vireo

Park & Rec.'s sixth annual Bird Walk went off without a hitch on May 8 and, despite a long bushwhack through the woodlands and open pastures of Hedgerows Farm, all 18 participants managed to make it back safely. We enjoyed the lovely spring songs of rosebreasted grosbeaks, ovenbirds, and wood thrushes, and got good looks at

only child in the group. For hours on those warm evenings we concentrated on the silhouettes of German and American planes (and Japanese as well), thrown by the slide projector onto a screen, while Lou lectured us on the characeristics of each, using a pointer. We all took home packs of silhouette cards to study, and we became familiar with names like Boeing, Grumman, Focke-Wulf, and Messerschmitt, and knew the numbers like B-24 and B-27. We were being prepared to recognize bombers and fighters from friend and foe in case we ever had a pursuit or a dogfight in the skies over Cornwall.

Participants in these courses had to pass a recognition test at the end of the class to become authorized spotters, formally named Air Warden Service observers. I recall my mother scowling over her cards, memorizing the characteristic profile of the Grumman 55 fighter (a snout-like nose). We both passed the test and received hats and arm bands with an AWS logo. But that was as far as I could go at my age, while my mother became a regular spotter in the summers at the post up on Town Street.

Cornwall had built two hilltop spotting posts for the town which were faithfully manned by volunteers throughout the war. Both were set in open pasture and surrounded by barbed wire (to keep curious cattle off and not for any strategic reason). One stood on the west side of Cherry Hill Road close to Larry Pool's house, and the other on the west side of Town Street, slightly north of the Ridgways' farm stand. They were little one-room shacks of new

used to stay to talk, predictably arriving home two hours late. Priscilla Hart and Janet Hedden, volunteering together, racked up over 300 hours at the post on Cherry Hill. Returning veterans were sometimes drawn in-Fred Bate, Jr., who knew his German and American war planes by that time, joined the spotters without having to take the training course. If the weather was so bad that the next person failed to show up on schedule, spotters would stay on to cover the hot line.

Regular commercial flights were the routine fare at the posts, but a sense of the threat from beyond Cornwall's peaceful horizons was always present. Once a large number of low-flying U.S. planes roared over the township, seeming to show that something serious was up, but nobody ever heard what it was. There was even a rumor that Civil Defense had tested the alertness of the system one day by flying a Japanese Zero over the area. (Cornwall, this rumor went, duly reported the plane.) A possible assault on the U.S. using its own aircraft did not occur to anyone at the time.

At the war's end, the little buildings were carted away and used for other purposes. The Town Street post served for a while as office for the pound near today's recycling center, and later at the center itself. The sound of distant engines no longer alarmed people on the ground. Volunteers put away their hats and arm bands, and few packs of identification cards survive today.

—Ann Schillinger

parula, yellow and chestnut-sided warblers, and also warbling and red-eyed vireos. High water at Rattlesnake Swamp showcased two broods of goslings with their parents, wheeling swallows of three species and pairs of wood ducks and hooded mergansers. Highlights included singing male bobolinks (newly arrived from southern Argentina), a gorgeous indigo bunting in a high meadow, and black vultures soaring overhead while a couple of baby killdeer scooted around us. Good spring birding to all!

-Art Gingert

#### **Neither Snow Nor Sleet...**

His desk submerged beneath a hefty pile of bath-towel-sized blueprints, genial, dynamic Barkhamsteader Paul Duran oversees the expansion and renovation of the Cornwall Consolidated School. As project superintendent, he is the sole on-site representative of the builders, Avon-based Casle Corporation. The window of his office trailer looks out on a force of 15 to 25 subcontractors.

When I asked if any snags had delayed progress, he mentioned having to deal with ground water in volumes unexpected for a hillside site. "And, of course," he declared, with a rueful chuckle, "the winter." The extreme cold and frequent snowstorms through which workers carried on relentlessly, often exposed to howling winds and single-digit temperatures for the entire work day, were a two-edged sword, hindering work and increasing the number of school snow days. The latter shortens the summer vacation during which the builders will have a free hand to tear into the old building.

Although he is looking forward to having his construction site empty, Duran had only praise for the school staff's easygoing, cooperative attitude during a difficult period.

The middle of May should see the new building roofed and closed in, leaving only the interior plumbing, framing and finishing. Work on the old building will start as soon as it empties. Duran hopes that by the time school reopens at the end of August the din of hammers and snarl of saws will be but a memory.

—Matt Collins

#### **Library Awarded Book Grant**

The Cornwall Free Library has been awarded a "Books for Children" grant from the Libri Foundation, a non-profit organization that donates new hardcover books to small libraries throughout the United States.

To encourage community involvement and to reward local support of libraries, the Foundation works with a library's Friends of the Library group in a two-for-one match of funds raised for new books. Thus the Cornwall Library would receive a total of \$700 from Libri for \$350 raised locally—a grand total of \$1,050. The Friends have four months to raise the seed money, and a series of Children's Author and Illustrator events will be held over the next few months, as well as several special programs during the library's summer reading program, "Book a Trip to Asia." Voluntary donations at all events will help meet the goal.

—Amy Buck

#### Sand Shed Hosts Art Gala

On a windy Saturday, April 24, second graders Connor Elwell and his friend Sam Neubauer found themselves in the town's sand shed off Route 4 for the fifth annual Art at the Dump exhibition, sponsored by the Cornwall Association. After politely enduring Sam's father and sister for about thirty seconds, the two boys tore off to explore each of the 190 "objects" on view, created by 59 artists.

The boys lingered longest beside Aidan and David Cowan's ingenious "Catapult," the Morehouses' miraculous chair on skis ("Sweet! Can we buy it?") and the Official Prize Winners: First, "Critter," by Ken Keskinen; Second, "Bent Nails," by Richard Griggs; and Third, "Tin Man," by Don Hain. The Philip Jones Memorial Award went to "Izy the Iguana" by Oliver Fox and Liam Murphy Saunders. Step aside, Marcel Duchamp.

Sales and donations totaled \$2,556, netting a nifty \$880 for the CCS art department. Kudos all around to organizer Gail Jacobson, who has already blocked out April 23, 2005, for next year's dump gala. If the catapult is back in action, the boys will bring cash.

—Sandy Neubauer



## Letters to the Chronicle



SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, CONTINUED

I would like to commend David Grossman for his article regarding same-sex marriage. Marriage is, as he said, serious business. As the pastor of a congregation that has voted to be open to and affirming of persons regardless of sexual orientation, and offers services of sacred union to gay persons, I welcome the discussion of the civil and religious implications of same-sex marriage.

I disagree, however, with the suggestion that allowing civil unions would provide the necessary legal protection to gay couples and their children. There are roughly 1,500 rights and responsibilities that belong to married persons. Of these, roughly one-third are granted by the state and two-thirds by the federal government. Persons who are civilly united benefit only in those areas governed by state law. The discrimination at the federal level remains. In addition, the rights and responsibilities only apply within the state that grants them. If the couple must move out of state, their union is not valid. Should the couple dissolve their union, their children would not be entitled to the same protections and support currently offered those of married couples who divorce.

It is time for our state to continue its long tradition of seeking justice for all people, including gay couples seeking to assume the responsibilities and rights of marriage. Commitment to the well-being of one's spouse and children and partnership for life's journey are at the heart of marriage. —The Rev. Laura Westby, U.C.C.

#### ANOTHER GREAT AUCTION!

Once again the Cornwall community poured out donations, bids, and volunteer time for the Cornwall Child Center auction held on May 1. Without this major fundraising event, the Child Center would not be able to offer its wonderful program of care and early education for our kids. By raising approximately \$28,000 (almost onethird of our budget), the Center is able to keep tuition low and on a sliding scale, a unique attribute among child care centers. We are fortunate to have an amazing number of devoted donors from Cornwall's small community, many of whom have given to the auction every year for 13 years. Mere thanks are not adequate.

—Emilie Pryor

#### NOAH'S ARK

Donations to the UCC Heifer Project of recyclable cans, bottles, and coins, together with the money raised by the Stone Soup and the Fill the Ark programs, helped raise a record \$1,000. This money will help 12 different families around the world become self-reliant with the gifts of a water buffalo, a goat, a sheep, a pig, a llama, two flocks of chickens, a flock of geese and ducks, a trio of rabbits, two hives of honey bees, and tree seedlings.

—Tracy D. Gray

#### **Events & Announcements**

A Public Hearing on Rate Increases for Aquarion (formerly BHC), which supplies water to Cornwall Village, will take place at Town Hall on Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30 P.M. Questions? Call the Selectmen's Office, 672-4959.

Cornwall Conservation Trust Kite-Flying Picnic: Saturday, June 5, 1 to 4 P.M. at Hart Farm Preserve on Cherry Hill. Supplies provided to make kites under Cilla Hart Mauro's shady tent. Refreshments provided, but bring your own wind. Rain date Sunday. For more information call Lib Terrall at 672-2407.

Manhattan String Quartet: The Cornwall Free Library will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Evening of Chamber Music with the MSQ on Saturday, June 26, at 7 P.M. at the UCC in Cornwall Village. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students under 18 and can be purchased at the Library (672-6874).

Connecticut Trails Day is Saturday, June 5. Work will continue on Mohawk Trail where it left off last year. No experience required. Tools supplied; bring work gloves, lunch, and beverage. Heavy rain cancels. Meet 9 A.M. at hiker parking area, Route 4 along Furnace Brook. Leader Henry Edmonds from CT Forest and Park Association: (203) 426-6459; Kim Herkimer, Dark Entry Forest, Inc.: 672-6867.

**Bike-a-thon:** The sixth annual La Casa Century will take place on June 12. The 100-mile tri-state loop will raise money for the UCC's La Casa project in Mexico. Slower and shorter (100 kilometers/62 miles) alternatives will be available. Cyclists will leave from Cornwall Town Hall at 7 A.M. Non-riders can support them by sending contributions to the United Church of Christ, Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753. For further information call Bill Gold at 672-3049.

The Cornwall Community Tennis Association will offer tennis lessons this summer on the two red-clay courts in Cornwall Village. Rules are posted at the courts and must be followed. This year there will be a sign-up for reservation of court time.

The tennis clinic for 6- to 18-year-olds will use the courts 8 A.M. to noon, Monday through Thursday, from June 28 through August 5 (\$25 for two lessons per week). Discount Week (June 28 to July 1), underwritten by Park and Rec. and Todd Piker, will offer four lessons for \$12.50. Please contact Todd at 672-6545 if you would like to enroll your child for any of these lessons. Space is limited.

The Cornwall Foundation will be accepting applications for grants through July 15. Applications can be obtained from Amy Cady at the Library. The Cornwall Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support projects or programs that "enhance the quality of life in Cornwall." Questions? Call Annie Kosciusko at 672-3169.

Art in Cornwall: The Cornwall Free Library hosts the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Show of CCS Student Work through June 4. From June 5 through July 9, the Library will exhibit landscapes in oil by Curt Hanson. Opening reception is on June 5, 5 to 8 P.M., at Curt's home and studio, Cornubia Hall, 400 Cornwall Hollow Road.

There will be an opening at the Cornwall Arts Collection on June 5 from 5 to 7 P.M. of a show featuring the works of Becky Hurlburt and Sybil M. Perry. The show will run through July 10.

At the National Iron Bank, Kelley Futurer's show of oil paintings will continue through June, as will Danielle Mailer's show at The Wish House.

A four-artist show continues through June at The Outsiders Gallery/Gingras Studios, 131 Kent Road, Cornwall Bridge. For more information call 672-6631.

Still-life paintings by Cornwall's Lydia Maria Brewster Hubbard (1849 to 1911) will be a highlight of the Cornwall Historical Society's July exhibit. The show opens with a reception from 5 to 7 P.M. on Friday, July 2, and runs through the month.

#### **Out-of-Town Readers**

This is our annual reminder that we ask a \$10-per-year contribution to cover our mailing costs. We don't send renewal notices, but please check the date in front of your name on the label; it indicates the expiration date of your subscription. If you read *The Chronicle* online (at www.cornwallct.org) we still need your donation to cover the cost of producing the electronic edition.

The Town Beach will open June 18 under new director Tammy Decker. Passes are \$10/\$20 (individual/family) and may be obtained from the Selectmen's Office or by mailing to P.O. Box 205, Cornwall 06753. Make checks payable to Town of Cornwall and include name and Cornwall street address (or name and address of property owner if you rent) and SASE.

The Cornwall Swim Team will be starting its program on June 28 this year. Children aged 6 to 18 are encouraged to join. If you would like to order a team suit or Cornwall Swim Team clothing, please contact Annie Kosciusko at 672-3169 or on the Internet at townhill@optonline.net to get a form.



**2004 Grumbling Gryphons Theater-Arts Camp**, sponsored by Park & Rec., will be held in July at Town Hall for children ages 6 to 16. Drama, music, storytelling and improvisation will be taught by director Leslie Elias. Ellen Moon will conduct masking workshops. For schedule call Leslie Elias at 672-0286. For registration call Bethany Thompson at 248-3009.

The Great American Bake Sale: To help combat child hunger in America, a bake sale will be held on Saturday, June 19, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., at both the West Cornwall Market and Baird's General Store. Proceeds go to "Share Our Strength," the national organization that helps fund programs to end child hunger. Call Tracy Gray at 672-6015 with questions or to volunteer.

**Library Reading:** Cornwall author K. C. Frederick will read from and talk about his latest novel, *Accomplices*, at the Cornwall Free Library on Saturday, June 19, at 4 P.M. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Call Anne Chamberlain (672-6133) or Robin Graham (672-6575).

Annual Beach Party, sponsored by Park & Rec., on Friday, June 18, 5 to 8 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Association. All Cornwall families are invited for a free barbecue and swimming. Children to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No exceptions!

The CCS Girls' Softball Team will take part in the Komen Connecticut Race for the Cure in Bushnell Park, Hartford, on Saturday, June 12. Last year's team helped raise \$700 for breast cancer research. To support the team call Tricia Collins at CCS (672-2939, ext. 232).

Hughes Memorial Library will hold its Annual Meeting on June 9 at 2 P.M. at the Library in West Cornwall. The entire community is welcome. The Annual Book Sale will take place on the lawn next to the Library on Saturday, June 26, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Calling All Dog Owners: The State of Connecticut mandates that dogs older than six months be licensed every June. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented or be on file. Spayed or neutered dogs cost \$8, others \$18, and late fees will be charged after June 30. Apply at the Town Clerk's Office Monday to Thursday, 9 A.M. to noon or 1 to 4 P.M., or by mail to P.O. Box 97, Cornwall 06753. (Be sure to enclose a SASE.)

Architecture for Kids: The basic concepts of designing houses and drawing to scale will be taught in a hands-on workshop at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, June 5, 11 A.M. to noon. Guided by local architect Alec Frost, and using templates, rulers, and graph paper, participants will draw floor plans for the house of their dreams. Ages 8 and up. Please call the Library at 672-6874 to register.

The Cornwall Child Center's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10, at 8 P.M., following a business meeting at the Center on Cream Hill Road.

#### **CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

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