

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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JUNE 2005



It Takes a Village

At the beginning of the 14th annual Cornwall Child Center Auction on May 7 at the Torrington Country Club, Norma Lake said that, like our next-door senator famously wrote, "It takes a village," and she paused, "...to have an auction."

Emilie Pryor and Mary Kay Elwell, auction co-chairs, oversaw at least 70 people who solicited the 160 auctioned items, made the arrangements, and decorated two big rooms. It was a great success. Last year 110 people attended the auction. This year 45 people attended just the silent auction, and 176 attended the dinner, which included admission to both auctions, for a total of 221 people. Last year \$28,000 was raised, this year \$37,500.

And because this was the Child Center's 30th anniversary, 29 people sent in \$3,150 and their regrets at not being able to attend, while corporate sponsors got the ball rolling by donating \$1,800.

Like other schools, the Child Center has a hefty payroll to meet, bills for health insurance that went up 30 percent this year, and oil bills. (Well, you know about oil bills....) So the auction is when the board counts on the village, and because this is Cornwall, the village came through once again.

—Norma Lake

Cornwall Graduates

Eighteen students will graduate from CCS on June 16 at 6 P.M. They will be the first class to graduate in the new gymnasium. Benjamin Ackerman, Ian Bardot, Paris Costello, William Kennedy, Travis Martin, Ethan Naylor, Daven Patel, Melani Reilly, William Russ, Cameron Samson, Elizabeth Sawicki, Kristen Scott, Emily Thaler, Trevor Tuthill, Jacqueline Underwood, and Trevor Watts will continue their education at HVRHS. Nicole Hamilton and Nicholas King are undecided at this time.

Other graduating Cornwall residents headed for Housy are Silvia LaPorta, who was home schooled, and Daya Ballard and Lauren Kosciusko, who are graduating from Sharon Center School.

Caroline and Isabelle Lendl will graduate from the Montessori School.

Graduation at HVRHS will be held on Monday, June 20, at 6:30 P.M. Three of the top ten graduates are from Cornwall: Elizabeth Bruehl (who will be attending Wheaton), Helen Hare (Oberlin), and Ellen Hart (Franklin and Marshall). Other collegebound graduates are Alyssa Ackerman (Franklin and Marshall), Brian Lacko and Jason Stevens (Northwestern Community College), Evan Bardot (Johnson State), Paige

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Root (attending The National Outdoor Leadership School in the fall and then the University of New Hampshire in January), and Jessica Savan, a January Housy graduate (New Mexico State University).

Joshua Bate will be traveling in California. James Pastre and Benjamin Gray will be traveling in Costa Rica. Damien Davis will apprentice with Todd McKenzie. Ben Schutz is undecided at this time.

Other area schools graduating Cornwall students are The Kent School: Sven Lindholm (who will attend the University of Rochester); Miss Porter's School: Marielle Ebersol (Kenyon College); The Gunnery: Greta Murphy (Union College); The Meeting School: Katherine Corwin (Smith College); Oliver Wolcott Technical School: Kyle Whitney (who will be working in excavation).

Congratulations on a job well done to all of our Cornwall graduates! — Wynne Kavanagh

April in England

Groggy and bleary eyed, I gasped as the impressive pillars of Stonehenge rose before me. The sky, a dark, menacing gray, smoldered behind stone giants of another time. This was my first English experience, an unforgettable image burned in my memory.

After nearly 48 hours of travel by bus, plane, and double-decker coach, the 50 musicians and 10 chaperones of Housatonic Val-

(continued on page 2)

JUNE 2003						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 p.m. UCC Sanctuary Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7-9 p.m. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10-11:30 a.m. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class, 5:30 p.m. Town Hall; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 p.m. CCS Gym Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 p.m. UCC Day Room Fridays: Story Hour, 1:15 p.m. Library Saturdays: Chess Club, 10-11:30 a.m. Library			Bend & Stretch 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC Parish House	Wizard of Oz 8 p.m. CCS Gym †	3	4 Bike-a-Thon 7 A.M. Town Hall † Wizard of Oz 8 P.M. CCS Gym †
5 Fund for Excellence Pot Luck/Barbecue 4–6 P.M. CCS †	Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	7 Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Offices	8		10	American Girl Club 11:30 A.M1 P.M. Library Thurber Celebration 4:30-6 P.M. Town Hall † Art Reception 5-7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery †
Tea Concert 4 P.M. UCC Sanctuary †	Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 p.m. UCC Parish House	P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	Deadline: July Chronicle Copy Last Day for Tax Relief Applications †	H 6 Bd. of Ed. 4 p.m. CCS Lib. CCS Graduation 6 p.m. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse	17	18 Town Beach Opens 11 A.M. † Hazardous Waste Day † Dairy Barn Open House 1–5 P.M. †
19 FATHER'S DAY	HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	21 SUMMER BEGINS CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Summer Recess Begins Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	22	23	24 Annual Community Beach Party 5–8 р.м. Cream Hill Lake Association †	25 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room Speak Truth to Power 8 P.M. CCS Gym †
26 Speak Truth to Power 2 P.M. CCS Gym †	27 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	28	Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Last Day for Dog Licenses †		

(continued from page 1)

ley Regional High School welcomed the sight of the Holiday Inn in Cardiff, Wales. During our time in Wales we toured Cardiff Castle, sang at the Stanwell Comprehensive School, and had time to shop.

As a part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain, we were able to meet other teenagers and discover a little about the school system. All students, regardless of school and age, are required to wear uniforms, which look every bit the stereotype. Because they start wearing uniforms from a young age, the students don't mind a bit.

The 13- and 14-year-old girls swooned over our American guys and were enchanted with their boisterous nature. The young men there tend to be less demonstrative and slightly more subtle.

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything," Shakespeare wrote. This quote could not have rung truer. Our group transferred to Stratford upon Avon, a small town on the Avon River where Shakespeare lived. We had a concert in the impressive Holy Trinity Church, which houses the grave of the great writer. Serendipitously we were there for Shakespeare's birth and death day, which occur on the same date: April 23. After shopping and touring, Spencer, our British guide and vanguard, taught us to play rugby on the grass in front of the hotel.

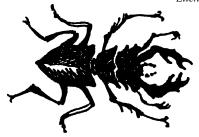
Our hotel in Canterbury was nestled in the old district of cobblestone streets a mere block from the cathedral. Singing in that ancient place (earliest parts date from about 570 A.D.) was an experience not to be forgotten. Our voices took on new dimensions with the augmenting acoustics.

In London we saw the major sights. I snapped a picture of the tower where Anne Boleyn was beheaded and toured the dungeons where Queen Elizabeth I was held captive.

Shopping time in Piccadilly Circus was abundant, and a small group paid a visit to Abbey Road. All four ensembles performed at the City of London Boys School, where they shouted "encore," and at the Royal Embankment Gardens. The gardens were in full bloom, and the sun was shining while our black-and-white-clad musicians performed. The jazz band was especially popular, and more than one couple danced in front of the stage.

Eleven Cornwall musicians could not have had this wonderful opportunity without the support of the Cornwall community. They are Cammie Naylor, Shawna Pattison, Evan Bardot, Liz Bruehl, Helen Hare, Ben Gray, Julian Lasseur, Paige Root, Byron Clohessy, Alyssa Ackerman, and myself.

—Ellen Hart



Field of Dreams

Cornwall's aspiring Gehrigs and Ruths will have to wait one more season. The field of dreams in the new recreation area next to Foote Fields won't be ready until the summer of 2006.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the walking track around the new field is open to joggers and promenaders and will be through the summer as the finishing touches are made to the new ball field. Seeding and establishing the turf and construction of fencing and a new backstop are all on the punch list for early summer.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said that the town will buy its first riverfront property in West Cornwall from CL&P sometime in 2005. The funds for this and for improvements to the CCS playing fields will be reimbursed to the town by the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, the same folks who brought us the new ball field.

In other news, Ridgway said that the Board of Selectmen will be reviewing the surveys on senior services filled out by townspeople. His initial impression is that the more desirable activities, such as a chore service, are already in place. "This survey," he said, "may lead to a group which meets regularly to discuss issues and come up with solutions for the elderly in a uniquely Cornwall way."

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Open Space Fund

Cornwall, like other towns in the Northwest Corner, is facing increased development pressures that can adversely impact its natural development and rural landscape. As a result, there is heightened interest in protecting important open space. To help accomplish this, the Board of Selectmen and P&Z have agreed to establish the "Cornwall Open Space Fund," designed to protect land for open space, passive recreation, and agricultural use.

The fund will receive all money under the "fee in lieu of open space" provision in Cornwall's subdivision regulations. The fund can also receive money from town budget appropriations, charitable contributions, and state and federal grants.

The fund will be subject to oversight by the selectmen and the Board of Finance, with input from P&Z. Use of funds will be subject to town-meeting approval. —*Rick Lynn*

Read, Write, and...Paddle

Scott Cady, pastor of St. Peter's, will begin a three-month sabbatical on June 6, the first he's had in 21 years. The Lutheran Church, Scott says, "encourages this for the sake of both the pastor and the congregation."

Scott had planned several short trips but in May learned that he will be able to take an exceptional journey. The Northwest Corner clergy collected donations from their congregations to allow Scott to join an ecumenical trip to Istanbul, Rome, Geneva, and Canterbury in March 2006.

When he's not traveling, Scott plans to read, write, rest, and paddle his kayak. One

project is to read St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians in Greek.

Those who would normally seek out Scott for counseling or other pastoral services should contact the Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller at UCC (672-6840) or Father Christopher Webber of All Saints Episcopal (364-1139).

Scott will be back at the helm at St. Peter's on September 12. —Lisa Lansing Simont

Good-bye to a Friend

William Rashbaum

Land Transfers

Paul Witik to Ruth Turner Estate, LLC, \(^1\)\(^3\) interest in 54 acres on Crooked Esses Road for \$116,670.

Bruce and Diane Witik to Ruth Turner Estate, LLC, $\frac{2}{3}$ interest in 54 acres on Crooked Esses Road for \$233,330.

Mary L. Cahill to Richard A. and Rosalie R. Furniss, Jr., house and two parcels of land totaling 13 acres at 173 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$272,000.

G. Robert and Estelle I. Stetson to Oscar Shamamian and Llewellyn Sinkler, house and .704 acre at 91 Town Street for \$515,000.

Estate of Lucy Huempfner to John Bates, 17 acres on Kent Road for \$187,000.



The Deep-Breathing Housatonic

Because of a steep gradient and rocky bottom, the Housatonic River inhales a high level of oxygen as it passes through the deep valley that connects West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge. The valley and the treelined banks of the river limit the hours of direct sunshine on the river. The result is a section of fast-moving, cool, oxygenated water flowing through a labyrinth of boulders.

This fortuitous setting is attractive not only to the local citizenry but also to certain insects. They pass through multiple growth stages in pockets of the river, eventually working their way up to the surface or the air or the shore. The bugs themselves, particularly mayflies, caddis, and stoneflies, are attractive to birds, especially the swallow, as well as to America's two greatest fighting game fish, the smallmouth bass and the trout. The fish are in turn attractive to predators such as the fish eagle or osprey, the great blue heron, and the bald eagle. The fish are also of great interest to people who fish.

The Housatonic has a "fly fishing only" section from about a mile below the covered bridge down to the concrete bridge. This section of water is well known among anglers around North America, and more than a few consider it the finest trout water in the Northeast. Long ago, probably until the early nineteenth century, the only trout in the river was the brook or "speckled" trout, which we can still find in its native form in smaller streams throughout the area.

But now we have mainly brown trout raised in hatcheries and released in tributary

streams. Some of them have lived long years in the river and only come out at night to eat big stuff. There are definitely some massive holdover fish in there.

The trout fishery in the Housatonic will eventually benefit from a new regime of regulations for the dam in Falls Village, now required to maintain a "natural" run of river water all year long. The environmental quality of the river is better than it has been in a lifetime.

Cornwall people and businesses make a living or at least derive a substantial part of their income from trout and smallmouth fishing in the Housatonic—guide Rob Nicholas, Marty Ianetti at the Fly Shop, and the Housatonic River Outfitters, to name three, and many more if you count part-time guides from the area. The river may be one of the larger seasonal "employers" in Cornwall. Our old river, once called Ousatunnuck by the first inhabitants, is teeming with vitality. —Fred Balling

Cornwall Community Tennis

Once again the two clay courts in Cornwall Village have been reconditioned, thanks to the combined efforts of Park and Rec., the Hubbard family, and the Cornwall Community Tennis Association. Signup will be available Friday afternoon for Saturday and Sunday play (except July 9; see below).

- The CCTA will offer a discount week to start the year, subsidized by Park and Rec. and the U.S. Tennis Association, July 5 to 8, from 8 to 11 A.M. The one-hour lessons will be \$15 for all four sessions. Class size will be limited, so first callers will be assured a spot. The upper age limit is 18. As of July 10, lessons will be \$30 for two one-hour lessons. Afternoon lessons may be available on a limited basis.
- Anyone interested in the Tournament Play program (also 18 and under) will need to contact Todd Piker for a skill-level assessment. This is a fee-based program with some scholarship monies available.
- July 9 is reserved for free adult lessons. This is on a first-call, first-serve basis and will be a semi-private lesson (two students per court). Anyone over 18 who would like to sign up for a one-hour lesson should call Todd Piker at 672-6545 or 672-6674.

-Todd Piker

Events & Announcements

Summer Camp Plans? Don't let the high price of summer camp prevent your kids from attending. It's not too late to apply for a grant from Cornwall Extras for Kids. Last summer, Extras helped defray the cost of various outdoor, arts, and sports programs for 10 Cornwall children. Applications are confidential and are available at the Town Hall, CCS, and the Library.

The Wizard of Oz will premiere the new CCS gym/performance space on June 2 and 4 at 8 P.M. A cast from the fourth through eighth grades will be featured. Tickets are \$2 and \$4 at the door.

Letters to the Chronicle

FISH STORY

There are many ways to catch a fish, but the strangest yet is what happened to my neighbor, Gregor Oracz. He stopped by my house late one afternoon, and by the look on his face, I could see he had a story to tell.

He'd been driving on Cream Hill Road and had sighted a blue heron in the small pond by the Fishmans' garden. When he stopped to watch the heron it obligingly demonstrated its skill by dipping into the water and bringing out a large fish. It then proceeded to slowly rise up and fly laboriously across the road, but the weight of the fish in its bill prevented it from gaining altitude. It was on a collision course with Gregor's car when at the last moment it jettisoned the fish.

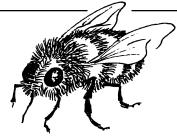
With a loud thud, a carp of about two pounds landed on the hood of the car and bounced onto the ground. Gregor found the fish remarkably intact; when he showed it to us its gills were still twitching. He planned to cook it that night, seasoned with herbs. The next day when asked how it had tasted he replied, "Delicious!"

—Bee Simont

PROPAGATING PAINTED FROGS

Many things delight me about living in Cornwall: the natural beauty of the landscape, the exuberance of its inhabitants, from black bears to black flies. And oh, yes, its humans, who, despite being a somewhat wildly varied lot themselves, come together in all manners of ways—at our churches, the Fire Station, the Library, the School, in our devotion to the arts, and in the flocks of cars that line the road next to Foote Fields for school sporting events.

Leaving this year's Art at the Dump, where a wonderful time was had by all in spite of cold and drizzly weather, I was struck by the rather strict row of rocks that lines the parking area at Foote Fields, and by a certain lack of beauty and harmony with their surroundings—the steep hills and green fields—and by the contrast with the colorful scene I had just left. I thought of the Frog Rock in Cornwall Bridge that has also always delighted me ever since I was a little girl, and of the mysterious artists who have kept it painted, and helped it keep its chin up over the



years, despite the vicissitudes of time and weather. Suddenly it dawned on me: what we need is another art festival in Cornwall, to be held at a slightly more balmy time of year—say August or September—to celebrate the transformation of the row of rocks at Foote Fields into a row of Frog Art.

I leave it to you to work out the details, but I see the town tent erected at the sight, local artists and craftspeople showing their work, and the CVFD or the VFW amply feeding us all as usual. And I see an auction being held for the right to paint one of the rocks, a certain number of which should be set aside for the students at ČCS, and one held as a raffle prize. The chefs keep their profits, the artists showing work share theirs, and the proceeds from the auction go to the CCS Art Department—with some to Art Brean, the original Art at the Dump, who has long been an inspiration to us all, to have flames painted on the hood and sides of his truck. It seems only fitting. —Helen Vanam

ART AT THE DUMP

The sixth annual Art at the Dump lured artists to enter 130 exhibits, of which 64 were sold. Sales, including the capsule vending machine, and donations raised \$2,716. After modest costs were covered and the artists paid, we were able to donate \$826 to the CCS Art Department.

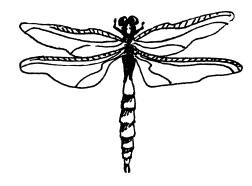
The People's Choice Prizes went to three artists: first place to Richard Griggs for Tall Lamp; second place to Barbara Stone for Wet Paint; and third place to Israel Fitch for Spectator Sport.

The Philip Jones Memorial Award for work by a young artist went to William Morehouse, Jr., for Guitar.

Thanks to all of you who entered, bought art, helped me out in so many ways, and those of you who just came to look in spite of the rain. It seems to be such a fun way to start the social season in Cornwall.

All the fun makes a difference. Over the past five years we have given \$3,903 to the CCS Art Department. The money has been used for various projects including the tile mural being made and installed at the school.

—Gail Jacobsen



A Potluck/Barbecue, sponsored by the CCS Fund for Excellence, will be held on Sunday, June 5, at CCS from 4 to 6 P.M., rain or shine. The event will launch the Fund's endowment to benefit special enrichment programs for CCS students and will unveil its first sponsored project: a mosaic mural created by CCS students for the new school building. Entertainment will be provided by CCS students. Everyone in the community is invited, with a special invitation to all CCS alumni.

Hazardous Waste Day: Saturday, June 18, from 9 A.M. to noon at the Falls Village Highway Garage off Beebe Hill Road. Sign up in advance with Joyce Hart at the First Selectman's Office; she will hand over a ticket and a list of dos and don'ts. One of the don'ts is that no electronics will be taken on June 18. It is possible, says Joyce, that an electronics day will be held in October.



Hammond Beach Opens for the season on Saturday, June 18. Hours will be slightly changed from last year: weekdays 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Saturdays and Sundays until 7 P.M. Parents may sign up kids for swim team or swim lessons the week of June 20 to 24 at the beach during open hours. Resident beach passes are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families. The passes are available at the First Selectman's Office or by mail at P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753. For more information call Tammy Decker at 672-6028.

Art in Cornwall: On Saturday, June 11, the Outsiders Gallery will host an opening reception from 5 to 7 P.M. for William Ward Beecher, who is showing his masterworks, and Natasha Cohen, showing found objects.

At the Cornwall Free Library, the 7th Annual CCS Students' Art Show continues through June 11. Beginning June 14, Brendan O'Connell will show new paintings, and Emily Buchanan will show small landscapes.

The National Iron Bank will exhibit Asher Pavel's flower photographs through June.

A Dairy Barn Open House will be sponsored by the Agricultural Commission on Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 5 P.M. Visit the cows and see the milking and bottling operations at Stonewall Dairy, 332 Kent Road; Local Farm, 22 Popple Swamp Road; and Hautboy Hill Farm, 39 Hautboy Hill Road. Call Bill Dinneen at 672-6740 for more information.

Note to Subscribers

Please remember 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 mailing label; it indicates the expiration date of your subscription.

The Seventh Annual Bike-a-Thon to raise money to support the UCC's La Casa project in Mexico will take place on June 4 (rain date June 5 or 11). Riders will have a choice between a 100-mile loop through the tri-state area or a 62-mile (100 km.) ride into Massachusetts and back. Bikers will leave at 7 A.M. from the Town Hall on Pine Street. The money raised will be used to purchase materials for the houses that the volunteers will build in northern Mexico later in June. Non-riders can support the project by sending contributions to UCC, Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753. For further information call Bill Gold at 672-3049.

The Town Hall Players will perform Ariel Dorfman's *Speak Truth to Power* twice (Saturday, June 25, at 8 P.M., and Sunday, June 26, at 2 P.M.) at CCS to benefit the Cornwall Free Library. (See insert.)

Annual Beach Party, hosted by Park and Rec., takes place on Friday, June 24, 5 to 8 P.M., at the Cream Hill Lake Association. All Cornwall residents are welcome to come and enjoy food, folks, and fun. Children must be accompanied by a parent!



Monday Basketball is over for the year.



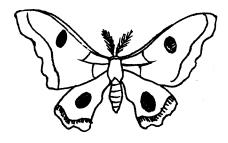
The 2005 Theater Arts Camp with the Grumbling Gryphons will be held at the Town Hall during the first two weeks of August. There will be sessions for age groups 3 to 5 and 6 to 16. For further information call Leslie Elias, artistic director, at 672-0286, or Ellen Moon, maskmaker, at 672-6726.

Legal Beagles: The State of Connecticut requires that any dog six months of age or older be licensed in June with the Town Clerk. A current rabies vaccination certificate must either be on file or presented when obtaining the license. Male and female dogs cost \$19; neutered or spayed animals cost \$8. Late fees apply after June 30. If registering by mail, include a SASE for return of tags and license. The Town Clerk's address is P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M.

The Thurber Celebration, which is the focus of the Cornwall Historical Society this summer, will continue on June 11 with a forum at the Town Hall from 4:30 to 6 P.M. Participants will include Marc Simont, Rolly Algrant, John Zabriskie, Elly Jones, and Rosemary Thurber, the writer's daughter. All are welcome to join in the fun. CHS is selling matted copies of Ruth Gannett's lithograph of West Cornwall. Before June 11, \$100; after, \$125.

Tax Relief Programs: With tax bills scheduled to go out at the end of June, the Board of Selectmen reminds us of two Cornwall tax relief programs: (1) If your property tax bill exceeds 8 percent of your income, you may enter into a tax-free situation with the town, which then takes a lien on the tax-abated property. That lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred. (2) Persons facing difficulty in paying their tax bill may apply for a \$200 reduction if the tax exceeds 10 percent of their income. This request must be filed with the town by June 15. For more details on either of these programs contact the First Selectman's office at 672-4959.

Tea Concert: Lee Beliver of the New York City Opera and Patricia Price of the Gregg Smith Singers will perform at UCC at 4 P.M. on Sunday, June 12. These professional sopranos will offer a program of songs from a variety of sources (classical music, show tunes, and love songs). Donations welcome; refreshments will be served. More information: church office, 672-6840.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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