CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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It's Graduation Time Again

June is once again upon us and with it the rite of passage known as graduation. Fourteen students will graduate from Cornwall Consolidated School on June 7 at 6 P.M. Nine will continue their education at Housatonic Valley Regional High School: Arielle Betti, Meghan Brown, Camilla Busby, Oliver Fox, Danielle Kearns, Will Morehouse, Liam Murphy-Saunders, Anouchka Sofia, and Genevieve Terrall. Apryl Classey will study at Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Christina Kent will move on to Wamogo, Nathan King will be attending Kent, Reilly Lynch will attend Hotchkiss, and Sarah Mulberry will study at Millbrook.

Graduating from Rudolf Steiner School will be Christopher Illes and Justin Tyler. Christopher will continue his education at Kent, and Justin will be attending Jr. Police Academy this summer and a local private school in the fall.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School will graduate 16 Cornwall residents on June 15 at 6:30 P.M. Continuing their education will be Charlotte Buck (Oberlin College), Katelyn Guerra (Framingham State), Ashley Hurlburt (who will work and attend Naugatuck Community College), Jacob Haitsch (Northwestern Community College), Julian Lasseur (Occidental College),

Cammie Naylor (Clemson University), Rhada Patel (Boston University), Charles Russ (SUNY-Cobleskill), Daniel Simons (New Mexico State University), Andre Wallace (undecided), and Julie Worthington (Northeastern University). Ryan Watts will work as a certified nursing assistant while pursuing education in the health field. Garrick Dinneen will be working in forestry and landscaping. Kyle Robinson will do a postgraduate year at an area private school, and Michael Savin will travel through the national park system and then attend school for environmental studies.

Three Cornwall students will graduate from Hotchkiss: Tyler Cheney will matriculate at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Christian Ebersol will study at Bowdoin College, and Isabelle Moschen will attend New York University. Chris Cochran will graduate from Pomperaug and will attend CIT Master's Training and Naugatuck Community College. Emery and Meredith Gray will graduate from Oliver Wolcott Technical School. Both will further their education at the Culinary Institute of America. Nina LaPorta, who was home-schooled, will attend Sterling College this summer. Tyra Lindholm will graduate from Exeter and matriculate at Northwestern University. Rachel Whiteside will graduate from George School

and is deferring for a year from Friends World Pro-

gram to travel to Central and South America.
Congratulations all! Go forth to continue
lifelong learning!

—Wynne Kavanagh

Town Plan Forum on June 23

Cornwall's Planning and Zoning Commission, led by Chair Annie Kosciusko, is reaching the end of the first stage in its 2007–8 revision of the Town Plan of Development. It was a decade ago that Cornwall's plan was last examined in depth, in line with the state's mandate for plan reviews and revisions every ten years.

In this initial stage, P&Z focused on the "state of the town," seeking input from town boards and commissions, community organizations, and others. In this "idea-gathering" stage, as Thomas McGowan, P&Z's planning consultant, calls it, they have received thoughtful suggestions from the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, and other municipal agencies and community groups. (If you want to read some of these responses, go to the "Planning Cornwall's Future" page at www.cornwallct.org.)

P&Z will hold a planning forum on June 23 from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the CCS gym. The purpose of the forum, says McGowan, is "to enthuse people" about the planning process and to give everyone a chance to put

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SATURDAY **SUNDAY MONDAY** TUESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY** 2 Electronic Waste Collection Day 9 A.M.–1 P.M. Torrington † 1 2 **Every Week This Month:** Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House Mohawk Trail Maintenance 9 A.M.-3 P.M. † Passport Day Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape or UCC; Stretch Class, 4 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi, 7 P.M. CCS 10 A.M.-3 P.M. Passport Day 10 A.M.-noon Cornwall Bridge Post Office Cornwall Bridge Post Office Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Keeping a Cow Workshop 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Local Farm Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location Children's Book Illustration Festival 10 A.M.—6 P.M. Region One Bd. of Ed. 8 6 7 7 P.M. HVRHS Library † Darlene Wadhams Bend & Stretch Clinic 9 Hazardous Waste Park and Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Recognition 3-5 P.M. CCS † 9:30-10:30 а.м. CCS Graduation Concert by Lorraine & Ben Hammond 4 p. M. Town Hall + Collection Day 9 A.M.-noon Falls Village **UCC** Parish House Inland Wetlands Hammond 4 p.m. Town Hall 1 8 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. Motherhouse Eggs-Perience 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Chickens 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Deadline: July 10 11 13 14 FLAG DAY 15 16 Town Beach Opens Chronicle Copy Bend & Stretch Clinic **Blood Pressure Screening** 11 а.м. † 9:30-10:30 A.M. Noon-1 P.M. Annual Beach Party: Cream Cornwall Artists Open **UCC Parish House UCC** Parish House Hill Lake Association 5–8 p.m. Studio Day 1-5 p.m. † Housatonic River Comm. HVRHS Graduation 6:30 PM Democratic Town Comm. Art Reception: Wish 7:30 p.m. CCS Library 7:30 P.M. Library House 4-6 P.M. † P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Town Planning Forum 9 A.M.-noon CCS 18 19 22 17 20 FATHER'S DAY SUMMER BEGINS Bend & Stretch Clinic (see p.1) Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. 9:30-10:30 A.M. Cornwall Association Motherhouse Mother-Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Newcomers' Tea **UCC Parish House** Daughter Retreat CCS Lib. 4 P.M. Library † Bd. of Selecting.. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 9:30 A.M.-3 P.M. 1 VFW Post 9856 African-American Civil War 8 р.м. W. C. Firehouse Soldier 4 P.M. Town Hall 24 25 29 26 27 30 28 Bend & Stretch Clinic 9:30-10:30 A.M. Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall' Alex's Lemonade Stand **UCC Parish House** 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse 11 а.м.-3 р.м. C. B. Firehouse † P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall

(continued from page 1)

their own thoughts into the mill. Other actions taken to achieve this goal include: (1) The Conservation Trust survey form (see the article "Cornwall Trust Survey Results" below); (2) the Cornwall Association/CCT-sponsored contest with cash prizes for the best short essays on what people want to see changed or preserved in Cornwall (see the article "A Contest for Cornwall" below); and (3) a possible P&Z photo contest for the shots of the best—and maybe the worst—features of our community.

Another element of P&Z's first stage has relied on consultants. First, the Nature Conservancy prepared a "build-out" map designed to help people visualize what Cornwall would look like if every potential lot had a house built on it in compliance with current zoning. Another firm, Planimetrics, is analyzing issues raised by the map. (There's a separate article on the map in this issue, too.) Second, the King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) has been doing in-depth studies of many aspects of Cornwall. The team includes geologists, soil scientists, foresters, and other experts. Their report is due soon, perhaps in time for the forum.

The forum will begin with an overview of recommendations that P&Z has received from town boards and organizations. Next, all who attend will be organized into "breakout groups" that will consider the suggestions and proposals sent in to P&Z, plus their own thoughts. The breakout groups will decide on the best ideas, and then facilitators from each group will present a summary of their decisions to the entire audience.

The forum marks the completion of the first stage of Town Plan revision—the "input stage," McGowan calls it. During the second stage, study committees led by P&Z members will be formed to focus on forum findings, proposals from boards and commissions, ERT suggestions, and other input. Their analyses and recommendations will form the basis for the final stage, during which P&Z will put together and adopt its own revisions to the Town Plan. Those revisions will then be presented to and considered for adoption by the Board of Selectmen. The target date for completing the revision is April 2008.

Of course, just because a new Town Plan gets adopted doesn't mean all will be well. For one thing, as McGowan notes, Connecticut law is very weak insofar as planning is concerned, so housing or commercial development need not follow plan guidelines. Also, the plan by itself can't control the effects that rising land prices, falling birth

rates, housing sprawl, and other pressures for change can have on our community. Only through the translation of the plan into

changes in zoning and other regulations, into revised tax and other fiscal policies, and through many other actions can the plan have a real impact. But at least the planning process should give us some idea of what may be coming at us down the pike.

—David A. Grossman

Play Ball!

Baseball season began on March 1 with the batting cage and pitching machine in the CCS gym for Cornwall kids to warm up as the weather does. Players start in the instructional league for second-graders, playing for the Mariners, coached by Ted Larson and Becky Hurlburt. The next level is the farm team, the Red Sox, coached by Gordon Ridgway and Aaron Pequignot. Then it's on to the Little League team that combines with players from Kent to form the Kent/Cornwall team coached by Jim Terrall and Don Hedden.

CCS has a girls softball team, the only team that plays on the school field; all the other teams play at Foote Fields. Tricia Collins has coached the girls for the past 11 years.

The boys team at CCS is coached by Matt Collins. Kyle Robinson, Steve Hedden, John Coe, Trevor Watts, Will Kennedy, and Brandon Abraham are now playing ball at HVRHS.

On July 7, at the Cornwall Community Picnic, the whole family can play softball for the Cornwall Cup at Foote Fields. Teams are divided by zip code plus a Yelping Hill/North Cornwall team. If you would like to play, contact Skip Kosciusko (06796), the Cheneys (06753), Dusty Sandmeyer (06754), or Josh Dubler (Yelping Hill). —Dave Cadwell

A Contest for Cornwall

What do you want to see Cornwall become in the years ahead? You can now post your ideas on the Internet for all to see, courtesy of the Cornwall Association and the Cornwall Conservation Trust. All you have to do is enter a contest for brief essays on our town's future. And maybe you'll win a cash prize, too!

There will be two divisions: a junior division open to any Cornwall student in the 12th grade or below, and a senior division for other Cornwall residents, year-round or seasonal. Prizes will be awarded to the writers of the best essays in each division, as determined by a panel of judges. First prize is \$250, second prize is \$150, and third prize is \$100. Every entrant will get a copy of a certificate drawn by Tim Prentice.

"The contest," says Ledlie Laughlin, Cornwall Association president, "is for the best brief statements in fewer than 500 words (about two pages) about how Cornwall should change, or try to remain the same." Contest rules are posted on the town website (www.cornwallct.org) and also at both libraries.

Judges for the junior division are Norma Lake, former history teacher at HVRHS; Scoville Soulé, former member of the Board of Education; and Fred Scoville III, a graduate of both CCS and Housy. For the senior division, judges are Ellen Moon, art curator for the Cornwall Free Library and a noted artist

in her own right; Scott
Cady, occasional town
meeting moderator; and
Hector Prud'homme, president of the Cornwall Conservation Trust.

Every entry will be posted on the website on the "Planning Cornwall's Future" page. To access it, mouse-click on that name at the bottom of the website's home page. Then you'll see instructions on how to download the contest entries.

If you want to participate, E-mail your entry to cornwalljunior@optonline.net for the junior division, or for the senior division, cornwallsenior@optonline.net. If you prefer to hand-write or type your entry, volunteers at the Cornwall Free Library will E-mail it for you. Entries can be submitted up to midnight on June 15, 2007. Winners will be announced at the town planning forum scheduled for June 23.

—Hector Prud'homme

Welcome

Cheyanne Jade to Melanie and Tyrell Cornelius Elizabeth Anne to John and Suni Unger

Good-Bye to Friends

Monte B. Dunn Lotte Hanf

Congratulations

Thressa Stephenson and April Dudley

Land Transfers

Furnace Brook FLP to Daniel J. and Cathrine de Neergaard Fetterman, property at 55 Essex Hill Road for \$615,950.

Jerold Panas to Dwight E. Lee, house and buildings on 11.574 acres at 332 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$1,300,000.

Town Budget Tops \$6 Million

Without a question or dissenting vote, a town meeting on May 18, attended by only 25 residents, adopted Cornwall's \$6,036,158 budget for fiscal year 2008. Shortly afterward, the Board of Finance set the tax rate at 11.9 mills, or 1.19 percent of the assessed value of real or personal property.

—The June Editors

Map of the Future?

Visit the Town Hall, the Library, or CCS, and you can see, pinned to the wall, a sobering sight. It's Cornwall's "Full Build-Out Map," and it gives a glimpse of our town if all the buildable land were subdivided and developed at current zoning standards. Existing houses are dots of blue, while new, stillimaginary houses are dots of red. The score? New red dots dwarf old blue dots by four to one, even leaving out un-buildable lots, state parks or forests, other protected land, wetlands, and steep slopes.

The map was prepared for the Planning and Zoning Commission by the Nature Conservancy. Chair Annie Kosciusko and P&Z

member Rick Lynn urge everyone to take a look. Rick calls it "a very useful tool to see where current zoning could be taking the community." David Grossman has written "Fiscal Implications of the Cornwall 'Build-Out Plan'" (posted on the "Planning" page of the Cornwall website); it examines what he calls "trendline" and "growth wave" scenarios of the build-out map. Which way are we headed? As First Selectman Gordon Ridgway notes, "even incremental change can turn into substantial change."

Meanwhile, map-minded folk might follow Annie's suggestion and check out the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Interactive Map, made by the Trust for Public Land (follow "View by Region" at www.tpl.org). As Director Timothy Abbott says, although the natural resource threats to Cornwall may be lower than in other regions of the state, "It would be a mistake to ignore them."

—Sandy Neubauer

Moving Ahead on Housing

The Cornwall Housing Corporation will close on the purchase of a site for new affordable housing units on May 30. The site is located in Cornwall Bridge, but its exact location hasn't yet been announced. James Levy, president of CHC, says the site will accommodate a number of families. Eligibility for an apartment includes residence or employment in Cornwall.

-Hanna K. Grossman

Cornwall Trust Survey Results

The Cornwall Conservation Trust sent out a survey form last fall to see what people here care about. Here's a summary of what was said on the 40 forms that came back.

What's wanted: protect ridgelines and views, Cream Hill Lake, the Housatonic River, Coltsfoot Valley, stone walls, dirt roads, the Covered Bridge, and farms. What can be done better: improve access to local farm products, more trails with maps, plan better for open space, more low- and middle-income housing, concentrate development in existing town centers, and offer more recreational opportunities to fish, raft, and hike to young people. Better zoning enforcement also got a top priority.

Not wanted: "McMansions" and other outof-character houses, buildings on ridgelines, large tracts of houses, more or wider roads, disappearing farms, snowmobiles, and night lights at Mohawk. —Emilie Pryor

Events & Announcements

June Is for the Dogs: All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed on or before June 30 at the Town Clerk's Office. Licenses will become available on June 1. Bring a current rabies vaccination certificate and \$19 (neutered or spayed dogs, \$8). Penalties apply for late registration. If you register by mail, enclose a SASE for return of tag and license.

Letters to the Chronicle

MANY TICKS, LITTLE HEART

I recently attended an excellent lecture at the Cornwall Library on heart disease. This lecture had been publicized very well, not only in your paper but elsewhere. I was alarmed to see so few persons in attendance at what was truly a first-class presentation. Where are the citizens of our communities, old and young, who should well profit by such a discussion? The doctor in charge, as well as his helpers, were all extremely proficient.

I cannot but feel a sense of shame at my fellow citizens for thinking a talk on ticks is more important than one's heart. (The recent "Tick Talk" brought out a crowd.)

—Donald R. Hart, Jr.

JUNE 23 FORUM

Residents have a great opportunity to help chart our town's future by attending the Town Plan Forum on June 23. There are several important issues facing the community that the Town Plan can address. These include affordable housing, local businesses, farm and land conservation, and development pressures. Our town is at a crossroad on these and other issues. Deci-

sions we make today can help shape our town in a positive direction. See you there!

-Gordon M. Ridgway

Artworks! Festival of Children's Book Illustration in Cornwall Village, on Saturday, June 2, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., is an art exhibit and festival to delight lovers of art and book

illustration of all ages. The all-day festival and month-long exhibit, sponsored by the Cornwall Free Library, feature nationally known illustrators, with their illustrations and books for sale. Spend a day with artists who create the magical worlds that come alive in children's books—storytelling, book signings, panel discussion with illustrators, and workshops.

A presentation by Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne, authors of the *Magic Tree House* series, will start at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall. Tickets for the Osborne show and reception are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children up to age 12. Come by the Library for advance tickets.

Electronic Waste Collection Day: Saturday, June 2, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant on Bogue Road. No registration necessary. Proof of residency required, such as a driver's license or bill with Cornwall address.

Trail Maintenance: Blue-Blazed Mohawk Trail, sponsored by the Appalachian Mountain Club, Saturday, June 2, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. Install rock steps and cribbing going up the ridge south of Jewell Street. Heavy work; difficult terrain. Meet at the hiker parking lot on the east side of Cornwall Bridge (Route 4). Wear work gloves and bring lunch and beverage. No pets, please. Rain or shine. For more information contact leader Henry Edmonds, HEdmonds@aol.com, or (203) 426-6459.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, June 9, from 9 A.M. to noon at the Falls Village Highway Garage. Registration with the Cornwall Selectmen's Office is required.

Passport Days will be hosted by the Cornwall Bridge Post Office on Friday, June 1, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., and Saturday, June 2, from 10 A.M. to noon. Photos will be taken, if needed, for \$15. For questions, applications, or to make an appointment (which will reduce waiting time), call 672-6710.

Darlene Wadhams Recognition: On Sunday, June 3, from 3 to 5 P.M. in the Gathering Room of CCS, the CCS PTA and the Board of Education will host a reception in honor of Darlene Wadhams, who will retire in June. The community is invited to celebrate Darlene's 37 years of nurturing our kindergarten students. A memory book will be available to add your thoughts or pictures.

Flowers for CCS Graduation: If you would like to donate freshly cut flowers for this event, please deliver them to CCS on Thursday, June 7, by 3:30 P.M. so that they can be arranged for the evening graduation ceremony. There will be water-filled buckets at the school entrance in which to set the flowers.

Hammond Concert: Lorraine Lee and Bennett Hammond will perform at the Town Hall on Sunday, June 3, at 4 P.M. The Hammonds play a variety of stringed instruments including dulcimer, banjo, and guitar. They are joined by local fiddler Rachel Gall. Bring a picnic dinner and instrument to jam and improv after the concert. Suggested donation: \$10. Sponsored by the Cornwall Free Library.

Second Annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held on Saturday, June 16, from 1 to 5 P.M. For a list of the 20 or so participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, log on to www.cornwallct.org and click on "Cornwall Artists."

Experiences of a Civil War Soldier will be portrayed by Kevin Johnson on Saturday, June 23, at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall. See insert for details.

Art in Cornwall: The Wish House will host a reception for Oxford, Connecticut, artist Leila Orienter on Saturday, June 16, from 4 to 6 P.M. at the gallery.

The Outsiders/Insiders Gallery will continue to show All About Africa through June. The public is invited to attend an official hand-off ceremony of nine Vigango burial totems to Ambassador Ogego of Kenya, tentatively scheduled for June 23 or 24. The gallery is the first to willingly return artifacts taken illegally from Africa, and this ceremony will be major news across the African continent. Check the Outsider's website, www.theoutsidersart.com, for specific date and time.

The Cornwall Free Library's shows Artworks! A Festival of Children's Book Illustrations and Russian Fairytale Boxes continue through the month of June.

A Beach Party will be hosted by Park & Rec. on Friday, June 15, from 5 to 8 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Association. Lifeguards will be on duty. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverages will be served. Bring a side dish to share.

Tax Relief Programs: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway 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 taxabated property. That lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred. (2) Persons facing difficulty 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.

Mother-Daughter Retreat sponsored by Motherhouse: "Summer Solstice Salutations, Flower Fairie Finery, and Kampfire Kebabs," Saturday, June 23, from 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Enjoy a relaxing day of quiet activities for mothers and daughters. Lunch included. \$35/ mother-daughter pair. Call Debra Tyler at 672-0229 or write Debra@motherhouse.us for location and to register.

A Little Help from a Friend

There's an old saw in the fundraising biz that people give to a worthy cause and think twice—if at all—about one crying poverty. As you ponder this wisdom, dear reader, remember the near-flawless worth of the *Chronicle* and fill in the little coupon below. We'd love to hear from you!

Tennis: Sign up on Friday afternoons for Saturday and Sunday play. The courts are reserved for clinics on weekday mornings from 8 A.M. to noon during June

and July.

The CCTA will offer a discount week to kick off the teaching year for players 18 and under from June 25 to June 28, 8 to 11 A.M.; \$20 for four one-hour lessons. Similar ages will be grouped together where pos-

sible. Class size will be limited, so first callers will be assured a spot. Contact Todd Piker (672-6545 or tpiker@optonline.net) to sign up or for more information.

Chronicle Insert Policy: Bob Potter has replaced Lisa Lansing Simont as the person who schedules inserts, but the policies stay the same. Different organizations sometimes request inserts in the same monthly issue. In an effort to be fair to all, we will try to follow these procedures: (1) First come, first served. (2) Requests for a second insert within a year will be honored only if no other organization wants that month. (3) Inserts must be limited to a single sheet, but organizations may agree to share by using opposite sides of the page. To schedule, call Bob Potter (672-6191), and then give him copy for approval (gnbpotter@optonline.net). After that, communication concerning inserts is between the local organization and our printer, Moore and More in Millerton (518-789-4508), to whom copy must be given by the 15th of the month.

Third Annual "Alex's Lemonade Stand" will be hosted by Reilly Hedden at the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse on Saturday, June 30, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Lemonade will be available by the cup, along with some baked goodies, and donations are appreciated. All money collected will be donated directly to the Alex's Lemonade Foundation and is used for childhood cancer research. Alex Scott died at the age of 8 of neuroblastoma, and her family has raised millions of dollars for this cause. Reilly and her family look forward to sending in a nice donation this year.

Cornwall Association: All friends of the Cornwall Association are invited to the welcoming tea for newcomers at 4 P.M. on Sunday, June 17, at the Cornwall Free Library.

Hammond Beach opens for the season on June 16. Hours: 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. Sunday to Thursday; Fridays and Saturdays until 7. For information call Tammy Decker at 672-6028.

Renter's Tax Relief Program applications will be accepted by the Assessor's Office from May 15 through September 15. Applicants are required by law to submit proof of their 2006 income. In addition, applicants must submit their rent and utility receipts for 2006 when filing for this program.

The income limits for this year (including Social Security) are: married, \$35,300; single, \$28,800. Elderly renters must have reached the age of 65 by December 31, 2006, to qualify. Renters on Social Security Disability do not need to meet the age requirement but must show proof of permanent disability status and meet the income limits for this program.

Cornwall residents who qualify may apply at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 9 A.M. to noon. Call 672-2703 for more information

Baseball Clinics: Torrington Twisters Baseball will offer two clinics in Cornwall, one from June 25 to June 28 and a second from July 30 to August 2. The sessions run from 9 A.M. to noon at Foote Fields and are open to boys and girls ages 7 to 16. Cost is \$85 per clinic. Visit www.torringtontwisters.org for more information and registration forms.



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Sharon Dietzel and Ginny and Bob Potter, Editors
sdietzel@optonline.net or gnbpotter@optonline.net

MANAGING EDITOR Tom Bechtle

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