

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 19: NUMBER 5 JUNE 2009



Stickup in Cornwall Bridge

Jason Durant. Remember that name! Someday you may be telling your grandchildren about him. But in case you didn't read the newspapers, Jason entered the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge just after it opened on Tuesday, April 28, after casing the joint from Baird's parking lot. He entered and jumped up on a counter, gun in hand, asking for contributions from the tellers.

Now before I go on with this, let me say that robbing a bank is serious business—a crime, a felony—but there were certain aspects of this bank robbery that sound as if both sides had been coached by Inspector Clouseau.

With bills of various denominations stuffed in his pockets, Jason had to hightail it. The getaway vehicle was at the bottom of the embankment to the rear of the bank. But said embankment is very steep, and down he tumbled, breaking bones as he fell into the snowplow blade of a parked truck. On the way he dropped his handgun, and the cash from the holdup flew out of his pockets, much of it ending up on Gordon Cavanaugh's lawn. The getaway car then took off at high speed northward on Popple Swamp Road.

State police were quickly on the case. They were apparently tipped off that Jason had gone to the emergency room at New Milford Hospital. There he was, but they didn't pick him up, they said, for lack of an arrest warrant. So Jason, now without a car, hitched a ride back to Cornwall Bridge. Yes, Cornwall Bridge! He was looking for the loose bills, but they had already been retrieved, almost to the last dollar. Still the police watched but only lurked. No arrest yet.

This, then, is how it ended: Jason went to his girlfriend's house in Sharon, where they soon got into a dispute. Someone, possibly the girlfriend, called 911, the cops arrived, and they finally had their man, with or without that arrest warrant, for bank robbery.

—John Miller

It's Graduation Time Again

Forty-one Cornwall students will graduate this year and begin a new chapter in their lives.

On June 11 at 6 P.M., 15 students will join the ranks of alumni at Cornwall Consolidated School. As a result, Housatonic Valley Regional High School will welcome MacKenzie Considine, Darby Council, Gabriella Dzenutis, Erica Kavanagh, Erik Kenniston, Marissa Larson, Liam Lynch, Matthew Matsudaira, Caitlan Redmond, Brian Saccardi, Laura White, and Jonah Whiteside.

Mary Kate Kosciusko will be attending the Westover School, while Aidan Cowan

TINIE ACCO

was undecided at press time.

Graduating from Washington Montessori is Arnon Fischer, who will start at the Kent School in the fall. Charles "Lee" Pryor will continue on at Indian Mountain School for ninth grade. Charles MacDavid will graduate from Salisbury Central and attend HVRHS. Alex North will continue to be homeschooled and pursue his love of farming.

HVRHS will graduate 20 Cornwall students at 6:30 P.M. on June 19. Continuing their education are Benjamin Ackerman (Susquehanna College), Ian Bardot (Northwest Community College), Paris Costello (Hillsboro Community College), William Kennedy (Arizona State University), Nicholas King (Gordon College), Ethan Naylor (Marymount College), Daven Patel (Northwest Community College), Melani Reilly (Syracuse University), William Russ (SUNY-Cobleskill), Elizabeth Saccardi (Western Connecticut State University), Elizabeth Sawicki (University of Rhode Island), Mariah Shanahan (Daytona State College), and Emily Thaler (University of Tampa). Cameron Samson and Kristen Scott are still undecided where they will continue their education. Trevor Watts will be joining the U.S. Air Force. Trevor Tuthill will be working.

Silvia LaPorta, who has been homeschooled, will be attending Warren Wilson College. Graduating from Kent School is

UNE 2009(continued on page						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Region One Bd. of Ed. 6 P.M. HVRHS Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Office	3	4 Pinocchio 6:30 p.m. CCS †	5 Pinocchio 11 A.M. CCS † Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library	6 Hazardous Waste Collection Day 9 A.M.— NOON Falls Village † Community Contra & Family Dance 7–9:30 P.M. Town Hall †
7 Pick-up Softball 4:30 p.m. CCS Ballfield	8 Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC	Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	10	CCS Graduation 6 P.M.	12 Community Beach Party 5–8 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Association †	Raising Chickens Workshop, Local Farm 10:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M. † 4th Annual Artists' Open Studio Day 11 A.M.—5 P.M. † Town Beach Opens 11 A.M. † Talk on Black Bears 3 P.M. Library †
14 FLAG DAY Appalachian Egg Basket Workshop 10 A.M.— 4 P.M. Local Farm † Art Show Receptiion 3—5 P.M. Library † Pick-up Softball 4:30 P.M. CCS Ballfield	Deadline: July Chronicle Copy	16 CCS Last Day of School Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	17	H8 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. West Cornwall Firehouse	HVRHS Graduation 6:30 p.m. Iraq Moratorium Network 7 p.m. †	Pood Glorious Food 9:30 A.M4 P.M. (See insert.) Family Round Sing 7:30 P.M. Local Farm Barn
21 FATHER'S DAY FIRST DAY OF SPRINGG Pick-up Softball 4:30 p.m. CCS Ballfield	ZBA 8 p.m. Town Hall*	23	24 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. West Cornwall Firehouse	25	26	27
28 Pick-up Softball 4:30 p.m. CCS Ballfield	29	30	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 p.m. Call 672-0229 for Location; Men's Adult Basketball, 7:30 p.m. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7 p.m. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5 p.m. Town Hall; Women's Adult Basketball, 7:30 p.m. CCS; Tai Chi, 6 p.m. CCS Gathering Room Sundays: Meditation Group, 1–2 p.m. 672-0229 to confirm			

(continued from page 1)

Nicole Hamilton, who will attend Carleton College.

A great big "congratulations" to all of Cornwall's students. —*Tom Levine*

Housing Market Update

Cornwall's housing market has been basically stalled since last fall, says Barbara Bigos, the town assessor. Between October 2008 and early May 2009, her office recorded only three "valid" house sales (excluding sales between members of the same family or other non-market transactions). This compares to a more customary pace of 11 or more sales in the same time period in previous years. Three sales, Barbara noted, are too few to indicate a trend, especially because at least one showed a sharp drop from what she calculated as the house's "fair value," and only one showed a modest gain.

As it did in the Northwest Corner as a whole, the Cornwall housing market came to a near halt in November of last year. "Most sellers," Barbara said, "don't seem desperate to sell and aren't offering bargains." The result is few sales.

Barbara's view of the market is much the same as that of Priscilla Miller of Bain Real Estate in West Cornwall, although Priscilla does note that since the first of April, "We have seen a bit of a thaw." It's not been a "flood" of buyer interest, as in previous years, but some stirring, mostly at the high end of the market (\$1 million and above). In the middle, the \$500,000-\$900,000 price range of most second-home buyers, interest "is just not yet visible," says Priscilla. However, she has seen increasing interest in houses selling below the half-million-dollar range.

In line with state law, Cornwall is not required to have its next town-wide revaluation until 2011. By that time, our assessor (and maybe the rest of us, too) hopes that the housing market will have returned to a more normal condition. But even if it doesn't, there is a bit of a rainbow for homeowners: even if the mill rate should rise due to falling valuations in 2011, the annual tax bill for most individual properties would remain much the same.

—David A. Grossman

Kestrel Project

Last spring and summer, three pairs of statethreatened American kestrels nested successfully in our town, and hopes are high for at least that many this year. These beautiful open-country falcons raised healthy broods in North Cornwall, Coltsfoot Valley, and East Cornwall, and all nestlings were banded

with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service "bird bracelets." This is the 32nd year of my nest box project to assist this species, part of the declining grassland bird array, begun in Sharon in 1977 and in Cornwall in 2002.

In 2007 I took the volunteer project further afield, and there are now nest boxes in quality habitats on farmland and land trust properties in many towns in northwest and northcentral Connecticut. This month there are nesting pairs at an orchard in Watertown, high in Roxbury meadows, in South Windsor alongside tobacco barns on the Connecticut River, on lovely Horsebarn Hill at UConn, and also in nearby Sharon, where nine pairs of kestrels nested last year. —Art Gingert

Resourceful Planning

"Natural Resources—Conservation" is the next chapter in the Planning and Zoning Commission's revision of the Town Plan. Cochaired by Rick Lynn and David Colbert, P&Z's Natural Resources Committee studied newly created maps depicting our town's water, agricultural, open-space, and recreational resources, as well as development constraints like wetlands, steep slopes, and flood zones. The King's Mark Environmental Review Team prepared a resources inventory. Then the committee drew up recommendations.

Top priority was given to establishing an official Cornwall Conservation Commission to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It would seek coordination and consensus in land-use and open-space planning. The initial focus of the commission would be to help implement the Town Plan.

Members of the Resources Committee include Rick Lynn, Dave Colbert, Jean Bouteiller, Jeff Lynch, Freddie Scoville, and Nikolle Kuehnert. They will be listening for community comment. Draft copies of their report will soon be available at the Town Office.

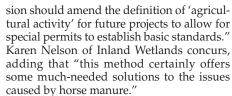
—Ginny Potter

Sweet Horse Manure

Sweet Peet, an organic, Martha Stewart-approved mulch made from horse manure, is coming to Cream Hill Farm. Given the fact that horses outnumber cows in Connecticut, that we have the highest concentration of horses in the country (14 per square mile according to a University of Connecticut study), and that officials worry about the waste, horse manure is definitely a by-product worth looking into.

And Sweet Peet has indeed been recognized, after some discussion, by the Planning and Zoning Commission as an "agricultural commodity." "The site is well suited, and we have no issue with this particular application," Rick Lynn told us.

"Our only concern was whether the commis-



"Some people tell us that Sweet Peet is the neatest thing since sliced bread," says Ralph Gold, speaking for the farm. "The company came to us with the proposal because they are looking for scattered sites conveniently situated for deliveries. They are limited to 5,000 cubic yards of material on any given site, to ensure low environmental impact. The Department of Environmental Protection has been monitoring the Sweet Peet pilot project in Bethlehem for three years and finds it to be a neat and tidy operation, with no incidents of runoff. They've told us our site is perfect."

Addressing one of the possible concerns about Cream Hill Farm's Sweet Peet, the Golds say, "The maximum traffic at the site is expected to average 1.25 trucks per day." Ralph mentioned that this would be no more truck traffic than they used to have when they ran the dairy.

"With the selling of development rights to the farm," says Ralph, "and the need to maintain open space, we felt that this fit well with our vision. It's just part of the agricultural puzzle. The greater part of the monoculture we knew as children is not possible now; you need a combination of activities that can coexist, just like the many enterprises of Chris Hopkins and Deb Tyler. One of our neighbors told us she thinks this project is great. That made us feel pretty good."

—Ella Clark

Welcome

Roselyn May to Allison and Matthew Vitolo

Land Transfers

Edward Jackman to Andrea Bernardi and Lance Patterson, 5.60 acres with buildings and improvements thereon at 19 Wright Hill Road for \$365,000.

Spring Is Busting Out All Over

Improvements are just a few months away for many Cornwall businesses. We're talking about a state STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant, known in our town as the Cornwall Façade Improvement Program. We're not yet talking about economic activity, but the hope is that will soon

follow.

Here's what's happening: Thanks to State Senator Andrew Roraback and State Representative Roberta Willis, the state has allocated a \$150,000 STEAP grant (Cornwall's fourth) for façade improvements. So far, nine (over half) buildings in

West Cornwall and six in Cornwall Bridge are participating.

Local businesses fill out applications detailing the work they propose, supported by cost estimates and bids from local contractors and suppliers. Thus, the program helps other local businesses by providing work for contractors and may also provide sales for suppliers.

Applications are submitted to an *ad hoc* committee. One of the committee members, Rick Lynn, has managed similar programs in neighboring communities. Other committee members include Building Inspector Paul Prindle, Cara Weigold, and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway.

Reimbursable project costs are limited to \$10,000. Of this, the applicant is expected to advance 80 percent (to be reimbursed upon project completion) and pay the remaining 20 percent out of pocket. This means that applicants must have at least that amount of cash available. This requirement has caused some potential applicants to decline to participate.

Projects vary widely. Bianca Griggs is going to have the trim painted on The Wish House, while the Cornwall Bridge Package Store is going for new windows, exterior sign lighting, and some landscaping. The privately owned Post Office building in Cornwall Bridge is slated to receive new windows and new paving on some of its parking area. Clearly, "façade" is interpreted broadly,

almost meaning "exterior."

Todd Piker expects to repair and paint the exterior of his showroom building in West Cornwall. Todd says that "the program is great, but work to be done under it totals more than the \$15,670 I estimate, against which I will collect the maximum of \$8,000." Cheryl Evans's building in the West Cornwall station plaza that houses the RSVP restaurant is due for new roofing, installation of handrails, painting, and landscaping, as well as an improved entrance way. The cost will exceed the maximum allowance.

At the Cornwall Inn, which is to be painted an attractive new color, owner Mark Hampson says, "We couldn't have done it without the assistance provided by the grant. I couldn't afford not to take advantage of the program." The grant will also provide for a new entrance awning.

There's another important aspect to the program: It includes \$25,000 for traffic information and improvement. Signs will direct tourists and visitors to our restaurants, the Historical Society, the libraries, etc. The signs will be complemented by literature racks provided by Ian Ingersoll, to be placed in stores and restaurants, telling visitors of Cornwall's attractions.

Work was forecast to start in May and to be completed by the tourist season. Watch for the flowering of Cornwall's commercial establishments by mid-summer.

—Stephen Senzer

Letters to the Chron

SUMMER EVENTS IN CORNWALL

You can find many summer events for kids and adults of all ages and interests in the Events. & Announcements section of the Chronicle. But you can find an even more extensive listing on the Park & Recreation website at www.cornwallparkandrecreation.org. Try it!

—Bethany Thompson

THE POWER OF JOY!

I can rest in peace! For the last half century that massive brick chimney had me rolling over in my grave. And now I find my sleep is returned—with the return of the cupola to my carriage barn.

—Architect

(The above popped up in the e-mail of cornhistsoc@optonline.net.)

—Ginny Potter

AUCTION RESULTS

The Cornwall Child Center raised \$30,500 from this year's 18th benefit auction! We look forward to another auction event in May 2010.

—Cara Weigold

ART AT THE DUMP

We had a great time at this year's Art at the Dump exhibition. We sold over \$2,000 worth of art to many different visitors. Grand prize was awarded to John Westberg (who also won last year!) for his "Radiator Sheep." The Phillip Jones Award went to four artists: Sam Hurlburt, Bryce Laigle, Savannah Martin, and Ian Ridgway. Start collecting junk now for next year's show.

—Richard Griggs

GRYPHON GONE

A Gryphon has vanished! In April I discovered my mailbox missing from 110 Cream Hill Road. It was broken from its base, along with the whimsical metal Gryphon that has sat perched atop the mailbox for many a year.

—Leslie Elias

Library Volunteer

LaRey of Canaan faces challenges because of a stroke at age 26. As a result, she suffers from aphasia, a disorder that affects her ability to speak, read, or write as effectively as she once did. But LaRey doesn't let this stop her. When she was a young girl, she used to ask her grand-

mother to take her to the library. Now, her love for books shows in the volunteer work she does at the Cornwall Library.

Through Prime Time House, which seeks opportunities for people with disabilities, LaRey met Amy Cady, the Library director. Amy notes that in the three months LaRey has been volunteering, she has been of great help in "reading" the shelves to ensure that books are in order. LaRey began in the children's section and then advanced to the adult and books on tape/CD and movie sections. Amy says, "She certainly is capable of taking on more. I'd love to clone her!"

LaRey's work helps the Library and is also rehabilitative for her in areas like speaking, using decimals, and alphabetization. She also has a sense of involvement. As LaRey says, "I just love the Library. I could sleep here!" The sentiment (though not about sleeping there) is reciprocated by the Library staff and patrons.

—Nick Pohl

Events & Announcements

Iraq Moratorium Network will meet on Friday, June 19, at 7 P.M. Call 672-0183 for location and further information.

Contradance at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 6, from 7 to 9:30 P.M. Bill Fisher calling and Still, the Homegrown Band playing. Donations are suggested; refreshments will be served. New dancers are welcome. Any questions, call Kathy or Bill Lyon at 672-0550.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place in Falls Village on Saturday, June 6, from 9 A.M. to noon. Check under your sink and in your garage for cleaners, oil-based paint, turpentine, pesticides, herbicides, household cleaners, hobby supplies, and other such wastes. Propane tanks from barbecue grills are also accepted. No charge for drop-off, but preregistration is required. Call the Selectmen's Office (672-4959) by 4 P.M. on June 4.

Pinocchio Play: CCS students will perform an adaptation of the classic story at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 4, at the school. The public is invited. A second performance, also open to the public, will take place on Friday, June 5, at 11 A.M. For information contact Leslie Elias at grumblinggryphons@yahoo.com or 672-0286.

Motherhouse Events at Local Farm

For more information, ticket prices, and to reserve places, contact Debra Tyler at 672-0229. See www.motherhouse.us.

- Saturday, June 13, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Learn about raising chickens for your own eggs and meat. Pre-registration required.
- June 14, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Make an Appalachian egg basket with Carol Hart. Please pre-register.
- June 20, 7:30 P.M. Family Round Sing. Free.

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, Sam Corwin's show of landscape paintings and ceramics will continue through June 6. Beginning June 9, the Library will host a food-themed group show in conjunction with its Food Glorious Food festival. There will be an artists' reception on Sunday, June 14, from 3 to 5 P.M.

Deborah Persson's photography exhibit will be at The Wish House through July 30.

At Lady Audrey's Gallery, the DeWolfe Hotchkiss retrospective continues through June. The gallery announces its first art competition, appropriately themed Bridges, in a nod to the gallery's location near the covered bridge in West Cornwall. All artists, working in any media, are invited to submit their interpretations of that subject. The gallery's website, www.ladyaudreysgallery.com, has all the details about how to enter. The Bridges exhibition will be held over Labor Day weekend.

The Cornwall Farmers' Market will be on the Wish House Lawn in West Cornwall in June. On June 20, the market will be held at the Library in conjunction with the *Food Glo*rious Food event. For more information contact Bianca at The Wish House (672-2969) or log on to the Cornwall Community Network (cornwall_community_network@yahoogroups.com).

June Is for the Dogs: Connecticut state law requires that 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). For a neutered or spayed dog being licensed for the first time, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented. Penalties apply for late registration. If you choose to register by mail, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of tag and license.

Bear Talk: The Connecticut DEP will present an illustrated talk about black bears in our region—their behavior and how to deal with them. Saturday, June 13, at 3 P.M. at the Library.

Sweeping Changes

The sounds of Armageddon grow louder every day, it seems, as the lords of the great presses square off against the forces of the new media. And the little newspapers? It's been noted that small, cautious, local banks have been quite sound during the cataclysms affecting their larger brethren. So it is that the Chronicle thrives, with no Chinese banks to repay—at least not yet. Your contribution is what keeps us healthy. Thank you.

Art Show Reception will be held for the opening of the group art show Food Glorious Food at the Cornwall Free Library on Sunday, June 14, from 3 to 5 P.M.

Open Studios: The Fourth Annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. For a list of the 15 or so participating artists, directions to their studios, and a tour map, go to www.cornwallct.org and click on "Cornwall Artists."

Chairish the Arts: Cornwall artists are invited to participate in the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council's "CHAIRish the Arts" auction. It features chairs decorated by artists and will benefit, among others, Cornwall's Fourth Grade Arts Day. Chairs, stools, and benches are needed; please bring donations to the Transfer Station. See http:// www.chairishthearts.org for more information and to register.

Renters' Relief Program: The Assessor's Office is accepting applications for the Elderly and Disabled Renters' Rebate Program through September 15, 2009. Applicants must be 65 as of December 31, 2008, or disabled and receiving Social Security disability support. Income limits for 2008 are: married \$37,300; single \$30,500. Income, rent, and utility statements for 2008 must be submitted with the application. For more information or to request an application, contact the Assessor's Office Tuesday through Thursday from 1 to 4 P.M. or call 672-2703.

Tennis: The clay courts in Cornwall Village are ready for use. Signup is available Friday P.M. for Saturday and Sunday play. Courts are reserved for clinics weekday mornings in June and July. CCTA offers a discount week to kick off the teaching year: June 29, 30, and July 1, 2, from 9 A.M. to noon. Four one-hour lessons for \$20; age limit 18. Contact Todd Piker (672-6545 or tpiker@optonline.net) with questions.

Tax Relief Programs: There are two Cornwall tax relief programs: (1) If you face difficulty in paying your tax bill, you may apply for a \$200 reduction if the tax exceeds 10 percent of your income; (2) If your property tax bill exceeds 8 percent of your income, you may enter into a tax-free condition with the town, which then takes a lien on the taxabated property. That lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred. Requests must be filed with the Selectmen's Office by June 15. For more details, contact the Selectmen's Office at 672-4959.

Town Beach will open on Saturday, June 13. Hours will be 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. every day. Swim lessons and swim team registration will be from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. during the week of June 22-26. Passes are available at the Selectmen's Office for \$20 per family. The beach director advises anyone who is sick not to swim because it is possible to spread illness through the water.

Park & Recreation will hold its annual Community Beach Party at the Cream Hill Lake Association on Friday, June 12, from 5 to 8 P.M. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Cornwall Agricultural Commission will be sponsoring an ice cream social. Lifeguards will be on duty.

Grumbling Gryphons will hold a two-week Theater Arts Camp at the Town Hall during August. Campers can attend one or two weeks for half- or full-day sessions. Week One is August 3 to 7, ages 6–12 years. Week Two is August 10 to 14. Music, art, dance, and stilt walking will be taught. Info and registration, Leslie Elias, 672-0286, or grumblinggryphons@yahoo.com.

Community Picnic: The 20th Anniversary Tornado Celebration to benefit the Historical Society and the eighth grade at CCS will be held on Saturday, July 4 (rain date July 5) at Foote Field. Events include pick-up soccer game (10 A.M.), pick-up softball game (1 P.M.), and inflatable rides (noon to 4 P.M.). Free burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Bring your own picnic. Bring memories, stories, and pictures.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

JUNE ISSUE Bob Parker, Illustrations Ella Clark and David Grossman, Editors

JULY ISSUE

Sharon Dietzel and John Green, Editors
sdietzel@optonline.net or jfgreen@optonline.net

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