



High School Budget

No matter how the HVRHS board slashes the school budget for 1991-1992, Cornwall taxpayers will be hit with a huge increase.

Students at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School are paid for by the individual towns on a per-pupil tuition basis. This year's rise in the number of Cornwall pupils, from 26 to 31, means that Cornwall's percentage of the total school budget will increase from 6.7% to 7.7%. The added students will cost the town about \$50,000. This increase has little to do with whatever total budget increase is finally approved by the voters.

At a board meeting on February 19, Principal John Mahoney proposed a budget of \$5,086,772, a 5.1% increase. The overall increase and the added pupils are projected to cost Cornwall \$63,222 more than last year. Mahoney pointed out that pupil costs at HVRHS are a little less than those in the average four-year high school in a Connecticut regional district.

In the past, the number of Cornwall students declined as total costs rose, resulting in a minimal impact on the town budget. Future projections are up. The rise in the Cornwall Consolidated School en-

rollment from 79 to 142 is now being felt on higher levels.

The HVRHS board held a budget workshop in Kent on February 25 and will hold one in Salisbury on March 11. The workshop will be at the elementary school at 7:30 P.M.
- Robert Potter

Housing Corp. Rentals to Range From \$280.00 to \$520.00

The final application for Kugeman Village has been submitted to the Department of Housing. Barring unforeseen developments, bids for construction will be accepted in September, with construction to begin as soon thereafter as possible. Projected rental figures (based on income) are as follows: one-bedroom units, from \$280 to \$420; two-bedroom units, from \$330 to \$520, including heat and water.

An information meeting is planned for early April, at which time drawings and models will be displayed. At that same meeting the procedures for leasing parcels of land for building homes will be discussed. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The exact time and date of the meeting is announced in this issue of the Chronicle.
- Ken Keskinen

School Moves In

February 19, 1991 will be remembered as a special day by the faculty and students of CCS. The new addition to the school was opened for student use after ten months of construction. The new quarters will house the fourth through eighth grades, the media center, and a computer lab. The new wing also provides several firsts for Cornwall: an elevator in a public building, student lockers, an earthquake proof building and separate rooms for each class and program.

The next, and final, phase of work will be alterations to the oldest wing and the current library and art/computer room. These latter areas will become a science room and an art room. The original wing will be turned into conference, health, music, and special education rooms. The exterior shingling of the building will be finished as weather permits. The contractor, Stanley A. McBeth, Inc. of Simsbury, plans to continue at the current pace with the renovations and be finished with all work before school is out in June.

An open house is being planned when the construction is complete so all may see what has been done.
- Ralph Gold

MARCH 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
Art Shows at Cornwall Library Tim Prentice show continues until March 23 Nancy Bevans show opens March 26 Bill Curry, Speaker, 8 pm, everybody and anybody invited.			LQ 8	NM 16	FQ 23	FM 30	1	2
3	4 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off.	5 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse <i>see above</i> Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall	6	7	8	9		
10	11 Plan. & Zoning 8pm Town Hall	12 Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm Bd. of Finance 7:30pm Town Hall	13	14 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Bd. of Finance 7:30pm Town Off. Housing Corp. 7:30pm 1st Church	15	16 <i>Poetry reading Cadwell's Corner 8 pm, see page 2</i>		
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	19	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 	21 Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall Bd. of Ed. 4:30pm CCS Library	22 <i>Contra dance see page 4</i>	23 <i>Prentice show closes see above</i>		
24 PALM SUNDAY 	25 Conserv. Comm. 7:30pm Town Off. Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall	26 <i>Nancy Bevans art show see above</i> Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	27 Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	28 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30 FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER		
31 EASTER 								

Beaten by a Century

Cornwall's first paper, the CORNWALL STAR, was a weekly, later a biweekly, published in 1880 and 1881 by Joseph Ernest Whitney while home on vacations from Yale, and by Edwin Dennis Cole, a Cornwall job printer. An issue consisted of four 5½ x 7½ pages devoted to social notes, humor, some news and one page of advertising. Among topics appearing with some consistency were: the First Church, baseball, and the Cornwall - Cornwall Bridge telephone line, Cornwall's first. Examples of its humor:

"There was a small boy had some powder.
And in trying to make it go louder
He succeeded so well
That his friend couldn't tell
His remains from a dish of clam chowder."

"After watching archery practice, Mrs. Malaprop innocently remarked that the ladies were getting very arch with their bows."

The clipping below is from the CORNWALL STAR's first issue.

- Michael Gannett

The Cornwall Star.

Published weekly during July and August.
Subscription price, postage paid, 25 cents, single copies, 3 cents.

J. E. WHITNEY, Editor,
E. D. COLE, Publisher.

*All communications, business or otherwise,
must be addressed to THE STAR, BOX 38,
Cornwall, Conn.*

We purpose to publish a weekly paper during the summer season, issuing in all nine numbers. Rumor has already advertised us, and perhaps has created expectations that we shall fail to fulfill. The size of our sheet is necessarily limited, but our motto is *quality*, not quantity.

P & Z Approves Sawmill Amendment, Sets Hearing for Affordable Housing Subdivision

The regular February meeting was short, but significant items were addressed.

Issues that in the past have caused controversy were heard and approved with minimal discussion. After introduction of the Limited Use Sawmills amendment with background and rationale, the Commission voted unanimously to accept it, thereby concluding a year of work. Also approved were the renewal of special permits for Rocky River to mine gravel off Rte. 7 and for the town to house its indigent client on Lake Road.

Gordon Ridgway, speaking for the Cornwall Housing Corporation, showed resubdivision plans which would form five lots on an eleven-acre parcel on Pierce Lane. This plan uses two special permit

sections which the Commission added to the regulations to encourage the creation of affordable housing in town. The required hearing is scheduled for the next regular meeting.

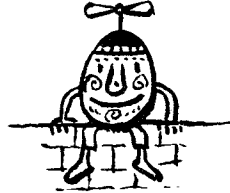
- Virginia Potter

Land Transfers

Margaret Bardot to David P. and Jane D. Monagan on Stone Hill Road House and 3 ac. - \$382,000

Estate of Joseph and Ann White Blumenthal to Ella L. Clark - White Street House and 34.8 ac. - \$425,000

Karla D. Ziemann to Tom Brashares on Cream Hill Road 4 ac. - \$70,000



Cornwall Roads: The Pits

A five-year road rebuilding and restoration program has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen by Road Supervisor Gene Ingvertsen. It is generally agreed that many of our roads are in poor condition and have been for some time. A few years back an independent engineering study was commissioned to spell out what would be required to bring our roads back to reasonably good shape, but this report was shelved at the time and not implemented. It is an updating of this engineering report that is the basis for Mr. Ingvertsen's plan.

Road rebuilding requires reconstruction of the road from the road bed up and involves the use of massive and expensive equipment. The generic term used for this type of complete reconstruction is the "Bomag" process. Bomagging goes well beyond oiling and sanding, which is a surface-only treatment, and also beyond the building up of the road surface with two to three inches of asphalt, the so-called "chip and seal" treatment. For comparison purposes, and with the realization that road fixing costs are dependent on road width as well as the type of treatment, oiling and sanding a given stretch of road might cost \$5,000 a mile and last one to three years. To "chip and seal" that same stretch would be \$105,000 per mile and hold up for five to ten years. "Bomagging" would cost about \$140,000 per mile and would be expected to last twenty years with proper maintenance.

The estimated cost of Mr. Ingvertsen's five-year program is two million dollars. The Boards of Selectmen and Finance will be studying it in the budget-preparing months ahead. Other demands on our tax dollar and the impact this plan would have on our mill rate will no doubt have their effect on how much of this plan will be in the 1991-1992 budget.

- Scoville Soule

Cornwall School History Study

On Monday, January 7, Cornwall Consolidated School launched a five-week school-wide Cornwall Awareness Project. It was the final activity of the town's 250th anniversary, organized by Mrs. Meehan of the EXTEND schoolwide enrichment program.

Each week the students were involved in a different aspect of the past. Some topics that were covered were: Cornwall's land and resources; the role of the churches and farms; changes brought about by the railroad and the local industries; Cornwall's part in the Revolutionary and Civil wars; the town's public and private schools; and the composition of Cornwall's population today.

Michael Gannett and the Cornwall Historical Society contributed vital information, pictures and artifacts.

On Thursday, February 7, the school clocks were set back 150 years. The clothes, lessons, games and food were changed so we could experience going to school in "the good old days." Each class had a chance to visit a typical 1800's classroom that the Historical Society set up in the EXTEND room. At the end of the day, students were assigned to mixed-grade classrooms where they experienced the atmosphere and lessons of the 1800's.

- Lynn Meehan



Selectman OK Tax Abatement

The selectman have been working hard, with four recent special meetings devoted to garbage and budgeting. The highlight of their regular meeting on February 19 was a request for tax abatement on the Route 7 lower income housing project. Gordon Ridgway said the amount involved might come to about \$25,000 at the current mill rate. We wouldn't be giving up any taxes that we are collecting now, but there would be new demands for town services. Steve Hedden remarked that when we decided to undertake the project it had been understood that the town would abate taxes. The selectmen decided to recommend the abatement to the Board of Finance and to a March Town Meeting.

Carey McDonald explained the request of the new regional Youth Services Bureau for \$435 for the remainder of the current fiscal year. After hearing her discussion, the selectmen voted to recommend the item to the Board of Finance and to include a line for the Bureau in next year's budget. Pam Reagan presented a request for an ordinance declaring Cornwall a nuclear free zone. While the selectmen seemed sympathetic to the idea, they had problems with some of her proposed language and suggested that she revise it before taking it to a Town Meeting.

- Hendon Chubb

More Money for Ski-Wee

Cornwall Park and Rec, at its February meeting, voted to increase its 1991-92 budget by \$1000 to pay for an anticipated increase in the cost of the Ski-Wee program next winter. The number of children in Ski-Wee is expected to go from the current 30 to 44 and the cost from \$450 to \$600. Karen Stevens, head of Park and Rec, said her commission will have to pick up the cost of transportation, which now comes from the Board of Education budget. The increase must be approved by the Board of Finance. - John Miller

The IWWA - A Vital Protection

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency was established under state laws originally passed in 1972. The Agency's job is to regulate the use of Cornwall's wetlands (such as bogs, swamps, floodplains, and marshes) and the land near watercourses as well as the watercourses themselves.

Wetlands and watercourses play a crucial part in nature: they are essential to adequate clean water supply, control of flooding and erosion, as well as providing irreplaceable habitat for many species of animals and plants.

To protect these assets, citizens must obtain a permit to engage in certain "regulated activities." At regular monthly meetings, the Agency considers applications for such permits and votes on whether to issue them. The law is succinct in defining the kinds of activities that are regulated: any "operation within or use of a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstructions, construction, alteration or pollution of such wetlands or watercourses . . ." Specific examples of regulated activities include diversions of a stream with constant flow, clearcutting of timber except to expand crop land, and commercial mining of soil or gravel from wetlands.

The Agency has enforcement powers, and violators may be taken to court. But the main inducement to conform to the regulations should be concern for the wetlands themselves, which are so vital - and still so seriously threatened in the U.S., which loses hundreds of thousands of acres each year. - Charles Osborne



Keep the Letters Coming!

Please try to keep them short and get them in by the 16th of the month. We reserve the right to edit for space. If you would like us to check any cuts with you, let us know. Send mail to The Chronicle, PO Box 246, W. Cornwall, CT 06796.



Letters to the Chronicle



SALUTE IN VERSE

*The Chronicle is really neat,
A sorely needed info sheet.
At last we have it all writ down,
What's going on in Cornwall town.*

*There's no more getting in a race,
To find out what is taking place.
We can't say now, "I didn't know,
So that is why I didn't show."*

*From now on crowds should swell the hall,
Debating issues great and small.
We thank you for this vital link.
Hurrah for keeping us in sync.*

-Lydia Wolf

TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS

*I take exception to Mr. Mager's letter
regarding the removal of tornado-felled
eyesores visible from the roadside.*

*A massive effort by all concerned has
already restored a great deal of Cornwall.
Many have neither the time nor the money
to continue by beautifying the roadways.
People are doing what they can according to
their own priorities, and for many, pleasing
passers-by is not the first priority. Give it
time, Mr. Mager, give it time. -David Silva*

WELL . . . TIME AND MONEY

*It is easy, I suppose, for someone totally
unaffected by the 1989 tornado to criticize
those of us who suffered enormous amounts
of damage. My property is one of the "more
visible eyesores" that Ezra P. Mager wrote
of in your last issue.*

*I lost 152 trees. My next door neighbor
and I were each given an estimate of
\$25,000, to "clean up" our properties,
\$28,000 for the neighbor the other side of
him. Somehow none of us feels free to spend
those amounts, none of which is tax
deductible, by the way.*

*Meanwhile, the Calhouns should be
given a note of thanks for clearing Coltsfoot
Valley, and Richard Simons for grooming
his highly visible property. My eternal
gratitude to the Town of Cornwall for all
they did to help me out of the mess.*

- Ann Peterson

POETRY AT CADWELL'S CORNER

*Poetry lovers are invited to come and
read their own poems or poems by others at
a gathering at Cadwell's Corner in West
Cornwall at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 16th.*

*Coffee will be provided by the Cadwells.
Participants may bring additional refreshments
if they desire.*

*Twenty-nine people attended the last
reading which was held on February 16th.
Readers included several poets from
Cornwall and nearby towns; selections
ranged from the 16th century to 1991.*

For further information, call 672-6133.

- Marie Prentice

MUSICAL SUCCESS

*I think I speak for all those in Cornwall
who saw one of the two performances of
"Amahl and the Night Visitors" when I
offer my thanks and admiration to Anne
Chamberlain, the cast and the crew. You
were all splendid! So was the participation
of the town in raising \$1,100 for the
Torrington Soup Kitchen and OWL's
Kitchen in Lakeville, the beneficiaries of the
ticket sales.*

- Lisa Lansing

TURKEY FEATHERS

*If you haven't seen Tim Prentice's show
at the Library, don't miss it. It's a lot of fun.
He put it together in a hurry (when
someone cancelled) from "things I had
around." Of course, the things Tim has
around are not like the things the rest of us
have around.*

*Feathers feature prominently in this
show. Turkey feathers, dyed red, yellow,
white. The breeze from the ceiling fan makes
them do very interesting things. There's a
kind of Ferris wheel with yellow feathers
that moves around slowly, stopping now
and then as if to let riders on or off. Tim
gets the feathers from an outfit in New
York. They cost \$21 a pound, but that's a
lot of turkey feathers.*

*Tim has always been a scavenger. He
used to spend a lot of time at the dump,
back when picking was allowed. He finds
uses for things others wouldn't. In the
show, drinking straws and plastic cider jugs
cut into squares end up in mobiles. Frazzled
shuttlecocks become eyes for a giant tropical
bird. Bottlecaps make hubs for small Ferris
wheels that whirl around unpredictably,
powered by heating vents. And that brown
padding you put under rugs to keep them
from slipping is the raw material for huge
heads of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and
Stravinsky. Of course you have to shred it
first - it helps if you've got cats or puppies.*

*Tim says one purpose of this show is to
weed out stuff he no longer wants. He once
cleared out his barn of broken or unfinished
pieces and took them to the dump (or I
suspect in some cases returned them to the
dump). Right away people started calling
him, saying "Hey, I saw your stuff at the
dump! It's great!" "I got more notice there
than I ever did from a show," he says.
Which figures. Not everyone goes to art
shows, but everyone goes to the dump.*

*You're too late for the show at the dump,
but the one at the library will be there until
March 23. And go on a cold day; things are
livelier when the heat's on. - George Kittle*

ABOUT "EVERYTHING"

*I got Spencer on the phone and said, "OK,
explain everything!" "Oh, well," he said,
"In the beginning was the word . . ."*

- Tom Bevans

Driving Course Offers Safety & Savings

AARP is offering an eight-hour refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. The class, called 55 Alive/Mature Driving, helps older drivers improve their skills and prevent accidents.

Research shows that older drivers are less likely to commit violations such as speeding, drunk driving, or reckless driving; however, they do have problems in situations requiring quick response, full vision, and interaction with other drivers. The older driver learned to drive during the first forty years of this century, well before the advent of formal driving education programs. Accidents per mile driven begin to increase at age 55.

If you or someone you love is in this age group, consider enrolling in the course. Several auto insurance companies provide premium reductions to graduates. Scheduled for April 3 and April 10 at the Lakeville Town Grove. Contact Gunnar Svala at 435-9682.

- Jill Gibbons



Committee Will Explore Design for New Town Office

Allyn Hurlburt will chair a subcommittee that will investigate a design for a new town office building, probably on the site of Rumsey Hall. Other members are John Frost, Ben Gray, and Rita Quinn. They reported on their visits to the Kent and Salisbury town halls during the February 15 meeting of the Municipal Building Committee.

Another option being explored by the MBC - the plan to connect the present town office with the library - was judged to be doable but hampered by consider-

Chronicle Update

Twenty-eight angels sent in a total of \$485.00 in response to the first issue of The Chronicle.

And so we're rolling along fairly well, but we still need: 1) More volunteer reporters and editors, 2) LOTS more contributions. The financing of the Republican and Democratic Town Committees and the Cornwall Association will take us through only three issues. The rest of the support must come from you. If you like what we're doing, send money.



Send suggestions, and checks in any amount to:

THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE

P.O. Box 246
West Cornwall, CT 06796

NAME _____

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able disadvantages. This plan was placed into a coffin but not nailed shut.

The MBC reached their first consensus when they agreed to accept the "program" (or amount of interior space) established by the old committee. After hearing from town employees Jill Gibbons and Pat Bramley, the group agreed to add 10-20% to the total program of 5,200 sq. feet.

In the January 31 meeting, the Rumsey structure subcommittee reported that they had made many new openings in the building with the aid of local carpenters. They found no serious structural damage beyond the areas already known about.

- Ed Ferman

River Commission

The business of the Housatonic River Commission is preservation of the beauty and health of the river and its flood plain and managing the multiple uses of the river and anything which in any way impacts it. The stated goal is "to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River in Northwestern Connecticut."

The member towns are North Canaan, Falls Village, Cornwall, Kent, Salisbury, Sharon, and New Milford, all towns through which the river flows. Each town sends two representatives to the commission, and each gives equal budgetary support to its work. This year the budgetary request is \$300. Cornwall members are Philip Hart and George Brown.

Although commission members discuss building projects which impact the river and visit project sites, commission opinions are advisory and not regulatory. Opinions are forwarded to relevant committees. It is common for P & Z's to ask builders to first present their plans to the river commission.

In July of 1990 the commission completed and published "The Housatonic River Recreation Management Plan." Present ongoing projects are tracing of the river PCB problem and DEP action on it. The commission is currently concerned with evaluating the ways in which regular freight rail service might affect the river and its use.

- Philip Hart



Contra Dance

Cornwall Park and Rec is sponsoring a contra dance on Friday, March 22 from 8 to 11 p.m. in the gym at Cornwall Consolidated. Music will be provided by the Mountain Laurel Band.

- Karen Stevens

Good-bye to Friends

Lorraine I. Malahan - Bunker Hill Road
James R. Allen - Mohawk Mountain Road
Michael E. Creamer - Furnace Brook Road
Mary Jane Bishop - Route 128

Welcomes

Trevor Read Tuthill born to Elinor and Eugene Tuthill, Frederick Drive
Nicholas Peter Raffanello born to Diane and Mark Raffanello, College Street

Marriages

None (despite it being the "Sweetheart Month")



Board of Tax Review

The Board of Tax Review met four times in mid-February to hear appeals, verify property transactions and to examine the grand lists before the Feb. 28 deadline.

According to Board member John Mulligan, the panel examined for accuracy the records of the 40 property transfers which occurred in Cornwall during 1990. Also inspected were the personal property, auto and real estate grand lists.

A report on the audited records will be made to the Selectmen and serve as the basis for determination of the mill rate by the Board of Finance.

- Lisa Lansing

Trailer for Town Office?

Dick Dakin said at the February Board of Finance meeting that the selectmen were considering leasing a temporary trailer to relieve the crowding at the town office. The 8 x 32 foot structure would cost \$4.00 a day.

In other business, the Board agreed to add line items in the budget for the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau and for security at the school during after-hour events. It unanimously passed a resolution recommending a tax abatement for the Route 7 affordable housing project.

- Ed Ferman

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CORNWALL CHRONICLE

PUBLISHED BY
The Cornwall Library Association

DISTRIBUTED BY
The Cornwall Association

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