

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 17: NUMBER 2 MARCH 2007

# Paul Bunyan's Toothbrush?

In early December, Sharon First Selectman Malcolm Brown received a letter from Verizon informing him that the company proposed to erect a "monopine" cell tower on land leased from Prause TV at 343 Route 7, about one-tenth of a mile northwest of West Cornwall's Covered Bridge. Brown's first step was to inform Cornwall's first selectman. Before long Brown, Gordon Ridgway, and Housatonic River Commission representative Phil Hart went on location to inspect the proposed site.

According to First Selectman Brown, the base of the 120-foot tower, designed to look like a pine tree, would sit about 100 feet above the water level of the river. The top of the tower would be visible year-round above the surrounding deciduous trees. Unlike another similarly high cell tower located a few miles up the road amid a clump of evergreens, the proposed "monopine" would almost certainly stick out like a sore thumb, especially in winter.

Verizon's proposed cell tower has not yet been formally proposed to the Connecticut Siting Council, which must approve it before it can be built. Both town leaders recognize the need for improved cell phone coverage in the area but have questions about the choice of location and the proposed tower's impact on people's enjoyment of the Covered Bridge and the surrounding views.

Opinion in West Cornwall is already sharply negative. Phil Hart strongly urges another location, pointing out that "while the tower would not break the horizon, it would look awkwardly conspicuous as it dominated the trees around it." Besides, he points out, it would look like "Paul Bunyan's toothbrush."

—Paul De Angelis

## A Call to Re-Volt

The February 5 Town Meeting was addressed by Keri Enright of Smart Power, a non-profit organization that is conducting a nationwide campaign to promote clean energy—mainly in the form of electricity from such sources as wind, solar, and water. Ms. Enright explained Smart Power's mission: encouraging cities and towns, businesses, and religious and educational institutions to commit to obtaining 20 percent of their electricity from clean, renewable sources by 2010. It is hoped that this significant increase in the demand for clean energy will spur market growth, encouraging development of new sources and thus lowering the cost, which is currently at a premium compared to traditional providers.

By a resolution adopted at this meeting, Cornwall has committed itself to the goal of 20 percent by 2010.

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Consumers have a choice as well. Residents can sign up with CL&P or at the Town Office to request that their electricity be purchased from renewable sources. This will increase a homeowner's monthly bill by about one cent per kilowatt-hour. Another option for the consumer is to pay for half of the home's or business's power from these "green" providers, which will cost a half cent per kilowatt-hour. Ms. Enright will return in April to discuss this and other aspects of the program.

If 10 percent of town residents, around 85 households, sign on the dotted line for Earthfriendly electricity, Cornwall will receive a one-kilowatt photovoltaic system that could be installed in the Town Office or CCS to provide free power. If 20 percent sign up, Cornwall gets two of these units.

Grants are also available for townspeople who wish to install their own non-polluting generating systems. For more information go to www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com/now.htm.

—Matt Collins

# Local Hikes, Part 1

There are some beautiful trails to explore in and around Cornwall. A favorite is Pine Knob Loop, just across the river in Sharon but oriented toward Cornwall with its spectacular views. The trailhead is on Route 7, one mile north of the intersection of Routes 4

(continued on page 2)

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month:  Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 p.m. Village Meeting House; Men's Adult BB, 7 p.m. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7 p.m. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 a.m. Playscape or UCC; Stretch Class, 4 p.m. Town Hall; Tai Chi, 7 p.m. CCS; Women's Adult BB, 7 p.m. CCS Gym Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 p.m. UCC Day Room Sundays: Meditation Group, 1–2 p.m. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location				1	Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library † Farm Aid Conference 7 P.M. Town Hall †	Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Film: Who the #\$&% is Jackson Pollock 7:30 P.M. Library †
4	Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Bd. of Selectmen 1 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 Inland Wetlands 7:30 р.м. Town Hall	7 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:15 p.m. UCC Parish House † Hot Chocolate Hour Grades 3-5 3:15 pm. Library † David Rovics 7 p.m. Library †	8 Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib.	9	Motherhouse: Wool Gathering 12-3 P.M. UCC Parish House †
11 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC Parish House Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	13 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14 Hot Chocolate Hour Grades 3–5 3:15 pm. Library †	15 Deadline: April Chronicle Copy Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Matica Arts Workshop 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Town Hall † Motherhouse Mother-Daughter Retreat 10 a.m.—3 p.m. † Family Contra Dance 7–10 p.m. Town Hall †
18	19 wm	20 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	21 Spring Begins	22	23	Motherhouse: Good First Aid Kit 10:30 A.M3 P.M. UCC Parish House †
25	ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	<b>27</b> P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	28 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	29	30	31 Tick Talk 4 p.m. Town Hall †

(continued from page 1)

and 7 in Cornwall Bridge. The whole loop takes one and one-half hours (or longer if you linger at the view points). For an easier (but still pretty steep) route, you can start at the left fork (just past the stone wall) and make your way along the brook and its waterfalls, then join the Appalachian Trail (AT) and head up to the first lookout. If you turn back from this point, the round trip is about 50 minutes.

Mohawk State Forest has myriad trails. One loop is to start at the front parking area on Route 4 and take the blue trail that starts behind the parking lot and heads uphill. After about 20 minutes you'll come out of the woods to an overlook across the road (and just around the corner from the top of Mohawk Ski Area). Enjoy the view and then walk down the road, or return back down the trail. The Mohawk (blue) trail also extends into Cornwall across Route 4, then across Route 43 to Lake Road. A nice hike on this section is accessible from Johnson Road. Drive up Johnson Road (first right off 43 going north) for about one-half mile and look for blue blazes on the large white pine trees. Follow the blue blazes heading uphill; a round trip to and from a massive rock (glacial erratic) at the top takes 40 minutes.

Many stretches of the Appalachian Trail as it passes near Cornwall are great walking, for example the well-known section along the Housatonic River. If you can arrange for a car drop-off in Kent, walking from the trailhead at the southern end of River Road (go under Cornwall Bridge) to Kent takes about three hours. This section of the AT is its longest flat portion and mostly follows right along the river.

If you haven't been up Coltsfoot Mountain in Cornwall Village, it's a must. The trailhead begins across from the southwest corner of Hubbard Field and takes about 25 minutes to get to an overlook above the village. Kids especially love seeing their village from above; all the houses look so small, and they can pick out where friends live! Avoid this trail during wet times, as the access over Furnace Brook can be blocked.

Remember to follow blazes (blue for Mohawk/Connecticut state trails, white for the AT), which are intended to guide, avoid private property, and protect the natural landscape by keeping hikers on the trail.

A map of hiking trails in Cornwall (and beyond) is being finalized by P&Z. These will be available at the Library or the Selectmen's Office starting in May.

–Ĕmilie Pryor

# Cornwall Consolidated Basketball

The boys and girls both had a tough basketball season this winter. The boys, coached by Michael Pierce, ended their season with a record of 3-7. The start of their season was a little rough, but as it continued the boys

improved immensely. After an overtime loss to league-winner North Canaan and a four-point loss to tournament-winner Sharon, it became clear that the boys were a force to be reckoned with. Despite their record, it was not a bad season, and almost all of their losses came in very close games. The team defeated Falls Village in the first round of the tournament but was defeated by North Canaan in the second. The team was led in scoring by seventhgrader Myles Clohessy, who was also one of the four captains. The other captains were seventh-grader Brandon Coe, eighth-grader Reilly Lynch, and eighth-grader Liam Murphy-Sanders, who unfortunately was out for most of the season because of surgery to his leg. The team was also helped by 11year-old starter and point guard Wilson Terrall. The team has chosen to extend its season with practices and scrimmages. Their

The girls, who were coached by Bonnie Burdick and Patty Rovezzi, ended with a record of 2-8. Despite these numbers the girls had a great season, losing many of their games by only one or two points. Their two victories were over Kent. The team was captained by all of the eighth-graders on the team—Danielle Kearns, Genevieve Terrall, Anouchka Sophia, Meghan Brown, Arielle Betti, and Christina Kent. The top scorer for the team was eighth-grader Danielle Kearns, whose aggressive spirit earned her the nickname The Beast. Danielle was helped in scoring by Genevieve Terrall, whose speed and spirit earned her the nickname Animal. The girls were knocked out in the first round of the tournament by Salisbury.

first scrimmage is against Sherman.

Because of their love of soccer, some of the boys at CCS convinced Park and Rec. to join an indoor winter soccer league at the end of the basketball season. The Cornwall United Team consists of 11 boys. They travel each Saturday night to New Milford with team coaches Bethany Thompson and Catherine Erhardt. The boys, unused to playing indoors, currently have a record of 2-5 and are in fifth place in a league with seven teams.

—Reilly Lynch

# Where Do Weekenders Come From?

By my estimate, Cornwall has about 530 weekenders—people who own properties here but whose legal residence is elsewhere. The estimate is derived from census data on seasonally occupied housing units. Thus, weekenders account for one-quarter of

Cornwall's "real" total population of 2,000.

Based on data from the Grand List, I estimate that New York City is the home of nearly half (45 percent) of a total of 314 weekender households. Manhattan accounts for nearly all of these Gothamites. But some weekenders come from far

#### Welcome

Thomas William to Carrie-Ann and Jason Beeman Tristan Ernest to Sarah and Maurice Oyanadel

Allistair James Taafe to Gretchen Carlson and Philip Taafe

# Congratulations

Brenda Marie Hall and Tina Marie Lebeda

# **Good-Bye to Friends**

Mary D. Ocain Louis H. Madeux

#### **Land Transfers**

Robert S. Hare, Patrick H. Hare, Constance P. Hare, and Mary Meredith H. Burke to Jessica Marshall and Peter Belhumeur, property at 38 Popple Swamp Road for \$950,000.

John E. and Nancy G. Calhoun to Coltsfoot Farm, LLC, 20.662 acres on Valley Road for \$1,000,000.

Elizabeth Scoville Smith to Roxana Barry Robinson, interest in 15 acres and buildings at 218 Town Street for \$450,000.

Helene Scoville to Roxana Barry Robinson, interest in 15 acres and buildings at 218 Town Street for \$450,000.

Norma Sue Redmond to Jane Bevans and John Tauranac, 5 acres and all improvements thereon at 79 Ford Hill Road for \$557,500.

Robert Jeffrey LaPlaca and Colleen A. Kube to Seal Rock Development, LLC, 60.227 acres and all improvements thereon at 189 Great Hill Road for \$1,200,000.

# Two Great Opportunities to Help

You might assume a federal law entitled The Pension Protection Act of 2006 would be about pensions, and you would be largely correct. But nestled in the dense thicket of pension language are two interesting provisions that can help many charities and land preservation, too.

The first relates to IRAs. Under the act, if you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you may give up to \$100,000 from an IRA to charity this year, free of tax consequences. The gift is "tax neutral," that is, it satisfies the minimum distribution requirement for the year, and you pay no income tax when withdrawing funds from the IRA. (On the other hand, you do not benefit from a tax deduction for making a charitable gift—it's just a gift.)

So if you are looking for a way to be generous, think of using taxable IRA funds to help your favorite charity, be it your church, library, child center, school, college, fire department, historical society, chore service, affordable housing group, or land trust. As always with taxes, there are caveats: the money must go directly to the charity (no skimming on the way), and reporting provisions of the act should be vetted with your accountant before you make the move.

The second item helps family farmers and

moderate-income landowners get significant tax benefits from donating to a qualified conservation organization easements that restrict future development of their land, thus offering important protection for open space.

During the next ten months a donor of a conservation easement can (1) take a deduction of up to 50 percent of his or her "Adjusted Gross Income" (AGI) as a charitable contribution; (2) if this wipes out your federal income tax for the year, you may carry forward the excess deduction for up to 15 years in the future; and (3) if you are a qualifying farmer, you can take a deduction of up to 100 percent of your AGI. These are pretty hefty incentives for landowners at all income levels and are especially favorable to moderate-income families with excess land. If you have an interest in giving an easement (or land) to your hometown conservation organization, just ask the Cornwall Conservation Trust by calling 672-4226.

And if you wish to use either incentive, move quickly, because both provisions are due to expire on December 31. A bill recently introduced in Congress, as well as the president's federal budget for the next fiscal year, seeks to make these incentives permanent—but at this point no one can be sure it will happen.

—Hector Prud'homme

# The SBC's Legacy

The Cornwall Consolidated School Building Committee held its last meeting on February 13. With the addition built, the bills paid, and with a remaining surplus of slightly over \$5,000, the committee shook hands and disbanded. No brass plaque for these frugal Cornwall residents. The Boards of Selectmen, Education, and Finance, as well as CCS Principal Kathleen Fitzgibbons, have all thanked them for a job well done.

The lasting commemoration of the SBC is the successful use of its practical project. The gym has become a hub of Cornwall winter activity. Major community events—from the Andre Mantes concert (February) to Congressman Chris Murphy's Washington Report (April)—have been booked on the full gym calendar.

It is a special experience to visit CCS now and feel the gym vibrate with sounds of excitement. Often the sounds of the buzzer, the bounce of balls, and the roar of a crowd can be heard from outside. "Adult" volleyball as well as men's and women's basketball have enthusiastic devotees.

In addition to the school basketball teams, the gym has become home court for four other Cornwall Youth Basketball teams. The fifth- and sixth-grade boys, led by Coach Don Kenniston, are currently 10-1. Don, being Don, gives all the credit to his boys' hard work and dedication.

Exciting games have been a season highlight. T. J. Kearns's fifth- and sixth-grade girls have also shown plenty of skill and grit playing against big-city teams from Litchfield and Winsted. These girls contained opponents with an effective screen defense. The second- through fourth-grade boys' and

# Letters to the Chronicle

#### AMBULANCE INFORMATION

Some citizens of Cornwall are under the misconception that the Cornwall ambulance cannot transport them to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Although our authorizing doctor is at Sharon Hospital, it is possible for the Cornwall ambulance to transport to Charlotte Hungerford. On scene ask us. We will do our best to accommodate you, but the transporting crew must make the final decision.

—Joyce Hart and Cornwall Ambulance Squad

#### WELCOME

I just wanted to welcome two new "public figures" helping life run smoothly here in Cornwall. Karen Nelson is our new Land-Use Administrator, including being clerk for P&Z and Inland Wetlands. She comes with ten years of experience in New Hartford and also serves part-time in Harwinton, Barkhamsted, and





Colebrook. She notes that each town has its own story, and has been impressed with the people on our boards and commissions, who are concerned with orderly development and preserving open space, but also making affordable housing available. Her office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9 A.M.—noon, but she may be here later when there are evening meetings.

Our other relative newcomer is Rosalie Richards, the new vicar at Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall, and Christ Church, Canaan. She can be found here Sunday mornings at 8 A.M. at the North Cornwall Church. Rosalie has had a wide variety of experience in addition to finishing seminary and serving as a priest. She has been an English-as-a-second-language teacher, a social worker working with the homeless in New Haven, and most recently a supply priest in rural Massachusetts.

We are fortunate to have both Karen and Rosalie and welcome them both.

—Ann Gold

girls' teams have had their share of success and excitement. Coach Becky Hurlburt reports that the players' dedication to practice and mastering of the fundamentals has been reflected in some lopsided victories of 28-2 and 24-2. And, as Coach Ted Larson reflected, "The players learn a lot more than just playing ball. Respect, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork are taught out on the floor."

The future looks bright for Cornwall basketball and the new CCS gym.

—Jayne Ridgway

#### More on Cemeteries

Several readers of the article about Cornwall's cemeteries in the January *Chronicle* have asked about purchasing gravesites, and the information below covers the four active burying grounds as well as St. Bridget's in Sharon. The town is not in charge of our active cemeteries—each has a governing body that owns the property, sets its policy, and oversees care of the grounds. In most cases, its president should be contacted with any inquiries. Warning: the costs of even these smallest pieces of Cornwall real estate are going up. Prices as of this writing are quoted below.

The North Cornwall Cemetery Association (southern end of Rattlesnake Road). Charles Gold, president (672-6925); John O'Donnell, sexton. For people who have a link of some sort with the North Cornwall area of town,

including family connections, or membership in the United Church of Christ. Annual membership dues are \$10. The cost of a single plot is \$500.

Calhoun Cemetery Association (Route 7, opposite Route 45). Charles Hepprich, president at 672-6225; in winter (941) 484-3932. There are no restrictions on who may buy a space. To join the association costs \$1, and there is a \$50, one-time charge for perpetual care of the gravesite. The cost of a single plot is \$300.

Cornwall Hollow Cemetery Association (on Hautboy Hill by Route 43, opposite the Sedgwick Monument). Bill Hurlburt, president and sexton (672-6725). For persons who live in the Hollow or who have a relative buried there. The cost of a single plot is \$200.

Cornwall Cemetery Association (above Cornwall Village on Route 4). Bill Dinneen, president; contact Jim Prentice, sexton (672-6101). For those who either live, or have lived, in Cornwall, or have family members already buried there. The cost of a single plot is \$825: \$600 for the space and \$225 for small (6" x 6") granite markers set flush with the ground, which make it easy to locate the boundaries.

St. Bridget's, Sharon (River Road, north side of Routes 4 and 7). Contact the Reverend Francis Fador, Rectory of St. Bernard's, Sharon (364-5244) between 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. Anyone may buy a gravesite. The cost of a single plot is \$600.

—Ann Schillinger

# **Events & Announcements**

Agricultural Commission Event: As a result of grants to the Cornwall Agricultural Fund, a Farm Aid Conference will be presented on Friday, March 2, at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall. Participants will learn about grants that are available through the State Agricultural Enhancement Program and through the Extension and Soil Conservation Service. The panel of speakers on farm assistance pro-

grams will include State Senator Andrew Roraback and State Representative Roberta Willis.

#### At the Library:

• Hot Chocolate Hour, a readaloud after-school program, will be held at the Library for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders on Wednesday, March 7, and Wednesday, March 14, at 3:15 P.M. The school bus will drop off participants at the Library.

• Story Hour, Friday, March 2, at 1:15 P.M. This is the last one for the winter season.

• Jackson Pollock film: The feature documentary Who the #\$&% Is Jackson Pollock? will be shown at the Cornwall Free Library at 7:30 P.M. on Saturday, March 3. It is the story of an elderly lady truckdriver in California who is convinced that the painting she bought from a junk dealer for five bucks is a Jackson Pollock. The film was written and directed by Harry Moses, a resident of Kent and former producer at 60 Minutes. The film will be followed by a Q&A session and refreshments (suggested contribution: \$10). Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, March 7, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. at the UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. There is no upper age limit for donors. To register, please call Pat Blakey at 672-6516 or 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Walk-in donors are always welcome. Giving blood takes approximately one hour, which includes social time and good food.

## Cut It Out!

The coupon below is for your exclusive use. Of course, you may not want to attack this attractive publication with a pair of scissors. If so, just send the necessary info along with your check. We really need the money, and we'll take it either way. Thanks.

A Matica Arts Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. This workshop is sponsored by Park & Rec. and is designed to teach participants ages eight and up the art of circus performance, including stilt walking and juggling. The fee is \$30 per participant. Registration forms can be found at the Park & Rec. website at www.cornwallparkandrecreation.org. Completed forms and fees can be sent to P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753. Questions? Contact Bethany Thompson at 248-3009.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, the March show will be Constance Old: Barcode Experiments. The show runs from March 6 to April 14. The Library is requesting proposals for shows in the glass case. The case is suitable for displaying small works of art, interesting collections, etc. Cornwall residents young and old please contact Ellen Moon at ourmaridog@yahoo.com.

At the National Iron Bank, Dennis A. Swett will be showing his paintings in acrylics during the month of January.

At the Insiders/Outsiders Gallery there is a rotating group show of New England artists going on through the winter. Hours are noon to 5 P.M., Thursday through Monday.

David Rovics, well-known activist/ folksinger who has sung throughout the United States, Europe, and Palestine, will sing at the Cornwall Free Library on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 P.M. Donation \$10; benefit for the Library. For more information about David Rovics, visit www.davidrovics.com

"Tick Talk," a public forum discussing all aspects of this scourge of our neighborhood and co-sponsored by the Cornwall Child Center and the Cornwall Association, will take place at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 31, at 4 P.M. Refreshments will be served. An expert panel, including Dr. Kirby

C. Stafford III, chief scientist and Connecticut state entomologist; Sue Perlotto (a.k.a. The Tick Lady), Lyme disease coordinator at the Torrington Area Health District; and Dr.

Bradford Harding, M.D., ABHM, of the Center for Progressive Medicine in Kent, will speak and answer questions. Sue Perlotto will be speaking to the children at the Cornwall Child Center and CCS on Wednesday, March 15.

**Motherhouse-Sponsored Events:** 

- Saturday, March 10: Old Style Life Skills Workshop Series, "Wool Gathering" at the UCC Parish House. Includes all aspects of working with wool: carding, spinning, knitting, felting, dying, crocheting, weaving, and a potluck lunch. \$35 per family. Please call Debra Tyler to pre-register at 672-0229.
- Saturday, March 17: Mother-Daughter Retreat from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Call for details, 672-0229.
- Saturday, March 17: Family Contra Dance at the Town Hall from 7 to 10 P.M. Paul Rosenberg calling, Homegrown Band playing. For information contact Rachel Gall at 672-6328. Donations welcome to pay the caller.
- Saturday, March 24: Tour a "Really Good First Aid Kit" with EMT Ed Goldfrank and learn to use it. Call Debra Tyler for details, 672-0229.

Tree Trimming is being subcontracted to the Lewis Tree Company by Connecticut Light & Power. If necessary, Lewis Tree Company will be contacting landowners regarding roadside trees. CL&P contact person is Kathy Gibson, arborist, at (860) 665-6121.



## **CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

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