

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Parcel Protected

The last day of January saw the Town Hall packed with smiling townsfolk and state officials. The cause for elation was the successful conclusion of years of negotiations: the rescue from potential development of a large chunk of land straddling the Cornwall/Falls Village line. The 308-acre parcel, known as the old Butler Farm, has been owned since the 1960s by the DeLuca family of Stamford. It contains 229 Cornwall acres of hardwood forest, boulder fields, bedrock outcroppings, animal habitats, wetlands, flood plain, and a clear trout brook, as well as 2,700 feet of frontage along the Housatonic River. Tacked onto the Housatonic State Forest, it will provide a contiguous 1,000-acre tract for recreational use.

Proceedings were opened by DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy, who called the acquisition "one of the best purchases the state has ever made." She praised Congressman Chris Murphy for his assistance in obtaining funding for the project as well as his continuing work in support of other environmental endeavors. She also singled out State Senator Andrew Roraback for his continuing work as the "heart and soul of our open space efforts in the state."

There was a moment of levity when the commissioner, who is a transplant from Boston, introduced Gordon Ridgway as "First Selectman of Cornwall, also known as Falls Village."

Ridgway called the present day "an excit-

ing time" when big issues are being tackled by small towns. He pointed out that this is the third land acquisition in which the town has been involved in the recent past. While stressing the importance of open spaces and protection of endangered species, he reminded the audience of the need for taking measures to ensure the growth of affordable housing within our township.

This sentiment was echoed by Hector Prud'homme, president of the Cornwall Land Trust, which raised \$100,000 to help fund the purchase, thanks to private sources who agreed to contribute four dollars for every dollar the trust could provide. His organization, he noted, has already been instrumental in preserving 1,200 acres, increasing the acreage protected in Cornwall to 10,000, or one-third of the total area of the town.

Senator Roraback spoke of the importance of grass-roots support from citizens of the Northwest Corner. Representative Roberta Willis praised Cornwall's enthusiastic turnout for the meeting and lauded First Selectman Ridgway and the Land Trust for their prodigious efforts in bringing the purchase to fruition. Representative George Wilber from the 63rd District spoke of the importance of managing the land and using revenue from such sources as tourism to acquire more properties. —*Matt Collins*

MADCH 2008

Cornwall's Primary

Democrats and Republicans went to the polls on February 5 to vote in a primary that, for once, seemed to matter. In normal years the candidates don't even bother to appear in the state. This year the races in both parties were contested.

Among the Democrats, whose turnout was 71.5 percent of the 403 voters registered, 201 chose Barack Obama; 82 chose Hillary Rodham Clinton; 4 chose John Edwards; and 1 cast an uncommitted vote. The Republicans, faced with more choices, gave John McCain a winning 44 votes; Mitt Romney, 24; Ron Paul, 13; Rudy Giuliani, 3; Mike Huckabee, 8; and uncommitted, 4.

The primary was another test of the new voting system with its written ballots and tabulator. Registrars Ginny Potter and Jayne Ridgway organized a crew of poll workers—fewer in number than the now-retired machines needed—to keep the day-long voting running smoothly.

Moderator Charles Gold supervised rotating crews of workers from both parties, which included checkers Anita Hurlburt, Louise Dunn, and Becky Hurlburt, and ballot clerks Bill Lyon, Barbara Gold, Ann Gold, and Lynn Fowler. Doc Simont and Nevton Dunn watched over the tabulator. The task of counting the 38 absentee ballots was up to

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball Wednesdays: Stretch Class Thursdays: Meditation for N	30 p.m. Vill. Mtng. Hse.; Men's Adu , 7:30 p.m. CCS Gym s, 5 p.m. Town Hall; Women's Adu Nothers , 1:15 p.m. St. Peter's, call I , 1–2 p.m. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for	It Basketball, 7:30 p.m. CCS; Tai Debra Tyler 672-0229 to confirm	i Chi , 7 p.m. CCS			Family Contra Dance 7 P.M. Town Hall †
2	Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:15 p.m. UCC Parish House † Park & Rec. 7 p.m. CCS Library Inland Wetlands 7:30 p.m. Town Office	5 Hot Chocolate Hour 3 P.M. Library †	6	Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library †	8 Cornwall Assoc. 9 A. UCC Day Room Passport Day 10-Noon Cornwall Bridge P.O. † Kill-a-Watt Workshop 10-Noon Library † Old-Style Skills: Wool Gatheri 10:30 A.M1:30 P.M. UCC † Film: Traces of the Trade
9 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Robert Andrew Parker Reception 3–5 P.M. Library †	Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC	11 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	12 Hot Chocolate Hour 3 p.m. Library †	13	14	4 P.M. Town Hall † 15 Deadline: April Chronicle Copy
16	8 th Grade Pasta Supper Seatings 5:30 & 7 P.M. Wandering Moose †	18 8th Grade Pasta Supper Seatings 5:30 & 7 P.M. Wandering Moose † Bd. of Selectmen 17:30 P.M. Town Hall	Hot Chocolate Hour 3 p.m. Library †	Bd. of Ed. 5 p.m. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 p.m. CCS Lib.	21 GOOD FRIDAY & PURIM CCS Closed Iraq Moratorium Community Meeting 7 P.M. Library †	Motherhouse Mother Daughter Retreat 10 A.M3 P.M. † Valorie Fisher Book Signir 3-6 P.M. Wish House †
23 EASTER SUNDAY	24 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall †	P&Z: Cornwall Bridge Issues	26	27	28	29
30	31	7:30 р.м. Town Hall †				

(continued from page 1)

Hunt Williams and Jayne Ridgway.

The only blot on the day's events, aside from the rain, was the moment when the electronic vote tabulator spat back a ballot and refused any more. "No panic," said Ginny Potter, and the crew pulled out the second tabulator that was ready to go.

In fact, the 70-to-28-percent lead Obama had over Hillary Clinton in Cornwall was one of his largest in the state, which made some people wonder if Obama would put Cornwall's Ag Fair on his list of appearances.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Home Energy Audits: A Green Deal

Do you ever suspect that your mouse holes may be providing a passage for something other than a furry creature? Say, perhaps, those valuable heating dollars being sucked into the great cold beyond?

This winter there is good news for your chilly mice. All Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating customers may receive an "energy audit" for free or at low cost. This visit from "trained energy-efficient specialists" includes a house-sealing, compact fluorescent bulbs, advice and rebates for attic/basement insulation, and other green goodies. In fact, if you heat with electricity or natural gas or have limited income, this audit is FREE. (There is a \$3.00 co-pay if you heat with wood, propane, or oil.)

There is on average a two-week wait. You can dodge the draft now by calling (877) 947-3873; press 1, then 1 again. Websites: www.cl-p.com/clmres/energy/energy_solutions.asp; www.cl-p.com/clmres/energy/wrap.asp.

—Nora Prentice

The Iceman Cometh

Our Town Road Foreman, Rick Stone, reported to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway that we have already had 16 snowstorms and 16 ice storms this winter, in contrast to last year's 16 snowstorms and 8 ice storms. This freezing situation is a problem in several different ways.

As of Valentine's Day we are already over what was budgeted for snow removal materials. In years with snow predominating, town trucks have used about 40 tons of sand. This year, with so many ice storms, we have used over 80 tons of materials. The selectmen, in consultation with the Board of Finance, have already transferred money from our contingency fund to cover the extra costs. But a town meeting will be required in spring, once the cold season is over, to approve funds to pay off sand and salt expenditures.

More ice has meant more car accidents in town as well, keeping our volunteer emergency crews busy. In one storm alone, there were three accidents. And recently we assisted when a car slid into a pond in Sharon. The fire department has also helped in several pumpouts of basements with all the flooding.

With the increased rain and ice as well as snow, the slick surface on Mohawk has re-

sulted in some serious skiing accidents necessitating use of helicopter transport. Mohawk has been grooming their trails well, but the changed weather has produced more ambulance calls.

What will this climate change from snow to ice mean to us if it becomes more permanent? Gordon Ridgway suspects that 16 ice storms before the end of the season must be a record. This icy weather results in more wear and tear on our equipment and machinery. The ice seems to have produced more human wear and tear, too, due to slips and falls. But the good news is that spring is coming and the iceman goeth.

—Ralph Gold

More Community Needs

Greenwoods Counseling Referrals is a local resource that has helped many here in Cornwall. Greenwoods, based in Litchfield but serving the whole Northwest Corner, has a welcoming staff of professional mental health counselors who will assist you in finding the right kind of

help for whatever you are going through. And the service doesn't cost anything!

If you call Greenwoods, Vicki or Debbie will set up an

appointment for you as soon as possible, sometimes the same day as your call. A clinical social worker or psychologist will meet with you for a confidential and personal problem-solving session to figure out the best approach for getting help. Greenwoods will refer you to the best mental health professionals in the county: people whose experience and specialty are a good fit for you. All of the more than 80 professional counselors and agencies who partner with Greenwoods see clients for reduced fees. Sometimes when money is tight and you don't have health insurance, Greenwoods will assist in paying for the help that you need.

Greenwoods has a special connection with Cornwall. In addition to helping many of our neighbors in town, two Cornwall residents are on the board of trustees, and Molly Hinchman is the executive director.

If you would like to know more, call 567-4437. —Ann Gold

What's There To Do?

In our escalator-free existence here, the question arises: "What's there to do on these cold winter nights?" That question was answered a few Saturdays ago when the Library sponsored the Town Hall Players' reading of memoirs written by Betty Krasne's group. This event was so well attended that the mini-chairs from the children's section had to be employed to accommodate the crowd. An hour later at the UCC Parish House, there was a pot-luck supper that included an auction of over 50 donated items to benefit Henry Russ, who was the victim of a workplace accident. The overflow crowd had to go upstairs to find a place to sit and eat. \$10,000 was raised to help out Henry. Later at the Cornwall Inn

there was an SRO crowd enjoying the fine food and listening to Time Rider. Hours of enjoyment in a five-mile radius all in one day...no escalator needed.

—Dave Cadwell Editors' Note: The Henry Russ family extends its sincere thanks to the Cornwall Agricultural Advisory Commission and all the community for their hard work and caring.

Welcome

Willa Margaret Pohl to Heather Dinneen and Nicholas Pohl

Land Transfers

Cornwall Limited Liability Company to Carroll Dunham and Laurie Simmons, 1.258 acres with buildings and improvements thereon at 44 Jewell Street for \$500,000.

Thomas C. Bechtle and Donald G. Bachman to David L. Bain and Christopher J. Garrity, .103 acres and buildings thereon at 419 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$350,000.

John and Jeanne M. Dubray to Ralph J. Gulliver, Jr., 5.8 acres with appurtenances thereon at 187 Warren Hill Road for \$625,000.

Events & Announcements

Motherhouse Activities: Family Contra Dance at the Cornwall Town Hall with Paul Rosenberg calling and the Homegrown Band playing, Saturday, March 1, from 7 to 9:30 P.M. Suggested donation: \$5/adult, \$3/child. Contact Rachel Gall (672-6328) or Jane Prentice (672-6101) for more information.

Old Style Life Skills Workshop, *Wool Gathering*, Saturday, March 8, from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Area "spinsters" will demonstrate carding, spinning, knitting, weaving, crocheting, and felting with natural wool. Make your own knitting needles and try your hand "at the wheel." \$35/family. Space is limited, so please pre-register with Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 672-0229.

Mother-Daughter Retreat, Saturday, March 22, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Debra's home in Cornwall. Share in a quiet eggstravaganza of egg rolling games, makeyour-own eggroll and fortune cookie lunch, and an eggsciting egg hunt. \$35/mother-daughter pair. Call 672-0229 for directions and to confirm your place.

Ongoing Meditation for Mothers at St. Peter's Church on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. and Sundays from 1 to 2 P.M. Call 672-0229 for location.

Backyard Composters are available for purchase (like the ones sold years ago) through the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials and the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments. Call Recycling Coordinator Steve O'Neil at the Transfer Station (672-4079) if you are interested. The composter is called the Earth Machine and has a capacity of 80 gallons (10 cubic feet). It costs about \$34.

Letters to the Chronicle

FORUM AGAINST 'EM

I try not to get involved in cell-tower arguments since, as one who will profit if this project goes through, my objectivity is suspect (although mine would also be the family living closest to the tower). However, the Chronicle has weighed in with what I consider a strongly biased article, and I feel I must state an opposing view.

I was disappointed that
Ann Schillinger
("Overmagnetized,"
February
Chronicle)
went along with
calling the January 12 meeting a cell tower siting "forum." The truth is quite different. Much impetus for this conclave came from two neighboring

families (both cell users) who early on came to me complaining that the proposed tower, over a quarter of a mile away on my land, would lower their property values. The organizers went out of their way to recruit an audience from organizations antagonistic to the towers and beat the bushes for speakers known to be hostile to this technology.

Ms. Schillinger's article duly echoed many of the predictable assertions of this meticulously vetted panel—which the Litchfield County Times characterized as "junk science raised to new heights." The birds will cease to chirp; the bees will no longer buzz; our children will drop like flies: mankind's fate wherever it has defied Mother Nature by dabbling in the dark arts of radio transmitters.

To call this a "forum" on cell-tower siting is a bit like calling a lynch mob "a forum on capital punishment." A forum would include speakers who are for 'em. A discussion with knowledgeable people on both sides of the issue would certainly be valuable. —Matt Collins

CORNWALL'S LITTLE ITALY

Cornwall is a place of exciting traditions. In March, for two magical evenings, the village of West Cornwall is transformed into our own Little Italy. It is now possible to trade the frozen banks of the Housatonic River for the warm Mediterranean climate inside the Villa Wandering Moose on the nights of March 17 and 18.

More than a standard pasta dinner, this fa-

mous feast, which is the premier fundraiser for the Cornwall Consolidated School's eighth-grade class trip, has become a rite of spring for many Cornwallians coming out of hibernation. In addition to a four-star, multi-course banquet, this year singing waiters will be on hand adding atmosphere and aiding

digestion. Florentine murals by the young native artists will add sparkle to the evening. Our evergenerous local merchants have contributed many exotic items for the door prizes.

Of course this special event would not be possible without the gracious hospitality and culinary skill of Russimo and Sharon Sawicki, who donate use of their restaurant. For dinner reservations in Cornwall's Little Italy please call 672-0178.

—Gordon Ridgway

OFFICE PLANTS

Gordon Ridgway has noted, correctly, the benefit of multiple plants in the Selectmen's Office, because they remove CO_2 and O_2 . However, the wavelength of the office light is of crucial importance. Fluorescent light is best, because leaves strongly absorb most of the emitted wavelengths (blue end of the spectrum). Incandescent light (red end of the spectrum) is poorly absorbed. The current emphasis on switching to fluorescent light bulbs, because of their long life and efficiency, brings this added benefit.

-Eugene A. Cornelius, Ph.D.

RALLYING FOR OBAMA

The Monday night before the Super Tuesday Primary our family drove to Hartford to attend the Barack Obama rally at the XL Center (formerly the Hartford Civic Center). With only one day's notice, the city block around the XL Center was lined with thousands of people patiently waiting in the cold for a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see Barack Obama. Several current and former Cornwall residents were spotted in the crowd.

A diverse and capacity crowd of over 17,000 enthusiastic supporters was primed into a frenzy by our own Representative Chris Murphy as well as Ted and Caroline Kennedy. Barack Obama then made his entrance to a roar from the crowd. Speaking for close to an hour, Obama charismatically outlined his vision and plans for

our country. We liked his plans for college tuition financing to be reimbursed by community or Peace Corps-type service.

It was very exciting for our family to witness this memorable event. On the way home we discussed our impressions, and Nestor summed it up by stating,

"Barack is upbeat and positive about his plans for our future."

—Pat, Richard, Nestor, and Andrea Bramley

RIDE SHARE

"Ride with a friend and use half the gas"—doesn't that seem like a good slogan in order to cut costs, but mainly in order to help cut Global Warming? Perhaps in the long run we could work out something organized: set trips on certain days and at certain times to neighboring towns for marketing and for errands, but now perhaps that slogan could become more of a way of life. What do you think?

—Anne Zinsser, 672-6400

CORNWALL'S IRAQI FAMILY, PART TWO (See "Letters to the Chronicle," February)

Zahury's 25-year-old daughter is teaching again! She's been hired part-time at a preschool, so the family is starting to support itself—on a shoestring. The same daughter has just become engaged to an Iraqi-American. Will this help or hurt the family finances? Who knows, but it's wonderful.

Several people have inquired about contributing to this family of widows, daughters, and young grandsons. Their sponsor is the United Church of Christ, Cornwall. Checks can be made to "UCC, Cornwall," with a notation that it is for the Iraqi family, and addressed to UCC, P.O. Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753. The entire amount will go to the support of Zahury's family.

What is also wonderful is that a third Iraqi family has arrived in New Haven and a fourth is on the way. Chris George, head of IRIS (the refugee organization to which the government has directed these families), says that the reason for the sudden abundance of Iraqis is the abundance of support offered by Connecticut churches. That has persuaded the government that these refugees will be protected and helped in their trials—changing countries after killings and direct threats of death are trials of a sort most of us have been spared.

We welcome any help and thank everyone for their interest.
—Nita Colgate

Woman's Society Scholarship Applications are available to all Cornwall high school seniors. Deadline for their return is May 1. Contact the guidance office at Housatonic Valley Regional High School or call Thalia H. Scoville at 672-6288.

The Cornwall Iraq Moratorium Network will hold an open community meeting on Friday, March 21, at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. Historian/activist Jeremy Brecher will lead a discussion of proposed strategies for action to end the war in Iraq. For further information call 672-0183.

Traces of the Trade, the full 90-minute Sundance Festival film, will be shown on Saturday, March 8, at the Town Hall from 4 to 6 P.M. This finished film, which will be shown by PBS in the summer, has been made available to Ledlie Laughlin. It tells about his family's New England slave-trading ancestors and raises questions for his family today (and for all Americans) about how to address the continuing breach between African-Americans and European-Americans. Sponsored by the Cornwall Historical Society.

It's Coming! It's Coming! The Eighth-Grade Pasta Supper arrives on Monday, March 17, and Tuesday, March 18, at The Wandering Moose. Beverage, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and your choice of spaghetti and meatballs, chicken fettuccini Alfredo, or penne pasta with mixed vegetables for the fabulous price of \$14/adults and \$8/children 12 and under. Can't stay for dinner? Order take out! Make reservations early for 5:30 or 7 P.M. seating before we sell out. Call 672-0178 or E-mail 8thgradepasta@thewanderingmoosecafe.com.

A Booksigning Party will be held on Saturday, March 22, at The Wish House from 3 to 6 P.M. for Valorie Fisher's newly released children's book from Random House, When Ruby Tried to Grow Candy. Refreshments provided. Twenty percent of the profits will go to the Cornwall Child Center.

Passport Day: The Cornwall Bridge Post Office, zip code 06754, is holding what it calls Passport Day in its lobby from 10 A.M. to noon on Saturday, March 8. It does not normally offer Saturday passport service, but this will help with increased customer demand now that passports will be needed for travel to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Those interested must bring evidence of citizenship—previous passport or birth certificate—and photo identification such as a valid driver's license. Photos are also needed for new passports, but these may be taken on site that day. There is a schedule of fees too long to print here but available from Cyndie or Doug at 672-6710.

P&Z's Meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 25, at the Town Hall will focus exclusively on the village of Cornwall Bridge and issues that need to be addressed in the Town Plan. Cornwall Bridge residents and business owners should attend. Agenda items include potential realignment of the Route 7 and Route 4 intersection, traffic-calming measures, potential business growth, and the Cornwall Housing Corporation's Merz Project. Other issues are welcome. Representatives from Sharon have been invited. Please try to attend and be part of the discussion—the more people involved, the better the plan will be. If you are unable to attend and have specific comments or suggestions that you would like heard at this meeting, please E-mail them to Karen Nelson at cwlanduse@optonline.net.

Pressing Ahead

As numbed as we are by the political season, let us be thoughtful about the value of the press in our land. The incessant thrum of debate and character assassination goes on 24/7, informing us whether we like it or not. The same may be said for the *Chronicle* on a smaller, monthly scale. But since none of us minor press lords has a salary or an advertising budget, we are relying on you to keep the presses rolling. Thanks and use the coupon below.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, March 4, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Five drives a year are scheduled here, usually in March, May, July, September, and December. Walk-ins are welcome; however, to avoid a possible wait, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE to make an appointment. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, a show entitled *Watercolors*, *Oils*, and *Prints*, by Robert Andrew Parker, will open March 4 and continue through March 30. An artist's reception will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Northern Exposure Photograph Gallery, until recently based in Kent, is moving to West Cornwall into space under The Wish House on Railroad Street. Its first show, entitled *Visions*, opens March 22, with an opening reception to be announced at a later date.

The iO Gallery will continue its winter show, *New Works*, through March. New days and hours of operation for the gallery are Friday through Sunday, noon to 5 P.M.

At the Library: Hot Chocolate Hour, the after-school, read-aloud program for third- to fifth-graders, will run an additional week to make up for a snow day. It will run on Wednesdays March 5, 12, and 19. For more information call 672-6874.

Story Hour will be held only one Friday, March 7, at 1:15 P.M.

Kill-a-Watt Workshop on Saturday, March 8, from 10 A.M. to noon, presented by the Cornwall Energy Task Force and the Cornwall Library. There will be a talk on strategies to reduce kilowatt usage with lighting and appliance adjustments as measured on your electric bill. Kill-a-Watt meters, available at the Library, will be explained. The second hour is an open workshop and discussion for customizing choices. Roger Lindell of Ingalls & Snyder LLC in New York and Lakeville will be the leader. Working as a research analyst, Roger has been active with major environmental organizations in efforts to establish a rational and sustainable energy policy for the United States.

Upc o m i n g
Events

Mark
your calendar
for the following
three events coming
soon.
The ninth annual Art at

The ninth annual Art at the Dump will take place at the Cornwall Transfer Station on Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The show features artwork fashioned from recycled items. Artists, aspiring artists, and nonartists are encouraged to participate. All artwork, unless indicated, will be for sale; 30 percent of the profits will be donated to the art department of the Cornwall Consolidated School. Questions may be directed to Richard Griggs (672-6208 or thingmkr@optonline.net).

The annual Cornwall Child Center Auction will be held on Saturday, May 3, at the Torrington Country Club. This year's theme is Around the World. Questions may be directed to Mary Kay Elwell at 672-4302.

Saturday, June 14, will be the date for the Cornwall Free Library's third annual spring festival/fundraiser, *Food Glorious Food*. The day will be jam-packed with cooking/food-oriented events such as book signings by star chefs and cookbook authors, cooking classes, an art show, a sale of used cookbooks and kitchen goods, a silent auction featuring gourmet cooking equipment, restaurant meals, and private demos. For more information visit www.cornwallfreelibrary.org.



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