



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 21 : NUMBER 2 MARCH 2011



Shovel On

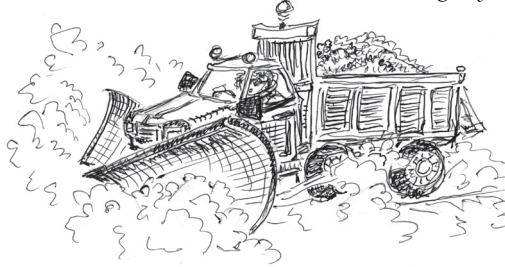
The winter of 2011 will be recorded as the season of stress. Frequent snowstorms have given Cornwall amazing winter scenery and great skiing. A large outbreak of cabin fever has also been reported in town. In fact many residents have been seen on the roofs of their cabins for good reason. Cornwall has had several buildings collapse due to the heavy snow.

Paul Prindle, the town's seasoned building official, recently weighed the snow gathered from one square foot of his roof. The snow weighed 29 pounds, just shy of the 30 pounds per square foot the building code requires roofs to be designed to bear. Paul is particularly concerned about shallow pitched roofs, shed roof additions, and uncovered decks. Ice jams are also now commonplace. Ice jams can cause leaks inside houses as water works its way up and under shingles due to clogged eaves. It is a good idea to have a local building contractor look at your roof before more frozen precipitation comes our way.

A concern of the CVFD is the narrowing of town driveways. Already several ambulance calls took on Olympic elements as driveways have become skinnier than our emergency vehicles.

Fortunately, the February sun had also

arrived to help us with this new mini-ice age. Old timers will note that March, however, is often the snowiest month. Shovel on.
—Gordon Ridgway



Mohawk Memories

Most of us know Mohawk Mountain Ski Area today, with its broad trails, groomed slopes, and lighting at night. A few of us remember the ski area of the fifties and sixties – a very different place.

One big difference was having rope tows. A beginner started with the slow tow at the bunny slope run by Mr. Haller. He spent countless hours helping beginners learn the techniques of being pulled up the hill, restarting the Ford V-8 engine when someone fell off, and always being a cheerful ombudsman for new skiers. It took three separate tows to reach the top, but one could easily get six or more runs down

the hill in an hour.

The tows were a fast way to reach the top, but they were heavy and tiring. On slow days, as youngsters, we would wait for a big adult to lift and carry the rope before we would grab on behind him. Tow grips were the greatest invention known to a skier. Trying to shake your friends off the tow was always a possibility, but definitely frowned upon by the management.





The first chair lift was operational in the early sixties, but serious skiers preferred the faster tows. Percy Hall spent many hours convincing the various engines to keep running smoothly.

Snow conditions were more in the hands of Mother Nature than they are today. Even with several experiments and trials with snowmaking equipment, it was the mid-sixties before it was practical. Prior to that, one prayed for snow, hoping it would stay on the trails because once it was gone the trail was closed. Grooming was almost unknown, though a deep snow was often rolled to help preserve it. Many weekends of skiing were lost to fickle weather and poor conditions.

Style played an important part of our early skiing experience. Kids all hoped to move from clunky snowsuits to sleek, tapered ski pants and parkas. After Christ-

(continued on page 2)

MARCH 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball , 7:30 pm CCS gym Wednesdays: Tai Chi , 6–9 pm CCS; Karate 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball , 7:30 pm CCS gym		1 ♦ Blood Drive 1:30–6:15 pm UCC Parish House ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm CANCELLED	2 ♦ Hot Chocolate Club 3–4 pm Library	3 ♦ Tots, Tales, & Tambourines 10:30–11:30 am Library	4 ♦ Registration Deadline ^{NEW} Park & Rec Baseball ♦ Story Hour 1:15–2:15 pm Library ♦ Family Friendly 1st Friday 3:30–5:30 pm Cornwall Child Center	5 ♦ Ag Comm Potluck & Farm Market 5:30–7:30 pm UCC Parish House ♦ Community Contra Dance 7–9:30 pm Town Hall
6	7 ♦ Reg. One Bd of Ed 6 pm HVRHS ♦ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Ag Commission 7:30 pm Town Office	8 ♦ P & Z Public Hearing 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 pm CCS Library	9 ♦ Hot Chocolate Club 3–4 pm Library	10 ♦ Tots, Tales, & Tambourines 10:30–11:30 am Library	11	12 ♦BEE-ginning with Bees ^{1st Q} 10:30 am–1:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Cornwall Association 9 am UCC Day Room ♦ Heifer Project Chili Fest 5–7 pm UCC Parish House
13	14	15 ♦ Bd of Ed 4 pm CCS Library ♦ Deadline: March Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Hot Chocolate Club 3–4 pm Library	17  ♦ Tots, Tales, & Tambourines 10:30–11:30 am Library ♦ Bd of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	18 ♦ Etruscans Lovers... 8 pm Town Hall	19  ♦ Etruscans Lovers... 8 pm Town Hall
20 ♦ Etruscans Lovers... 3 pm Town Hall	21	22  ♦ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	23 ♦ Kindergarten Registration ♦ Wii Tournament, 4th–6th grades 5–7 pm Library	24 ♦ Kindergarten Registration ♦ Tots, Tales, & Tambourines 10:30–11:30 am Library	25 ♦ Etruscans Lovers... 8 pm Town Hall	26  ♦ Letter from an Unknown Woman 7:30 pm Library ♦ Etruscans Lovers... 8 pm Town Hall
27	28 ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Town Hall	29	30 ♦ Cornwall Volunteer Fire Dept. 8 pm W.C. Firehouse	31 ♦ Tots, Tales, & Tambourines 10:30–11:30 am Library	Every Week This Month: Fridays: Pre-school Story Hour , 1:15 pm Library Saturdays: Skating , 7–8 pm Hotchkiss School Sundays: Meditation , 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229	

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

mas was a time of showing off what one had reaped that year. When I finally got the real thing and was feeling totally cool, Tim Prentice appeared wearing blue jeans and the bar was reset again.

One highlight of early Mohawk days was skiers swaying down the slopes in time with the waltzes played over a loudspeaker system. Another was the lodge, now a snack bar part way up the hill. On a busy day the line for food would go all the way around the room and out the door. And in the early sixties Mohawk also fielded a ski team; members included Doc Simont, Rick Stone, Rob Hare, and Eddie Lisk Jr, who often practiced with the Marvelwood team.

Cornwall kids could ski free, but were expected to help out as needed. This included shoveling snow onto the tow paths, pulling toboggans loaded with gas cans up the tows to fuel the tows' power plants, busing tables in the lodge, and pretty much anything else we were asked to do.

The old Mohawk was a far cry from today with groomed slopes, triple chair lift, and a spacious lodge, but we still had a lot of fun. —Ralph Gold

Betty and the Bear

Working in the city and having a Cornwall home offers a contrast of lifestyles and an appealing combination of activity and quiet. Quiet was the operative word here until the bear showed up.

The first visit came at night, evident when I awoke and found my bear-proof bird feeder system assailed, feeders on the ground, or missing. Art Gingert and I had labored to sling a wire 15 feet high between two trees, from which we'd hung the feeders. I wondered if a strong wind had hit them in the night.

The next visit – bears remember where to find great eats – occurred the following night. My cat Billy spotted it crossing the terrace. I slid the door open a crack and barked, having learned at an Audubon Center lecture that bears don't like dogs. Off it ran into the woods. The third visitation was the first time I'd seen any bear in daylight. I barked and it turned tail. But half an hour later, it came back. When I barked again, it stood its ground and I think it laughed. I banged a kitchen pan and it fled, only to return in ten minutes. When I banged the pan again, it just stared. Not your average bear!

I watched as this beautiful bear-that-wouldn't-scare licked seeds from the ground. I had my camera ready as it headed for the tree, stretched luxuriously, and bounded up. Holding onto the tree with both paws, it took the wire in its mouth and shook it, sending two feeders crashing to the ground. It reached with a paw shaking until the other feeders fell. I hollered and

beat furiously on the pan, sending the bear clamoring down the tree and into the bushes. I rescued the wounded feeders.

The next night, the bear returned for the fourth time to find no feeders. It looked at the house. I'm told a bear can smell the hot dog you ate two years ago, and I'd just cooked a hamburger. The bear approached and leaned against the slider. It got on the picnic table. It rubbed against the corner of the house. Then it was on the front porch, where it knocked into an iron rocking chair, possibly stubbing a toe, pain sending it growling and thumping and crashing into the door. Billy the cat tore past me and dove under the bed as I beat 5-pound weights on the window sill. Gone.

Minutes later, I heard a thump on the dining room window and saw it standing on hind legs atop the tulips, paws against the glass, looking at me. That thump got my blood pressure up, so I phoned neighbors, who drove their car up my driveway to drive away the bear. Next day, after scouring the ground to pick up every tiny seed, I scattered mothballs around the house perimeter. At 5 P.M. Billy froze, and I turned to see the bear on the other side of the slider, sniffing the mothballs on the doormat. It lifted its head and hurried off, and I never saw it again. —Betty Spence

CCS Basketball Teams

Cornwall Consolidated School's boys and girls basketball teams ended their season in the finals with a 10-2 record (boys) and a 7-4 (girls). The girls were tied for second place but unfortunately lost the playoff game against Salisbury, while the boys finished in first place. At their championship game at HVRHS, the Cornwall boys won a close game (43-41), receiving their well-deserved trophy at the end.

The boys' coach, Mike Pierce, states that his team "had the will to win and showed that they've got the guts to fulfill their dream." He believed, right when the clock started, that these boys were hungry for the trophy and "there was no way they were going to lose."

At their first practice, Coach Mike made sure his boys understood that they were a team off the court and on the court. He wanted them to support each other all the time. He also worked on defense more than any other skill. "I knew the offense would come to them," Coach stated. "There are ten players returning next year that have already learned a lot." He is

incredibly proud and honored to be part of this team.

Coach Ken Considine of the girls team felt extremely fortunate to teach this set of girls. The team came together very well, despite having a young group. The Cornwall girls had role models who were "each good at one aspect and capitalized on it." The hard-working team learned a lot this year and became better throughout the season.

Good job Cornwall girls and boys!!!

—Marina Matsudaira

Welcome

Barrett Ann and Niall Emerson McClain
to Jenny and Colin McClain

Good Bye to a Friend

Michael Gannett

Congratulations

Elizabeth Metcalf and Ethan Lawrence Fax

Land Transfers

JPMorgan Chase Bank to Jaime D. and Martine Longhi, 24.189 acres and all appurtenances thereunto, at 75 Todd Hill Road, for \$1,375,000.

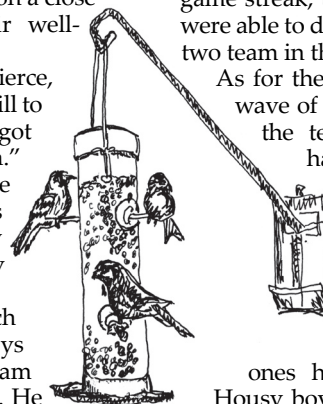
Housy Basketball

The Housy girls varsity basketball team is starting to make some noise. Last year the team made it to the Class S state tournament. The girls brought the game to overtime in the first round of the tournament but were unable to pull off the win. This year the Cornwall players, Genevieve Terrall, Danielle Kearns, and Heathers Kearns, along with other team members, have high hopes for making it further in the Berkshire League and state tournaments.

So far, the team's record is 10-7. Anyone who has attended the games would know that this record does not represent the quality of basketball played at Housatonic. Five games were lost by no more than four points and the team played incredibly hard for the entire 32 minutes. After this five-game streak, the girls came up strong and were able to defeat Thomaston, the number two team in the Berkshire League.

As for the junior varsity squad, a new wave of athletic freshmen has helped the team greatly. The girls only have three losses and are continuing to improve. Although there will be a loss of five seniors for next season, these girls have shown that the spots will be easily filled.

The girls aren't the only ones having a great season. The Housy boys basketball team has had a strong year as well. Its record so far is 9-7, including an upset against Litchfield. Reilly Lynch, from Cornwall, had the go-ahead steal in the final seconds and the assist to a Falls Village teammate for the winning basket. Another Cornwall contributor is



Wilson Terrall, who has been a big help to the team.

Both teams are finishing up their seasons within the next week and then will start the Berkshire League Tournament and following that, the state tournament. Everyone's looking forward to coming home with a win! —*Danielle Kearns and Genevieve Terrall*

Princess of Cornwall, Queen of Audubon

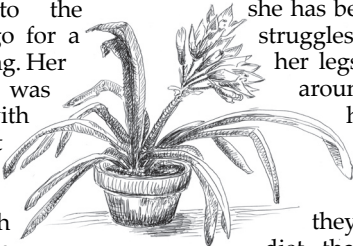
Eighteen years ago this spring, my husband, Skip, found a baby crow in a nest in a tree. Having fond childhood memories of his family raising a crow, he rescued it to raise as a pet. Since we had three little girls at home, she was given ample attention, along with the name Princess.

Crows are very intelligent birds and Princess is no exception. The unfortunate thing that happens when rescuing crows is that they imprint themselves onto their human caregivers and can no longer be released into the wild. They believe themselves to be human.

Princess proved to be an interesting pet. When I went for walks, she would follow me along the road landing on telephone poles or trees along the way. She never strayed far, as other crows would harass her if I wasn't nearby. She would tap on our bedroom window in the morning to wake us up, then fly next door and wake up the Bigelows, who fortunately didn't mind. At first she hung around our yard, playing with the girls. But as she got older she ventured further away, until she discovered the rich playground of West Cornwall.

She loved to play in West Cornwall. She would land on cars at the post office and inspect the mirrors and other shiny parts. She would hang onto the windshield wipers and go for a ride if the driver was willing. Her favorite hangout was Hedgerow's Market, with people eating on the front deck. She'd even get into the store if the doors were open and bang on the cash register or swipe change left on the counter. Fair and fluffy hair proved irresistible to Princess. She would fly close to the person, trying to land on his or her shoulders.

Needless to say, she became a controversial resident of the village. Some loved her and would greet her and play with her. But more were understandably scared and annoyed by her presence. At one point, Princess was kidnapped and released in Sharon. We assumed she was gone for good, but incredibly, I found her. Outside the Sharon Teen Center I noticed a crow hanging around. I didn't think much of it at first, then realized it was strange. Normal crows don't hang around people. I talked to the crow and she hung around, but didn't come near me. Skip came and whistled his familiar call for Princess—and



SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The Cornwall Historical Society is delighted to announce that Raechel Guest has joined the Society as its executive director/curator. Raechel comes to us with a fund of experience and expertise as an historian, curator, writer, and lecturer. Weather permitting, she will generally be at CHS on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Stop in and say hello. —*Dimmy Greene*

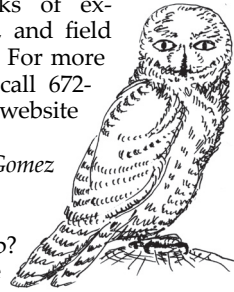
ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER FUN?

It's hard to imagine warm weather and outdoor fun, but mark your calendars now for the Cornwall Child Center Summer Camp program starting June 27. Plans are underway for fun-filled weeks of exploration, cooking, art, science, and field trips for ages three through six. For more information or to preregister, call 672-6989 or check out the Center's website for details in late spring.

—*Director Sandy Gomez*

MESSAGE FROM THE CVFD

Having trouble falling asleep? May I suggest your reading the *Cornwall Structure Identification Ordinance*. Here are the highlights: Your "numbers shall not be less than 3 inches in height and be made of durable and clearly visible material" on a "gate, post, fence, sign post, or other appropriate place."



sure enough, she immediately flew to him and landed on his shoulder.

Since Princess had worn thin the nerves of West Cornwall residents, we brought her to the Audubon Center in Sharon. There she has been for the last 14.5 years. She struggles with severe arthritis in one of her legs. She cannot fly so she hops around her cage on one leg, which has caused her tail feathers to wear away. However, her caregivers say she is the most loved and pampered resident they have. She has an elaborate diet that consists of mice, berries, peanut butter, insects, apples, bananas, carrots, spinach, and hard boiled eggs. She has an outdoor cage for warmer weather and is allowed the run of the building occasionally. The staff takes her outside when it has lunch. She hops around, and sidles up close, hoping that someone will pet her.

Princess still entertains visitors by calling out to anyone who walks into the room. She is brought out of her cage to interact with visiting schoolchildren. If they call "caw caw" to her, she'll answer back. There was a big birthday party for her 13th birthday, with cake for all the visitors. As Princess nears the end of her life expectancy, it is wonderful to see the affection and attention she receives at the Audubon Center. —*Annie Kosciusko*

Reflective numbers are best, the bigger the better. Take a good look at what you install during the day and again at night. Numbers on trees and rocks are a bad idea. Be sure to alert the 911 dispatch if your driveway is full of snow to ensure the needed resources are in route. Take a good look at your own home, especially after a snowstorm, and imagine that your life might depend on us finding your house on a foggy night. BIG, visible, reflecting numbers that can be seen from both directions will help us help you. Cheers. —*Dave Cadwell*

TRUCKS AND THE COVERED BRIDGE

Several times in recent years trucks have forced their way through our West Cornwall covered bridge. Some get stuck, some shave a bit off the timbers and keep going. At some point, the bridge won't take it anymore. Why don't we erect a wooden gateway, like the one at Bull's Bridge? A gateway at the top of each sloping road off Route 7, the most often abused approach, would make clear to a truck driver when to go no farther. The land across the bridge belongs to Sharon but I doubt they would refuse permission for us to build a protective warning if we would pay for it.

—*Nita Colgate*

Cornwall Briefs

- The Senior Housing Project took a step forward February 8 at a P&Z hearing when the Cornwall Housing Corporation, various technical people, and citizens gave their views. It's not over yet, since a missing landscaping plan meant the hearing was continued until March 8.
- Jim Vanicky has been chosen by the selectmen as foreman of the town highway crew. Jim has been a member of the crew since November 1989 so he knows every quirk of the 66 miles of Cornwall's roads. Jim's the one who is usually at the helm of the big front-end loader skillfully moving large things in all seasons.
- Gifts ranging from \$50 to \$5,000 (from the Cornwall Foundation) have added \$20,000 to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Bank (CFFB) and just in time, too. Since January 1, Social Service Administrator Jill Gibbons has used the donations to cover 22 emergencies such as utility cutoffs, unpaid oil bills, and no food. Don't stop now! Send a check today to the CFFB c/o Barbara Herbst, Town of Cornwall.
- With the budget season upon us, the selectmen attended a meeting with new Gov. Dannel Malloy to hear what he has in mind for the state's municipalities. Our guys were glad to learn that, for the first time, the state's accounting of funds will have to conform to the same rigid standards required of the towns. Malloy was frank

about cuts. "We're in a hole. Now we're going to find out how deep," Ridgway said.

• Speaking of budgets, the Board of Education will present its plans for 2011-2012 on Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 P.M. at the library at CCS. All are welcome.

• Three new town advisory committees have been formed. The Economic Development Committee will include Todd Piker, Bianca Griggs, Bill Dinneen, Richard Bramley, and Mark Hampson. Members of the Commission on the Aging will be Joe Gwazdauskas, Lucy Kling, Bronwyn O'Shaughnessy, Jane Prentice, and Paul Baren. The Conservation Commission's members will be Jean Bouteiller, Don Bardot, Patrick Mulberry, Graham Underwood, Kim Herkimer, and Brian Thomas. —Lisa L. Simont

Events & Announcements

Editors' Note: We regret the error last month in reporting of a CCS fundraiser. Contact person Gina Olson can be reached at 248-0482 and details of the program can be found at www.shopwithscrip.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held March 1, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. at the UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road. A good turnout is needed as many drives have been cancelled due to the bad winter weather. Walk-ins welcome.

At the Cornwall Library:

• Hot Chocolate Hour, the after-school, read aloud program for third and fourth graders continues Wednesdays, March 2, 9, and 16.

• One more story hour on Friday, March 4, at 1:15 P.M. will end the winter series.

• Tots, Tales and Tambourines, a music and movement class lead by Leslie Elias for 2- to 5-year olds, continues Thursdays in March, 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. \$10 per class. Register at 672-6874.

• The first Wii Tournament for fourth through sixth graders, Wednesday evening, March 23, from 5 to 7 P.M. At least ten players needed to vie for a special prize. Call to confirm attendance 672-6874.

Lions and Lambs

Any lion with plans to roar his way into March had better own a pair of snow shoes when he comes to Cornwall. And think what it will be like when it melts! The little lamb who leaves March behind had better bring water wings. Whoever you are, lion or lamb, please consider writing a check to the Chronicle. Thanks!

• *Letter from an Unknown Woman*, a classic film set in 19th century Vienna, will be shown Saturday, March 26, at 7:30 P.M. Suggested donation is \$6 for one and \$10 for a couple.

Park & Rec Programs

(Details: cornwallparkrec.org or 672-4071)

• Indoor Soccer for boys and girls at the CCS gym: Sunday afternoons, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, from 3 to 4 P.M. for third through fifth graders; and 4 to 5 P.M. for sixth through eighth graders. Registration form (online) and \$10 check required.

• Baseball for girls and boys, kindergarten through sixth grade: Registration deadline is March 4. Registration form (online) and \$20 check required.

Cornwall Child Center Open House:

Friday, March 4, between 3:30 and 5:30 P.M. Come have a tour, meet the teachers, and enjoy snack time with the children. Call Director Sandy Gomez at 672-6989 for details.

Farmers' Market and Potluck Dinner

presented by the Agricultural Commission, Saturday, March 5, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., UCC Parish House. Bring a dish to share and shake away the winter blues with a family-friendly fun-filled night while supporting our local farmers. For information e-mail Susan Saccardi at ssbdd5@optonline.net.

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, the show of photos by Nick Jacobs continues through March 5, and Duke Besozzi's carved wooden water fowl can be viewed through the end of the month. Shaun MacDavid will show recent paintings beginning Sunday, March 6, when there will be an opening reception from 2 to 4 P.M.

Family Contra Dance

on Saturday, March 5, 7 to 9:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. David Kaynor calling and Still, the Homegrown Band playing. Suggested donation, \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. For more information call Jim or Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

BEE-ginning with Bees

sponsored by Motherhouse, will be held Saturday, March 12, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, including a potluck lunch. \$35 per family. Preregistration is required because of size limitations. Call Debra Tyler at 672-0229 or e-mail atlifekills@motherhouse.us.



Family Round Sing, March 18, 7:30 P.M. at the Hughes Memorial Library in West

Cornwall. More information, call Debra Tyler at 672-0229.

Chili Fest to Benefit Heifer Project:

A wide variety of chili, including vegetarian, will be served with all the fixings as well as cornbread, desserts and beverages. Saturday, March 12, at the UCC Parish House from 5 to 7 P.M. Donations benefit the UCC Church School's annual Heifer Project International campaign. For information, call 672-6840.

Town Hall Players' production of *Etruscan Lovers & Other Fools*,

March 18, 19, 25, 26 at 8 P.M. and March 20 at 3 P.M. \$10. See *Chronicle* insert for more information.

Kindergarten Registration

for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on March 23 and 24. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2011 is eligible. Call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a visit. Bring the child's official immunization record and birth certificate.

Property Tax Relief

for low-income Cornwall residents: The Assessor's office is accepting applications for the homeowners' tax relief program until May 13, 2011. Applicants are required by law to submit proof of their 2010 income (income tax return if filed) and their Social Security form 1099 for the year 2010. The income limits for this year are: married \$39,500 or single \$32,300. This means all income including Social Security. Elderly homeowners must have reached the age of 65 by December 31, 2010 to qualify. Those homeowners on Social Security Disability do not need to meet the age requirement, but must show proof of their permanent disability status and meet the income limits for this program. Cornwall residents who qualify may apply at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, noon to 4 P.M. or Wednesday mornings. Call 672-2703 with any questions.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

MARCH ISSUE

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