



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



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Save the Kids

Cornwall Consolidated Principal Michael Croft led a Safety and Security Forum on January 29. Panel members included Superintendent of Schools Patricia Chamberlain, CCS Board Chair Rebecca Hurlburt, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, Cornwall Emergency Manager Newton Dunn, and Trooper Robert Janco, the school liaison officer. Croft covered four major areas in his presentation: ideas that guided the approach taken by the administration, faculty, and staff at CCS; the process they followed; changes that have been made or are currently underway; and the behavioral support and mental health services available upon request. Croft's overall goal was that "school should be a positive experience for all."

Maintaining a school that was still viewed as a welcoming community center had to be balanced by procedures that limited access, ensured communication, and included plans for a wide range of emergencies, including fires and storms. Croft stressed that we had "a higher probability for these crises than a Newtown event." He emphasized that managing school safety has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing

priority with constant review and revision.

The changes that have been made or are underway at CCS are impressive and numerous. Beginning with the facility itself: improvements have been made to the interior locks, additional camera and monitors are in place, changes were made to the configuration of the main office, break-resistant film is now on exterior windows, and improved first responder access to the building after consultation with the state police and CVFD has been implemented. New practices will include lanyards for all administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers.

Parents and community volunteers are helping with arrival, dismissal, recess, and fire drills under the direction of the administration. A trooper visits the school daily and state troopers will be invited to conduct lessons with students on matters of safety in the near future.

Parents asked a wide range of questions, particularly about the students' response to the police presence. To lighten the concerns,

Trooper Janco said the troopers did not wear their hats when working with students, to create a more informal, less threatening atmo-

sphere! Parents questioned response time from Troop B in Canaan. Janco said all troopers in the Northwest Corner, even those off duty, would be alerted to any emergency or call for assistance and he urged all to help the police by being the "eyes and ears" of the community. As far as concerns about delivery people, identification of non-Cornwall high school students traveling on Cornwall buses, and other unknown visitors, Croft reviewed increased security measures. These included additional staff and volunteers as monitors throughout the day and during after-school programs, custodial sweeps through the building, and new training of all teachers in "flexible response" to emergencies. An extensive "Vulnerability Assessment" is currently underway.

Principal Croft concluded with the theme of "ensuring a positive school experience for all," by saying that the administration and faculty are using Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) protocol, working with a wide range of social and mental health services in our area, and consistently striving to create a positive atmosphere of learning in every classroom. Communication with parents and the community will continue to be a major part of safety and security initiatives.

— Pamela Wilson



MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 5:45–7 pm CCS Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball , 7:30 pm CCS gym Thursdays: Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library Sundays: Meditation, 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229					1	2
					♦ Film: <i>The Virgin Spring</i> 7:30 pm Library	♦ Winter Social for CCC 6–9 pm 103 Valley Road ♦ Family Contra Dance 7–10 pm Town Hall
3	4 ♦ Mad about Science 2:50–5:30 pm CCS ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	5 ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Cornwall General Store ♦ Red Cross Blood Drive 1–5:45 pm UCC P. House ♦ Mad about Science 2:50–5:30 pm CCS ♦ Rep. Party Open Meeting 7 pm Library ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	6 ♦ Mad about Science 2:50–5:30 pm CCS	7 ♦ Mad about Science 2:50–5:30 pm CCS	8 ♦ Mad about Science 2:50–5:30 pm CCS	9 ♦ Motherhouse BEE-ginning with Bees Workshop 10:30 am–1:30 pm
♦ Paintings by N. Jean Tyler 11:30 am UCC Parish House						
10	11 NEW	12 ♦ Economic Development 8:30 am Town Hall ♦ P & Z 7 pm Cornwall Library	13	14	15 ♦ Deadline: April Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Film: <i>L'Avventura</i> 7:30 pm Library
17	18	19 1st Q ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 ♦ Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library	21 ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	22 ♦ Film: <i>Brave</i> Family Movie Night 7 pm Library	23 ♦ Madagascar Breakfast 8–11 am CCS
24	25 ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	26 ♦ Isabel Sharlotte Lane Oil Paintings Library ♦ Committee for Seniors 7–8 pm Library	27 FULL	28	29 ♦ CCS Closed Good Friday	30
31						

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

Change at the Library

If you have been to the library lately, you may have noticed that someone is missing. Head Librarian Amy Cady resigned in an effort to end seven years of commuting life as her husband, Scott, works at a parish in Manchester. Margaret Haske is holding down the fort with the help of library board members as they work to hire a librarian.

Many people in the community have echoed Margaret's comments about how welcome Amy made everyone feel at the library. Janet Walker noted that she knew everyone and asked about their family, and waited on them cheerfully and with good humor, no matter how busy she was.

Important accomplishments of Amy's were organizing a large cadre of volunteers and starting a program of student pages. People noted how helpful she was with the intricacies of using a computer to find books at other libraries or guiding a search for information. She encouraged use of the library for yoga classes as well as book groups.

"If the library has become our community center, then much of the credit goes to Amy," Franny Taliaferro said. Franny also noted that Amy's knowledge and appreciation of Cornwall people and phenomena were great resources and her enthusiasm energized every project whether planning a special event or debating choices on the book selection committee.

Amy has been a major contributor to the library's life and character. The Cornwall community thanks Amy and Scott for their long service and wishes them well on their future endeavors. Marnell Stover, president of the board of trustees, anticipates advertising for the director position soon.

—Jayne Ridgway

A Cornwall Connection

By all accounts, Cornwall was named after the county of Cornwall that forms the southwestern tip of England. But who did the naming, when, and why, is today a mystery. Since nothing was documented or retained in any historical archives, this information has been lost from the collective memory of both communities. Conjecture might lead one to believe that an early settler emigrated here from the English county and named it after the homeland, but there could also be any number of other possible answers. Years ago, I inadvertently came up with one of my own that may or may not have something to do with it.

I first came here in 1977 to escape from New York City. An acquaintance in the city agreed I was suffering from culture shock and advised I visit a friend of his in West Cornwall. Taking the train to Dover Plains, I hitched the rest of the way and entered Connecticut for the first time at Sharon. As my ride took me along Route 4, up over Ellsworth Hill and down into the Hou-

stonic Valley, I remember how strongly I felt I was coming into a different place. The ledge seemed to be pushing itself up out of the earth and the conifers became more numerous and densely grouped together. The drive north on Route 7 along the river was mesmerizing. My ride dropped me at the covered bridge. Having come for a long weekend in September, I stayed on that entire winter.

Nearly ten years later and back in the city, I had become engaged to my future wife, Stella, who took me home with her to Cornwall, England to meet her parents in the village of Par on the south coast. I was entering the county for the first time by rail on the Cornish Main via "the gateway to Cornwall." Once again, the geography seemed to transform itself. The rolling farmland of Devon suddenly became rocky woodlands. Only later, when Stella showed me the rest of the county, did I come to realize how few trees there are in Cornwall, which is

an exposed plateau for the most part with a coastline of cliffs descending to the sea. But the southeastern corner of the county winds down more gradually through river valleys that carved out the hills, which then blocked the salt-laden winds and allowed timber to flourish. When I first saw the area I imagined that, were it possible, a square mile swathe of both Cornwalls could be cut out and interchanged with the other and a first-time visitor to either place would be none the wiser.

Having moved here permanently three years ago, we still travel regularly to the other Cornwall and arrive with the sense of not having left home. Why was one Cornwall named after the other? For me the answer has always been obvious.

—Bill Goulet

Christmas at the Historical Society

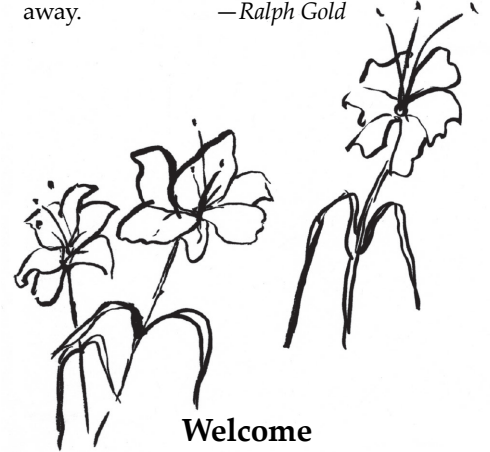
Shortly before Christmas, Barbara Gold, the historical society president, received a phone call from Tom Sedgwick, a great-great-nephew of Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick. Sedgwick asked if the Cornwall Historical Society would be interested in some letters about the major general. The letters had been passed through several generations of Sedgwick's family and he felt it was time for them to be permanently housed and their contents made more public. Barbara and Raechel Guest, the curator, met with Sedgwick and his wife and received five letters written by Commissary of Subsistence Joseph S. Smith to his father in Maine from various battle sites in Virginia from 1861 to 1863. The letters are very complimentary of the newly appointed major general and further reinforce the reputation that "Uncle John" was very popular with his men.

The letters will be archived and stored

at the historical society and then be made part of a planned 2014 Civil War exhibit. The longer term goal is to be able to add this to Internet-searchable databases to make the information's existence readily available to other researchers.

Tom Sedgwick's gift to the Cornwall Historical Society should be a reminder to all of us of the importance of preserving our ancestors' legacies in a way that will benefit the most people. We should all look in those dark corners and share the wealth of historical information that is squirreled away.

—Ralph Gold



Welcome

Frank Church
to Anna Trentadue and Russell Cheney

Ivy June Lupine
to Iris Hermann and Rocco Botto

Goodbye to a Friend

Gloria T. Wagner

Land Transfers

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. to Laura McMullin, land with all buildings thereon standing at 43 Town Street, for \$217,500.

Anthony & Catherine Basile to Salisbury Bank & Trust Co., 11.165 acres on River Road.

CCS 3-PEAT

Congratulations are due to the CCS boys basketball team who won the Region One Championship Tournament for the third consecutive year. The team, directed by first-year coach Liam O'Reilly, defeated the Salisbury Redhawks in a thrilling, close 37 to 36 victory. The team has several players from Falls Village. According to local legend this is the first time a team has won the tournament three years in row. Go Coyotes! Go Corn Village!

—Gordon Ridgway



What to Do? Cabin Fever

Cornwall in the winter always presents the possibility of being snowed in. We had a taste of this with storm Nemo, though the inch count was less than some towns to the east of us. Despite it being milder than we feared, there was that momentary shock trying to let our pets out in the morning and realizing the snow had drifted above our doors making them impossible to open. Since Ferdinand Van Valkenburg loves a blizzard, Larry had to force himself to go outside with the dog.

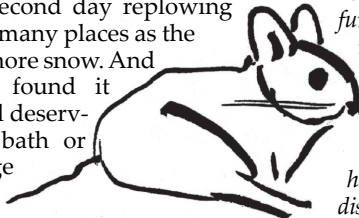
How to move these mountains of snow? Our busy town crew didn't have the luxury of sleeping in, and since all the places to eat had been closed during other storms, Lynn Scoville made dinner for them all. Those who make their living plowing out our driveways dealt with cars stuck there in drifts waist deep or higher. Friends and relatives paired up to clear snow, like Phill West with a tractor and "Uncle Ralph" with his snow plow alternately attacking the drifts at the top of Cream Hill. Of course some second day replowing was needed in many places as the wind blew in more snow. And the shovelers found it hard going and deserving of a hot bath or back massage afterward.

Once it was clear schools would be closed, the kids were elated to be at home. The time was happily filled with lazy mornings, baking together, playing in the snow, reading and computer games. Some toddlers got all bundled up, excited to go out, only to take five or six steps and cry to come inside! Rebecca Ridgway was home helping to cook. Making comfort food like stew, macaroni and cheese, and cookies, seems to be an important activity in the cold, and thankfully we didn't lose power!

Of course there were disappointments and chores to be done too. Julie Cavanaugh was sorry to miss Saturday bowling. Madison Frith hibernated with layers of clothes and her laptop under lots of blankets, but later valiantly helped Dad shovel. Each Saccardi was assigned two rooms to "spotlitize" or make spotless before going out to build seven snow-people. The adult children of Jim and Corinne Levy arrived in Cornwall in time to shovel out their parents. And all over town there were bird feeders to fill and paths to be created for livestock to reach their food and water.

Bad weather brings the potential for stranded motorists, damaged roofs, and problems with generators or chimney fires. So Jayne and Gordon Ridgway slept at the firehouse Friday night to be sure the ambulance or fire truck could respond in a timely manner. And Mohawk was open for skiing but there were no major events.

So many adults who were snowed in



Letters to the Chronicle

FAIR TRADE FUNDRAISER

I'm fundraising for the CCS PTA. Would you like to support my school? It's not just any fundraiser—CCS is having an Equal Exchange fair trade, organic, and delicious fundraiser! All the items in our catalog are from small-scale farmers and artisans. When you purchase something we all win—the school gets 40 percent of the profits, the farmers get paid a fair deal and you get delicious food and beautiful crafts. Would you like to buy a gift for yourself or a friend? Orders are due March 15 so call 672-6884 today. By the way, the chocolate is winning awards it's so delicious! —Ella Hampson

FRANCOPHILES START GROUP TO SPEAK FRENCH

Two Cornwall Francophiles, Raymonde Burke and myself, have joined forces to start a regular gathering of people who speak—and love to speak—French. The group has already met twice and in just a few short winter weeks has managed to find nearly 15 like-minded people. These monthly gatherings are strictly social and fun but speaking French is an absolute prerequisite. The occasional English word in a sentence when you're stuck is OK, but really French is what we speak.

There is no "assignment" for a gathering, no book that has to be read, although some members have expressed interest in having a topic for discussion. And French films are a possibility.

These monthly get-togethers take place at the houses of different members of the group. For

information, email raymonde.burke@gmail.com. —Nora Horan

HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The Home Energy Solutions Campaign resulted in about 30 home energy audits. The average savings was roughly 10 percent, \$300 to 400/annually in a 2,000-sq.-ft. home. After March 1, the \$75 co-pay will be raised to \$99 for fuel oil customers (others stay at \$75) but a \$50 rebate applies to all. Please call 1-888-403-3500 to sign up, tell your friends, and we will post updates on our website, www.CornwallCTenergy.org. Many thanks. Stay warm.

—Katherine Freygang,
Cornwall Energy Task Force.

WANTED: ACCOMPLISHED WOMEN

The Cornwall Historical Society is looking for photographs and other material relating to Cornwall women who made significant contributions to Cornwall and beyond. We are interested in women who were among the first to enter certain fields, such as sports, medicine, or journalism; women who were involved in the suffrage movement or were adamantly opposed to being given the right to vote; women who attended college in the 1800s; and women who ran businesses (or farms) when most business owners were men.

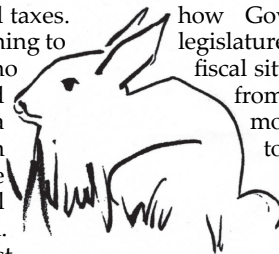
If you have any material or stories you'd like to share, please email us: cornhistsoc@optonline.net. You can also call us at 672-0505.

—Wynne Kavanagh

said they used the time for bills and taxes. Hunt Williams said his desk was aching to be cleared off and there were no longer any excuses. Jane Bevans and Maggie Tauranac were able to lay a studio floor together. Eileen Gargan worked on her warm wool applique quilt with the words "Cornwall Hollow" incorporated in the design. The Calhouns, like others, just enjoyed a normal evening of supper and Netflix in front of the fire.

And new baby Ivy Hermann-Botto was snug at home, having arrived just before the storm. Her mother, Iris, celebrated her own birthday watching out the window as Rocco and the dogs dug out and played in the beautiful snow. May Ivy and all of us have many years of changing gears when Mother Nature dumps snow and more snow on us!

—Ann Gold



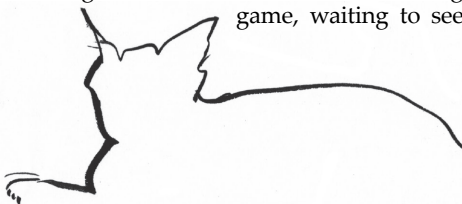
how Gov. Dan Malloy and the legislature balance a very unbalanced fiscal situation. Item one is revenue from the tax on vehicles. This is money that goes directly to the towns and cities where the cars and trucks are registered. It has nothing at all to do with the state's budget crises but a lot to do

with local budgets. Malloy, it is suggested, would like to get the tax eliminated so he can be credited with lowering taxes in the state. The only trouble is that if the towns—Cornwall for example—lose this substantial revenue it would have to be made up by raising the mill rate. Item two involves the state contribution to Cornwall to make up for the fact that it controls 22 percent of our land. In recent years it's been contributing \$25,000 annually. It is reported that this smallish bit of revenue in lieu of taxes may disappear. Other items, such as funds for education and roads, are said to be on the state chopping block. Another fiscal problem that indirectly involves all the towns in the Northwest Corner is state aid to hospitals. Sharon Hospital is said to be losing as much as \$2.5 million. This could affect hospital staffing as well as the level of care for Medicare and Medicaid patients. The news from Hartford is unlikely to be good.

—John Miller

Cornwall Briefs

- **Town Hall** is anxious about town finances and right now it boils down to a waiting game, waiting to see



Reverse 911

On Christmas Eve the residents of Cornwall received a call about a missing man from Goshen. For many of us this was a first. The state of Connecticut is the first state to have a statewide Emergency Notification System (ENS) that allows the use of the 911 system to notify people of emergencies. ENS, also referred to as the Reverse 911 system, is a public safety communications system that is meant to keep people informed.

The ENS can notify people about events ranging from a statewide emergency to notifying a region of a possible danger or a missing person at the town level. A Reverse 911 call can be used to alert people in several locations of emergencies, such as natural disasters, missing people, dangerous weather, rabid animals, mass casualty incidents, homeland security (terrorism), campus lockdowns, and other crises.

The Reverse 911 has the ability to target specific people such as emergency personnel so that our EMS system can be ready for a possible danger. The ENS may be used to notify people in non-emergency situations such as street closures, parade route notifications, school closings, mosquito spraying, and many more. If you are wondering if you are on the calling list, you probably are. Anyone who has a landline phone is currently on the list, but for people who want to be more connected you can also have notifications emailed or texted to you by signing up at ct.gov/ctalert. If you would like more detailed information about the ENS system check out the guide at cassidiancommunications.com/pdf/R911mediaguide030111FINAL.pdf.

— Brian Saccardi

Events & Announcements

A Winter Social and Auction to benefit the Cornwall Child Center will be held on March 2 from 6 to 9 P.M. at the home of the Jacobsons, 103 Valley Road. Call 672-0038 for tickets or information.

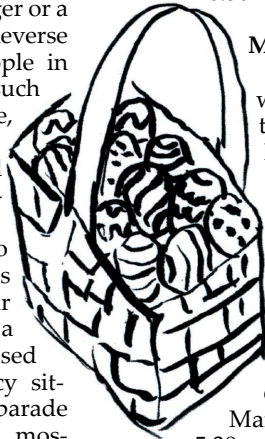
253 and Counting

This is the 253rd money pitch composed since the founding of the *Chronicle* in 1991. As we begin our 22nd year of publication, remember the artists who have made between 1,750 and 1,800 drawings for the paper. Take out your own pen and write us a nice sustaining check. Thanks!

At The Cornwall Library

The Winter Film Series continues with the following offerings: March 1, *The Virgin Spring* at 7:30 P.M. March 16, *L'Avventura* at 7:30 P.M. March 22, Family Movie Night will present *Brave* at 7 P.M. This Pixar animation is rated G.

For fitness the library offers: Non-traditional Pilates on Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M. with Alice Sarkissian Wolf. Yoga with Nancy Opgaard features all levels on Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 A.M., Sundays 9 to 10:15 A.M. Adaptive yoga will be held Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M.



Motherhouse Event

A Family Contra Dance will be held March 2 from 7 to 10 P.M. at the town hall. Music by Still the Home-grown Band. Donations are \$3/child and \$5/adult. Call 672-6101 for information.

Mad About Science will be offered at CCS by the After-School Kids Klub, Cornwall Child Center's enrichment program, on March 4 through 8 from 2:50 to 5:30 P.M. for students in kindergarten through grade four. Students will explore physics, chemistry, engineering, edible science, and more. To register, please email cornwallchildcenter@yahoo.com or call 672-6989.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, March 5, from 1 to 5:45 P.M. at the UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Road. For an appointment, call 1-800-Red-Cross.

Senior Luncheon will be held on March 5 from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Cornwall General Store. No speakers, but a fabulous lunch at a great price and local camaraderie. For information call Jane at 672-6101.

A Madagascar Breakfast will be served by the community of Cornwall Consolidated School on Saturday, March 23, from 8 to 11 A.M. in the school's Gathering Room. This is to benefit social studies teacher Will Vincent's Habitat for Humanity trip to Madagascar in June. The menu will feature: pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee/cocoa. The price is adults,\$7; children under 12, \$4; babies (and ring-tailed lemurs) under 2 eat free.

Art in Cornwall

The exhibit Faces of India will run through mid-March at the Cornwall Library. The Isabel Charlotte Lane exhibit *In Plein Air*; Paintings from the Shoreline will go on display March 26. A reception for the artist is scheduled for April 6.

Martha Loutfi's photographs will continue to be shown at The National Iron Bank through March.

The Souterrain Gallery continues to show abstract paintings by Shaun MacDavid and Polly Cook.

An exhibit of paintings by N. Jean Tyler will be shown on March 3 at 11:30 A.M. at the UCC Parish House. Refreshments will be served.

Property Tax Relief applications for the homeowner's tax relief program will be accepted by the assessor's office until May 15, 2013. Applicants are required by law to submit proof of their 2012 income and their Social Security form 1099 for the year 2012. The income limits for this year are: married \$40,900 or single \$33,500, including Social Security. Elderly homeowners must have reached the age of 65 by December 31, 2012 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 town hall. Call 672-2703 with any questions.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

THIS MONTH

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