

ORNWALL CHRONICI

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Economic Summit

The effects of the great recession of 2008 are still being felt in Cornwall as they are across Connecticut. These include loss of jobs, closed businesses, and an out migration of young families to more economically vibrant areas. The town has appointed an Economic Development Commission (EDC) to help promote local businesses which are vital to the community.

The EDC redoubled its efforts by hosting the Cornwall Economic Development Summit over three days during the first week in February. The firm of Goman + York of East Hartford led residents through brainstorming exercises to identify community priorities and focus energies. G+Y is employed by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments and is charged with the task of revitalizing the economies of eight neighboring towns. Cornwall is the first area town to hold a summit. During the weekend meetings, residents were asked to identify areas of challenges and opportunities. After the public input sessions, the groups voted on their top priorities. Twenty-eight different issues were narrowed to seven to be further discussed at the concluding session. The priorities were in order of votes received: home-based business/agricultural business/ telecommuting; West Cornwall water/septic; affordable/attainable housing; assist/pro-

mote existing businesses; parking; attracting new businesses, and branding of Cornwall/ visitor centers.

The concluding meeting examined ways to implement the priorities. Michael Goman again led the group to identify concerns, resources needed, and task assignments for each issue. For example, erratic phone/Internet service is a major obstacle to the expansion of home-based businesses. A brochure listing businesses would also help their promotion. Applicable resources would include soliciting state support for telecommuting and marketing funds. Tasked to implement the telecommuting piece by working with Northwest Connect, a group seeking to increase phone and internet accessibility in the area, were the EDC, Goman + York, and the Board of Selectmen. The same groups will publish an updated business listing for Cornwall.

The discussions were informative and respectful of varying views. A suggestion



munity (NORC, for short). Others questioned how that vision would be sustainable and how Cornwall would function without young families/ people. All the meetings were videotaped and can be added to your cabin fever remedies at cornwallct.org.

This is an ongoing process. Goman + York will present its findings to the Planning and Zoning Commission soon. A summary report will be posted on the Cornwall website. Follow-up public meetings, hosted and publicized by the EDC, will be held quarterly to assure continued progress on meeting the summit's objectives. — Jayne Ridgway

Sap's Running! Grab a Bucket!

Sugar season is short, tough, but well worth the effort. Cornwall "sugarers" have found a way to produce the gooey, sweet, delicious amber gold for over a hundred years.

Whoever thought to take the slightly sweet sap that leaked out of maple trees in early spring and "cook" it into the delicious brew we put on our pancakes?

Early Native American tribes knew about the sap that rose in the maple trees, and they drank it as a spring tonic. It's full of minerals and sweet to the taste, even in its "water" state right out of the tree. There are some written references to maple sug-

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|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY 2 | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY 5 |
| Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall • Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Crafting Group, 7:15-8:30 UCC • Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library | | Blood Drive 4thQ 1-6 pm UCC Inland Wetlands 7 pm Town Hall | | ◆ Woman's Society Meeting 10 am Library ◆ Woman's Society Healthy Life Presentation 11 am Library | Cookie Sale 3:30–5:30 pm National Iron Bank | ◆ Ice Skating 7—8 pm Hotchkiss School ◆ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall ◆ Film Series: Pimpernel Smith 7:30 pm Library |
| 6 | 7 ◆ Region 1 Board of Ed 6:30 pm HVRHS Rm. 133 ◆ Agricultural Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office | 8 | Budget Presentation BOE to BOF 7:30 pm Town Hall | 10 | 11 | ◆ Film Series: Jules et Jim 7:30 pm Library |
| 13 | ↑ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon—1 pm UCC Day Room ↑ Park and Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall | 15 (stQ) ***** | ◆ Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS Library ◆ Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall | ◆ Cornwall Conservation Comm. 7 pm Library | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | • Republican Caucus 7 pm Library | Child Center Pasta Fundraiser 5–7 pm CCS | 24 | 25 | Democratic Caucus 4 pm Library |
| 27 EASTER SUNDAY | • ZBA* 7 pm Library | • Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library | 30 | 31 <u>J</u> | Every Week This Month: Thursdays: Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym • Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library • Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229 | |

(continued from page 1)

aring that date back to 1557, but the exact origins are unknown. The technique of cooking the sap for a long time until the color changes and it becomes syrup may have come from French traders and missionaries. In the 1700s to early 1800s, the sap was often boiled down into sugar—a

solid maple block that had a long shelf life. Maple sugar was also produced by Quakers and abolitionists as an alternative to cane sugar made by slaves in the West Indies. Thomas Jefferson started a maple plantation at Monticello in 1791.

A few Cornwall sugar producers I spoke with were Phil Hart, Gordon Ridgway, and Bill Hurlburt. The Harts' syrup graces the church pancake breakfast every year. Phil Hart complimented his helpers, Keaton Terrall, Ian and Dan Tyson, Lucas Calhoun, Jaime Murphy, and Eliza Tyson. "I couldn't do it without them, and I think we're raising a new generation of syrup farmers." Hart syrup has been produced at the farm for over 100 years. They use a simple hydrometer reading to test the density of the sap, or to see how much sugar has developed, and then the syrup is bottled. "Maple syrup is self preserving, but it can spoil if it's not cooked enough. The old timers could tell by the color and 'thickness' of the syrup when it was time to bottle, but we're a little more scientific."

Gordon Ridgway has been making maple syrup since he was a teenager. "Presidents' Day is when tapping usually begins around here. If you tap too early, the tree tends to heal over and you have to retap. Ironically, the worse the weather is, the better the sugaring season is. You need cold nights and warmish days to get the best sap runs."

When you take into account that it takes about 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup, you can see how enormous the task is to produce a finished bottle of syrup.

Cornwall's syrup has been all over the world. Lydia Wolf was working for Amnesty International one year and took syrup with her as a gift. Even though language was a problem, she gave a sip to everyone around her and they loved it. One likes to think that syrup (and Lydia) helped to defeat communism in Eastern Europe.

Jill Sheffield took some syrup with her to Indonesia and gave it to the prime minister. It's been eaten on the side of a mountain in the Himalayas, and this writer remembers when some African students at the Institute of World Affairs in Taconic took some back home with them.

Bill Hurlburt employs a reverse osmosis machine to extract about half the water out of the sap before it's cooked. "I think it uses less energy in the long run," said Bill. He uses plastic tree taps, or quills, which he replaces every year. The quills act like a

Band-Aid on a cut, and then the drill holes heal quickly when the quill is removed. It may help cut down on any bacteria or residue in the tap as the sap is collected.

Sugaring will be interesting this year. The weather has been odd, to say the least. If we get more cold that sustains itself every night and warm days that go over 40 degrees, it will be a good run. Only the sugar gods know for sure.

—Jane Bean

Frozen

Pond hockey, or *shinny* as it's known north of the border, has a long tradition in Cornwall, and many here fondly recall winter days spent passing the puck with hometown hotshots such as Hunty and Shep Earhart, Marc Simont, John Horan, and, for one memorable season, Michael J. Fox.

While last year's abundant snowfall kept most of the ice covered, and this season initially looked like the winter that wasn't, a prolonged freeze finally arrived in early January delivering to Cream Hill Lake some of the best (and only) ice in Litchfield County. Why ice forms here before almost any other lake in the region is a bit of a mystery. Scientifically speaking, air temperature, wind, cloud cover, nucleation (the process by which tiny particulates cause super-cooled water to form ice crystals), and lake morphology are all factors.

Ensuring the ice is ready for skating requires physical testing: usually thudding a two-by-four vertically onto the surface and gauging the reaction. If solid, the next step is to venture forth with a set of Swedish ice claws (for self extraction) and a buddy standing close to shore with ropes and a ladder (very important).

On January 9, the ice was officially "in": two plus inches of black, glassy, and eerily transparent cover. With temps in the teens, the surface thickened by an inch and a half per day so that by the MLK weekend, it was strong enough to support legions of players making the pilgrimage from Waramaug and Wononscopomuc where the thermodynamics were not as favorable.

Anyone who's skated under open skies, felt the crack, flex, texture, and aliveness of natural ice, hopped over pressure ridges and flown as fast and far as the shoreline allows knows the experience has almost nothing in common with revolutions around a rink. Likewise, pond hockey is entirely distinct from the indoor version it spawned and which most people now know almost exclusively: an oval of artificial ice, metal halide lighting, boards, buzzers, slap

In the Cream Hill League, all that's needed is a frozen patch of pond, skates, and some sticks. Players—of any age,

shots, protective gear, checking,

a Zamboni; the list goes on.

gender, or skill—are of the essence, and the fountain of future local legends. Campfires, marshmallows, and dogs (both four-legged and the frankfurter kind) are also common. One must, however, bring plenty of pucks since they have a habit of sliding under docks or into the water where the ice, warmed by the shoreline, sometimes melts at the margins. But that's a tiny price to pay for the pure joy of a pastime that links us to a simpler era when, as George Draper mused in the final stanza of *Rink Keeper's Sesting*:

Before these days of fury,/When indoor rinks were just a gleam in Hockey/Fanatics' eyes, there was no greater pleasure/Than winter mornings. Black ice. (Esposito/Knew days like this as a boy.) Some friends. No slapshots,/But a clear, cold sky. Choose teams. Drop the puck. Play hockey.

—Henry Labalme

Goodbye to a Friend

Elizabeth T. Busby

Land Transfer

Estate of Adrienne Zuckert Cowles, a/k/a Adrienne Cowles-Mulholland, to John Homan and Gregg Hubbard, 2.5 acres with all buildings thereon at 99 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, for \$295,000.

Maple Hill Fire

A glow at 2 A.M. in the west woke Gail and Richard Dolan on February 16. Further investigation proved their biggest fear—fire in the 100-plus-year-old horse barn. Instantly springing to action they flung open stall doors and shooed the eight large Belgian horses and a donkey to a safe pasture, but unfortunately the pigs could not be saved. Rapidly, first responders arrived and started hauling tack and supplies from the building. Members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department dragged hose lines over the icy barnyard and a water supply was established. The large inferno began to yield.

The daunting task of coordinating fire suppression loomed with Chief Fred Scoville. Immediately Tanker Task Force 82 was dispatched (six tankers from neighboring towns) along with Canaan's aerial ladder. Protecting the adjacent hay barn was a priority and successful. The main barn was too fully involved to prevent a

A New Crop of Volunteers

Just over a decade ago, the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department became a real family affair. CVFD's junior division was started in 2005 by First Selectman and fireman Gordon Ridgway, after considerable nagging from daughter Liz.

Over the years a number of juniors have graduated to full membership in the fire department. Zach Sawicki, now working full time as a supervising paramedic, has been the ambulance captain for several years. Will Russ, one of the original juniors, is now an emergency medical responder and firefighter. He was elected West Cornwall fire captain last summer and also serves on Canaan's fire department.

Fire department membership impacts family life, and the junior department offers a way to include young family members in its activities. For many of the young members age 21 or younger, that was just the beginning.

Liz Ridgway is now a certified EMT and is paid director of the St. Lawrence University EMS and an active member of the Cornwall Ambulance squad when she's home from college. She is pursuing nursing, and works in the Sharon Hospital emergency room as a medical technician.

Mary Kate Kosciusko literally grew up in the ambulance squad. "Some of my earliest memories," she said, "involve sitting in my father's pickup truck on the side of the road at the scene of an accident." Mary Kate took an emergency medical responder class with Liz Ridgway in Winsted at age 15 and later an EMT class at George Washington University. She is currently majoring in international affairs and plans to go to medical school after graduation.

Jonah Whiteside works full time as a paramedic for Danbury Hospital and part time for AMR in Waterbury. Jonah's father, Jim, was a member of the fire department from 1980 to 1995, then rejoined in 2006 at Jonah's urging. Jonah became an EMT at age 16, then joined the National Guard at age 17, where he was trained to be a combat medic. He completed his paramedic training while working full time. He was recently awarded "Lifesaver of the Year" by Waterbury Hospital.

UCONN student Brian Saccardi, son of member Steve Saccardi, just recently renewed his EMR certification and hopes to become more involved in the department between his school and work commitments.

The family tradition continues with two junior members, high schoolers Elsie Pryor and Rebecca Ridgway. Elsie just completed her EMT training last summer, and she, too, is looking forward to studying medicine. Her father, Joe Pryor, served on the ambulance squad for ten years, and Elsie said that his involvement in helping others inspired her to follow suit. Rebecca Ridgway is now a certified first responder and is starting to go on calls with her mother.

The CVFD can boast of two more college-age members. Sam Neubauer became an EMT during his freshman year at Bates College in Maine. He now works for Bates's

EMS as a crew chief, and also serves on its board. Zach Busby trained to become an EMT his freshman year at Macalester College in Minnesota, and is on its EMS crew. Sam and Zach joined the CVFD last summer and respond to calls when they are home from school. Both said they joined because they want to help their Cornwall neighbors—and to get some experience in responding to calls that aren't largely for alcohol poisoning.

"I am impressed with the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by these young people in this area of their lives," said CVFD President Anne Kosciusko. "This is the reaping of what was sown a decade ago when the junior department was founded."

—John Miller

Keeping Family Treasures

It's not spring cleaning time yet, but now that we are indoors more than out, we come face to face with that to-do list and all the undone projects we keep meaning to do. A recent talk at the Cornwall Historical Society can help us keep our treasures intact and protect them from the deterioration of time.

Lizette Pelletier, State of Connecticut archivist, notes that our typical storage of old treasures like photographs, clippings, ancient birth certificates, and historical books often can damage and shorten the life of the contents. Those pictures and papers we have stuffed in a box in the attic can deteriorate due to water or mold damage, dust, temperature extremes, insects and rodents, the chemical composition of the materials themselves, or their storage containers. And we need to preserve even newer artifacts like electronic documents, digital images, and such.

So what should one consider when wanting to preserve Uncle Leo's congratulatory letter when our mother was born, grandma's postcard collection we inherited, or even our kids' art projects from Mrs. Wadhams's kindergarten class? Old inks may be acidic and color pigments in film and photographs may fade. So, if we are scrapbooking with an eye to keeping photos for posterity, we should be sure to use high-quality materials like acid- and lignin-free paper. Light can create irreversible and cumulative problems even when photocopying, so do not do it frequently. Glues used in albums and varnish on wood shelves can have harmful effects. Mold can damage items in 48 hours. In general, under cooler and dryer conditions, paper lasts longer.

Lizette recommends keeping these treasures together in normal living space. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity are a problem. Place important items on a shelf in a closet, away from the walls and floor. Store them in folders, boxes, and sleeves that are acid and lignin-free and avoid polyvinyl plastic. Store books, films,

Letter to the Chronicle

INTERNSHIP AT CHS

Cornwall Historical Society has received a modest grant to fund a summer internship and is seeking applications for an eight-week parttime, paid internship. It is a two-day-a-week position and requires working on Sundays.

Excellent work ethic, ability to work independently, and strong interpersonal skills are required. Responsibilities will be varied and will include assisting with events and clerical and administrative work. Interest in history, experience with audio visual equipment, and a driver's license are pluses. Please send cover letter and resume if available to info@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org. The deadline is April 15.

—Karen Doeblin

CDs, and magnetic tapes upright. Oversized antique books should be placed in boxes with their spine down and fully supported but not overstuffed. Avoid rubber bands, paper clips, stickies, and bookmarks. Consider if these paper heirlooms need protection in a fire-proof safe or if they can be copied and stored electronically.

We often try to do repairs ourselves and it was recommended that we get training. The speaker offered some suggestions for finding a conservator and also provided suggestions of websites to consult: the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

— Ann Gold

CCS Briefs

There is always something going on at Cornwall Consolidated School, from things as big as school and Park & Rec sports teams, all the way to the little things, like the power thought for the day that is announced over the loudspeaker every morning.

School team basketball has just ended and we are moving on to baseball and softball in the sports world. The coaches for the teams have not yet been chosen. Park & Rec basketball is still going on, so don't miss a chance to see a few of the teams' last games.

About half way into the month of March, the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC, for short) will be starting for third- to eighth-graders. Don't forget to remind them to study a bit when you see them around Cornwall.

The second trimester will also be ending around the middle of March, so stay tuned for news about the honor roll in the papers. Many eighth-graders are moving along very fast with their Explorations

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projects with the help of their mentors. They can't wait to see their final projects at the end of the year!

Some local events this month at CCS: On March 11 and 12 the annual musical will be held. This year it is *Aladdin*. March 16 is fourth-grade Arts Day at the Hotchkiss School and on March 24 and 25 there is no school because of teacher workshops and Good Friday.

—*Mason Weigold*

Cornwall Briefs

•Upcoming Town Budget: We got a preview from the first selectman who predicted a slight rise of 2 percent, helped by an early mild winter and a major savings by mining sand from the town gravel pit rather than paying companies to truck it here. Credit road crew chief Jim Vanicky with the idea. Winter, however, got a little colder and snowier in mid-February and no one can predict what March weather will bring.

The budget plan includes a small expansion of hours for the new director of social services, a new tanker for the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department to replace a 30-year-old vehicle, a new backhoe replacing a 15-year-old machine for the town crew, and fixing a short, but worn-out, bridge on Flat Rocks Road in Cornwall Bridge.

The Board of Education is scheduled to present its budget to the Board of Finance on March 9. Then there will be a hearing on the overall budget on April 22. And, finally, a town meeting with vote on May 20.

John Miller

Events & Announcements

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, March 1, from 1 to 6 P.M. at the UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Road. For an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org online.

An Interactive Program on Fitness for all ages by Wanessa Anderson and Bonnie Jo Cheron will be presented by the Cornwall Woman's Society on Thursday, March 3, at 11 A.M. in the Cornwall Library. This

Winter Rises

After a long, languorous lead-up, winter has come. Skiers rejoice, the town highway crew gets deeper into overtime, and the rest of us snuggle closer to the fire. Whatever winter does for you, unglove a hand and write the *Chronicle* a nice check. Thanks!

will follow its regular monthly meeting at 10 A.M.

A Drive-up Cookie Booth for Girl Scout Troop 40182 will be hosted by the National Iron Bank on Friday, March 4, from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M.

Senior Events:

Senior Luncheon at the Wandering Moose on Tuesday, March 8, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. Hot food and hot gossip at a cool price. No reservations necessary.

A free blood pressure clinic will be held on Monday, March 14, noon to 1 p.m. at the UCC Day Room. Contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

At the Cornwall Library

The Winter Film Series continues March 5, with *Pimpernel* Smith at 7:30 P.M. and March 12 with *Jules et Jim* at 7:30 P.M.

Cornwall Community Contra Dance on Saturday, March 5, at 7 P.M.at the town hall. Calling by National Heritage Fellow Dudley Laufman and Still, the Homegrown Band. No partner necessary; all ages and left feet welcome. Donation for the caller. For information, call Jane at 672-6101.

Winter Wine Tasting to benefit a UCC work trip to Pine Ridge Reservation will be held at Sunset Meadows Vineyard, 599 Old Middle St., Goshen on March 19, 5:15 to 7 P.M. Cost is \$25 per person or \$30 at the door. For details visit Cornwallucc@aol. com or 672-6840 to reserve tickets.

The Cornwall Republican Town Committee invites all town Republicans to caucus to elect delegates to upcoming state and local conventions. The caucus will be held Tuesday, March 22, at 7 P.M. in the Cornwall Library. The RTC will also elect officers and invites new members to that meeting.

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Cornwall Child Center will be held on Wednesday, March 23, from 5 to 7 P.M in the Gathering Room of Cornwall Consolidated School. Cost is \$8 a person (children 4 and under free). Call 672-6989 to preorder tickets or purchase them at the door.

The Cornwall Democratic Town Committee Caucus to select delegates to conventions will be held on Saturday, March 26, at 4 P.M. at the library. All registered Democrats are eligible to be delegates and are encouraged to come to the caucus.

Art in Cornwall

An artist's reception will take place at the Cornwall Library, Saturday, March 19, at 5

Р.м. for Annelise Collins's show of tattoo art.

The Parish House of the UCC will exhibit "Into the Woods," drawings and paintings by Cindy Kirk, from March 26 through April 28. A reception is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, at 11:30 A.M.

Paintings by Curtis Hansen and sculptures by Peter Kirkiles and Dan Murray will continue on display at the Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall.

The National Iron Bank is looking for artists to display their work. Contact 672-6623 or brock.wehry@ironbank.com.

A New Crafting Group will meet Wednesdays from 7:15 to 8:30 P.M. in the Day Room of the United Church of Christ. All who knit, crochet, quilt, embroider, or do needlework of any kind are invited. Bring your individual projects and enjoy the company of others. Any questions, call Debbie at 248-3034 or the church office at 672-6840

Educational Gift Applications for Cornwall high school seniors by the Cornwall Woman's Society are available at the Cornwall Library, town hall, and the high school guidance department. Applications must be submitted by May 15 to the Educational Fund Committee at Cornwall Woman's Society, P.O. Box 168, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754. Contact Nita Colgate at 672-6797 with questions.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2016–2017 school year will be held on April 1. Any child turning 5 on or before December 31,2016 is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the school. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate with them.

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THIS MONTH

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