

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 22: NUMBER 4 MAY 2012

Our Budget and Theirs

Why can't the U.S. budget be more like Cornwall's? Do we rant and rave about deficits? Of course not! We don't have any. Do we engage in political combat over taxes or outlays? Nonsense!

As of mid-April, Cornwall's proposed 2012-2013 budget looked like this:

 Board of Selectmen
 \$2,022,719

 Debt Service
 \$197,881

 Board of Education
 \$4,050,804

 TOTAL EXPENSES
 \$6,271,404

 TOTAL REVENUES
 \$6,271,404

That looks a tad neater than the U.S. numbers, which are:

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3.8 trillion
TOTAL REVENUES \$2.9 trillion
DEFICIT \$900 billion

OK, we do have fewer items to worry about, but small budgets can be just as crazy as large ones. Our selectmen, Board of Ed and the Board of Finance, under the leadership of long-time chairman Ralph Gold, have kept ours under control.

"The one unusual item this year is that our share of the high school budget will be up over \$100,000," Ralph said. "The good news is that this is just a one-year blip, and other than that, the CCS and selectmen's expenses are almost unchanged."

The overall budget shows a 2.36 percent increase. The mill rate will increase to balance the 15 percent decline in the grand

list caused by the revaluation. Your taxes are not likely to change much unless your new valuation differs significantly from the average 15 percent decrease.

The budget will be presented at a town meeting on May 18 at 7:30 P.M. at CCS.

-Ed Ferman

Take a Hike

Cornwall offers abundant opportunities for enjoying nature, both to serious hikers and to the more casual, weekend walker and would-be hiker. Taking your cues from some of the serious hikers among us, there are three principal resources in town: the Mohawk Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the trails established by the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT).

In the early 1980s the Appalachian Trail, the "AT" to aficionados, ran through Cornwall, but it has since moved west, through Sharon, taking its white blazes with it. Fortunately the move left Cornwall with approximately 22 miles of trails now known as the Mohawk Trail or Blue Trail (for its blue blazes).

Two Blue Trails where you can access the AT are on Route 7, just over the bridge heading north from Cornwall Bridge. Both have parking lots. Pine Knob is the first and just north of that is Breadloaf. Taking a break from her work at H.V.A., Patience Lindholm likes to go up Pine Knob for a quick, 22-minute hike and lunch.

Another favorite of serious local hikers is the Blue Trail over Coltsfoot Mountain. One end is in Cornwall Bridge, at the Dark Entry road just beside the Cornwall General Store; the other is in Cornwall Village, just west of the Cheneys' house. Hugh Cheney often walks that trail but cautions that one has to pay attention because of the many logging roads; a number of people have gotten lost or stuck in recent years.

A year 'round hiker and trail runner, Jeff Lynch advocates wide trails for warmweather walking to minimize exposure to ticks. He is partial to a section of the Mohawk Trail opposite the Mohawk Mountain Park entrance on Route 4. For families he suggests The Welles Preserve off Town Street—an easy walk with two loops and a great view. Lynch recommends Connecticut Walk Book West for maps and descriptions.

Barton Jones, the new head of the CCT, keenly feels the need for linked, open, public spaces in this era of increasingly subdivided private properties—like the public walking trails in Great Britain.

Among his recommendations for families is Gold's Pines. Its parking area, near the Little Guild on Route 128, also serves as

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MAY 2012

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|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 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 Town Hall; Karate 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym | | ↑ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall | 2 | ◆ National Prayer Day 6–6:30 pm Village Green | 4 ◆ Spring Bird Walk 7 am | 5 ← Let's Get Growing FULL Garden Planting 10 am-noon Library ← Housatonic River: Movie, Book, Art 6:30-9 pm Lib. ← Comm. Contra Dance 7–10 pm Town Hall |
| 6 | Annual Mist. Soc. Annual Mtng. 8:30 am **** Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall * Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall * Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 pm Library * Ag Commission 7:30 pm Town Hall | 8 • HVRHS Referendum 6 am–8 pm Town Hall • P & Z 7 pm Cornwall Library | • Republican Town Committee Meeting 7 pm Library • CCS Spring Concert Grades 5–8 7 pm Gym | 10 | • Story Hour K-2 1:30 pm Library | 12 |
| 13 | 14 ◆ Blood Pressure Clinic noon–1 pm Parish House | Deadline: June Chronicle Copy Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library | 16 | Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library | ◆ Town Budget Meeting 7:30 pm CCS | 19 |
| 20 NEW | 21 | Page 130 m Republican Town Caucus 7 pm Town Hall ↑ Board of Selectman 7:30 pm Town Hall ↑ Democratic Town Caucus 7:30 pm W.C. Firehouse | ◆ Kindergarten Registration CCS | • CT DEEP Public Hearing Gold's Pines 7 pm Town Hall | 25 | ◆ Annual Book Sale 10 am–3 pm Library |
| 27 | 28 MEMORIAL DAY North Cornwall Cem. Ceremony, 9 am 4thQ Seamen's Ceremony 10 am West Cornwall Bridge Parade, Speeches 11 am Town Hall area Book Bag Sale 10 am-3 pm Library Carnival, noon UCC | ◆ Committee for the Aging 7 pm Town Hall | 4th grade Brown Bag Concert noon CCS gym | 31 | Every Week This Month: Saturdays: Cornwall Farm Market 9 am–12:30 pm Wish House Lawn Sundays: Meditation, 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229 | |

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the trailhead for a CCT walk over The Day Preserve. The Gold's Pine walk goes to the right and the CCT trail, temporarily marked with blue tape, goes to the left up to a field below the cobble. For short, 15- to 30-minute walks to suit families with small children (or out-of-shape adults) there is The Hart Farm Preserve, up Cherry Hill Road, or The Ballyhack Preserve, off Route 125 up from Cornwall Village, leading to a scenic ravine. A stone with a Nature Conservancy plaque marks the entrance across from the parking area.

Finally, take a few pointers from the hiking pros: use a map; leave word with someone as to where you are going (and remember, cell phones don't work everywhere in our town); stay on the trail; bring water and food; dress for the weather and for ticks (light-colored socks over light-colored pants—the better to see the little suckers).

And, because we share our countryside with many creatures, such as snakes, Bart Jones says, "When stepping over a log, always look on the other side, especially if that's the sunny side." He's a former Boy Scout. You gotta listen to Scouts.

-Honora Horan

To Market, To Market

For some of us, the first signs of spring are robins or daffodils. For others of us, it is the sight of folding tables on Saturday mornings, and well-sharpened knives.

The Cornwall Farm Market begins its sixth season on May 5. Bianca and Richard Griggs have readied the lawn in front of the Wish House for another six months of weekly trodding and trading. Ten vendors offer a wide range of local, organic produce, including grass-fed beef, veal, chicken, fresh eggs, bread, cheese, jams and jellies, and almost anything else you would want on your plate. A new addition this year, the Cornwall General Store will offer coffee and Susan Saccardi's baked goods, which means you can cover all three daily meals (and snacks and dessert) with one efficient stop.

The market started with Motherhouse and Stone Wall Vegetable Farm, and from Bianca's vision to community support, the market has become a vital mainstay and vibrant meeting place. "I am grateful for Debra Tyler's persistence in believing that I was on the right track to want to create this market, when it felt like hopelessly knocking at closed doors," says Bianca. The Farm Market is now supported by a grant from the Green Pastures Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which will help cover the costs of insurance and advertising, along with the assistance of the Cornwall Association.

According to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, there are more than 120 farmers' markets registered in the state, but the Cornwall market has earned a unique reputation, with some of its vendors invited to join other markets. It seems that homemade vinegar, knife sharp-

ening and "other curiosities" are not as commonplace as they are in Cornwall. As in other years, there will be special events and music (with at least one enthusiastic request for bagpipes). While vendor space is full for the season, open space is available for young, local entrepreneurs and civic groups at no charge.

You can check the website/
blog at cornwallfarmarket.org for weekly
specials, events, and offerings. Or better
yet, stop by and see for yourself and bring a
knife. And a fork. — Gregg Galloway

Senior Survey 2012 and More

Every day is someone's birthday, and every day is an aging day. The new Committee on the Aging hopes to change the name to the more precise Committee for Seniors. The intent is that the committee will inform and enrich the lives of senior citizens in relation to all Cornwallians. There are about the same number of folks over 65 as under 21, (it might be helpful to add a couple of categories—young adults [16-21] and young seniors [50-65]). All have their special interests and concerns, and many overlap.

The survey insert in your *Chronicle* is meant to direct the focus of the committee.

Committee Chair Jane Prentice expressed hope to me that returns would not only indicate interests but also add comments and ideas. In addition, members Paul Baren, Bob Potter, Lucy Kling, Bronwyn O'-Shaughnessy, May Dzenutis, and Margaret Haske are all open for conversations on senior topics.

Because we are spread out in our rural town, one of the biggest concerns is communicating, getting around, and seeing each other. The phone is good for one-onone, but to be with others is often a challenge. Communicating through computer, email, websites, and chat pages is increasingly popular, even with seniors. The committee is developing a senior web page link to the CornwallCt site as a way for sharing ideas and planning events. A plan for lunches at a local eatery with informative programs is in the works. A senior resources shelf has been organized at the Library. While FISH provides rides for medical appointments, car pooling could be arranged for outings.

The Committee for Cornwall Seniors expects to make good things happen, especially for seniors. —Ginny Potter

Welcome

Callum Gray Martin to Katie Schultz and Daniel Martin

Good-bye to Friends

John E. Forster Elizabeth Kenniston Ellen Lorch

Land Transfers

Bernice H. Merz to Hollenbeck, LLC, land with all improvements thereon at 11 River Road South, for \$140,000.

Bernice H. Merz to Craig A. Bridgman and Maria Helena Bridgman, 5.029 acres and improvements thereon at 42 Dark Entry Road, for \$57,000.

New Spin for an Old Craft

Knitting groups have come and gone in our town over the years. Whether it was making scarves and socks for the troops in WWII, knitting hats for the homeless or trying to reconnect with what Grandma taught, the needles have always been clicking, if not in a klatch then solo, and now with a technological twist.

Becky Savan Aguilar, young mother of three sons, looks forward to her nightly knitting as a time to unwind and relax. Not surprisingly, she loves to knit baby things, especially tiny hats. She hits the craft fair circuit, has gotten commissions through word-of-mouth and also has a "shop" on etsy.com, the crafters' online site. Becky is so obsessed with knitting that a few years back her thoughtful husband bought her three alpacas to supply her yarn.

Lisa Cruse feels that ravelry.com, a social networking group boasting two million subscribers, has changed her knitting life. She uses the name "Ambrosia Cottage" on this and other websites where she shares her ideas, designs, and photos with hundreds of "friends" day or night. Hats, her specialty, are felted or "fulled" and embellished with ideas from the heart: ribbonry, beads, cut felt, embroidery, or what corresponds to her watchword of classic elegance.

Upon entering Cornwallian Nancy Hamilton's Black Sheep Yarns in Kent, one is immersed in the comfortable atmosphere she nurtures. Not only will she teach a novice to knit free, but her cozy shop is open to help with any tangled problems or just to share a cuppa and some conversation. She fosters a sense of community by being the sole supplier of "Sam's Wool," Icelandic wool from Cornwall's Birdseye & Tanner Brooks Farm. Since last October her radio program/podcast "Fiber Arts with Nancy" has been a feature on Sharon's WHHD.

- Tricia Collins

Trash is Key

Art @ the Dump is a Cornwall tradition, an annual event in which artists of all ages

create pieces with recycled materials to display and sell. On the 21st and 22nd of April, people came from all over town to view the art, vote on their favorite pieces and, in some cases, buy them. Thirty percent of all funds are donated to the CCS art department. This year, a printing press was purchased for the CCS art room with the proceeds.

In years past, Art @ the Dump has seen

many different types of art: jewelry, sculptures, mobiles, statues, and more. Artists use everything from cloth to soda cans to Styrofoam. In 2006, there were mobiles made out of feathers



and a necklace made out of dominoes.

Pablo Picasso also made sculptures out of found objects, such as his *Pregnant Woman* made of earthenware pitchers. Nam June Paik made spectacular pieces out of old television sets. More affordable (but equally inspiring) are pieces by Cornwall artists and students. A few years ago, we ended up with a steel wastebasket decorated with 72 car keys, by local artist Leslie Murray. Our takeaway: trash is key.

—Eve Labalme

Cornwall Briefs

- Foreclosure proceedings regarding the cost of tearing down the old Rumsey Hall building are currently taking place at the courthouse in Litchfield. The town, represented by attorney Perley Grimes, is seeking to recover the \$50,000 it cost to demolish the building, designated a hazardous structure by the state. Andrew Hingson owns the building. The Chase Bank holds the mortgage. The first selectman expects the court to side with Cornwall and require one of the two parties to come up with the money.
- Budget voting: There will be a machine vote at the Town Hall on the high school budget on May 8, to be followed ten days later, on May 18, 7:30 p.m. at CCS, with a meeting and vote on the town budget, expected to come in at \$6,271,404. Of that, more than half, \$4.05 million, will be budgeted for education and another \$200,000 toward paying the bond on the school addition.
- Our almost snowless winter has saved the town about \$25,000 on the cost of sand and salt for the roads and allowed the road crew to dedicate considerable early time to tree work. The first selectman also mentioned there was less plow-generated wear on the trucks.
- Civilian Emergency Response Team: These are the people who would leap to the forein case the town faced another emergency like our week-long power outage last fall. There are 18 men and women, lead by Nev Dunn, who took a special seven-week course to receive certification. John Miller

Letters to the Chronicle

BRAND AWARENESS

Every year my spring clean-up includes walking the three-fourths mile from my house to Route 7 and back up with trash bags in hand—one for recyclable cans and bottles and the other for paper waste. This year's "takes" were mixed bags. First the beverage containers:

BUD wins by a landslide —47 of 51 beer cans. Those Super Bowl ads are really working. Or is it that Bud imbibers are just lazy?

Non-alcoholic beverages made a "good" showing: 11 energy drinks, six water, five milk/juice, three Pepsi, one Coke, two tea. Makes you wonder ... exercise at the gym but can't walk the can to your recycling receptacle?

So where are we? 51 alcoholic to 28 non-alcoholic. That's good.

But here's the best. Only one spirits bottle. Alcohol content has dropped.

On the paper side, some more "good news."

Cigarette packs are way down; however, Marlboro continues to dominate market share: five Marlboro to one Basic.

Fast food is part of our habitat, unfortunately: MacDonalds and Burger King are tied at four each, then comes Dunkin Donuts with three and disappointedly one Eco Products. On that last one, how can someone who buys a product for its environmental goodness toss it into the woods? Go figure

All in all discouraging on the amount of lazy littering going on in our pristine environment, but hats off to 1) the product managers for their market share of bad behavior, and 2) those who litter cutting back on some of their more toxic consumption habits.

—Sandy Fiebelkorn

TAX HELP

Cornwall's Tax Collector is looking for a parttime clerk to help in her office early June through the first week of August, and again mid-December through the first week of February. Must be available Mondays 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 A.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. There will also be opportunities to fill in when the collector is away. Candidate must be able to use a computer, deal with the public, be good with numbers, and be able to create accurate deposits. This is an ideal position for a retired individual looking for a little extra income. If interested please call 672-2705, or email cwltaxes@optonline.net. —Jean Bouteiller

CCS MASCOT

Cornwall Consolidated School is getting a mascot! Do you have any suggestions? If you do, please email them to swatson@cornwallschool. org. Please keep in mind that we would like our mascot to have admirable characteristics, to be something that can represent all ages and sections of our school and can be connected with our community.

— Sarah Watson

ALL HANDS IN KITCHEN

Over the years, the CCS kitchen has hosted many community gathering and fundraising events, with either limited (no cutting board!) or oddly abundant (23 tablespoon measures?) kitchen supplies. In an effort to help facilitate and support future events, the PTA has created a wish list of much needed kitchen items.

We prefer new, but lightly used will not be shunned. We are accepting donations during May, all items left in the school kitchen in the PTA donation box. If a cash donation is easier, please make checks payable to CCS PTA and marked "kitchen" and we will purchase the supplies!

Dinner forks (metal, no plastic please), rubber spatulas (long-handled), rolling pin, measuring cups (glass, 2 or 4 cups), baking pans, (noncoated, no larger than 16" by 24"), pitchers (2 to 3 quarts), mixing bowls, (stainless steel, 3 to 6 quart size), baking dishes (Pyrex, 3 quart or larger), muffin tins (non-coated), large clear storage containers (1 to 4 quart size).

-Valorie Fisher

BUMP IN THE SOLAR/WIND ROAD

The April editors reported on a Cell You Light (CYL) proposal to build a combination solar-wind-cell tower on the former Rumsey Hall land. What a great idea, and so Cornwall! However, there is a small bump in the road. Gordon Ridgway tells me that the Rumsey land was recently purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in Waterbury. He also said that CYL's president, John Shellie, has submitted a generous purchase agreement to the Sisters. So the project will have to wait till the nun signs Shellie.

-Ed Ferman

* The "Powerful Proposal" story in the April
issue was written by Ginny Potter; grelims
removed her byline.

Events & Announcements

The National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 3, from 6 to 6:30 P.M. on the Cornwall Green. All are invited to attend this event which has been held on the first Thursday of May since 1988.

The 13th Annual Spring Bird Walk led by Art Gingert and Jean Bouteiller will take place on Saturday, May, 5, at 7 A.M. Call Jean at 672-3139 for details.

Cornwall Farm Market will open Saturday, May 5, from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at its usual spot on the Wish House lawn in West Cornwall. The Cornwall General Store will

join the group of vendors with coffee and prepared foods this season.

At the Cornwall Library:

A Movie, Book, and Art Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, May 5, from 6:30 to 9 P.M.: Mickey Friedman's documentary film, Good Things to Life: GE, PCBs and Our Town, will be shown. Housatonic Riverkeeper Tim Gray will answer questions after the film. Alex Prud'homme will talk about and sign copies of his new book, The Ripple Effect – The Fate of Fresh Water in the Twenty-First Century. The works of Erica Prud'homme, Alexander

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(continued from page 3)

Shundi, and Lynn Fowler will be on display in the Library's meeting room. Donations are welcome to benefit the Library and the Housatonic Environmental Action League.

On Saturday, May 5, from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M., the gardening series "Let's Get Growing" will host another demonstration behind the Library. During this segment, Debby Bennett will finish planting the raised beds constructed in April with the first of a succession of veggie crops. While planting, there will be a discussion of "how to" for the beginning gardener. Those with questions call Debby at 860-488-6853.

Memorial Day Book Sale, Saturday, May 26, at 9 A.M. for the early bird shoppers (\$10) and for all shoppers at 10 A.M. (no fee) to 3 P.M. The sale continues on Monday, May 28, at 10 A.M., but breaks for the Memorial Day parade and speeches. The \$5 bag sale is from

The Library is asking parents of toddlers to let Amy Buck know if they are interested in a toddler program for their children. Please call: 672-6874.

Library Board of Trustees' meeting is Friday, May 11, at 3 р.м.

Motherhouse Activities:

Contra Dance on Saturday, May 5, 7 to 10 Р.м. at the Town Hall, with teaching caller Bill

Wool Gathering Clinic, Saturday, May 12, at 10:30 A.M. Card, dye, felt, and spin sheeps' wool. Contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 672-0229 for more information or to preregister.

New Moon Gathering, Sunday, May 20. Contact Rachel at 824-8404 for information.

The Cornwall Democratic Town Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, May 7, at 7:30 P.M. in the Cornwall Library. On Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30 P.M. in the West Cornwall Firehouse there will be a caucus to endorse a Democratic registrar of voters and people for justices of the peace. Any Democrats 🐾 interested in these positions are welcome to attend.

The Cornwall Historical Society will hold its annual meeting Monday, May 7,

Looking Ahead

The Chronicle reaches out to its loyal readers now and then to build a solid reserve of cash to pay our costs. If you haven't responded to our recent appeal, please do so now. The comfort this gives us feels so good. Thank you!

8:30 а.м., at the Society's building at 7 Pine Street. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new members to the board of directors, elect officers of the board, receive the president's report, and transact any other necessary business.

CHS is seeking high school applicants for our 2012 Summer Internship Program of two weeks in July or August. Interns will help scan photos for future exhibits under the direction of Executive Director/Curator Raechel Guest. Call her at 672-0505 for information or apply by emailing to CornHistSoc@optonline.net or to P.O. Box 115, Cornwall, CT 06753.

A Referendum will be held at Town Hall on Tuesday, May 8, from 6 A.M. until 8 P.M. for the following purposes: 1. Voting on the 2012-2013 Region One School District Budget in the amount of \$14,967,549; 2.Voting to appropriate \$2,034,900 for the 2012 HVRHS roof replacement project and authorization of the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the portion not defrayed by grants (estimated grants of \$727,000); 3. Voting to appropriate \$1,554,460 for the initial phase of the HVRHS ADA code compliance project and heating unit upgrade and authorization of the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the portion not defrayed by grants (estimated grants of \$561,730). Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Republican Town Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. On Tuesday, May 22, in the Town Hall at 7 P.M. there will be a caucus to nominate a registrar of voters and justices of the peace. Republicans who wish to be considered for either of these offices may contact Brian Savin at 672-6777 or siwanoy@aol.com or other Republican Town Committee members.

A Free Blood Pressure Clinic at the UCCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, will take place Monday, May 14, from noon to 1 P.M. The public is invited at no charge, and no appointment is necessary. For more information, please call 860-567-6000 or visit www.vnanw.org.

Art News in Cornwall: At the Library, Lisa Keskinen's show of recent work will continue through May 19. Beginning May 22, Cathrine de Neergaard Fetterman will show her paintings. An opening reception for the artist

will be held Saturday, June 2, from 4 to 7 р.м. Carl Hermann's sunflower prints are on display at The National Iron Bank with proceeds of sales going to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

"Young Talents," the exhibit of CCS students' artwork, will be at the Wish House until the end of May.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be held on Thursday, May 24. Any child turning 5 years old on or before December 31, 2012 is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit school. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate with them.

Memorial Day: On Monday, May 28, at 9 а.м. Charles Gold will lead a service at the NorthCornwall Cemetery. Bring flowers to decorate the graves.

At 10 A.M. the Seamen's Service will take place at the Covered Bridge. The parade and ceremony begin at the Town Green at 11

After that, enjoy food and games on the United Church of Christ grounds at the carnival sponsored by the UCC and the Catechism Program at St. Bridget's Church. Proceeds to go to charities supported in each church as well as some funds toward restoration of the stained glass windows at St. Bridget's.

The Food Is Fun Co-Op is seeking new members. Deliveries from United Natural Foods, Inc. arrive at Local Farm once a month. Available products include bulk goods, frozen foods, health and wellness items, and groceries (no produce though). For more information, call Debra Tyler at 672-0229 or email Heather Dinneen, heather. dinneen@gmail.com.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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JUNE ISSUE

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