



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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\$3.86 Million Wastewater Project

The West Cornwall Water/Septic Study Group met October 10 at town hall to discuss a report it commissioned from Wengell, McDonnell & Costello Consulting Engineers (WMC). The report, which was first introduced in September, recommends a multi-part plan to connect the residences and businesses in West Cornwall to a central gravity-based sewer system and a facility to purify the wastewater before discharging it into the Housatonic River. The study group is an outgrowth of the Cornwall Economic Development Committee, which is concerned with the overall vitality of Cornwall's commercial settings. The inefficiency and noncompliance of many of the current septic systems in West Cornwall cannot be remedied by owners due to the lack of space on their small lots. As a result, existing businesses are limited in what they can undertake in terms of expansion, while potential newcomers are discouraged from even setting up shop.

WMC engineers Steve McDonnell and John Wengell were at the meeting to present the results of their investigation. While no health or environmental problems have been detected with the local septic systems to date, the 63-page report (which can be viewed on cornwallct.org) concludes that

part of the reason to install the septic system is to avoid the risk of pollutants that could infiltrate wells and waterways.

After considering all the options, WMC is advising the town to install "both a gravity and low pressure sanitary sewer with enhanced treatment system," which "can be limited in area and phased to accommodate available funding, connection limitations and operational concern areas." Hook-up to the system would be optional and those properties would then be assessed at a higher rate. The proposed 20,000 gallon treatment tank would be located underground on the bank off Lower River Road approximately 900 feet south of the covered bridge near the 90 degree bend in the river.

The report also addresses concerns such as keeping the character of the village, historical site preservation, and limiting environmental impact. However, funding was the biggest point of contention with a few of the 17 local citizens attending the meeting. Financing for the \$3,860,000 project has not been proposed by the study group because it has yet to be approved by the town.

In its report, WMC has provided cost summary charts itemizing preliminary estimates and two cost analysis tables that include grants, one offsetting the total expenditure by 25 percent, the other by 40 percent. But in describing the grants earlier in the report, WMC questions whether the first grant would be available with the state's depleted coffers and whether the mean income of the town citizenry is low enough to qualify for the second. At any rate, WMC claims, "Cornwall would still be eligible for a 3% loan that can be carried out for up to 40 years" from USDA Rural Development.

There is still time to read the report and ask questions. WMC has until November 30 to submit the final version. Citizens are invited to attend the study group's next meeting at Ian Ingersoll's studio in West Cornwall on November 7 at 5 P.M. Revisions from that meeting will be included in the first official presentation to the public at town hall on November 10 at 7 P.M.

—Bill Goulet



NOVEMBER 2017

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Mat Squad at 6:30 pm UCC; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall; Men's Senior Basketball 6:30–8:30 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Stitch 'n Spin , 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: (except Thanksgiving) Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba , 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7–9 pm CCS gym			1	2	3	4
			♦ New Winter Hours at Library begins today		♦ Downloadable Book Workshop 3 pm Library ♦ Family Drum Workshop 5:30–8 pm Local Farm Barn	♦ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Film: <i>Best Worst Thing</i> Ted Schillinger 7 pm Library
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
♦ Daylight Saving Ends 2 am ♦ Democrats Meet the Candidates 3 pm Pearly's Cafe	♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10:30 am–12:30 pm Library ♦ Region 1 Bd. of Ed. 6:30 pm HVRHS ♦ Cornwall Ag. Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office	♦ Election Day Voting 6 am–8 pm Town Hall ♦ Election Day Lunch 11 am–2 pm UCC Parish House ♦ Water/Septic Mtg 5 pm Ingersoll's Shop ♦ Inland Wetlands Agy 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Library			♦ Public Water/Septic Presentation 7 pm Town Hall	VETERANS' DAY ♦ Sally Van Doren Poetry Reading/ Art Show 5 pm Library
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
♦ Danielle Mailer Opening Reception 11 am–1 pm UCC Parish House	♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10:30 am–12:30 pm Library ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon–1 pm UCC ♦ Park & Rec. 7:30 pm Town Hall	♦ Eco. Dev. Comm. 9 am Town Hall ♦ Monthly Senior Luncheon Noon UCC Parish House ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	♦ Deadline: December Chronicle Copy ♦ Bd. of Education 4:15 pm CCS ♦ Bd. of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	♦ Knitting Group/Hats/ Cancer Patients 10 am Library ♦ Cornwall Conservation 7 pm Library		♦ Women's Drum Circle/ New Moon 6:30–8 pm Local Farm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
♦ Community Thanksgiving Dinner Noon UCC Parish House	♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10:30 am–12:30 pm Library	♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	♦ Cornwall Business Assoc. 9 am Hughes Memorial Library ♦ Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7 pm St. Bridget's	THANKSGIVING ♦ No CBA Meeting		♦ Champagne Reception Susan Hellmann 3–6 pm Souterrain Gallery ♦ Christmas Tree Lighting 5 pm National Iron Bank
26	27	28	29	30	Every Week This Month: Fridays: Yoga 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1 pm call Debra 672-0229	
	♦ Diabetes Class with Anne Hummel 10:30 am–12:30 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7 pm Library					

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

two old timers, Jerry Blakey, Duke Besozzi; one teenager, Dean Saccardi; one young adult, Kate Sandmeyer Ward; and one relative newcomer, Janet Sanders.

Lisa Lansing Simont kicked things off with some reminiscences of the inventiveness and imagination of the early people who forged a living in Cornwall. In the 1800s, Cornwall businesses included two flourmills, four stores, four inns, and 20 shoemakers! Jerry Blakey and Duke Besozzi talked about owning a rug shop and a custom mill, respectively. When Richard expressed admiration for Duke's ingenuity in purchasing a specialty mill that provides huge old white oaks for the wooden ship industry, Duke's response reflected the authentic rural character of Cornwall, "I grew up on a farm and was always around hands-on problem solvers."

Dean Saccardi, 17, said he had met interesting people in town who were willing to act as mentors. He plans to return to Cornwall once he has seen the world and finished his education.

Kate Sandmeyer described how she had done just that, returning with her family to work for the National Iron Bank. Perhaps emblematic of the younger, tech-savvy generation, her husband is able to work from home and live just about anywhere.

Janet Sanders described how she decided to move her family and her health care-related business here. She also had a favorite anecdote of the afternoon, about the time when she was still living in Brooklyn and was pregnant with twins. Forbidden from travelling too far from her obstetrician and craving pancakes, Janet wrote to Gordon Ridgway to see if he might send her some syrup. Soon enough a huge container of maple syrup arrived with an accompanying note: "Send me some money when you get a chance." Her thought at that time was: "Who ARE these people?" Well, now I guess, she knows.

From the past the discussion turned to the future. Everyone agreed it is hard to find jobs in Cornwall these days, although Jerry Blakey reminded everyone it was not so easy when he was young either. Dean mentioned better internet and cell phone service and zoning laws would make it easier for him to return and to run a business here.

In Janet's opinion, there are many business opportunities here for entrepreneurs and she even offered to help them write business plans. The panelists agreed that part of what makes Cornwall such an inviting place is there are people from so many different walks of life here.

Richard asked the audience to weigh in on how we might revitalize the business

climate in Cornwall. It was noted that brick and mortar is not required for a business anymore and we should be encouraging small entrepreneurs. The need for more socializing opportunities for young people would help. And Janet said the school could be a big draw for city dwellers who feel pressure to register their child in utero to a good kindergarten.

The final conclusion was that it would be impossible to develop Cornwall without change, which can sometimes be difficult to accept. But we should simultaneously keep in mind and protect our 277-year-old culture. Richard's final hope: "Let's not lose our gestalt."
—Anna Timell

A Duck's Tale

Virginia Brecher was taking a morning swim one day in late September. As she stood at the water's edge, she saw a small duck swimming toward her from the dock of the Cream Hill Lake Club. It came very close to her; she watched it dive for a while, and then she set out for her own swim along the edge of the lake. The duck swam right along with her, at "about arm's length." At least three times during her long swim, the duck dove underneath her and came up on the other side.

Others around the lake saw the duck, which approached them on the shore seemingly without fear. They fed it pizza, cashews, gluten-free bread—whatever they had. About a week after the duck appeared, someone contacted Sharon Audubon, and representatives came and took it to the rehabilitation center.

Zack Adams of Audubon says the duck is a goldeneye, "about two months early" for the typical migratory pattern. These ducks summer in Canada and winter around the Chesapeake Bay. The Cream Hill duck is female, now doing very well and gaining back its lost weight on a diet of things that ducks are supposed to eat. Audubon hopes to release her when a goldeneye migration takes place, probably in November. Zack will watch closely to coordinate events. As for the pizza and cashews, Zack says, "Humans love to be close to wild animals when they can. But this is generally not good for the wild animals..."
—Jill Cutler

Don't Miss Your Chance To Vote

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7, at the town hall, 24 Pine Street, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. to cast votes for first selectman, selectman, town clerk, treasurer, tax collector, board of finance, board of education, board of assessment appeals, planning & zoning commission, zoning board of appeals, and park & recreation

commission. Absentee ballots will be available after October 9 in the town clerk's office, Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M. Electors may use an absentee ballot only if they will be unable to appear at the polling place on the day of the election for one of the following reasons: active service in the armed forces, absence from town during all the hours of voting, illness, physical disability, or religious tenets.

Good-bye to Friends

Byron Hall
Curt Hanson

Congratulations

India Laughlin and Samuel Cooley
Betty Spence and Lawrence Master

Land Transfers

William J. and Susan C. Zekas to David Boyum, 3.056 acres of land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 30 Reed Brook Road, for \$500,000.

John Bates to James A. Young, 18.747 acres of land at 116 Kent Road, for \$210,000.

Beverly Daniel Evans to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., 90.614 acres of land on Cornwall Hollow Road.

John J. O'Donnell to North Cornwall Overlook, LLC, 43.513 acres of land on Town Street, for \$850,000.

Kellie Jean and Jeffrey Todd Cutler to North Cornwall Overlook, LLC, half interest in 42.597 acres of land on Town Street, for \$300,000.

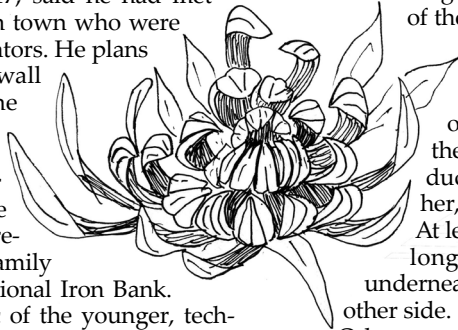
Keryn Elizabeth O'Donnell to North Cornwall Overlook, LLC, half interest in 42.597 acres of land on Town Street, for \$300,000.

Little Guild: A Year Later

The Little Guild of St. Francis's fourth annual Run & Wag on October 14 netted over \$15,000. The two- and four-legged runners and their fans gave the 57-year-old animal shelter a particularly nice boost after a rough year.

On October 27, 2016, former director Heather Dinneen and former shelter manager Liz Sullivan were arrested on multiple counts of failure to maintain exam records and importing dogs or cats without health certificates. Within weeks, both had resigned and eventually pleaded guilty to one count each of the charges.

In January, Justin Vagliano stepped in as executive director. Vagliano's background is largely in venture capital and as a small business owner, including Salisbury Wines. The Little Guild is his first time leading a nonprofit. However, animal welfare is a subject close to home. His wife, Katie Vagliano, is a veterinarian and former Little Guild board vice-president. Board chair John Guenther said Vagliano's unconventional background has been good for



the shelter. "You find people who are passionate about the cause," said Guenther, "but you can't have that alone. You need prudent decisions and risk management."

Risk management in the last year has largely looked like slowing down and reassessing—things like formalizing the volunteer program to trimming the budget by 40 percent.

A critical change from what got the shelter in trouble last year is a renewed focus on taking in local animals, particularly dogs. In recent years the shelter, like many in the area, had started importing dogs from out of state.

With space for 25 cats and 16 dogs (a 17th run is dedicated for Cornwall Animal Control), the shelter doesn't often have enough room to make an out-of-state rescue transport logistically or financially feasible. Plus, the Little Guild is the only shelter in northwest Connecticut with a no-kill policy except in cases of severe behavioral issues or medical need. Vagliano said the focus on local dogs gives Little Guild "a better ability to control the animals coming into the shelter." But there are trade-offs. He says that for a variety of reasons local dogs often mean more pit bulls, a breed with a stigma that can make it harder to find homes.

"One of the big questions is this balance between helping local animals and finding good family animals," said Vagliano.

To help increase a dog's chance of being adopted, the guild has started working with two local trainers, Shelly Cote from Mutts Mending Military, an organization that trains dogs to work with veterans with PTSD, and Brian Kilcommons, a nationally known trainer who uses dogs from Little Guild in his regular trainings at Litchfield Veterinary Hospital. The trainers are working with the Little Guild staff, volunteers, and families who adopt from the shelter.

After this year of rebuilding, John Guenther said the board is in the early stages of developing a strategic plan. On the wish list would likely be a quarantine facility to evaluate animals before they are introduced to the shelter.

"We are in a much better place than a year ago, a better place than three years ago," said Guenther. "We are well positioned for the future."
—Kerry Donahue

Personalized Enrichment Projects

This June, expect more plays, basketball skills clinics, photography exhibits, and model diesel engines created by students at Cornwall Consolidated School. The school's popular capstone projects, traditionally done only by eighth-graders, now include all fifth- through eighth-graders.

Students submit proposals for funding

to the CCS Fund for Excellence and receive a grant—typically \$90—to execute their personalized enrichment project under the guidance of a mentor. The projects span the entire school year and include a "driving question" to explore, a final product to present, and a public share that includes the student's reflections on the learning experience.

Mentoring takes place during the school day; time that was previously used for study hall will now be spent working on enrichment projects. And while students need to be caught up in their schoolwork to apply, the goal is broad participation. According to Principal Mike Croft, "We don't want anyone to be left out of something inspiring just because someone has a learning need," noting that for these students participation "could be even more important."

The program has enjoyed "great community support" and the school is always looking for mentors. Call CCS to volunteer.
—Meg Tansey

Cornwall Briefs

•**Flat Rocks Road Open:** At last, we can report the bridge at the bottom of Flat Rocks Road is fixed and you can now drive that way via the enchanting village of Milton to get to the metropolises of Bantam and Litchfield.

•**2020 Census:** The town is looking now for a volunteer to coordinate plans with the Feds for the actual work. Strictly volunteer, no pay involved, although the actual census workers later on do receive a salary. Contact the town office if you're interested.

•**Route 125:** There are now no less than 30 new concrete catch basins placed by state crews along this less-than-a-mile of road that connects routes 4 and 128. That's because of the so-called "rain bomb" that washed out 12 driveways along that road in just a few minutes back on August 2. In addition some patchwork has been done and Route 125 has been repaved.

•**Christmas Tree:** The solar lighting ceremony takes place at 5 P.M. on Saturday, November 25, in front of the National Iron Bank. Maybe a little hot chocolate to warm you up and a carol or two to get some early Christmas spirit.
—John Miller

Pearly's At Last

John Miller was the first paying customer at Pearly's Farmhouse Cafe when it opened on October 3. He showed up early, but Sean Aylmer let him in anyway. The "anything goes" spirit marked an auspicious beginning. That morning the place was bubbling

Letter to the Chronicle

CORNWALL HISTORY ON STAGE

Those who saw the play Return to Cornwall by Mary Kathryn Nagle last June marveled at historic characters coming together in a dynamic way, retelling an important Cornwall and national story. Nagle is the great-great-great granddaughter of Cherokee student John Ridge and Sarah Bird Northrup, the daughter of Cornwall's Foreign Mission School Steward John Prout Northrup. Return to Cornwall was part of the bicentennial commemoration of the Steward's House as a National Historic Landmark. Mary Kathryn Nagle's newest work, Sovereignty, tells more of Sarah and John Ridge's story and the history of the Cherokee Nation. Commissioned by Arena Stage in our nation's capital, Sovereignty opens January 12, 2018. (www.arenastage.org).

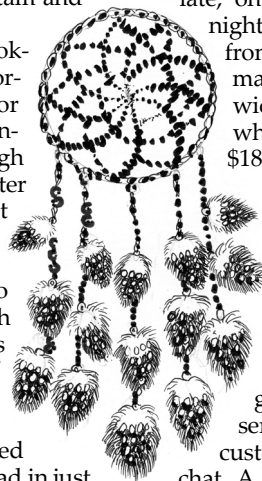
—Ben Gray, Sr.

with curious Cornwallians at the tables, and friends and family of the Aylmers behind the counter.

Pearly's has an ambitious menu in many parts, from pizza to gluten-free pancakes. You could have shrimp and asparagus risotto for lunch, or you could save it to have for dinner when Pearly's stays open late, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The menu includes burgers—from cheese to veggie; one pizza boasts maple-infused ricotta. Wraps, sandwiches, and salads fill out the menu, which ranges in price from \$3.95 to \$18.95 for the Tuscan salmon.

The home fries were made of new red potatoes, and the corned beef hash was homemade and delicious. A dieting celebrity asked for a fruit plate and got it.

The staff at Pearly's aims to please, allowing substitutions, subtractions, and additions in an easy-going manner. That first morning service was a little distracted, but the customers were content to wait and chat. A low-key and friendly atmosphere enhanced the good food. Eat at Pearly's and have fun!
—Jill Cutler



CVFD Activity Report

- 8 emergency medical calls
- 1 public assist—Run & Wag traffic
- 2 incidences of trees down on the road
- 2 false alarms
- 2 incidences of trees on wires

Tip of the Month: Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, update batteries and test for proper operation. Check for signs of dust, mice nests, or spider webs or any blockage that could inhibit the proper functioning of a critical safety device.

Events & Announcements

Motherhouse

Family Drum Workshop: 5:30 to 8 P.M., Friday, November 3, at the Local Farm Barn. Contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

New England Country Dance: 7 P.M. Saturday, November 4, at the town hall. Jim Gregory will be calling to music by Still, the Homegrown Band. Suggested donation: \$5-8/child, \$10-15/adult. For more info, call Jane Prentice: 672-6101.

Women's Drum Circle and New Moon Gathering: Saturday, November 18, 6:30 to 8 P.M. Contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229 for more info.

Election Day:

Cornwall DTC's "Meet the Candidates" event will be at Pearly's Farmhouse Café on Sunday, November 5, at 3 P.M.

Get out and VOTE! Tuesday, November 7, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., town hall.

The 13th Annual Election Day Luncheon will be held in the UCC Parish House Tuesday, November 7, from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Please vote and then enjoy delicious homemade soups, bread, and dessert. All proceeds will benefit the Cornwall Food and Fuel Program.

Art in Cornwall

At the UCC Parish House, an exhibit of Danielle Mailer's work, "A Room with a Muse and Some Animal Creatures," November 5 to November 26, with an opening reception on Sunday, November 12, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Noted American poet and visual artist Sally Van Doren will open her show of polysemic drawings along with a poetry reading and art talk at the Cornwall Library on November 11 at 5 P.M.

The Tool House Gallery at Ian Ingersoll's will continue to showcase the work of Donald Bracken through the month of November, in addition to the

Money Pitch

November is the month for reflecting on what's good in life. In the life of Cornwall, the *Chronicle* makes a bunch of houses into a community. Give thanks and write a check so we can keep going!

newly added collections of Lennart Swede Ahnstrom and Scott Zuckerman.

The Souterrain Gallery will be hosting a champagne reception for Susan Hellmann's "Simply Cornwall Extended & Expanded" on November 25, from 3 to 6 P.M.

Daylight Saving: Time to "fall back" as Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 A.M. Sunday, November 5.

West Cornwall Water/Septic Presentation: The Water/Septic Study Group will present its plan, November 10, at 7 P.M. at town hall.

Senior Events

Blood Pressure Clinic: Monday, November 13, from noon to 1 P.M. in the UCC Day Room. Contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Monthly Luncheon: Tuesday, November 14, at noon at the UCC Parish House. Cost is \$8/per person for a buffet lunch. RSVP by calling Jen Markow at 672-4071 or prcornwall@gmail.com.

At the Library

Winter Hours: The Cornwall Library is testing Sunday hours this winter. Beginning November 1, the library will be open Sundays 12 to 3 P.M.

Downloadable Book Workshop: On Friday, November 3 at 3 P.M., a workshop on downloading digital and audio books using the new app. Free. Please call to register.

Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened, a documentary produced by Ted Schillinger about the Harold Prince/Stephen Sondheim musical *Merrily We Roll Along* tells the bittersweet story behind the 1981 Broadway flop. Saturday, November 4, at 7 P.M. Ted and director Lonny Price will be available before and after.

Diabetes Course: Mondays, November 6, 13, 20, and 27 at the library from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Free.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: November 19 at noon at the UCC Parish House. Free. Seating limited. 672-6840 or office@uccincornwall.org to reserve a spot.

St. Bridget Church will host a pre-Thanksgiving ecumenical prayer service on Wednesday, November 22, at 7 P.M.

Town of Cornwall Social Services: Appli-



cations are available to help defray the costs of winter heating. Also, firewood vendors sought for Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. For both programs, contact Jane Muir Sellery at 672-2603 or cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com.

Planning & Zoning: Volunteers are needed to serve on five subcommittees (Natural Resources, Community Resources, Economic Development, Housing, and Youth) that will be working on the new town plan. If interested, contact landuse@cornwallct.org

Annual Christmas Fair at UCC, Saturday, December 2, from 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Local holiday decorations, bake sale, luncheon, children's shopping, raffle, and take your holiday photos. Preorder wreaths 672-6742 or CornwallChristmasFair@gmail.com.



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