

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 12 : NUMBER 10 NOVEMBER 2002

School Expansion Wins

Although the margin of victory isn't as impressive as a referendum run by Saddam Hussein, the result of the October 19 school building vote is pretty decisive by Cornwall standards. Of 623 votes cast, 447 voted to support the school building project, with 176 against. The better than two-to-one margin was the consensus town leaders were seeking to confidently move forward with renovating and expanding the school.

This last vote winds up a string of referendums which allowed taxpayers to weigh in every step of the way. The first project brought to a vote was a comprehensive plan that included relocating Cream Hill Road. Although the plan passed by a narrow margin, concerns about impending tax increases and the scope of the expansion caused the project to be halted. A year of study ensued, and taxpayers were given opportunities to determine a direction for the project. In the next vote, a new school option was rejected in favor of expanding on the current site. Taxpayers were then offered the chance to vote on the formation of another building committee. Although the vote was close, a new building committee was formed, and charged with coming up with a plan that both addressed the school's needs and cost less than the first plan. This process has now

culminated in the plan (and price) favored by voters by the widest margin. The next step is the formation of, yes, another building committee to oversee the actual design and construction of the project. This committee will spend the winter refining and making the final decisions on the design components. The project will then go out to bid, and construction is planned to begin late next spring.

—Anne Kosciusko

VOTE!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Polls will be open from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall.

In this "off year" there are no municipal elections, so our Selectmen and other town officials continue to serve into the second year of their terms. (Actually, we will vote for local Judge of Probate and for Registrars of Voters, but no contests are involved.)

However, there are important state and national elections. The ballot will offer the following candidates: Governor and Lt. Governor—Rowland and Rell (R) vs. Curry and Jepsen (D); Congressional Representative—Johnson (R) vs. Maloney (D); State Senator—Roraback (R) vs. Marconi (D); State Representative—Morris (R) vs. Willis (D); Secretary of the State—San Angelo (R) vs. Bysiewicz (D); Treasurer—Garber (R) vs.

Nappier (D); Comptroller—Mullins (R) vs. Wyman (D); Attorney General—Dean (R) vs. Blumenthal (D).

There are also third and fourth party candidates for several offices.

The election for our Congressional Representative is unusual: because of mandated redistricting, one incumbent is running against another.

So there's good reason to get to the polls this year.

—The Editors

CVFD Awarded Grants

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department has received grants totaling \$76,363 from the State of Connecticut and the federal government. The grants are to be used for the purchase of new state-of-the-art fire-fighting equipment which will replace equipment that is badly worn and nearing the end of its life.

The federal grant of \$73,888, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will reimburse the town for 90 percent of the cost of 17 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus units and supporting equipment. The grant is one of 2,756 awarded to fire departments across the United States from among more than 19,500 applications.

The State of Connecticut grant of \$2,475,

(continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pre-School Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	2 Rotary Meeting: Weapons Inspection in Iraq 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Globalization Videos 4-6 P.M. Cornwall Lib. (p.4) Masquerade Ball 8-12 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge
3	4 Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 ELECTION DAY Polls Open 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. St. Peter's Church Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	6 Play Group Every Wednesday 10-11:30 A.M. Playground (St. Peter's in Case of Rain)	7 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. St. Peter's Church	8 Pre-School Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	9 Cornwall Assoc. 9:30 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R.
10	11 VETERANS' DAY Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC	12 Planning and Zoning 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	13 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	14 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.	15 Deadline: December Chronicle Copy Pre-School Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	16
17 Christine Algrant Mme Pompadour 3 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	18 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library M.R.	19	20	21 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	22	23 Rotary Meeting: Underground Railway 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Cub Scout Can & Bottle Drive 9-11 A.M. Town Green (p.4)
24	25 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	26	27 CCS Thanksgiving Recess Begins 1 P.M. Community Thanksgiving Service 7:30 P.M. UCC (p.4) Cornwall Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	28 THANKSGIVING DAY 	29 Annual Talent Show 7:30 P.M. UCC (p.4)	30 HANUKKAH Rotary Meeting: 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Cider Making 2-4 P.M. Hart Farm (p.3)

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection, will reimburse the town for 50 percent of the cost of eight sets of new turnout pants and coats, worn to protect a firefighter from heat and flames.

The SCBA units help firefighters breathe clear air when entering a smoke-filled or other hazardous area. Each unit contains two other important features: a Personal Alert Safety System which sends a warning signal if a firefighter stops moving, and a Voice Projection Unit which amplifies and projects a firefighter's voice from inside the SCBA mask.

All of this new equipment will enhance the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters. It would have helped our volunteer firefighters at both the Cream Hill Farm and the Richmond House fires earlier this year, where entry into the burning structure was necessary.

The successful grant applications were prepared by CVFD members Charles Gold, Jack Preston, Earle Tyler, and Phill West.

—Charles Gold



Wood Pile Returns

Now that summer's dryness has eased, a popular feature of the transfer station—the wood pile—will return. Small amounts of clean (no painted or pressure-treated) wood will again be accepted. But no plywood, please.

In other developments at the transfer station, attendants are collecting old eyeglasses and Campbell soup-can labels for charitable purposes.

Dump masters report that the amount of bulky waste has increased and become more expensive to transfer. Residents are reminded that a payment of \$40 per pickup load, prorated, is expected at time of tipping. There is a \$3 charge for tires (must be under 20 inches diameter), which must be taken off rims.

The garbage compactor caught fire this summer as a result of a "hot load." Residents are asked not to put flammable or hot materials such as wood ashes in their garbage.

Landscaping continues to improve. There is talk of installing a golf facility on top of Mt. Brean to keep up with other towns. Stay tuned for developments.

—Gordon Ridgway

New Wheels in Cornwall

You suddenly can't drive? Or you don't have a car? And you live in Cornwall? "It's impossible to live without wheels in this town," says First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. "Older people in particular—I know from

my own experience—have a hard time. That's why we think this new option, added to our other good resources, will be really useful."

These "other resources" are the Northwest Connecticut Rural Transit bus out of Torrington (call 800-906-7433) and FISH (Friends In Service Here), our local volunteer driving network (call Joan Edler at 672-6789). But Rural Transit cannot always accommodate someone who needs, say, daily rides to radiation appointments at Charlotte Hungerford or a doctor's office in Great Barrington. And people are reluctant to overuse the FISH volunteers. "We have independent people in Cornwall," says Joan. "Many hesitate to call us."

The option Gordon is talking about is a brand new flexible program by which Geer Adult Day Center will dispatch buses or a van to Cornwall for medical appointments, shopping, and even "social outings" in other towns, as well as Great Barrington, Winsted, and Torrington. The town's cost of \$2,000 per year was unanimously approved on October 17 by the Board of Finance.

As of November 1, you can call Maureen Chodan at 824-1362 for door-to-door transportation. Geer will also offer, at no additional cost to the town, buses for group outings. Gordon adds, "And when the YMCA at Geer Village is up and running, you'll be able to get a ride up there to go swimming. We want to help people stay as independent as they can be."

—Ella Clark

New Cornwall Foundation

The Cornwall Foundation is a newly formed tax-exempt organization which will serve the Cornwall community by making grants to local programs or projects. Its mission is broad: "To enhance life in the town of Cornwall" by supporting endeavors in the "fields of education, health, the arts, social services, recreation, and the environment."

The Cornwall Foundation was started by the Cornwall Association. The Association had seen successful local foundations operating in Canaan and Salisbury, and thought it was time for Cornwall to have one of its own. The idea is to build an enduring, general fund from which grants can be made to local groups that serve the Cornwall community. The Association wanted the new fund to be distinguished from the Town Endowment Fund, which is to be used for town projects and is administered by the selectmen.

The Cornwall Foundation has an independent board of directors: Anne Kosciusko, David Ott, Amy Worthington-Cady, Becky Hurlburt, Bente Dahl-Busby, John Miller, Hector Prud'homme, Catherine Tatge, Jean Vitalis, and Phill West.

Funds will be managed by the Torrington Area Foundation for Public Giving, which will allow the Cornwall Foundation immediate public non-profit status. A fund-raising campaign will begin soon, to seek donations—large and small—to support the Foundation and, in turn, the people of Cornwall.

—John Miller

Good-bye to Friends

Philip Jones
Patricia Labalme
Hazel S. Richter

Welcome

Danielle Michele Gorat to
Michele and Peter Gorat, Jr.
Linnea Grace Budge to
Kimberly and Matthew Budge
Zadykiel Elijah Bevans to Lakshmi Vader
Ledlie William Laughlin to
Alice and Joshua Laughlin

Congratulations

Margery W. Whitford to Augusto Sogliuzzi

Fall Hunting Schedules

Small game: Now through December; species and dates vary. **Turkey, archery:** Now through November 19; December 25 to December 31. **Turkey, firearms:** Now through November 2. **Deer, archery:** Now through November 19, December 25 to December 31 on state lands. Now through December 31 on private lands; zones vary. **Deer, shotgun and rifle:** November 20 to December 10, state and private lands; zones vary; November 1 to December 31, landowner only; **muzzleloader:** December 11 to December 24.

Hours: No hunting on Sundays. With some exceptions, half an hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey; from 7 A.M. to half an hour after sunset for most small game. Check the DEP Guide.

Safety: Wear orange. If alone, let somebody know where you will be. Hikers, if you see hunters, call out. For more info, call DEP Wildlife at (860) 424-3011.

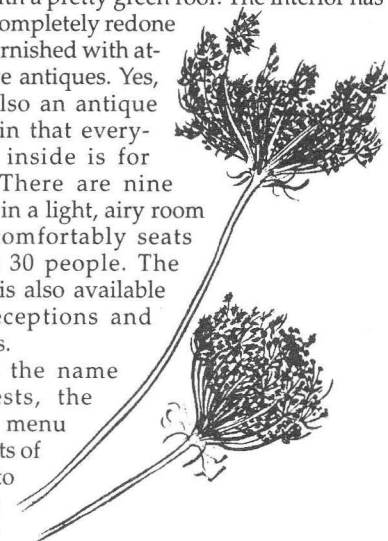
—Jim Levy

Zagat, West Cornwall

With the opening of Soupe du Jour in Railroad Square, West Cornwall now boasts three great places to eat. The new café is owned and run by Sue Kochman and her daughter Sarah Duffy. Sue is already well known around town as New England Caterers, purveyors of great party food.

The building has been painted a pale yellow with a pretty green roof. The interior has been completely redone and furnished with attractive antiques. Yes, it is also an antique store, in that everything inside is for sale. There are nine tables in a light, airy room that comfortably seats about 30 people. The room is also available for receptions and parties.

As the name suggests, the lunch menu consists of eight to ten differ-



Letters to the Chronicle

Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) at a discount.

A state grant foots half the bill to keep this land open and enjoyed by all in perpetuity if the CCT can convince 200 people to give \$1,000 each (or the equivalent) to keep this land in the raw.

Join us at the Hart Farm on Cherry Hill Road from 2 to 4 P.M. on Saturday, November 30 for a little cider making and for hayrides, weather permitting. Call me at 672-2407 for more information.

—Lib Tobin

SAVING THE LAND

Farmers in our area are under pressure to sell their land for non-agricultural uses. Local efforts to preserve the remaining pieces of working land have received good news this year.

The State Department of Agriculture has recently agreed to purchase the development rights for parts of the Lorch and Hurlburt farms. Both families could have cashed in and gotten more money on the open market. Fortunately, their actions will preserve their farmland.

Now, under a different program, the state has offered matching funding to the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) to acquire most of the Hart farm. I urge residents to aid CCT efforts to preserve this important piece of land for generations to come.

—Gordon M. Ridgway

ONLY THE POST OFFICE KNOWS

I was amused at the very specific instructions on addressing envelopes.

It called to mind the time—years ago—when my daughter in Colorado wrote me, addressing the envelope this way:

The Biddy
Cornwall Bridge, CT.

I wonder why it reached ME!

—Marie Trager

KEEPING IT IN THE RAW

American land is being developed at a rate of 365 acres per hour; Connecticut farmland is disappearing by 8,000 acres each year. Small-scale agriculture has been the happy medium between wilderness and loss of land to development.

The first left turn off Cream Hill Road onto Cherry Hill leads you to a vista unrivaled in town and perhaps in the county, with hills of New York State and Massachusetts revealed. The Hart siblings seven have foregone the lure of developers' coins and hope to sell the land to the

THANKS FROM PRIME TIME HOUSE

The Fourth Annual Cornwall House Tour held on October 12 to benefit Prime Time House was a \$15,000 success! At last count some 280 people ventured out on that blustery Saturday to do some real "barnstorming." They took to the muddy, leaf-covered roads of our town to tour a house in a barn, a barn made into a house, a barn-looking library, a building that started out as a new barn and ended up as a house, and two homes that owe their existence to barns—they were once farms! A wonderful, autumnal-inspired reception held at the Olds' barn in Cornwall Village completed the day. Cornwall's community spirit continues to shine in every season.

—Tim Prentice and Amy Cady

GETTING ONLINE

In a survey the Web Group of the Cornwall Association conducted last year, we found that many people liked reading agendas and minutes of the town boards on the Website.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we have found it very difficult to post these on a timely basis. To do so requires that a Web Group member appear at the Town Offices on the right day and time, get a disk with the latest minutes on it, then take the disk home or to someone with e-mail capability and send the files to the webmaster for posting. It just doesn't work out.



I have repeatedly asked our town administration to install online capability so that minutes (and other information) could be sent directly as soon as available. They have declined to do so on the grounds that they don't need to—or want to—send and receive e-mail communications, and further that current resources are adequate for their requirements.

Instead of welcoming the convenience and efficiency of electronic communications, town employees fear more demands on their time. To the contrary, modern electronic communications can free people from the tyranny of the telephone.

And this is to say nothing about the wonderful world of data and information available on the Internet, from the state, for example.

In my view it is about time that the town developed a technology plan to enter the modern world of information and communications, as so many of our neighboring towns have already done.

If you agree with me, please make your thoughts known at the Town Offices.

—Stephen Senzer, Chair, Cornwall Web Group

SCHOOL WIGGLE ROOM

As a former building committee chairman, I would like to point out that now is the time that those with specific design ideas and concerns should attend building committee meetings and convey their wishes to the committee for consideration. Just because the referendum has passed, it doesn't mean that public input is no longer useful, or welcome. Although the scope, general design, and price have been established, there is plenty of "wiggle room" left for incorporation of creative solutions and ideas. So don't be shy! While you won't be able to get that Olympic-sized pool considered for under the gym floor, your ideas for room sizes, window placement in the gym, or appliances in the new kitchen are welcome.

—Anne Kosciusko

ent soups, a couple of salads, a sandwich, quiche, and maybe even a pasta dish. Dessert and beverages too! The menu changes weekly and is dependent upon the weather and the availability of fresh ingredients.

Café hours are from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Thursday through Saturday and till 4 P.M. on Sundays; no reservations.

RSVP opened last May, also in Railroad

Square. Charles Cilon and Guy Birster are the owners, also well known in West Cornwall from their work in other local restaurants. RSVP is an intimate little restaurant serving fine French cuisine at dinner only on Wednesday through Sunday evenings from 6 P.M. As the restaurant seats only about 15 people, a reservation is a must, along with your own wine and cash or a check.

Russ and Sharon Sawicki recently acquired the building on the corner of Lower River Road and the Sharon-Goshen Turnpike which houses The Wandering Moose, but this very popular moderately priced eating and meeting place has been operating since March 2001. Breakfast is served every day from 7 to 11:30 A.M.; lunch every day but Sun-

(continued on page 4)

day and Tuesday from 11:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Dinner is available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 5:30 P.M. Russ hopes to expand dinner service to five nights per week. Reservations are useful if you want to be sure of a table for dinner at a specific time, and bring your own "bottle."
—Celia Senzer

Events & Announcements

Globalization and Its Effects: Twenty years ago as globalization was just taking off, Cornwall's Peter Hollander produced the *Economics Game*, a 10-minute UN



documentary on the international economy from the point of view of developing countries. Last year Cornwall's Jeremy Brecher produced *Global Village or Global Pillage?*, a 30-minute documentary on grassroots responses to globalization. The Friends of the Cornwall Library invite you to see the videos and hear the producers at the Cornwall Library on Saturday, November 2 from 4 to 6 P.M. A \$5 contribution is suggested.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library, Tim Prentice's show of kinetic work will continue through November 16. Beginning November 18 and continuing through December 28 will be Don Bracken's exhibit of some of the large and powerful paintings that he made while at a studio on the 97th floor of the World Trade Center.

At the Wish House, the exhibit of jewelry by Elizabeth Kaestner continues through the month of November.

At the Cornwall Arts Collection, there will be an opening on November 9 from 5 to 7 P.M. of a show featuring the wildlife-related works of Scott Zuckerman and Connie Steuerwalt.

Book Sale Sets Record: Despite the continuous and torrential rain on October 12, the Friends of the Cornwall Library raised more than \$3,200 for operating expenses. Sales were greatly helped by the fact that the Library was part of the Cornwall House Tour.

Familiar Tunes

You know that feeling when you can't get a tune out of your mind? Last month's performance of *The Fantasticks* had that effect on us. Which is probably how you readers feel about this space, in which we relentlessly remind you how much we count on your donations to continue publishing. Still,

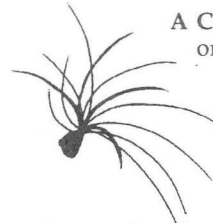
Try to Remember....

Child Center News: *Do you ever need afternoon child care while you go to a doctor, dentist, or important meeting?* If your child has been or is currently enrolled in one of the four after-school Arts Club enrichment programs, he/she is eligible to come to the Child Center at 3 P.M. on an as-needed basis during the school year. Please call 672-6989, 48 hours ahead, to make arrangements and to assure there is space available.

Community Thanksgiving Service: This year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by the United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational. The service will be held on Wednesday, November 27 at 7:30 P.M. The Rev. Laura Westby will offer a meditation and the choirs of the church will lead the gathering in songs of praise. Please plan to attend and bring a non-perishable food item for our local food pantry.

Mme Pompadour at the Library: Christine Pevitt Algrant will talk about her new book *Mme de Pompadour: Mistress of France* at the Cornwall Free Library, Sunday, November 17 at 3 P.M. Wine and cheese will be served, and copies of the book will be available for purchase. Proceeds will go to the Library operating account. For more information call Lisa Simont at 672-2659.

The 5th Annual Cornwall Talent Show will be sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library on Friday, November 29 from 7:30 to 9 P.M. at the United Church of Christ. Come and enjoy this evening of homegrown, family entertainment featuring some surprising new talent as well as some familiar faces. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for kids under 12. Proceeds will benefit the operating expenses of the Cornwall Library. Use the order form on the *Chronicle* insert for tickets, which will be mailed to you. For information call 672-0233.



A Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at UCC. In the Parish House there will be crafts by local artists, evergreen wreaths, decorations, and a room for children to shop for and wrap presents for the family. A soup and sandwich lunch and holiday foods will be available in the Day Room of the church. To reserve wreaths, which must be ordered in advance, call Joan Edler at 672-6789.

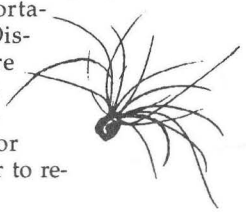
Parents of the Cornwall Child Center will be hosting the Children's Shopping Room at the UCC Christmas Fair. Donations would be very much appreciated. This is a children-only room where they can do their Christmas shopping. All items will be sold for 25 cents. Donations can be left at the Child Center beginning Tuesday, November 12, or call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058.

Park and Rec. is still in need of volunteer basketball coaches for girls, grades two to four, boys, grades two to four, and fifth and sixth grade girls. Call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058 for more information or to volunteer. Remember, without volunteers this program cannot be offered.

Park and Rec. will be running a bus trip to Bromley Mountain on Saturday, January 11. Bus will leave CCS parking lot at 8 A.M. and will leave Bromley at 5 P.M. Cost for an all-day lift ticket and bus is \$59 per adult, less for youth. Bus transportation only is \$20. Discount rentals are available. Space is limited. Call Bethany Thompson for more information or to reserve seats.

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 Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

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Please mail the *Chronicle* to the out-of-town address above; a \$10 contribution will be appreciated.

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