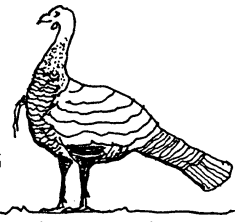


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 14 : NUMBER 10 NOVEMBER 2004



It Takes a Town

On Saturday, October 9, Cornwall Bridge was humming with activity as over 200 visitors and volunteers participated in the sixth annual Cornwall House Tour. The Cornwall Bridge Firehouse was the center for the event, where tickets and t-shirts were for sale and lunch and refreshments were available. Many members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department were on hand Saturday to welcome visitors, cook up lunch, and serve as house monitors. Volunteers from the community and the house tour committee as well as the Cornwall Foundation helped make the day a success.

Houses featured this year provided perhaps the most eclectic mix of buildings ever, including centuries-old to modern, large and small, homes to artists, and a studio for pottery with demonstrations. A reception at the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse followed the event. House tour committee chair Tim Prentice thanked the participants and awarded his highly coveted, hand-drawn certificates of appreciation.

Behind all the fun was a serious motivation—helping CVFD purchase a new ambulance. Thanks to generous advance sponsorship from individuals and local businesses and great turnout on the

day of the tour, it raised about \$20,000. Charlie Gold, CVFD treasurer, noted that funds for new ambulances have traditionally been raised by the department on its own and that the house tour was a perfect collaboration between the various civic-minded groups.

This vehicle surely represents a community effort. Though the fund has been around for years, the drive began in earnest with last autumn's Halloween Dance. Since then, many have dedicated their efforts to the cause through the 2003 CVFD annual appeal, the Rose Algrant Art Show, a ladies' clothing swap, the sale of CVFD caps and Marc Simont-designed t-shirts (a few still available from the Selectmen's Office), and the Cow Chip Raffle at the Ag Fair. The Dinneen, Hall, Hepprich, O'Dell, Osuch, Paulsen, Pool, Victorien, and Sandmeyer families directed contributions in memory of loved ones to the ambulance fund this year. Gifts from local businesses and individuals, some supported by matching grants from Becton-

Dickinson and Torrington Savings, boosted the total to more than \$90,000 toward the expected purchase price of \$120,000 for a state-of-the-art, fully equipped vehicle for our town.

CVFD has high hopes that this year's appeal letter next month will bring in the funds to seal the purchase. —*Emilie and Joe Pryor*

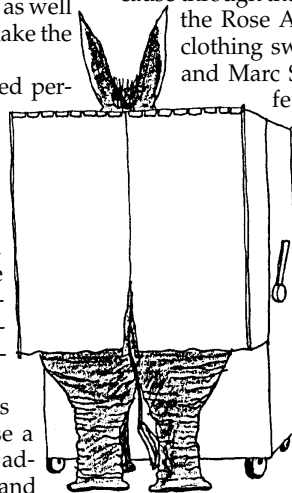
Domestic Violence? In Cornwall?

"At a recent meeting of the Northwest Council of Governments," Gordon Ridgway told us, "Doreen Breen of the Susan B. Anthony Project talked about domestic violence. I know that the problem exists, but the statistics were a real eye-opener."

In Cornwall alone, during 2003, 37 individuals received services: nine from SBA, and 28 from Women's Support Services (731 hours of help). Four needed Victim Advocacy at Bantam Court, three used the SBA self-esteem program, and 30 people received services concerning other issues of violence.

Breen has a two-year grant "to develop a multi-disciplinary Community Partnership Team" in a 20-town region of the Northwest Corner to "identify needs and develop a coordinated response, while creating continuing public awareness...in these rural communities." In conjunction with WSS, she has already formed committees to look into needs and resources, as well as public aware-

(continued on page 2)



NOVEMBER 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	2 ELECTION DAY VOTE 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Town Hall Election Day Luncheon 11:30 A.M.-2 P.M. UCC Parish House†	3 Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4	5 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Cornwall Library	6 Mother-Daughter Retreat 9:45 A.M.-3:15 P.M.† Kids' Knitting Class 11 A.M. Library† Outsiders' Gallery Opening 3-6 P.M.†
7 Friends of the Cornwall Library Annual Meeting, Speaker: Nora Johnson 1 P.M. Library† Welcome to Micki Party 2-4 P.M. UCC Parish House†	8 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	9 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	10 Winter Preparedness 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse†	11 VETERANS' DAY Schools Closed	12 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Cornwall Library	13 Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting, Speaker: Peter del Tredici, 3:30 P.M. Town Hall†
14	15 Deadline: December Chronicle Copy Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	16	17 Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	18 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	19 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Cornwall Library	20 Kids' Knitting Class 11 A.M. Library†
21 Puppet Show <i>Rapunzel</i> 3 P.M. Town Hall†	22 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	23	24 CCS Early Dismissal Thanksgiving Recess Begins 1 P.M. Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	25 THANKSGIVING DAY	26 Annual Talent Show 7:30 P.M. UCC†	27 Wish House <i>Wearable Art</i> Opening 3-6 P.M.† <i>Pirates on Our River</i> Reading by A. Zinsser 11 A.M. Library†
28	29	30	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. UCC Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room Wednesdays: Play Group, 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC Stretch Class, 5:30 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room			

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

ness of this devastating behavior. Representatives from police, social service organizations, schools, clergy, medical and mental health agencies, EMS crews, and businesses are among the participants in the effort, which will include public outreach, workshops, and mentoring programs for offenders as well as victims.

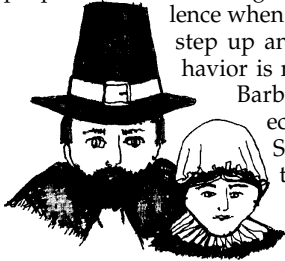
"This grant, which is from a national model, has traditionally led to a huge increase in people contacting domestic violence agencies," says Breen. "We want people to be able to recognize domestic violence when it occurs, and to

step up and say, 'This behavior is not acceptable.'"

Barbara Spiegel, Executive Director of SBA, reminds us that concerned individuals should use the Crisis Hotlines

[SBA: (860) 482-7133; WSS: (860) 364-1900] "just to talk," even if they are not sure they are in a crisis.

For information or to volunteer for the SBA initiative, call Doreen Breen at (860) 496-9322. —Ella Clark



The Income Gap

A recent ranking of Connecticut towns and cities placed Cornwall second from the top. The ranking was of the size of the "income gap" between the wealthy and the less affluent citizens.

Conducted by the Associated Press and based on the latest census, the study found five Northwest Corner towns among the top ten in the state on a standard measure of income disparity. A UConn researcher noted that the area attracts "wealthy families with country houses and well-to-do retirees" as well as "workers in the service economy."

Hartford and New Haven also made it into the top ten. While both cities are generally thought of as economically challenged, they continue to contain many affluent families. The communities with the most clustered and evenly distributed income patterns tend to be rural towns in the eastern portion of the state. The Town of Scotland, according to the survey, boasts the most homogeneous income in Connecticut.

And by the way, Sharon tops the list.

—Bob Potter

A Gold Star for CCC

The Cornwall Child Center has achieved accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) after a three-year process. Only seven percent of early childhood programs nationwide gain this prestigious recognition: 8,000 accredited programs, serving 700,000 children. NAEYC is a professionally sponsored accreditation system that sets high educational standards for preschools, kindergartens, childcare centers, and school-age childcare programs.

"There is a movement that child centers in our country be accredited. This is a great thing," states Pam Brehm, CCC director. "The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience," she continued, adding, "The greatest emphasis is on...how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally."

We live in a time when greater emphasis is placed on the importance and quality of early childhood education. The state Board of Education has recently published a report, "Closing the Achievement Gaps: Removing the Barriers to Preschool in Connecticut," which explains how quality early childcare and education lay the foundation for later academic achievement. CCC is proudly celebrating its 30th year of operation.

—Karolene Carlson

Our (Not So) Little Guild

With all the high-profile makeovers of the Town Hall, CCS, and Foote Fields, the more modest renovation of the baggage room of our old West Cornwall train station may have gone unnoticed. Consider it a 45th birthday present for the Little Guild of St. Francis Thrift Shop, which helps fund Cornwall's animal shelter of the same name. Thanks to the continued generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hart and arrangements by the Guild's board of directors, the Thrift Shop has improved space to continue its contribution to the care of stray and abandoned animals. The shop receives and resells clothing, accessories, and small household items.

Director Jim Lussier reports that the Little Guild finds homes for around 400 dogs and cats a year and primarily serves people in Litchfield County (although some pets have moved as far away as Kansas and Ontario!).

"Back in the fifties," reports Sue Kilner, "some people would simply leave their 'summer pets' behind when they left for the season. By the end of 1956, I had 36 cats and 12 dogs staying with me. Evelyn Bennett [whose kennels on Great Hollow Road became the first shelter] used to say that she never knew what she would find tied up to her front door when she got up in the morning."

The ladies started to need facilities for the accumulating throng and conducted many small fundraisers for their early projects. As time passed, recognizing the need for a steady stream of income to support their efforts, Sue Kilner, Helen Haley, and Eleanora Kleinschmidt started a thrift shop behind the old barbershop in West Cornwall.

Jim is hopeful that the new space will generate new interest, donations, and especially volunteers to help Elizabeth Locke keep the Thrift Shop open more hours. Current hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., and noon to 4 P.M. Saturday. Shoppers who want to support the Guild may also find pet-related products at www.littleguild.org. Animal lovers and those interested in community service should contact Jim at 672-6346. Donations may be left at the Little Guild if the shop is closed. —Lucy Kling and Deirdre Fischer

Good-Bye to a Friend

David C. Watts

Land Transfers

Jean Bailey to Stephen O'Neil, two parcels totaling 4.453+ acres and buildings at 239 Great Hollow Road for \$117,000.

Jean Bailey to Stephen O'Neil, 5.8+ acres on Great Hollow Road for \$15,000.

John and Louise Schmitt to Lawrence Van Valkenburgh, 48 acres and buildings at 193 Town Street for \$730,000.

Ira B. Shapiro and Jacqueline Dedell to Longview Holdings, LLC, 5 acres and buildings at 59 South Road for \$850,000.

Ira B. Shapiro and Jacqueline Dedell to Longview Holdings, LLC, 22.937 acres and buildings at 63 South Road for \$700,000.

John and Diana Camp to David and Angela Greco, 5 acres on Cook Road for \$180,000.

Not Too Far—A Field!

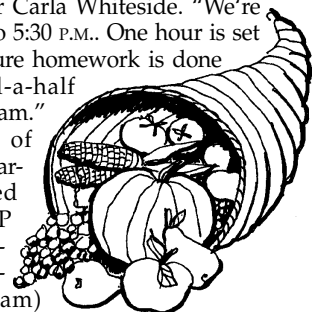
When driving on Route 4 near Cornwall Village, it has been hard to miss the plethora of earthmoving equipment and shifting mountains of dirt—the new baseball field going in. The first selectman reports that the project is right on schedule. Before the snow flies, he expects the walking track to be installed and the field to be largely completed: the mountain of topsoil spread and seeded, gravel on the parking area, the site all wrapped up for the winter with only "a few odds and ends to do next year."

Walkers will be able to head out and do their laps in the spring, but it will be a year before we see any baseball there. It will look like a baseball diamond, mowed and maintained, but the grass needs a season to become established. Spring of '06 will see the first ball thrown out. —Adam Fischer

After School at CCS

Don't let your kids tell you there's nothing to do after school! The Cornwall Extended Day Learning Program offers third- through eighth-graders a diverse selection of enrichment classes, one after each school day, in rotating six-week programs. Juggling, anyone? Or perhaps "The Art of Peace" (also known as Aikido), a creative mind-body discipline? For outdoor enthusiasts, there is a Hiking Club with an emphasis on local trails and local and global map skills. Cyberspace fans can attend the after-school computer class, and the Artists Workshop offers multi-cultural art projects.

"Pursuing outside interests at school gives these kids a whole new feeling about being here. It makes it more 'their place,'" says program director Carla Whiteside. "We're here from 3 to 5:30 P.M.. One hour is set aside to be sure homework is done and one-and-a-half for the program." This array of activities is partially funded by a REAP (Rural Education Achievement Program)



grant, making the cost to parents \$10 per day. Snack is provided. Drop-ins are welcome with 24-hour notice.
—Deirdre Fischer

Precious Land

Cornwall is looking into the possible purchase of a three-acre strip of land on the Housatonic that abuts the Hughes Memorial Library. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said there is no rush on the plan but it offers Cornwall a real opportunity. He said the first step in the project is to talk to Connecticut Light and Power, which has owned the unused parcel for decades and now is apparently ready to sell it.

Ridgway said the land could have a number of uses: emergency vehicle access to the river; open space for passive recreation; parking for canoeists and fishermen, as well as space for a septic system and possible expansion of the Hughes Memorial Library. The Library was built in the 1850s as a two-room schoolhouse and is the oldest building in continuous public use in Cornwall. It presently has no toilets. Ridgway said the town has received a \$200,000 STEAP Grant from the state to cover the purchase and work on the property.

The project will need the approval of Planning and Zoning, the Board of Finance, and a Town Meeting. Ridgway said the first step will be to negotiate with the power company and then with Jerry Doolittle, president of the Hughes board. He feels the plan will be of great benefit to the town and its many visitors. By the way, STEAP stands for Small Town Economic Assistance Program. —John Miller

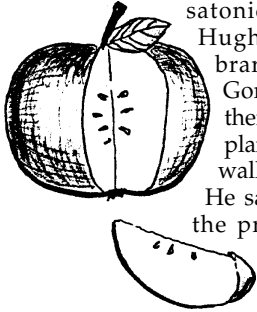
The Fair Must Go On

Neither wind, nor rain, nor threat of hurricane can stop the Cornwall Agricultural Fair, although Hurricane Ivan caused the first ever postponement of the Agricultural Advisory Commission's principal event. People filled the Town Green the next day and in the best New England farming tradition, adversity bred innovation.

The Ag Fair used the Town Hall for the first time and it was a great move. "There were none of the usual flipped-over cherry tomato displays or upside-down flower arrangements due to stiff autumn breezes," noted Cilla Mauro, AAC Secretary. It also inspired the commission to include indoor submissions next year. Photography, as well as art and poetry on agricultural themes, including fishing and forestry, will be new categories next year. The commission welcomes new ideas and members interested in keeping our agricultural spirit strong.

The indoor venue wasn't all a bed of roses though; encouraging Dan Kallman's 300-pound pumpkin into the Town Hall proved to be too much. It stayed on the front steps.

—Deirdre Fischer



Letters to the Chronicle

HEARTFELT HOME CARE

I would like you to know about a new resource in Cornwall, Heartfelt Home Care, providing home-bound elderly or handicapped people with Certified Nurse's Assistants. I am looking for clients who would like some help in their homes, as well as for Certified Nurse's Assistants who want to work part-time. I am only interested in compassionate CNA's who are in the business because they love caring for others and feel the way this work expands and nourishes their hearts and souls. All others need not apply! Phone: 860-248-3027. Thank you.

—Linda Ballard

CORNWALL'S WATERY TREASURE

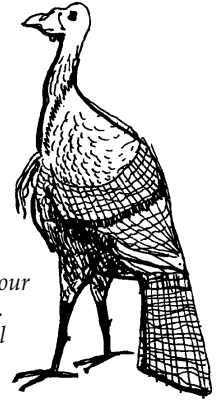
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to fly fish the Housatonic River? I have fly fished the Housy for three years now. I have caught many fish and experienced awesome things, like otters, bald eagles, and smallmouth bass spawning at my feet. The Housy is an important resource in Cornwall, not only for fishing but also for canoeing, hiking, and rafting. With help and encouragement from my dad and local pros, especially Harold, Torrey, and Lou, fly fishing has become fun for me.

Standing in the river is scary at first, but after a while you get used to it. The beauty of standing in the river casting to big brown trout

slurping mayflies off the surface is exciting. When you are in the river, you have surrounded yourself in nature. Targeting a trout, casting, and being rewarded by him taking your fly is just an added bonus.

Cornwall is a beautiful place with its big green rolling hills, wildlife, and the Housatonic River that is full of trout and bass. The next time you drive on Route 7 and see fly fishermen fishing the Housy, get out there and try it. Don't let this natural beauty flow by you.

—Danny Marino, Age 11



HOUSE NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT!

We would like to remind you that it is imperative to prominently display your house number in case an emergency arises and you have to call 911. Winter is on the way, so the next time you turn into your driveway in the dark, make sure your numbers are visible and won't be blocked by branches, bushes, or the coming piles of snow.

Please be sure they stand out clearly; minutes spent hunting for an address could make all the difference. Call the Selectmen's Office (672-4959) if you have questions.

—Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman
—Gene Ingvertsen, Chief, CVFD

Events & Announcements

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library, the November show will be *Tea*, featuring Hendon Chubb's collection of Chinese prints showing the production of tea, and interesting objects relating to the preparation of tea. The show runs November 2 to December 4.

At the Outsiders' Gallery, there will be an opening from 3 to 6 P.M. on November 6 of a holiday bazaar of gifts made by 20 local artists. The show will continue through December.

At the National Iron Bank, Lazlo Gyorsok's show of photographs will continue through November.

Exercise Your Right, Vote: November 2 from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall on Pine Street in Cornwall. All voters please bring photo identification. Unregistered voters may apply for a presidential ballot; proof of Cornwall residency and photo identification are required.



Wanted, Collections: The Cornwall Library now has a very fine glass case suitable for all sorts of collections of interesting things. If you have a collection that you would like to display at the Library for a month or two, please contact Ellen Moon, 672-6726.

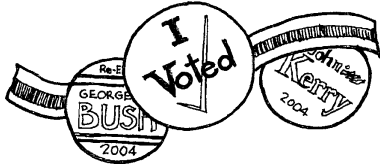
Wearable Art Opening: November 27, Saturday, 3 to 6 P.M. at the Wish House. Silk kimonos by Carol Schneider and silver jewelry by Elizabeth Kaestner.

Welcome, Micki Nunn-Miller: November 7, Sunday, from 2 to 4 P.M. A reception to introduce Micki Nunn-Miller, the newly settled pastor of the United Church of Christ, to Cornwall and the larger community. Everyone in town is invited to the Parish House on Bolton Hill Road for refreshments, some words of welcome, and a brief reading of a few highlights from the *Chronicle* anthology, *A Cornwall Companion*.

Election Day Luncheon: November 2, Tuesday, the UCC Fellowship Committee is sponsoring an Election Day Luncheon for the community. Soup, bread, and dessert will be served from 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Donations benefit the Cornwall Food Bank.

Cornwall Conservation Trust: Annual Meeting November 6, Saturday, 3:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, with *Nature Abhors a Garden*, a talk by Peter del Tredici. Meet the volunteer board members of the Trust and enjoy refreshments.

Pirates on Our River: Anne Zinsser will read from her children's adventure book at the Library on Saturday, November 27, at 11 A.M. Best suited for children six and older.



Mother-Daughter Retreat: November 6, Saturday, 9:45 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. Mothers and daughters gather to enjoy wood stove crafts and celebrate traditions for giving thanks, sponsored by Motherhouse. Call Deb Tyler, 672-0229, for details and reservations.

Seventh Annual Talent Show: Once again on Thanksgiving weekend, the Friends of the Cornwall Library will host the Talent Show November 26, Friday, at the United Church of Christ, from 7:30 to 9 P.M. See some familiar faces and abundant new talent including: drummers, jugglers, comedians, and fresh-faced fashion designers. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for kids 12 and under. As always, the proceeds benefit the Annual Fund, which pays the operating expenses of the Cornwall Library. Please see the insert for ticket info or purchase tickets at the Library. Questions? Call 672-6874.

Knitters at the Library: Beginning knitters can make their own scarf or a simple purse in a knitting class for children eight and up and interested adults. The hour-long sessions for beginning knitters will start at 11 A.M. on Saturday, November 6, and run every other week for three Saturdays. Please call the Library at 672-6874 to register and assure enough supplies.

That's Entertainment!

The insert this month describes not one but two great entertainments: the annual Talent Show and *A Cornwall Companion*, the just-published anthology of *Chronicle* stories and illustrations. The insert is designed so that the coupons do not back each other up. When you send in both, you'll be supporting the Library and the *Chronicle* and also gifting yourself with many hours of enjoyment.

Raking Your Leaves: Cornwall Cub Scouts would like to rake your leaves to raise funds for a trip to New York. A portion of the earnings will be given to the Cornwall Ambulance Fund. Call Scoutmaster Dominique Lasseur to arrange for your Cub Scout "leaf team," 672-4419.

Puppet play *Rapunzel*: November 21, Sunday, at 3 P.M. on the Town Hall stage. Acclaimed puppeteer Pamela O'Connor, direct from an engagement at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., created and performs this unique family show using shadow and rod puppets and marionettes. Recommended for ages five and older. Tickets are \$7 each at the door or in advance at the Library. Sponsored by the Cornwall Library and Park and Recreation.

A Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, December 4, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the United Church of Christ. In the Parish House, there will be crafts by local artists, evergreen wreaths and decorations, and a room where children can 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 by December 2, call Joan Edler at 672-6789.

Wondering What to Give Aunt Harriet? Give a book in the name of a friend or loved one to the Cornwall Library! Aunt Harriet will receive an announcement in the mail and first dibs on reading the book, then it will grace the library shelves with a placard inside noting that it was donated in her name. Don't have a book in mind? Choose from the librarians' wish list of titles and topics. Look for this double gift-giving opportunity at the Library beginning mid-November.

VFW News: At the Annual Meeting, Post 9856, Cornwall, installed new officers: Commander Tim Wright, Senior Vice Commander Gus Hallar, Quartermaster Rudy Zabransky.

The Post awarded four scholarships to high school students in Region One. This year, as every year, members placed flags in local cemeteries for Memorial Day, gave a Good Citizenship Award during Memorial Day activities and presented a bond to an outstanding student at CCS, as well as other awards. In September, the Post hosted the 5th District Meeting at the West Cornwall Firehouse, with the State Commander and other officers in attendance. At present, the Post has 12 life members and 16 continuous members.

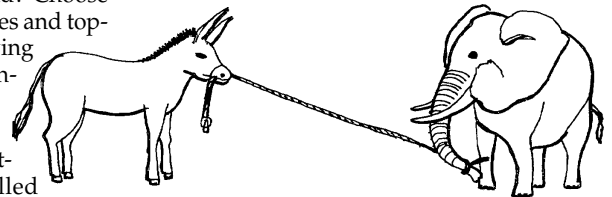
Cornwall Music Makers: Tuesday Night Jam Sessions have moved to Mondays at 7:30 P.M. Come try out the acoustics at the UCC. Piano available. Questions, call Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

Friends of the Cornwall Library: November 7, Sunday, 1 P.M. at the Library. You are invited to a brief annual meeting followed by a reading and talk by Nora Johnson, author of *Coast to Coast: A Family Romance*.

Footie Fields Parking: When the equipment is not at work on the new baseball field, please park in the lot, not on Route 4.

Mailbox Check: The West Cornwall Postmaster reminds us to check the condition of our mailboxes before winter arrives. If doors close and posts are solid, boxes will keep mail dry and life will be easier for the deliverers, who have 340 boxes and 71 miles to cover, the longest route in the state.

Winter Preparedness: November 10, Wednesday, 7 P.M., at the West Cornwall Firehouse: a two-part presentation on getting ready for winter and being an emergency services volunteer. Bob Corrigan, Northwest EMS Council, leads the Red Cross exercise. Topics include what to do in the event of a natural or other disaster during the frigid winter months, how to be ready at home, and how to "shelter in place." CVFD members will be on hand to answer questions, as well as to address what it takes to help neighbors by being a member of the CVFD. If you've ever thought of joining, now's your chance for an insider's look.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER ISSUE

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Ginny and Bob Potter, Publishers

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