

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Bonney Brook at Last

After more than a decade of planning and persuasion, the Bonney Brook elderly housing project sprang to life during October.

The first evidence was the arrival of mammoth earth- and tree-removing equipment with their operators from Haynes Construction of Seymour, Conn. It took only a few days for the site just south of the Cornwall General Store to be cleared. Delighted onlookers watched a huge machine which gripped whole, still-standing trees and yanked them out of the ground.

On a blue, warm October 17, the Cornwall Elderly Housing Corporation (CEHC) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony under a tent next to the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse. Chairman Cheryl Evans welcomed a crowd of about 80 onlookers which included past members of the Cornwall Housing Corporation, the CEHC parent organization.

"The sun is shining in more ways than one," suggested First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. He praised the foresight of Bernice Merz who offered the property for sale to the town. The nearness of local stores, the post office, and the bank "offer options people haven't had before" to live independently within a village community. The ten affordable apartments will be sub-

sidized for eligible renters. Two Parcel Program lots, to be leased by the Cornwall Housing Corporation, are also part of the property; access will be from Dark Entry Road.

Julie B. Fagan, director of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Hartford Field Office, reminded onlookers that the elderly housing program which funded Bonney Brook dates from 1959. Since then more than 8,000 facilities have been built in the 50 states providing 400,000 apartments to the elderly. The \$1.8 million HUD granted to Bonney Brook is in the form of a mortgage; if the housing remains affordable for 40 years, the loan will be forgiven.

Fagan noted that the people who will first live in the apartments are members of "the greatest generation," in Tom Brokaw's words. "This is one little way to thank them," she said.

Tom Dorsey of CL&P arrived on his motorcycle and later told the crowd that CL&P is the largest purchaser of housing tax credit contributions. Through this mechanism, CL&Phas contributed \$700,000 to the Cornwall project and will continue to work on energy matters with Bonney Brook administrators.

Rep. Roberta Willis, according to Cheryl

Evans, "did her best to ease the project along the way," making calls and urging matters along. Willis pointed out that this corner of the state has the greatest need for affordable housing which keeps elderly people in their own towns.

The crowd walked over to the site and cheered as the CEHC board of directors and the speakers dug their ceremonial shovels into a pile of dirt.

Eleven seniors attended a luncheon on October 2 at the Wandering Moose sponsored by the Cornwall Committee for Seniors. CEHC chairman Cheryl Evans talked to the group about eligibility requirements and showed off the new building's floor plan. Applications will be accepted in the late spring of 2013.

—Lisa L. Simont

Two-Wheeling to Cornwall

I've probably taken 1,000 trips between New York and Cornwall over the last 52 years. One of them was on a bicycle.

Sometime in the last few months, my wife, Bonnie, and I developed the notion that it might be a good idea to ride from our Upper West Side apartment to our house on Dibble Hill Road. Why? Who knows, but here are some pros and the cons. On the

(continued on page 2)

EMBER 2012 SUNDAY MONDAY FRIDAY <u>SATURDAY</u> 2 3 **Every Week This Month:** Mondays: Yoga, 5:45-7 pm CCS ◆ Scholastic Book Fair CCS Gathering Room ◆ Scholastic Book Fair CCS Gathering Room ◆ Family Contra Dance 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 7 pm Town Hall Thursdays: Toddler Play Group 10:30-11:30 am Library Sundays: Meditation, 1-2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229 7 9 4 5 8 10 ◆ Bend & Stretch Clinic 11 am–noon Parish House 4thO Ben Wolff: "Books, Baseball & Bach" **ELECTION DAY** Decide, Create, Share. Board of Selectmen ◆ Election Day Lunch 11 am–2 pm Parish House ◆ Inland Wetlands* *Board of Selecting 7:30 pm Town Hall ◆ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall 10–11:30 pm Library 4-6 pm Library 7:30 pm Town Hall 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 Cornwall Conservation ◆ Fair Trade Craft Sale 10 am–6 pm St. Bridget's Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ P & Z ◆ Talk & Tea With 7 pm Library ◆ Economic Development Republican Town ◆ Blood Pressure Clinic ◆ Energy Audit 1 pm UCC Parsonage Jeremy Brecher 2–3 pm Historical Society Church Hall noon–1 pm Parish House Board of Finance Cornwall 7:30 pm CCS Library • Deadline: December Chronicle Copy Committee 7 pm Library Conservation Trust 4 pm Town Hall 8 pm Town Hall <u>19</u> 20 18 21 22 23 24 \mathbb{C} ◆ Library Closed ◆ Library Art Reception 5–7 pm ◆ Joint Chiefs Concert Board of Education THANKSGIVING 3:30 pm CCS Library ◆ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall Library Reopens 10 am Library Closes 5 pm Library Closed 7:30 pm North Cornwall Meetinghouse 25 26 27 28 O 29 30 UCC Christmas Fair 9:30 am–2 pm Trillin Talk, 5 pm Village Meetinghouse "Honk" • "Honk" Committee for Seniors 7 pm CCS 7 pm Town Hall 7 pm CCS

(continued from page 1)

minus side: It's 100 miles; we don't have the right kind of bikes; you can't really stop for ribs at Big W's; saddle sores; it's uphill; we're 120 years old. The pluses: There's no better way to watch the sun rise over the Bronx and see New England fall foliage in the same day, from ground level, at 12 mph; bragging; you can really stop for ice cream; we're 120 years old. Anyway, you know how easy it is to leave what you need at the wrong place; when we'd returned to New York the previous week, we'd forgotten to bring the car.

So there we were on the damp Friday of October 5, heading north on Riverside Drive at 6 A.M. on our KHS mountain bikes, sturdy and stable and freshly tuned, but hardly sleek A deep through the

hardly sleek. A dash through the Cloisters (behold the Bronx sunrise!), a turn past Baker Field, a jog across the Broadway Bridge racing the No. 1 train (we lost) and a muddy slog down a bumpy track in Van Cortlandt Park brought us to the South County Trail, an abandoned rail bed turned recreational path.

From there it was four uneventful hours along reasonably smooth, almost flat, intermittently scenic, and perfectly safe bike routes through Westchester and into Putnam County. Then lightly trafficked back roads took us past horse farms, lakes, pumpkin fields, and the occasional pumpkin-hued maple tree to Pawling and lunch—peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and power bars fortified by ice cream.

The only decision of the trip loomed. The most direct and least strenuous fourth quarter of the ride would take us past Hunt's Country Furniture to Kent, and then 45 minutes on Route 7. Ugh! The lovelier, safer way would involve a serious climb over Clark Hill near Wassaic and a stretch of rough dirt road to Route

4 at Ellsworth Farm. After 75 miles of riding, scenery and safety didn't have quite enough appeal. We took Route 7.

It was a bad call but we survived to face one last test: the final five miles, from Cornwall Bridge, with its 800-foot climb. We survived that too and arrived a little after 4, tired, hungry, excessively pleased with ourselves and persuaded that there are many worse ways to spend a gorgeous Indian-summery day than outdoors, on bikes, eating power bars and ice cream.

Would we do it again? "Maybe when we turn 130," Bonnie said.

— Jonathan Landman

Little Schoolhouse

As I arrived at CCS on that brilliant fall afternoon, the last of the 102 Walkathon walkers and runners bounced up the steps, Phill West turned in his timing clipboard, and Skip Kosciusko refurled the banner for next year.

"The Walkathon is a perfect example of community support," Principal Michael Croft told me. "T-shirts happen, the banner gets put up, funds get raised. School and town are entwined." This year the event raised \$5,830 which includes \$1,200 from Myah Baird, once again the highest fundraiser.

Other town-school en-

twinings abound. "Exploration" projects for eighth-graders include each student's investigating a particular topic over the year (e.g., hairdressing), shadowing a mentor (e.g., a hairdresser), writing a grant (for a wig to practice on), and carrying out the project (cutting your little sister's hair in front of an audience). Fourth-graders study the town of Cornwall with trips to historic sites, town offices, and the vault. They particularly enjoy looking up their dogs in the dog registry—and are dismayed (as are their parents) when the dog's name is not there.

Outsiders are often invited in: Anne Day, a political photographer funded by the CCS Fund for Excellence, is working with the eighth grade. Their exhibit will be in the lobby soon.

Croft praised this "beautiful little school," whose size can be an asset: individual attention can be paid, and kids have more opportunities. "Of course this is a challenge too," he said. "Every program needs every kid. We have to schedule

who want to do soccer can also be in the play."
"HONK" is that play this year, a musical based on "The Ugly Duckling," and 35 or so students will perform, including some tough solos, on November 30 and December 1.

so that all the kids

The Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program (as described by Barbara Gold in the October *Chronicle*) continues to be popular, providing 200 to 400 positive behavior-related conversations a week between students and school staff, including custodians and bus drivers. "We try to pre-teach expectations," Croft told me. And although eyeball dissecting remains the top choice for those who have been randomly spotted being "safe, respectful and/or responsible," the most recent "acknowledgment" chosen by a student was to be "Principal for the Day."

Lexi Rougeot helped Croft (for 20 minutes, actually) look at the weather on the radar so that they could decide whether

or not to go ahead with the Walkathon. Together, they made the right choice.

—Ella Clark

The Secret Clubs of Cornwall

Not a member of the "Cornwall Running Club?" And you've never heard of it either, unless you know a member, that is. The idea started when I was out with a group of friends and foolishly announced that I was going to start running again and train for a 5K race. Darilyn Woods piped up with "I'll do it too!" The club was officially started on October 1 with the creation of the "Cornwall Running Club" Facebook page. Within a week we had seven members, including Donna "I'll Never Run" Larson, who is a real champ.

We post when scheduled runs will take place, where, and the difficulty of the run. We run in segments of ten minutes, adjusting faster or slower, based on how we are faring as a group. We laugh a lot, tell stories, bond as friends, and, most importantly, improve our health. The Facebook page is secret, but if you want to join, please drop me an email at cornwallsanders@gmail.com.

Barbara Gold and others participate in an over-20-year-old unnamed walking club. Members and one dog meet at 7 A.M. daily (but no weekends) noting the progress of the beavers and birds, rescuing efts (juvenile newts for those not in the know), getting their exercise and companionship in one

fell swoop. They discuss current issues, including politics and the upcoming election and, according to Barbara, "don't solve anything, but think we have the answers."

There are other groups, but for now, they will have to remain a secret, until the next article, anyway.

Janet Sanders

Goodbye to Friends

Halbert Cliff Wendy E. Weil Stephen S. Garmey

Marriages

Kristina Joan McGuire and Joshua Robert
Ackerman

Land Transfers

Citimortgage, Inc. to Donald S. Hedden and Helen S. Hedden, property at 100 Kent Road, for \$98,400.

Francis O'Brien to Todd R. Chandler and Kalyn Johnson Chandler, property at 146 Kent Road, for \$1,100,000.

Cornwall Housing Corp. to Cornwall Elderly Housing Corp., property at 33 Kent Road, for \$250,000.

Leaky Homes and an Oil Co-Op

Katie Freygang, who organized the Cornwall Energy Task Force(CETF), says a town fuel oil co-op is off the ground, but, she adds, getting cheaper oil should be combined with an effort to tighten up homes with leaky windows and doors.

"The two programs go hand-in-hand," she said. "It doesn't make much sense doing one without the other." With that in mind, the CETF has scheduled dates in which two buildings in town will go through winter prep audits to show people how to maintain warmth and keep their energy bills down by tightening up. The dates are:

- Friday, November 16, 1 P.M. at the UCC parsonage at 25 Jewell St. in Cornwall Village.
- Saturday, December 8, 10:30 A.M. at the town office building located behind town hall.

The public is encouraged to attend one of those demonstrations. Check the CETF website: www.cornwallctenergy.org.

As for the heating oil co-op, the organizer is Rick Wolkowitz (672-6366). The last figures we got from him indicated sign-ups by 17 households using an estimated 22,000 gallons during a typical heating season. Wolkowitz was planning on putting those numbers out to bid with half a dozen local companies hoping that some arrangement is still possible for this winter.

— John Miller

Scam Alert!

Several businesses in town have suffered from fraudulent marijuana deliveries. In mid-October the unsuspecting FedEx driver in West Cornwall brought seven pounds of weed to an equally unsuspecting business owner, who—like many of us—had waived the need for a signature to receive packages.

If the business owner hadn't actually been there to open the door, FedEx would have left the package on the doorstep. The perpetrator, lurking and watching for the FedEx truck, would have been able to swoop in to take possession. FedEx and law enforcement officials have been notified.

Scam deliveries can happen to individuals too, particularly those who live in houses readily seen from the road. One safety measure might be to contact FedEx and UPS to request that deliveries be made only if the homeowner has signed for the package.

—Ella Clark

Stellar Student

Rebecca Ridgway has been awarded the 2012 Litchfield County Superintendents' Association Student Recognition Award for Cornwall Consolidated School. She is a high honors student as well as a member of the CCS basketball and softball teams,

Letters to the Chronicle

GOOD-BYE GIRLS

After 21 years of selling raw milk, Local Farm is going out of the milk business in order to focus on expanding Motherhouse programs to help families, neighborhoods, and communities create small, sustainable farmsteads.

So far, Thelma has gone to Episcopal nuns in Brewster to further development of their Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center. Dwarrowdelf has joined a young couple starting a ČSA venture near Čhatham, N.Y. Sylvia moved to a backyard in Canaan, Conn. where she'll be milked by a few families dedicated to feeding themselves the best of organic raw milk. Phoebe has a sponsor from Hartford who pays for her feed while apprenticing at Local Farm on weekends. We are looking for sponsors and working out details so that teaching cows Betsy, Sunshine, and Pumpkin can stay on the farm. SweetCream, who was purchased and supported by the late Loraine Kaman, will stay on in Loraine's memory as long as I can afford it.

—Debra Tyler

BEER, BRATS, AND GOOD VIBES

The Cornwall Child Center is delighted to announce that over \$7,000 was raised at our Beer, Brats and Bluegrass event, held in the Olds' barn, which made for the perfect location to accommodate all in attendance.

Our center continues to provide a safe, loving environment for the area's y because of the support that

ronment for the area's youngest population because of the support that continues to pour in from the community. The success of this year's event allows us to upgrade the outdoor spaces and purchase new air conditioners. As the director for less than a year, and a professional in the early childhood field for 20 years, it warms my heart to see the type of commitment to this program that I have seen here in Cornwall. It is a true honor to be a part of it.

—Amy Bresson Director, Cornwall Child Center

the Laser swim team, and a junior firefighter with the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. Outside of school Rebecca enjoys riding horses. In fact, she would like to become a veterinarian. — The Editors

Cornwall Briefs

• Great New Road: People of a certain age may remember the song "Get Your Kicks on Route 66." Well, I just got my kicks on brand new Great Hill Road. Dare I call it a gem? Do yourself a favor and take a run up Great Hill. So smooth. So clean. No more cracks or ruts.

Cornwall's own Roger Kane, who came out of retirement to manage the project, gave me a work-in-progress tour in mid-October. I watched as a giant machine slowly broke up the existing roadway, grinding it into a sandy asphalt base. A spreader followed, a heavy roller, and the final touch: a fresh three inches of asphalt atop the surface. Another Cornwall stalwart, Josh Tyson, did the drainage work.

Perhaps the best thing about the new Great Hill Road is that it was truly a reclamation project. We recycled the old road to make the new road, which is important for a community that calls itself the greenest town in Connecticut. And it was paid for mostly with state and federal dollars. Go see! Walk it, bike it, drive it!

• Housing on the Ups: It turns out that, like much of the country, home-building projects have begun to pick up in Cornwall. We checked with both Karen Nelson of zoning enforcement and Building Inspector Paul Prindle and they confirmed that

permits for housing starts, small and large remodeling jobs, and accessory apartments are up.

Work has either started or will soon begin on four new houses. Several apartments have been approved and more may be in the works since requirements were eased so that now up to 50 percent of the existing home's footprint may be used.

We also got some insight from a longtime broker who said housing sales had picked up, bringing into the market both investors and first-time buyers looking for special deals. The broker also said that several recent sales involved cash as a result of the difficulty getting mortgages from banks. Prindle anticipated further increases in activity in the coming months.

— John Miller

Events & Announcements

Fall Into Each Others' Arms at the Cornwall Community Dance on Saturday, November 3, at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Town Hall. Contras, circles, squares, and waltzes will be called by New Hampshire's own National Heritage Fellow Dudley Laufman with old-time music by Still, the Homegrown Band. All dances taught; all ages, single dancers, and left feet welcome. Suggested donation, \$5 to \$10 adults, \$3 to \$5 children, to pay the caller. For more information call Jane, 672-6101.

Election Day Lunch, sponsored by UCC, will be served from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. on Tuesday, November 6, at the UCC Parish House. Cornwall voters are invited to enjoy homemade soups, bread, and desserts. Donations will benefit the Cornwall Food and Fuel Bank.

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Election Day Rides: The Committee for Seniors has volunteers willing to drive people who would otherwise be unable to vote. Call 672-6191 before Tuesday, Nov. 6.

"Decide. Create. Share.," an AARP-sponsored program, will be presented by the Cornwall Woman's Society at the Cornwall Library on Thursday, November 8, from 10 to 11:30 A.M. Sarah Zarbock of Lakeville will guide women as they help each other plan for the future. This first session of four will discuss how to reduce health risks, pay for long-term care, decide if your home will meet your needs in the future, and ensure your health care wishes are followed in an emergency. RSVP to Brenda Underwood at 248-3089. Refreshments served

At the Library

Betty Krasne's show of pastels will continue through November 10.

"Books, Baseball, and Bach": Benjamin Wolff presents a talk (with music!) November 10 at 4 P.M. that celebrates the inventive power of constraints. Turning the common exhortation to "think outside the box" on its head, he explains why the box is a creative gift and demonstrates how restrictions should be seen as hidden opportunities. Wolff is a classical cellist and professor of music at Hofstra University. In addition to his performing career, he also delights audiences with elegant and rare insights into the way creativity works, presenting interdisciplinary programs at institutions such as NAŠA, the City University of New York, Rice University, Salisbury University, Yale University, Wellesley College, and Williams College.

Beginning November 13, Ellen Moon will finish her stint as library art curator with a show of the work of ten excellent artists who think "About the Sky." There will be an artists' reception on Friday, November 23, from 5 to 7 P.M.

Librarian Amy Cady says that as of

The Waiting

November is a time of enveloping darkness, short days, and deep nights. The old people thought it was a time of penance so bearing that model in mind, consider making an extra effort to contribute to the Chronicle this month. Spring is coming; it always is! Thank you!.

November 5 the library will be open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. New hours for Wednesday are 2 to 7 P.M.; Saturday, the library will be open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. These hours will be in effect through Memorial Day week-

Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) Annual Meeting will be held Saturday November 17, at 4 р.м. at the town hall. Harry White, new joint conservation director of CCT, the Sharon Land Trust, and the Salisbury Land Trust, will talk about protection of bird and wildlife conservation versus ĥabitat. preservation, and the "third wave" of science ecology that favors natural processes over human intervention. A degreed ecologist with over 20 Yale-

years of experience in all aspects of land trust operations, White has been involved with over 8,000 acres of land acquisitions and over 12,000 acres of stewardship in Litchfield County.

Fair Trade Crafts Sale at St. Bridget's Church Hall in Cornwall Bridge, Saturday, November 17, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On offer will be handmade crafts, jewelry, textiles, holiday items made by artisans in third world countries who benefit from proceeds.

The Joint Chiefs will play

Friday, November 23, at 7:30 P.M. at the Meeting House in North Cornwall. Sponsored by the Friends of the North Cornwall Meeting House, the event will benefit the upkeep of the 1826 building. Donations will be welcome. Call Jim Longwell at 672-6175 for details.

Cornwall Tai Chi, sponsored by Park and Rec, will be starting a new beginners' class Wednesday, November 28, between 6 and 6:55 p.m. in the CCS Gathering Room. Please contact David Colbert at 672-0064 or ourmaridog@yahoo.com for more information.

The UCC Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, December 1, 9:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. in the Parish House in Cornwall Village. Featured will be local vendors, a bake sale, an apple pie contest, a children's shopping room, wreaths, a basket raffle, and luncheon. For information see insert, call

672-6840, or see cornwallucc@aol.com.

Calvin Trillin, deadline poet for *The Nation*, will speak on Saturday, December 1, 5 P.M. at the Village Meeting House.
See insert for ticket information and more.

Monday Night Yoga, sponsored by Park and Rec, will be held from 5:45 to 7 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS. Beginners and advanced yogis are welcome. Cost is \$12 for dropins. For more information contact Rebecca Conn, who will instruct the class, at 860 818-6855.

A New Website for the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) features Dave Cadwell narrating videos and Phil Hart as the "star." Go to conservationtrust. org and click on the video button on lower right of the homepage to take a walk in a CCT preserve. The site makes it easy to find and follow five of the trails with maps, descriptions, and links. If you use Facebook, give the CCT a "like," and then share your own trail, wildlife, and foliage photography.

2013 Calendars, created by the Cornwall Historical Society, feature Cornwall houses and may be purchased for \$15 at the Cornwall Package Store, the Cornwall General Store, the library, the Wandering Moose, the Wish House, and the UCC Christmas Fair.

Volunteers Needed for the FISH (Friends in Service Here) program to drive Cornwall residents to medical appointments. Call Ella Clark, 672-4817 or 364-1003.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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