



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 25 : NUMBER 10 NOVEMBER 2015



## Berkshire Country Store— Another Goodbye

Running a business is not for cowards, and Ryan Craig knew that going in.

"We haven't lost money. I can pay the bills every month and pay my staff. I just find it hard to pay myself."

The Berkshire Country Store has a long history of not making it. Our long winters, and just the cost of doing business in Connecticut, contribute to making a go of it difficult, if not impossible.

"I signed a lease for two years and it just hasn't worked. I love this place, this community, and there's nothing I would like more than to stay here. But, I have to make a living and feed my family."

Craig concedes that owner Walter Dethier has tried to make some concessions in his negotiations with him. "Walter didn't raise the rent, as some people think. He's not pushing me out. I was supposed to pay more and Walter did not ask me to, and he actually lowered the rent a little."

As the renter, Craig has the responsibility of paying all the bills himself, plus the taxes that add up to about \$6,000 a year. Salary costs will be going up after the first of the year, electric rates are awful, especially in the winter, and as we all know, the cost of food has steadily risen over the past months.

Add to that insurance, upkeep, and general maintenance. Even though business is good right now, Craig just cannot live on what he can afford to pay himself after all other costs are met.

"We are actively looking in the Northwest Corner for a similar business opportunity. Right now we have no firm plans. The store will be closing on December 15, which will give us 15 days to move out of the premises."

When asked what kind of legacy he'd like to leave us, Craig said, "We want people to know that we have thoroughly enjoyed our time here and wish it could have lasted longer. I feel like this is my home in many ways, and I want to thank everyone for welcoming us, supporting us, and believing in us. We have delayed our wedding plans because we just can't afford the wedding we want right now, and the reality is we just can't live the life we want if we stay here. We know how important the business is to Cornwall and to us, and we're so sorry we couldn't make it work."

So, soon the sprawling white building will sit empty again, looking forlorn, until a new renter/owner tries his hand at running a business at the four corners. All of us wish Craig the best; his friendly presence in our town has been a delight and we will miss him.

—Jane Bean

## Explore Cornwall Event Mapped Possibilities

The brilliant blue sky offset the fall colors of Cornwall and made the town that much more attractive to visitors for the inaugural Explore Cornwall event on Columbus Day weekend.

The two-day event sponsored by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) consisted of a nuts-and-bolts day on Saturday, with an exposition that highlighted Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS), affordable housing, and job opportunities. This was followed by a Sunday peppered with leisure activities like shopping for local produce or taking a gamble on a turtle at the Little Guild fundraiser in Cornwall Bridge. A determined person might line up a job interview, put an offer on a house, and adopt a pet!

The EDC worked with local Realtors and the Cornwall Housing Corporation, who in sum offered two building lots (available via the parcel program) and at least 14 open houses. Employers like Geer Village, Mohawk, Anthem, and Health Educated, Inc. all boasted job opportunities. CCS students offered tours and played relaxing jazz music in the background.

Janet Sanders, chair of the EDC, ob-

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# NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ♦ Art Garage Open House 2-4 pm HVRHS ♦ John Perry Opening Reception 2:30 pm Library ♦ Democrats Meet and Greet 3 pm West Cornwall Firehouse	2 ♦ Region 1 BOE 6 pm HVHRS Room 133	3 ♦ Election Day Voting Town Hall ♦ Lunch 11 am-2 pm UCC ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Library	4 ♦ Writer's Workshop begins 6:30-8:30 pm Library	5 ♦ Woman's Society Meeting 10 am-Noon Library ♦ ZBA Special Meeting 7:30 pm Library	6	7 ♦ "Doing Good & Doing Well" 5 pm Library ♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
8 ♦ Addiction Series 11:45 am UCC Parish House	9 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC ♦ Flu Vaccines Noon-1 pm UCC ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	10 ♦ Economic Dev. Comm. 9 am Town Hall ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am-1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Comm. 7 pm CCS	11 VETERANS DAY ♦ New Moon Gathering Motherhouse	12	13	14 ♦ Sew Crafty 10:30 am-1:30 pm Motherhouse ♦ Withering Weather 4 pm Town Hall
15 ♦ Deadline: December Chronicle ♦ Addiction Series 11:45 am UCC Parish House	16	17 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	18 ♦ Board of Ed 4 pm CCS Library ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	19 ♦ CCC 6:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Scholastic Book Fair School Hours through Nov. 25 CCS	20	21
22 ♦ Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 4 pm North Cornwall Meeting House	23 ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	24 ♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27 ♦ Tree Lighting 5 pm Cornwall Bridge ♦ Reading & Talk by Lena Dunham 5 pm UCC	28 ♦ Artist's Reception 3-6 pm Magaly Ohika Souterrain Gallery
29	30	<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Mondays:</b> Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library; Karate, 6:30-7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ <b>Tuesdays:</b> Free Diabetes Class, 10 am Library ♦ <b>Wednesdays:</b> Tai Chi, 5-7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064 ♦ <b>Thursdays:</b> Pilates, 8:30-9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30-11:30 am Library; Meditation, 4-5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg, 7-9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ <b>Fridays:</b> Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library ♦ <b>Sundays:</b> Yoga 9-10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229				

\*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

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served, "What we found really amazing was the conversations that happened between the employers, the Realtors, the lenders and the school staff—the exchange of information and collaboration could never have happened without putting those folks in the same room!"

Sanders said she was pleased with the turnout and says the organizers will make some tweaks and "will absolutely be doing Explore Cornwall again. It will be an ongoing effort, actually, with social media. We will likely look at a spring event and possibly some events in areas from which we want to attract families."

—Pam Longwell

## Editing Cornwall

I'm trying out an updated Google app on my iPad—you can talk to it—and so I say, "Cornwall, Connecticut." The town's excellent website comes up, but in second place. The main listing takes you to Wikipedia's article on Cornwall. I tap on it, and what I see is disappointing; a jumble of dated, incomplete, and just plain loony material.

Although I've never tried it, I know that anyone can edit the Internet encyclopedia, and this article needs attention. I go to the "Contributing to Wikipedia" page. Lots of dense instructions and tutorials here, but contributors are encouraged to jump in using common sense.

I create an account (not required but simple and quick) and return to the Cornwall page. The opening is fine: two lines from Mark Van Doren's poem, "The Hills of Little Cornwall". "The mind, eager for caresses, / Lies down at its own risk in Cornwall." Much of what follows is a mess, but I'll start with something simple.

I go to the "Notable People" heading. Gen. John Sedgwick, check. Mark Van Doren, check. Sam Waterston, check. James Thurber, check. Marc Simont, check. Buddy Fletcher, ch...Buddy Fletcher? Really? The hedge fund guy who's accused of civil fraud and is known for filing lawsuits against anyone who makes eye contact? I don't think so, even though he did briefly reside in Cornwall's famous castle. I click on "edit" and put Buddy in the trash. (Note to editor: better run this by legal, just in case.)

I return to the instructions page. Contributors are encouraged to "be bold" but also to prepare to be "reverted." "Edit warring" is highly discouraged. OK, but I'm ready for combat if anyone tries putting Buddy back.

Back to the Cornwall page. Under the heading "Arts and Culture" there is—nothing. Not one item for a town with a long literary and artistic tradition. I write up a brief description of the Cornwall

Library and *Cornwall Chronicle* and insert both with links to their excellent websites.

It's just a start, I know, but my eye has been drawn to a heading called "Popular Culture." Here we learn: "In the teen drama *Gossip Girl*, Serena van der Woodsen attended a fictional boarding school located in Cornwall." Even if true, can anything be less illuminating? I click on "edit" and delete this. (Wikipedia asks you to explain editing changes. "It's stupid," lacks gravitas, and so I say "unrelated and insignificant.")

I've just cleaned up around the edges. There's a lot more to be done and I need help. Under "History" it says only: "Incorporated in 1740, named after Cornwall, England." Could someone put some flesh on that bone? The information under "Demographics" is based on the census of 2000! David Grossman, are you out there? Photos or drawings can be added. This requires digging deeper into instructions but would be a welcome addition. The two images that are included are weak.

Although Wikipedia is the world's fifth largest website with 35 million articles and 500 million unique monthly visitors, it's a nonprofit with a small staff and budget. It's up to us to get our town's article right. So take a look, click on the edit tab, and be bold. I'll be watching the page.

—Ed Ferman

## Tooth and Claw

Jean Bouteiller does not just collect taxes. She has ranged forests in Vermont, mushed in Alaska, and canoed 158 miles of the Yukon River from Eagle to Circle. She is a master wildlife conservationist, after taking a program offered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and putting in 40 hours of classes at Sessions Woods and in the field. Now, in the wilds of Connecticut, she finds birds' nests, bands geese, and tracks deer. She'll spend 40 further volunteer hours outdoors and in, giving presentations to school groups and civic organizations. "It's a free program," she told me. "We give back."

As a deer hunter, she is particularly interested in following this population. "Deer like edge and early successional habitat. While fragmentation of land into home sites and roads can create more edge, there are more fields growing up into mature forest, right past the early successional stage, which predators like."

Given all of this, it should come as no surprise that deer are diminishing around here. "I am not seeing the number of deer that I did 20 years ago, nor are many other hunters I have spoken with," said Jean. "Due to the drop in population, I will not shoot a doe, as that potentially removes three deer, if a doe averages two fawns per year. I also do not want to shoot a doe that

might have a fawn with her or nearby."

I asked Andrew LaBonte, deer program biologist at DEEP, how investigators could figure out which predator was in at the kill. They look at trails and prints and scat, he told me, as well as how the animal was killed and what the varmint did with the leftovers. Coyotes, for example, usually rip deer apart and drag the pieces around. Bears will often eat a fawn at a sitting; if they can't finish a whole deer that they've torn and mauled, they might bury the remains. Bobcats more frequently cover the uneaten parts of their bigger kill. And before they go after a fawn, they like to wait until it is old enough to be fun to chase, running on its spindly legs.

When I told Jean that a Lake Road resident had just seen seven collared does and three young outside her window, she immediately replied, "I believe that all those collared does that were part of this year's study lost their fawns. Latest DEEP statistics show that the 2012–2014 harvest went down 9.2 percent. Fawns in the 2015 study suffered an 83 percent mortality rate, with the vast majority being killed by bear and bobcat."

It's a tough life out there. —Ella Clark

## Goodbye to friends

Marie A. Kearns  
Victoria Stevens

## Congratulations

Nicole Bloomfield and Utah Ingersoll  
Courtney Gold and Matthew Eacott  
Radha N. Patel and Raj Gala

## Land Transfers

Elizabeth A. Osha to Susan L. Hellmann,  
land with all improvements thereon at  
8 Smith Place, for \$130,000.

Susan L. Thistle, Trustee of the Mary B.  
MacCracken Trust, to Yelping Hill Association,  
Inc., 19.69 acres on Town Street, for \$73,500.

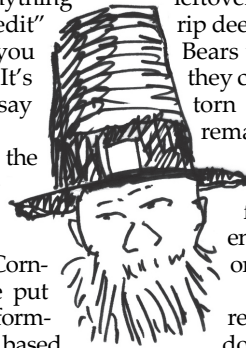
Andrew Cooks and Julia Randall to Alexander  
Wild and Tao Okamoto, land with  
improvements thereon at 78 Whitcomb  
Hill Road, for \$600,000.

Gretchen A. Brown and Patricia A. Brown,  
Trustees of the Brown Family Trust to  
Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a  
Eversource Energy, 4.71 acres on Cemetery Hill  
Road, for \$185,000.

Susan L. Thistle, Trustee of the Mary B.  
MacCracken Trust to Yelping Hill Association,  
Inc., 2.9 acres on MacCracken Road, for \$1.

Hugo V. and Meta C. Wyss to Gina Maolucci  
and Gregory Karl Galloway, property with all  
improvements thereon, at 58 Dibble Hill Road,  
for \$900,000.

John A. and Maria Checca to Gonzalez  
Landscaping, Inc., property at 18 Frederick  
Drive, for \$150,000.



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Though it is the season of harvest in our lovely town, some folks find that the cupboard is bare. It is good to know that the Cornwall Food Pantry continues to be available for those who need it. It is located in the lower level of the United Church of Christ at 8 Bolton Hill Road in the Village. Hours are Monday, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M., and Tuesday, 9 to 10 A.M., and additional times by appointment (cornwallfoodpantry@gmail.com), or call Jill Gibbons at town hall (672-2603).

For those who wish to donate, non-food items are also especially needed, such as toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, hygiene products, first aid items, diapers, baby food, baby soap, and shampoo. Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. downstairs by the pantry door. Neighbors helping neighbors is always a good thing.

—Micki Nunn-Miller

## Essentials for a New Ambulance

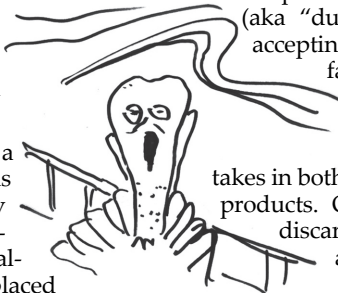
The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's EMS squad nears its goal of purchasing an up-to-date ambulance. With approximately 300 medical calls last year and 215 already this year, efforts continue to acquire a new vehicle.

Zach Sawicki, rescue captain, notes that the ability to have rides that are safer and smoother for patients and crew is an important consideration.

Getting an ambulance to a scene as quickly and safely as possible is critical to timely care. Many driveways are narrow, long, and, in a word, challenging. The department has placed backup and side cameras on the list as essential features to assist the driver. 4x4 capabilities are also a must for the winter drives and dirt roads. Other features not present in the current ambulance are enhanced lighting, as well as an improved cabinet design, allowing for convenient access to medical equipment while attending to the patient.

The department has looked at five dealers to evaluate the different options. On average, the cost of a new vehicle is approximately \$225,000 to \$250,000. Money raised to date, reported by the treasurer Tom Barrett, is "\$214,854 to be exact." This has brought the department close enough to its financial goal to proceed with the development of a bid spec document. This document is extensive and will provide all the details necessary for dealers to quote on the essentials. While we all hope to avoid a ride in an ambulance, should that day come, it is comforting to know the time our volunteers have spent on providing the safest and most professional care possible.

—Diane Beebe



## Letters to the Chronicle

### A LITTLE JAM GOES A LONG WAY

The Chapel of All Saints wanted to share the good news that our jams have raised more than \$5,200, which will go to charities including the Cornwall Food & Fuel Bank to help feed people in need. This is a result of the work and support of so many in the community: offering fruit and vegetables; picking them; preparing and making the jams; providing the places to sell them to the public; and purchasing the chutneys, jams, pickles, salsa, and ketchup. We hope you will all remember us next year too as generously as you have in the past, and let us know if you have produce to offer or want to help pick, cut, or learn by doing to make these products. It really does take a village and we are fortunate that Cornwall is such a helpful one.

—Ann Gold

### BONNEY BROOK BASH

What takes a piece of land, one grant, two committees, two federal departments, one utility company, private donations, reams of paperwork, a whole lot of volunteer time, and 13 years? Give up? Bonney Brook Affordable Housing for seniors. What started out as an idea by the Affordable Housing Committee was finally celebrated with

an open house 14 years later on September 18, which I had the privilege to crash.

A welcoming crowd enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, coordinated by Marie Prentice, and fine speeches by First Selectman Gordon Ridgeway, Cornwall Elderly Housing's V.P. Will Calhoun and Housing Enterprises' David Berto. Berto, who wrote the grant and helped guide the committee, was visibly moved by the occasion of delivering one of his "babies."

After the ceremony we were able to tour the premises; a fabulous back patio surrounded by lush plantings by the residents, media room, mailroom, laundry facilities, and as chance would have it, an unoccupied apartment. I was especially impressed with the wheelchair accommodations in the kitchen and bath. For a region woefully deficient in affordable housing, especially for seniors, the commitment and perseverance of the Cornwall Housing Corporation and all of the other people involved in Bonney Brook's creation should be applauded. I eavesdropped on a conversation about the abysmal senior affordable housing situation in a neighboring town and I was truly thankful for the community that I live in.

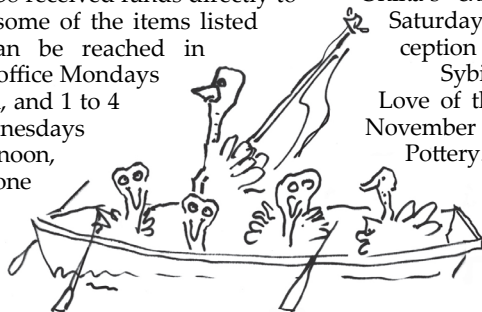
—Jane Prentice

## Cornwall Briefs

•**Of Mattresses and Paint:** Steve O'Neil, the squire of the town's transfer station (aka "dump"), says they are now accepting old mattresses at the facility in addition to their participation in the state program called "Recycle with PaintCare," which takes in both water-based and oil-based products. Only mattresses used and discarded in Connecticut can be accepted and there are some categories that are listed as unacceptable: severely damaged, twisted, wet, frozen, or soiled; infested with bedbugs or "other living organisms," water beds, air mattresses, and car beds. There is no charge for dropping off paint or mattresses. Charges, however, do remain for bulky waste, tires, and batteries.

•**Please Replenish** Cornwall's Food & Fuel Bank, which is running low in funds as winter and the holiday season approach. Expenses came to more than \$45,000 in the fiscal year ending in June for such categories as fuel, food, rent, and medical and electric bills. Jill Gibbons, director of social services, said her office worked with 131 households and, of them, 38 received funds directly to help pay for some of the items listed above. Jill can be reached in person at her office Mondays 9 A.M. to noon, and 1 to 4 P.M. and Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to noon, or by telephone at 672-2603.

•**Cast a Vote:** Election Day



is Tuesday, November 3, and the polls at town hall will be open from 6 A.M. until 8 P.M. Voters can pick up absentee ballot applications through Monday, November 2.

•**Election Day Lunch:** One of our favorite events. It's from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the UCC Parish House with all those yummy soups and cookies. I'd mention this column's favorite soup but I can't spell it! The chef is Jill Bryant and it begins with an "M." Donations this year go to Cornwall's Food & Fuel Bank.

•**Generator:** It's pretty big and powerful and is now in place at the West Cornwall Firehouse for any of those community winter power outages. A state grant paid for three quarters of the \$40,000 cost.

—John Miller

## Events & Announcements

### Art in Cornwall

At the Cornwall Library: "Sightings," an exhibition of collages by John Perry continues through December with a reception and discussion, "Is this Art or Craft?" on Sunday, November 1, at 2:30 P.M.

At the Souterrain Gallery: Magaly Ohika's exhibit, "Art Evolves," opens Saturday, November 28, with a reception from 3 to 6 P.M.

Sybil Perry's exhibit, "For the Love of the Land," continues through November 29 at the Cornwall Bridge Pottery.

At the United Church of Christ Parish House, Lori

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Welles's photography exhibit, "The Intrinsic Beauty of Nature," continues through November 27.

Lauren Kendrick's artwork will be exhibited through the end of the year at the National Iron Bank.

The works of Curtis Hanson, Daniel Murray, and Peter Kirkiles are on display at the Toll House.

**Democrats Host Meet and Greet:** The Democratic Town Committee is hosting a "Meet the Candidates" event on Sunday, November 1, at 3 P.M. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. This is an opportunity for voters to meet candidates and chat about their concerns.

**Get out and vote!** Tuesday, November 3, 6 A.M. to 8 P.M., town hall.

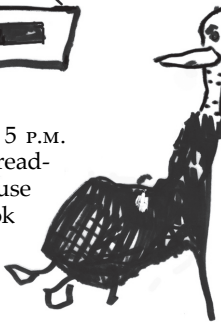
**Election Day Lunch:** Tuesday, November 3, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M., the United Church of Christ Parish House. Homemade soups, bread, and desserts available. Donations benefit the Cornwall Food & Fuel Bank.

#### At the Cornwall Library

A writer's workshop with Deb Devins will run for six weeks beginning November 4, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Maximum class size is eight, cost is \$50. Preregistration required.

Doing Good and Doing Well, a Cornwall conversation between Joe Ellis and Liz Lockett, will take place Saturday, November 7, at 5 P.M.

Lena Dunham, creator of HBO series *Girls*, will read from her book *Not That Kind of Girl*, Friday, November 27, at 5 P.M. The cost of \$30/person includes reading at the Cornwall Meeting House on Bolton Hill Road, and a book signing and reception at the library. Tickets can be purchased at the library or online at [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org).



## Coming Soon in the Chronicle!

Eye-opening stories on Cornwall's oldest dog, its Sticky Finger Gang, its greatest athletes and much more! Don't miss an issue! And why would you; we send it to you free. But we wouldn't turn down a small donation to help pay postage.

**Woman's Society:** Stephanie Mauri, a graduate of the University of Bridgeport's Acupuncture Institute, speaks on Holistic Health and Beauty with Acupuncture and Massage, Thursday, November 5, at 10 A.M. at the Cornwall Library. Refreshments and the Cornwall Woman's Society monthly meeting follow at 11 A.M.

#### Motherhouse Events

Sashay to the callers of Pourparlez! Saturday, November 7, 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Town Hall, featuring music by Still the Homegrown Band. Donations requested to pay the caller. For information, call Jane at 672-6101 or go to [Motherhouse.us](http://Motherhouse.us).

Old-Style Life Skills series workshop, Sew Crafty. Learn to use a sewing machine to create an apron or a covered-dish carrier. Saturday, November 14, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. \$35/family. Contact Debra@motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

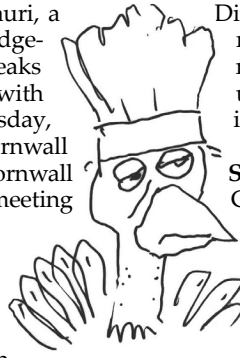
**Addiction Series:** Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Families: Conversations with Bruce Dechert continue Sundays November 8 and 15 at 11:45 A.M. at the United Church of Christ. The November 8 session is "Recovery: Individuals and Families," and on November 15 the topic is "Painkillers and Heroin: A Growing Epidemic." Call 672-6840 for additional information.

**Free Blood Pressure Clinic:** Monday, November 9, noon to 1 P.M. at the United Church of Christ Day Room. Questions? VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or [vnanw.org](http://vnanw.org).

**Flu Shots:** November 9, noon to 1 P.M. at the United Church of Christ Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road.

**Senior Luncheon** Tuesday, November 10, 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose. The food is a bargain, the fellowship free. No reservations necessary.

**Our Withering Weather:** Living with its changes can be difficult, but forecasting them is even tougher. Mark Dixon, WFSB Channel 3's meteorologist, will explain exactly how tough a task this is on Saturday, November 14, at 4 P.M. at town hall. Hosted by the Cornwall Association, Emmy Award-nominated Dixon brings his 12 years of experience to our village. He'll also describe what makes Connecticut's weather unique.



Dixon hopes to bring the Channel 3 mobile Weather Tracker, a technology-packed SUV the station uses to cover weather. He'll bring it...weather permitting.

**Scholastic Book Sale** at Cornwall Consolidated School from November 19 to 25.

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service:** Sunday, November 22, 4 P.M. at the North Cornwall Meeting House on corner of Town Street and Cogswell Road.

**Tree Lighting:** Friday, November 27, 5 P.M., at the Cornwall Bridge green (intersection of routes 4 and 7). Make sure to arrive early! Lights go on promptly at 5 P.M.

**United Church of Christ Christmas Fair:** Spaces available Saturday, December 5, 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M., for local craft and artisanal food vendors. Contact Marianne at [mariannechills@gmail.com](mailto:mariannechills@gmail.com)

**Child Center Auction:** Donations for goods or services valued at \$50 or more sought for a fundraising auction benefiting the Cornwall Child Center to be held in the spring. To donate, contact [briana@cornwallchildcenter.org](mailto:briana@cornwallchildcenter.org).



## CORNWALL CHRONICLE [cornwallchronicle.org](http://cornwallchronicle.org)

#### THIS MONTH

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#### NEXT MONTH

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