CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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A Good Kick in the Pants

The Town Plan of Conser-

vation and Development that residents have been debating for two years moves closer to resolution this month. The official public hearing on November 12 at 7 p.m. at town hall will give residents a final chance to comment on the proposals for Cornwall's future, including big-picture items such as installing a septic system in West Cornwall, the future of enrollment at Cornwall Consolidated School, and, perhaps most urgently, proposals to attract more people to live in Cornwall.

Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) Chairman David Colbert said the statemandated town plan has provided "a good kick in the pants to involve the whole town and think about our future and our present."

There is a lot of leeway in how towns meet the state requirement of determining a town plan every ten years. While some towns go with a minimalist approach, simply approving their previous plan, Cornwall's style is to involve the town "as much as possible" so the final choices "go beyond the people who are elected to planning and zoning." Colbert called it "characteristic of Cornwall that the town has taken it very seriously."

P&Z plus four subcommittees dug into key issues, specifically economic development, housing, natural resources, and community, cultural and youth resources. In addition to P&Z's monthly meetings, these subcommittees met five to ten times over the last year and a half. "It wasn't like pulling teeth to get people to serve," Colbert noted. All meetings have been open to the public.

As the town plan heads into this next phase, Colbert wants everyone to know the plan is advisory, not mandatory. P&Z will call for a vote to close the public hearing when it has received enough comments from the public. After P&Z votes on the plan, provided it's adopted, the process of drafting regulations that try to address the recommendations will begin.

"The drafting of regulations is a whole other beast," Colbert said, one that the P&Z also handles. For Colbert, after 19 years on the commission, it has been a long road,

and the process has been a positive one. "It's very democratic and indicative of how things are supposed to work on a larger scale, but it's so hard to scale up the type of democracy you can have in a small town. This is a time for

have in a small town. This is a time for everyone to say what they feel and be heard and a wonderful aspect of living in a small town."

The draft plan, with changes and edits incorporated following the October 8 meeting, is available for review at cornwallct.org.

—Meg Tansey

A Monumental Achievement

As we approach Veterans Day on November 11, Cornwall is dedicating a new and rather special monument to the town's Civil War veterans.

Spencer Markow, a Cornwall resident and freshman at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, developed the idea for a monument last year as part of his eighthgrade "Explorations" project at Cornwall Consolidated School. Over the last year, Markow worked diligently to research and finalize a list of 179 names. Those names will be engraved in brass and set in stone next to an existing monument in Cornwall

(continued on page 2)

seriously.		_ NOV	EMBER	2019 —		(continued on page 2)
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: • Mondays: Mat Squad, 6:30 pm UCC • Tuesdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library • Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Tai-Chi, 5–5:30 pm and Qui-Gong, 6–6:30 pm UCC; Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15–8:30 pm UCC • Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874 • Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library • Sundays: Yoga, 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229; ASW Method Mat Class, 1–3 pm Library					1	Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
3 ◆ CCS Civic Life Project Screening 3-4 pm Library ◆ Democrats Meet the Candidates Party 4:15 pm Library	4 • Voter Registration 9 am–5 pm Town Hall • Keats Series 10:30 lstQ am–12:30 pm Library • What's the Word?! Group 11 am Library • Region One BoE 6:30 pm HVRHS Library • Cornwall Ag. Advisory Comm. 7:30 pm Town Offfice	5 • Election Day 6 am-8 pm • Election Day Lunch 11 am-2 pm UCC Parish House • Inlands Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Office Bldg. • Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Library	◆ Anne Hummel Diabetes Class 10 am-Noon Library ◆ Deb Devins Writer's Workshop 6:30 pm Library	7	8	9 CCT Annual Meeting 4-5:30 pm CCT Office Peace Notes: In Word and Music 4 pm NC Meeting House Farm to Table Dinner 5-7:30 pm UCC Parish House
↑ Veterans' Day Celebration 2 pm Sedgewick Monument	↑ Series on Keats 10:30 am-12:30 pm Library Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC Day Room	12	Anne Hummel Diabetes Class 10 am-Noon Library Deb Devins Writer's Workshop 6:30 pm Library	14	December Chronicle Copy	◆ Liturgy for Creation 7 pm Trinity Retreat Center
17	↑ Peter Vermilyea The Vote Presentation 5:30 pm Library	◆ SVNA 4thQ Wellness Clinic 10:30 am UCC Parish House ### 7:30 pm Town Hall	20 * Anne Hummel Diabetes Class 10 am-Noon Library	• Cornwall Conservation Commission 6 pm Cornwall Library • Board of Finance 7 pm Town Hall	22	Page 1 A Page 2 A Pa
24	25 ◆ ZBA* 7 pm Cornwall Library	Morning Coffee, Confections, & Conversations 9 am UCC Parish House	Anne Hummel Diabetes Class 10 am-Noon Library Bend & Stretch 10 am Town Hall	28 THANKSGIVING	◆ Town Hall Players Variety Show 7 pm Town Hall ◆ Christmas Tree Lighting 5 pm Cornwall Bridge	* Robert Adzema Artist Reception 1–3 pm Souterrain * Cornwall Reads Cornwall 4–6 pm Library

(continued from page 1)

Hollow that honors Civil War Major General John Sedgwick.

Sedgwick is universally regarded as Cornwall's most prominent Civil War figure. After service in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), Sedgwick led Union forces in multiple Civil War battles, including those at Antietam and Gettysburg. Fatally wounded by a sniper at the Battle of Spotsylvania, Sedgwick is remembered as one of the three highest-ranking Union soldiers killed in the war.

Spencer Markow's interest in the Civil War is easily understood. He is related to Major General Sedgwick through his mother's side, and lives a short distance from the Sedgwick monument. When he discovered that Cornwall's Civil War veterans lacked a monument such as those honoring World War I, II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans in Cornwall Village, he got to work

Spencer contacted Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, the Cornwall Historical Society, the Connecticut State Library, and the National Park Service's War Archives. All provided input, approvals, and valuable assistance for his work.

As with many other Cornwall projects, local citizens also jumped in to assist. Spencer's uncle Jim Hurlburt worked with him to plan and supervise the process of machine engraving the 179 veterans' names onto the brass plaque, while John LaPorta sourced a large chunk of Cornwall stone that will anchor the plaque. Backing up these efforts was a grant from the CCS Fund for Excellence, as well as several private donations.

Some of the names on the new monument will be familiar to Cornwall residents today. Many match names on tombstones in Cornwall's ten burying grounds. Some of the names even match those of local streets and roads.

Spencer Markow says his goal was to connect Cornwall's past to the present, and to continue to honor and remember those who served their country during one of our most fractious and bloody periods. By all accounts, he has succeeded in his remarkable efforts.

A public dedication ceremony for the monument will be held on Sunday, November 10, at 2 P.M. at the John Sedgwick Monument, Route 43 at the intersection of Hautboy Hill Road in Cornwall Hollow. All are encouraged to attend. — Dan Hubbard

Art's Mission

A couple of kids in play dangling their arms over the balcony, the nave below filled with older folks, a lone young adult bent over in the backmost center pew, one, maybe two, dark faces among the white: what actor Moses Goods could see from the sanctuary of the Congregational Meeting

House as he performed his one-man play "My Name is 'Opukaha'ia."

The show in Cornwall on October 6 was part of a multi-city tour from Mystic to Maine to celebrate the bicentennial of New England and Hawaii's mission connection. It tells the story of "Henry" 'Opukaha'ia, a refugee from blood feuds in his native polytheistic Hawai'i. By 1817, this new

convert to Christianity would be the founding pupil of the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall (FMS, aka the "School for Heathens"). While publicizing the tour this summer, Goods, who identifies his race as "mixed," said he wants projects that connect "who I am as a Hawaiian and who I am as a black person."

The first part of the two-part show started with an a cappella song-story by Po'ai Lincoln, the cultural programs coordinator for Hawaiian Mission Houses, which organized the tour. Lincoln's lei of songs connected the audience watching Hawaiians now "breathing life into traditional cultural practices" with native music lost in the 1800s when foreigners came and "silenced the Hawaiian voice." She sang of forgiveness granted through hymns by Queen Lili'uokalani, a Christian convert and the last sovereign monarch of Hawai'i.

When Moses Goods then took the stage for the second part, he was always 'Opukaha'ia, yet, striving for different perspectives on the same story, also embodied different characters. Sea-tossed, he played the illiterate ship captain who "teaches" the young Hawaiian cabin boy to tie his shoes by calling him a "brown monkey" and denigrating his Hawaiian name, saying it means "a flushing of the stomach."

At the talkback after the show, Goods

talked about how he came to the show. "I don't force the stories I tell; I'll know when the moment is right." That moment came several years ago when he met Mary Kathryn Nagle at the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program. Nagle told Goods about her great-great-great grandfather John Ridge and his experience as a Cherokee student at FMS in 1819, shortly after 'Opukaha'ia. When Ridge dared to mix and marry with Sarah Bird Northup, a local white girl, Cornwall residents called him a savage and

ran them both out of town.

Goods' meeting with Nagle, and his subsequent visit to the room in Cornwall where 'Opukaha'ia, only 26, died from typhus in 1818, becomes the opening scene on Goods' stage.

'Opukaha'ia's final fits of fevered coughing ironically open space for him to come to grips with his escape from the bludgeoning of his family in Hawai'i; to reconcile the thunder-and-lightning friend-ship with his evangelical sponsor Samuel Mills, Jr.; and, ultimately, to accept the

Goodbye to Friends

Betty Silbert Ryan Charles Otto Watts

Congratulations

Josephine M. Cannella and Kevin P. Dolan Melani S. Reilly and Richard J. King

Land Transfers

Alexander Haas and Brian Gloznek, Trustees, to Pamela Duncan Silver and Henry Finkelstein, 36.2 acres with buildings and improvements thereon at 128 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$625,000.

Victor J. Paolo, Trustee, to Cornwall Conservation Trust, 5.00 acres of land on Popple Swamp Road for \$30,000.

Victor J. Paolo, Trustee, one-third interest to Park Davis and two-thirds interest to Amy Davis, 19.007 acres on Popple Swamp Road for \$160,000.

Pablo Taboada and Susan Vessio-Taboada to Jean-Pierre Sommadossi and Marina Bozilenko, 18.289 acres with buildings and improvements thereon at 28 Reed Brook Road for \$2,725,000.

contradictions of emptiness and fulfillment within himself. He passed from life wholly understanding that, even though converted, he was not "chosen" to heal "lost" others, but was just one of ones in need of healing.

In the talkback after the show, Po'ai Lincoln said this "complicated story" gets a different response in Hawai'i. When it plays in schools there, the "upset" reactions make space for "conversations about racism."

Dean Saccardi, that lone young adult in the audience, said he was "surprised" by how involved the Hawaiians were in bringing this story to life, saying they seemed so "proud of the fact that they could find the good in it."

Moses Goods might call that sentiment his "kuleana"—a responsibility he feels as a native Hawaiian artist to serve the com-

munity, to serve his ancestors, and to continue to draw connections between past and present. Perhaps, art—with its unforced story and unfettered song creating space to play in—is not so different than Christian mission: both hold service sacred. But while one has necessitated changing who

we are to connect to God, the other opens connection with each other—and with ourselves—as we are. —Catharine Clohessy

A Genius Among Us

The story of where Annie Dorsen was when she got word she had received a MacArthur Fellowship is not particularly exciting. "I was at work doing tech rehearsals for a new show," Dorsen said. "I found a quiet place to hear and they told me."

But what news to get! The fellowship—

informally known as the "Genius Grant" — comes with a \$625,000 stipend and is something for which recipients can neither apply nor lobby. Dorsen was one of 26 fellows this year, all, according to the foundation's website, "who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction."

Dorsen describes her work as "algorithmic theater," where she uses theater to explore the ways computers and people interact, poking at the places where our online and offline lives are tracked and recommended back to us often through unseen forces "learning" our behaviors. Dorsen describes our modern condition as a time of "algorithmic everything."

Dorsen achieved acclaim as the co-creator and director of *Passing Strange* with musicians Stew and Heidi Rodewald. After a run at the Public Theater, the show opened on Broadway in

February 2008 and received seven Tony nominations with a win for best book. Spike Lee filmed the final performances to create a film by the same name.

The success of *Passing Strange* afforded Dorsen time to start asking bigger questions about ways we interact online and how it affects our relationships. Her thinking and her audiences' collective awareness about the dangers of constant surveillance deepened with two specific events: former CIA employee Edward Snowden's 2013 leaked classified information about a global surveillance program, and fallout from the 2016 election with its personal data mining, misinformation campaigns, and troll farms. Dorsen said, "It has really appropriately freaked people out."

The MacArthur Fellowship offers Dorsen time to think about what is next. "The prize offers enormous legitimacy and validation of the work I've been doing. It's a big prompt to go further, not to give up."

Annie Dorsen lives in Brooklyn, and she and her older sisters Jennifer and Caroline split time at their family home in Cornwall. Her parents, Norman and Harriette Dorsen, were also weekenders though Annie says the title doesn't capture her parents' deep connection to Cornwall. Norman Dorsen was a famed civil rights attorney, NYU Law School professor and longtime president of the ACLU. Harriette Dorsen served as

CVFD Count for September and October

32 emergency medical
10 false alarms
4 motor vehicle accidents
1 electrical hazard
1 controlled burn
Safety tip from the CVFD: Now is a good time to have your chimneys cleaned and check carbon monoxide and smoke

detectors.

Letters to the Chronicle

SPEAK NOW OR HOLD IT

On behalf of the West Cornwall WasteWater Committee, I am writing with an update and to encourage anyone with questions or concerns to reach out. We are nearing the completion of an assessment process that has been underway since July. At the town meeting of July 26, the selectmen received overwhelming approval to authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for engineering and consulting work necessary to apply for grants. The committee is working with Steve McDonnell of WMC Consulting Engineers to prepare an application to the USDA to help fund the project. While McDonnell is assessing the required engineering and environmental stud-

engineering and environmental studies, he is also mapping out costs for two proposed sites. The committee hopefully will see much of the application at our next meeting on November 12. We have been advised that funding approval can be granted specific site; however, a town wide

without a specific site; however a town-wide vote will be required to approve the funding for the work.

While we assess possible locations, the committee is also visiting other treatment systems that may yield creative solutions for our own challenges.

general counsel for Bantam Doubleday Dell and Random House and, in Cornwall, served on boards and was elected the chair of the Democratic Town Committee and Democratic Coalition of Northwest Connecticut.

Annie Dorsen said her parents moved to Cornwall in 1980, drawn by close friends and Cornwall's charms: "the best tomatoes, the best corn, the best lake."

Dorsen is the third Cornwallian and first woman to receive a MacArthur Fellowship. Performance artist and juggler Michael Moschen received one in 1990 and journalist Thomas Whiteside, whose work exposed the dangers of Agent Orange, received one in 1986.

However, Dorsen said it is another Cornwall resident who played a formative role in her art, artist Mark Wilson. Since the early 1980s, Wilson has used computers to generate what he has called his "algorithmic expressionism." Mark and his wife, Pam Wilson, were Norman and Harriette's close friends, and Annie and her sisters grew up around Mark's huge inkjet printers. "The idea of making art with computers, I had been around it since I was a child," Dorsen said. "So that's a big Cornwall connection."

-Kerry Donahue

The Fundamental Right to Vote

History can provide context in troubling times. A year out from the 2020 election, HVRHS teacher Peter Vermilyea is leading a monthly discussion series at the library Correspondence can be addressed to the West Cornwall WasteWater Committee and emailed to tpiker@gmail.com or CWLSelectmen@optonline.net.

Respectfully, — Todd Piker, Chair, West Cornwall WasteWater Committee

LITTLE GUILD SEEKS ITS FOREVER HOME

The Little Guild needs help finding land for our new facility. Our goal is to build a bigger animal shelter so we can rescue, love, and heal even more dogs and cats—ideally in Cornwall! We're in the market for a flat, two- to four-acre parcel with no major existing structures, large enough to accommodate an 8,000-square-foot building, parking, dog runs, and a dog quarantine. The ideal location would be on a main road like Route 7 with sufficient distance from homes (as our dogs have been known to let out an occasional bark), and near an open area, state land, or hiking trails for dog walking. We are willing to purchase the right site, but a land donation sounds awfully nice too. Please direct any suggestions to Abigail Cusick, our executive director, at director@ = littleguild.org.

— John Guenther, President, The Little Guild of St. Francis

titled, "The Vote, America's Most Fragile Right."

"The current impeachment inquiry was not on the agenda when we were planning this," Vermilyea said. Several key anniversaries, however, were: 55 years since the Voting Rights Act (1965); 100 years of women's suffrage (1920); 150 years since the Fifteenth Amendment (1870); and 200 years since Andrew Jackson's inauguration (1829) and the triumph of Jacksonian Democracy.

"If you tie [these anniversaries] into what is going on in our own time," Vermilyea continued, "with SCOTUS overturning the Voter Rights Act, voter suppression with things like Voter ID laws, plus the things going on with gerrymandering and social media, and the staggering turnout in last November's midterm elections and some of the special elections we've seen, voting was really a pertinent topic."

Librarian Margaret Haske hopes the series will encourage the circulation of recent non-fiction books and bring people together to talk because, "You can't have all your interesting conversations at the dump."

The first of the six sessions took place last month, but Vermilyea said all are welcome at any time. The theme for the November 18 meeting is the origins of voting.

Vermilyea encouraged his HVRHS students to show up with this reassurance: no homework or prep required—just bring a curiosity about this fundamental right.

-Kerry Donahue

Cornwall Briefs

- Daylight Saving ends at 2 A.M. on Sunday, November 3. Get ready to Fall Back.
- "Meet the Candidates" party sponsored by the Democratic Town Committee, Sunday, November 3, at 4:15 p.m. at the library, directly, and conveniently, following the Civic Life Project film screening. Refreshments served. Questions answered. Concerns addressed.
- Don't Forget: We have a library, historical society, conservation trust, and many associations in town, so it's easy to overlook the Food & Fuel Fund, which is unique in serving essential needs of our community, which are greater than we may appreciate. Donate at P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753.
- Culvert on Cream Hill Road done. Cleared for traffic. Onward to the Lake Road culvert near Route 43, but no disruption is expected, and it may be finished by the time you read this.

 Tom Barrett

Events & Announcements

For updates, changes, and additions, check the online calendar at cornwallchronicle. org or cornwallct.org (it is the same calendar). And for reminders, see the *Chronicle* Facebook page.

Motherhouse: Community dance Saturday, November 2, at 7 P.M. at town hall. Call 671-7945 for more information.

At the Cornwall Library

Film Screening: Sunday, November 3, at 3 P.M. The Civic Life Project will present five short documentary films produced and directed by Cornwall Consolidated School students.

What's the Word? November's word is BOW. Monday, November 4, at 11 A.M. Contact Connie Steuerwalt at 672-2861 or csteuerwalt@gmail.com.

Diabetes Class: Anne Hummel offers her free, six-week course titled "Managing Your Diabetes," Wednesdays, from 10 A.M. to noon, November 6 to December 11.

HVRHS teacher Peter Vermilyea presents the second of his six-part series, "The Vote, America's Most Fragile Right" on Monday, November 18, at 5:30 P.M.

"Cornwall Reads Cornwall" Saturday, November 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. (See insert.)

Vote Early and Often

In an election, of course, vote only once. But vote to contribute to the *Chronicle* by sending a check—early and often.

Enrollment and Election

Voter Enrollment takes place Monday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Town Hall Get out and VOTE! Tuesday, November 5, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election Day Lunch from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the UCC Parish House.



Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 9. (See insert.)

United Church of Christ in Cornwall
"Peace Notes: In

Word and Music" at North Cornwall Meeting House, November 9, at 4 р.м.

A Farm to Table Dinner at UCC on November 9 from 5 to 7:30 P.M. RSVP requested: call 672-6840 or email office@ uccincornwall.org.

Veterans Day will be celebrated early, on Sunday, November 10, at 2 p.m. at Sedgwick Monument, Route 43 in Cornwall Hollow, with the unveiling of Spencer Markow's monument honoring Cornwall's Civil War veterans.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic: Monday, November 11, noon to 1 P.M. in the UCC Day Room. Contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000.

Planning & Zoning: On November 12, at 7 P.M. at the town hall, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the adoption of the 2020–2030 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Cornwall Park and Recreation

The monthly senior luncheon is Tuesday, November 12, at noon at the Parish House. Cost is \$8 per person. RVSP by Friday, November 8.

SVNA Wellness Clinic is Tuesday, November 19, at 10:30 A.M. at the Parish House.

The Bend and Stretch program runs Wednesdays, November 20 through December 18, at 10 A.M. at town hall.

Coffee, Confections & Conversations is on Tuesday, November 26, at 9 A.M. at the Parish Hall. No cost; no RSVP necessary.

At Trinity Retreat Center

Liturgy for Creation on Saturday, November 16. (See insert.)

The Cornwall Association presents Trivia Night on Saturday, November 23. (See insert.)

Deer Hunting Season starts November 20.

Indoor Co-op Farm Market: Saturday, November 23, from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at town hall.

Town of Cornwall Social Services

The Food Pantry has supplies for Thanksgiving Dinner. Pick up on November 25.

Heating assistance is available to help pay for propane, oil, electric, and firewood.

The Holiday Program, which helps Cornwall families with gifts for their children, will begin on November 15. To request or purchase gifts, contact cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com or 672-2603.

Christmas Tree Lighting is Friday, November 29, at 5 P.M. by the National Iron Bank

The Town Hall Players variety show is Friday, November 29, at 7 P.M. (See insert.)

Art in Cornwall

Saturday, November 30, 1 to 3 P.M., the Souterrain Gallery hosts a reception of watercolors by Robert Adzema titled "Cornwall Covered Bridge & Barns." "Paint the Churches...or Your Sacred Space in Cornwall" remains up until November 17.

In the Parish House, the mixed-media show by Gail and Jeff Jacobson, "Opposites Attract," is through November 26.

At the Cornwall Library, Paper Buck's "Utopia Rising" continues through November.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

cornwallchronicle.org

THIS MONTH

Adam Van Doren, Illustrations Kerry Donahue and Meg Tansey, Editors Jacque Schiller and Cara Weigold, Facebook Posts

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