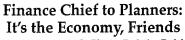
CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 1996



Finance Board Chair Ralph Gold sees the upcoming ten-year revision of Cornwall's development plan as a

major chance to address economic and budget issues as well as land use. "It's good the Planning and Zoning Commission is starting to hold public meetings to discuss a new plan," he says, "and it's important that town boards like Finance make their concerns known."

Gold's fear is that town costs may rise twice as fast as inflation. This will be due, he says, to inevitable growth in expenditures like wages and school costs, combined with the continuing losses that he expects in our already small amounts of state aid. If Cornwall does nothing to strengthen its economy and tax base, most of the pressure of these increased costs will fall directly on the town's home owners.

Gold believes that Cornwall has at least some chance to attract light industry to a dedicated zone where people would be given a chance to build without the constraint of red tape and special permits. "We've got to free up some land from the hoops and hurdles that you have to jump through now," he argues.

Gold also wants to explore innovative ways to cut the property tax burden on home owners. Among his thoughts: get the state to

add a modest surcharge—maybe 3 percent—to the income tax and return it to the town. Or find a reasonable way to tax home offices, the economic activity that probably produces more income for townspeople than all industry put together. Or maybe allow some exemptions from the property tax—for example, to people who contribute through unpaid service on town boards.

It won't be easy to expand Cornwall's tax base significantly, Gold recognizes. But he believes that if we don't seize our chances now, things may be a lot worse in another ten years when the plan will have to be revised again.

—David A. Grossman

Town Meeting about Water

At 8 P.M. on Tuesday, October 1, there will be a town meeting at the Cornwall Consolidated School. The meeting will decide whether to lay out \$25,000 to extend Bridgeport Hydraulic's Cornwall Plains water facilities 800 feet west across Route 4 as far as the Chase property. There the system would hook up with an existing house and one under construction.

Both sites abut the landfill. This creates concern that wells dug to serve the houses might suffer contamination—and that monitoring wells would have to be dug to check the quality of ground water in the vicinity of

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the houses. This, according to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, could end up costing more than the extension of "town water," especially since the need for periodic monitoring might be indefinite.

—Charles Osborne



NORTH

News and Advice from CVFD

The Cornwall Association honored the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department at its September meeting, held in the West Cornwall Firehouse, giving its annual award to Dave Becker, long-time CVFD president, in recognition of his many years of service in the community. We are thankful for the award, and we want to thank everyone in town who helped with our various fund-raisers during the year.

On a grimmer note, several issues involving ambulance service are heading our way. As usual, any sense these plans might have made in Hartford has evaporated by the time they drift out here.

The first involves American Medical Response, a national ambulance-operating corporation that currently has 42 percent of the medical response market in Connecticut. The company has applied to increase its fleet by more than 57 additional vehicles to operate throughout the state. Its concern is market share, not community care, and AMR is lob-

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Note: Deadline for November Chronicle copy is October 15. Books to donate to October 12 book sale? Call the Library or Ella Clark (672-4817).		1 Register to vote 9 A.M1 P.M. Town Hall (p. 3) Corn. Bridge Nat'l Iron Bank October Art Show, David Bean Agric. Advis. Comm. 7:30 P.M. W.C. Firehouse Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Office	W. Cornwall Merchants Assoc. 10 a.m. Cadwell's Tai Chi Chuan class 6:30-7:30 p.m. CCS Gym (p.4)	3 Circus Club 3:45–4:45 p.m. Parish House, UCC (p.4)	Absentee ballots available from Town Clerk as of today Preschooler Story Hour 10 a.m. Library	5
6	7 常量 Bd. of Selectmen 8 p.m. Town Hall	Inland Wetlands 7:30 p.m. Town Hall* Town Meeting 8 p.m. CCS gym (p.1) 8 Candidates' Debate 7 p.m. HVRHS (p.4) Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS Library Repub. Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS	9 Register to vote 1–4:30 p.m. Town Hall (p.3) Tai Chi Chuan class 6:30–7:30 p.m. CCS Gym (p.4) CCS PTA 7 p.m. CCS Library Cub Scout parents and committee meeting, 7 p.m. UCC	10 Circus Club 3:45–4:45 p.m. Parish House, UCC (p.4) Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 p.m. Kugeman Village	11	Library Book Sale 9 A.M.—3 P.M. Town Hall Republican Harvest Weekenc 10 A.M.—5 P.M. West Cornwall Covered Bridge (p.4) Park & Rec. annual havride 2 P
13 CVFD Automobile Show 10 A.M. Foote Fields (p.4) Republican Harvest Weekend 10 A.M5 P.M. West Cornwall Covered Bridge (p.4)	14 COLUMBUS DAY (OBSERVED)	15 Art Show, Cynthia Mathews, photographs, 10/15-11/9 library Elderly Health Screening 9 A.M3 P.M. by appt.; flu & pneumonia shots 10-noon (p.4) P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	16 Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Tai Chi Chuan class 6:30–7:30 p.m. CCS Gym (p.4)	17 Bd. of Education 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	Preschooler Story Hour 10 a.m. Library Bermuda Travelogue 7:30 p.m. CCS Library (p.4)	CCS parking lot (p.4) Open House at Cornwall artist studios, noon-4 p.m. (p.4) 19 Register to vote 9 A.M3 p.M. Town Hall (p.3) Fall Foliage Craft Fair 10 A
Fall Foliage Craft Fair 10 A.M4 P.M. Mohawk Ski Area (p.4) Benefit concert for The Jubilee School 4 P.M. Cornubia Hall (p.4)	HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	22 Last day to register to vote 9 A.M8 P.M. Town Hall (p.3) P&Z planning session 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	23 Tai Chi Chuan class 6:30–7:30 p.m. CCS Gym (p.4)	24 Circus Club 3:45–4:45 p.m. Parish House, UCC (p.4)	Preschooler Story Hour 10 a.m. Library	4 P.M. Mohawk Ski Area (p Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall 26 Park & Rec. annual Halloween Party 6:30–8 CCS gym (p.4)
27 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Lecture by Dr. Larry Pool, A Neurosurgeon Looks at the Soul, 11:30 a.m. UCC (p.3)	28 ZBA 8 p.m. Town Office*	29	30 Tai Chi Chuan class 6:30–7:30 p.m. CCS Gym (p.4)	31		

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bying very hard in Hartford.

[A hearing before the Connecticut Department of Health and Addiction Services in Hartford revealed considerable opposition to AMR's plans, and the issue is still in doubt.—Editors.]

The second ambulance matter is an unfunded state mandate requiring salaried paramedics to respond directly to a medical incident within a few minutes of a call for help. Not only do distances in many rural parts of the state make this unrealistic, but the cost of paramedics on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is astronomical—impossible for a small town. Moreover, many studies show that having a paramedic respond to a call doesn't help the patient more than the rapid response and advanced life support our volunteers already provide, along with our ability to have a paramedic meet us (if needed) on the way to the hospital.

Ambulance Captain Brian O'Neill urges everyone to write our representatives in Hartford as well as the state's attorney general, commissioner of public health, and the governor to voice opposition to these plans and to ask the following questions:

and to ask the following questions:

• Why is the Office of Emergency Medical Services committed to direct paramedic service when numerous studies and other states' experience show that this is expensive and unproductive?

Why is the governor forgetting his commitment to ending unfunded mandates?

Contact Brian at 672-2339 or the Selectmen's Office to find out where to make your voice heard. Please note that Andrew Roraback and Del Eads have been fighting this legislation and would appreciate your support.

With the change in the season comes that nip in the air, and wood stoves and fireplaces all over Cornwall will soon be alight. Please check to be sure your chimney is properly clean. Chimney fires are dangerous and anyone who has ever had one can tell you it's a real mess.

—Adam Fischer

Cornwall Golf Winners

The Cornwall Golf Association's annual invitational tournament was held on September 15 at the Copake Country Club with 46 enthusiastic players. The men's and women's winners were: for low gross, James Bate and Nancy Karnolt; for low net, Quentin Finn and Beth Wirsol; for longest drive, Andrew Dakin and Nancy Karnolt; and for nearest to the pin, Dan Evans. The event's net proceeds of \$607 are being transferred to the Gracey Fund. In addition, each of the 18 holes was sponsored by a local business. Their supporting donations totaled \$1,050, also donated to the Gracey Fund.

—Robert T. Beers



Algrant Art Show Update

Organizers of the recent Rose Algrant Art Show report that the sum to be donated to the Dan Gracey Fund, reported here last month as \$1,800, will actually be \$3,000. The increase flowed from orders for work not in the show by participating artists who made arrangements to have their commissions for that work also donated to the fund.

--Charles Osborne

A Bunch of Barracudas

If you frequented the beach in the late afternoon this summer, you could have seen the hard-working members of the Cornwall swim team practicing with their coaches, Jen Heiny and Nick Kotchoubey. These dedicated swimmers gave Salisbury a swim for its money at the championships in August. Cornwall had 25 first place finishes and Salisbury 27.

One of the most exciting races was the 11–12 boys individual medley. Cornwall's barracuda, Luke Root, won in the last lap with his freestyle stroke to the delight of all Cornwall fans.

At the annual swim team picnic, all team members received a specially designed award from their coaches. Swim team members selected Devon Root and Sam Bruehl as the Most Valuable Swimmers, and the coaches awarded the Most Improved Swimmer trophies to Ryan Quinn and Katharine Corwin.

—Rita Quinn



Who'll Be Hunting—and When

Knowing the hunting season dates and hours makes being in the autumn woods a lot safer and more enjoyable. Here are a few facts:

facts:

Small game: Species and dates very. A good assumption: the season is open now through December.

Turkey—archery: September 16–November 19, December 26–December 31.

Turkey—firearms: October 19–November 2. Deer—archery: September 16–November 19 on state and private land; December 11–December 24 on private property; December 25–December 31, state and private land.

Deer—firearms: November 20–December 10, state and private land; November 1–December 31, landowners only.

Sundays: No hunting; no hunting implements in the field; some exceptions for private preserves.

Hours: In general (some exceptions), a half hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey; for small game, a half hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset.

For more information, call DEP Wildlife at (860) 424-3011. Wearing orange makes everyone safer.

—Jim Levy



Welcome

William Matthew Cain to Daniel and Kathleen Cain

Connor Costain Elwell to Mary and Ian Elwell

Mathew Jacob Zetkulic to Nancy Van Doren and Jack Zetkulic

Good-bye to Friends

Mildred Hopf Philip B. Smith

Congratulations

James J. Kennedy to Wendy Ann Segalla John Anders Thulin to Maryanne Knox Mary Teresa Kling to Gary Wood

Land Transfers

Ann Retracek and Johan Winsser to Vaclav Petracek, house and 5 acres at 297 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$172,500.

Jacobs-Goodpasture Family Trust to Johan Winsser and Ann Petracek, 8 acres on Woodruff Lane for \$90,000.

Lewis and Amy Sipocz to Francis X. Saunders and Karen Murphy-Saunders, house and 1 acre at 259 Kent Road for \$132,000.

CTB Darbury Properties, Inc. to Frank Salvarezza et al., 69 acres on Dugan Road for \$170,000.

Gravel Mining Petition Denied

The Planning & Zoning Commission, preparing to don its Planning cap as it faces a legally mandated revision of the town plan due in 1997, held a preliminary organizational meeting at the end of September. Leading up to that meeting, however, it denied a petition to ban gravel mining from the zone along Route 7 where it has taken place in the past, and where two local property owners had filed applications—both denied—to pursue future mining operations.

P&Z's rationale for denying the petition, which was signed by 66 people, including neighboring residents, was simple: since gravel mining throughout the town (not just on Route 7) will be an issue in arriving at a revised town plan, it makes sense to fold discussion of the issue into the planning discussions to come.

—Charles Osborne

Van Doren's Superb Paintings

Adam Van Doren is now exhibiting a superb collection of paintings, mostly watercolors, at the Cornwall Library. His work shows a passion for European architecture, especially the magnificent masonry facades of Milan and Venice.

Van Doren has a way of executing his paintings as studies—half painting, half sketch—without leaving an impression of incompleteness. In *Street in Paris*, for example, this technique serves to emphasize the most important elements of the two buildings pictured.

Take special note of two exquisite pieces hung side by side in the children's room: Metropolitan Museum, New York City and Library, Oxford University, England.

—Alfred Bredenberg

Events & Announcements

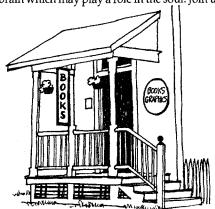
The Registrars of Voters are working on a final registry list for the November elections. Lisa Cruse (Rep.) and Jayne Ridgway (Dem.) will be at work at the Town Hall on October 1 (9 A.M.—1 P.M.), October 9 (1—4:30 P.M.), October 19 (9 A.M.—3 P.M.) and, finally, October 22 (9 A.M.—8 P.M.). So come and register, and please inform the registrars of any addresses or names you know of that have changed and people who have moved away.

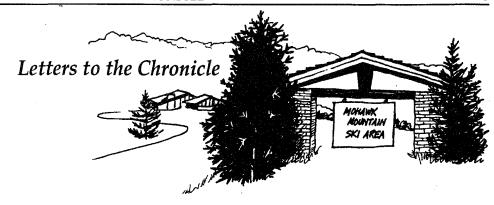
Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk as of October 4.

CCC Telephone Survey: Final results of the telephone survey done by the Cornwall Child Center last spring to assess the community's child-care needs are now available. Copies may be obtained at the Center (672-6989) or by calling Sarah Paul (672-6961).

New Birthday Calendar Deadline: The CVFD's Community Birthday Calendar may be ordered as late as October 5. This extends the deadline for ordering the calendar by two weeks. Baird's, Berkshire Country Store, Cadwell's and Hedgerows will accept orders and \$5 for each calendar.

A Neurosurgeon and the Soul: All are welcome to attend two classes led by Dr. Larry Pool on A Neurosurgeon Looks at the Soul at UCC on Sundays October 27 and November 3 at 11:30 A.M. Dr. Pool is emeritus professor of neurological surgery, Columbia University, and was chairman of the department of neurological surgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City from 1949 to 1972. On October 27, discussion will center around the question "Can a soul exist without a brain?" and on November 3 Dr. Pool will talk about the special parts of the brain which may play a role in the soul. Join us!





GIANT HIBISCUSES DRAW TOURISTS

The Covered Bridge is no longer the number one tourist attraction in West Cornwall. It has been replaced by Mary Gilroy's giant hibiscus plant. To be more exact, according to the cards Mary has kindly taped to the fence post next to these beauties, they are "disco belle pink and rosy-red hibiscus perennials."

All I know is that the tourists have been posing for photos with these picturesque posies like the flowers were the Pope. The folks from Florida claim that the hibiscuses aren't all that big; back home, they measure about a foot across. But most admit that big or small, the glorious hibiscuses are only one variety among the many flowers in Mary's magnificent garden.

—Dave Cadwell

A CROW CALLED PRINCESS

When my husband brought home a baby crow last May, he promised he'd just nurse it back to a healthy condition, then let it go. He had rescued the crow from a tree that was to be cut down—she was a runt who was underfed and couldn't stand or move much. She quickly adapted to being fed hourly by my husband or my children. Within a month she could stand, and by early summer she could fly a bit. My husband named her Princess.

At first she hung out at our house and at Carla and Ed Bigelow's next door. Fortunately, they enjoyed wildlife too, and Carla held her and fed her. As her flying improved, Princess would follow me on walks, moving from trees to power lines as I walked up Dibble Hill or up to the grammar school. She'd create a ruckus among other crows, but when she felt threatened, she'd just get close to me for safety. She soon took to walking with Joe Gwazdauskas on his morning walks too.

Now she's found a paradise of her own in the village of West Cornwall. She's a smart little prankster who swoops down and dusts the heads of people getting out of their cars, swipes keys and coins off dashboards, lands on the heads of little girls with ponytails, and clings to the windshield wipers of cars as they start to drive off. Although I hear she gets fed well by the patrons of Hedgerows Market, she did get inside the store several times and once assaulted the cash register. We gave Russell our stuffed toy lion for protection; the lion's eyes frighten Princess away when she becomes too much of a nuisance.

Princess can also be fun. She'll hop around our yard, leading our 18-month-old daughter in

a chase, occasionally stopping to let Mary Kate pet her. She tormented my sister's dog Sam this summer by flying in front of him, then landing somewhere in sight, just out of his reach. As soon as Sam would stop barking and walk away, Princess would do it again. Neither one tired of the game.

Princess has probably established her territory here. She's comfortable with people and seems to depend on humans as much for her social life as her physical well-being. Friendly as she is, however, she's still a wild animal. We hope people will enjoy her while she occupies our town—for she is free to go but she's choosing to stay.

—Annie Kosciusko

PLAIN OR PLAINS?

In Aunt Sarah's Diary (Letters, September Chronicle) Harriet Clark quotes the diary entry for May 30, 1868, which speaks of decorating the graves of soldiers. The writer makes a clear distinction between the places Cornwall Plain (no "s") and Cornwall Plains (with an "s").

Having spent the first 19 years of my life growing up on Cherry Hill Farm, I thought I knew the Cornwalls. Now I'm intrigued that I must have missed something. Where exactly is Cornwall Plains as opposed to Cornwall Plain? Is there, as Aunt Sarah indicates, still a cemetery in each place?

—Alden W. Hart

ROUTE 128 RELAY RACE

Recently, my husband Charlie and I emerged from our driveway, headed east on Route 128. Here is what happened.

We get as far as the Hopf house, where a flagman stands with his stop sign at half mast, looking perplexed. We stop and wait. Nothing happens for a considerable time, so we advance politely and lower a window for communication.

It seems our flagman doesn't know whether anyone is coming the other way; he says the radios are down. His understanding is that all traffic is to use the westbound lane but is not sure whether the flagman down at the blinker agrees. We asked if we can just nip down the eastbound lane as far as Todd Hill Road, hang a right, and get off his back.

No. Too dangerous. We wait. Finally, along comes a car toward us, heading west in our lane. It stops, the driver hands a relay racer's baton to the flagman, and is on his way in the westbound lane. Shades of the Olympics. In our turn, we take the baton from the flagman, switch to the westbound lane (per instructions), and live to tell the tale.

—Philla Osborne

Cornwall Residents 60 and Over are urged to attend a health screening October 15 at CCS. Hearing, vision, blood pressure, urine, and stool are among the available tests, along with electrocardiogram, glaucoma, Pap/pelvic/breast, and prostate examinations. Suggested donations are \$20-\$25 (with Pap test). For appointment, call Jill Gibbons, 672-2603.

Torrington Area Health District representatives will also be on hand to offer vaccines for flu and pneumonia. These vaccines are recommended for those over 60 and anyone over nine with a chronic illness that lowers resistance to infections; municipal workers and health-care workers should also get the vaccines. Also eligible for the vaccines are those caring for a person whose immune system is impaired. There is a nominal fee for the vaccines, which are offered from 10 A.M. to noon. Those wanting just the vaccines need no appointment.

Jubilee's 20th Year will be celebrated at a benefit concert on Sunday, October 20, at 4 P.M. in Cornubia Hall (\$12 at the door). Jubilee School is an inner-city school in Philadelphia run by former Cornwall resident Karen Whiteside Falcon. Fifteen-year-old Krystyana Chelminski, violin, and Anne Chamberlain, piano, will offer Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Szymanowski.

CENTRE South

Tai Chi Chuan: Sponsored by the CCS PTA, Martha Cheo is offering a free introductory class in tai chi chuan, an ancient Chinese martial art designed, Cheo says, to "open up energy flow in the body." The classes are available on October Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 P.M., at the CCS gym.

Taconic Learning Center Omission: September's item on the Taconic Learning Center's fall term regrettably left out three courses taught Cornwallians. John Leich

gives Russian classes on Mondays at 3 р.м. at the Congregational Church in Salisbury; Phyllis Wojan offers a genetics course at 10 A.M. Thursdays at the Scoville Library in Salisbury; and Ken Keskinen, co-leader of the biography course covered here in September, gives a writers' seminar at home, 7-9 P.M. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. For information, call 435-2922.



Cornwall Artists' Studios will be open on October 12 to benefit the Cornwall Child Center. Eight artists will invite the public into their workplaces from noon to 4 P.M. Tickets, at \$12, may be purchased at Northwest Lumber, Cornwall Pottery, Hedgerows, Barbara Farnsworth's book store, and Brookside Bistro. Maps for the tour, along with cider and doughnuts, will reward ticket purchasers at the Center on Cream Hill Road from 11 A.M. on October 12. The artists are Ira Barkoff, Hendon Chubb and Phyllis Nauts, Don Bracken, Robert Parker, Larry Pool, Tim Prentice, and Erica Prud'homme. Children six and under will be admitted free. For more information, call 672-6344.

Candidates to Debate: Sponsored by the Lakeville Journal, a two hour debate involving all four candidates in the Connecticut 30th Senate and 64th House districts will take place on October 8. Participants: Republican Senator Adela M. Eads and her Democratic opponent, former Senator Harold M. Hansen; former Representative Mary Ann O'Sullivan, the Democrat, challenging the incumbent, Republican Andrew Roraback.

The event is scheduled for 7 P.M. at HVRHS. Everybody welcome.

The Annual Halloween Party will be held by Park and Rec. on Saturday, October 26, 6:30 to 8 P.M., at the CCS gym. Children up to and including fourth grade are invited. Park and Rec.'s annual hayride will take place October 12 (rain date October 13) at 2 р.м., starting from

the CCS parking lot. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Circus Club will meet most Thursday afternoons at the UCC Parish House (see Calendar) at 3:45-4:45 P.M. Children 5-8 will spend an hour with Roger the Jester to learn juggling, plate-spinning, balancing peacock feathers, and more. For information, call 672Car Extravaganza: The Fire Department's final fund-raiser for 1996 is an automobile show on October 13 at 10 A.M. The show has moved from its 1995 site at Mohawk to the Foote Fields on Route 4 in Cornwall Plains. where it will be combined with a Fall Festival featuring booths offering food and crafts.

A Harvest Weekend, sponsored by the Republican Town Committee, will take place October 12 and 13 at the Covered Bridge, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on both days. For sale will be homemade pies, baked goods, pumpkins, apples, mums, and bulbs.

Fall Fair at Mohawk Mountain: On October 19 and 20, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., the ski area will hold its seventh annual Fall Foliage Craft Fair. Artisans and crafters interested in participating should call Christina Brzoska at 672-6100.

Visiting Bermuda: On Friday, October 18, at 7:30 P.M. at the CCS Library, Bridgette Beauchaine of the Torrington Girl Scouts Program will talk about the group's 26 years of visits to the British colony of Bermuda. Young people are welcome.

The National Iron Bank, which claims a number of firsts—e.g., first "local bank in northern Litchfield County, in 1847"—is now asserting that it is the first local bank to offer service on the Internet. The bank's URL (uniform resource locator) is http://www. ironbank.com.

During October, the Cornwall Bridge branch of the bank will display works by artist David Bean.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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