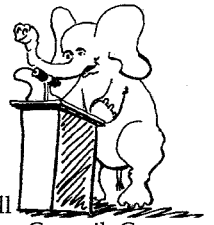




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 10 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2000



Murky Tax Picture

Approximately 90 citizens turned up for an informational meeting held on September 8 in the school gym about the CCS building improvement project. The same number of people left two hours later and not all agreed with the figures used to explain the cost and financing of the project.

Phil Hart, co-chair of the School Building Committee, opened the proceedings and announced that the meeting "was not a debate," and the committee was only presenting and explaining the plans. He explained that the committee, which has had 24 meetings, was cognizant of the cost and the educational and community needs of the town. He ended his introduction with a show stopper, "The plan is expensive."

Next, Peter Coope, new principal at CCS, weighed in with his view that the school needed one additional classroom for the upper school, a larger gym, upgraded science labs, and storage space.

Committee member Brian Kavanagh then gave a history of the two-year-old project which began with the formation of the Strategic Study Committee, after which he introduced Joseph Baruffaldi, project manager from the architectural firm Friar Associates in Farmington. Baruffaldi guided the audience through the addition and changes which will add over 17,000 square feet to the school.

The plan includes a new gym with a junior-high-school regulation size basketball court, portable stage, retractable bleachers, a large multi-purpose room, kitchen, office, and storage space. This space could be used by the community without disturbing the school and in the event of a disaster—knock on wood—could be turned into an emergency shelter. Other new construction includes an art and music room, storage rooms, and lavatories. The old building gets its share of attention with a renovated lobby area, new classrooms in the old gym, washrooms, and a new science room.

Much of the rest of the evening was spent wrestling over how much the project would cost. Chairman of the Board of Finance Ralph Gold went over the numbers for the project and fielded many questions from the audience. While projected costs for the project, \$4.3 million after state reimbursement, stayed firm, the impact on taxes remained stubbornly murky. Ralph said that his figures gave early estimates of a 15 percent increase in taxes and promised harder figures for the Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 18. Voting on the project is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. —Norma Lake

2000 Cornwall Cup

Cornwall Village emerged victorious in September's Cornwall Cup softball games

sponsored by the Cornwall Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council. Captain Bill Dinneen led 11 players strong from Cornwall Bridge who, despite a home run by Joe Cashman, lost to the Villagers 13 to 5 in the opening game. Dan Hammond homered for the victors. Cornwall Village Captain Ted Larson then pitched a 11 to 10 victory over West Cornwall. All 16 West Cornwall players, ages 11 to 70, got a hit in this nail-biting crowd pleaser.

The CCS eighth graders kept everyone well fed, and there were bubbles and crafts from Extras for Kids and Park and Rec.

For losing the Cornwall Cup, the West Cornwall captain was made to write this report. —Dave Cadwell

Directing Park and Rec.

The room upstairs at the Cornwall Library is filled with old books (a 1900 set of Kipling and John Calhoun's copy of an 1882 history) and oak furniture. New file cabinets, computer-printer system, and telephone look out of place. This room, which he shares with the Registrars of Voters, is the office of Brian Leonard, the first-ever Park and Rec. Director—and he is delighted. "Gordon [Ridgway] helped us get the office, a central place where people can find me."

Hired a year ago, Brian is enthusiastic (continued on page 2)

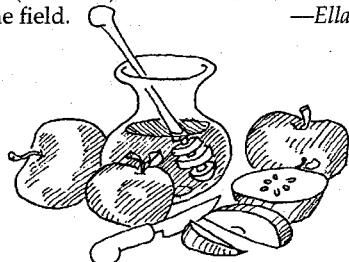
OCTOBER 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  Stretch Exercise Every Sunday 10 A.M. Town Hall Horse Show Gunn Farm (p.4)	2  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	3 Voter Registration 9 A.M.—Noon Town Hall (p.3) Park and Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Office *	4 Play Group, 10–11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Church	5  Nursery Rhyme Show 7 P.M. CCS (p.4) School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	6 Absentee Ballots Available (p.3) Nursery Rhyme Show 7 P.M. CCS (p.4)	7 Library Book Sale 9:30 A.M.—4 P.M. Library (p.4) Park and Rec. Hay Ride 2–3 P.M. CCS (p.3) House Tour 11 A.M.—4 P.M. (p.4)
8 Library Book Sale 9 A.M.—1 P.M. Library (p.4) Extras Art Auction 4–6 P.M. Railroad Square, W. Cornwall (p.4) 	9 YOM KIPPUR COLUMBUS DAY Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 P.M. UCC Parish House	10 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	11 Voter Registration 9 A.M.—Noon Town Hall (p.3) Play Group, 10–11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Church Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	12 Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village	13  Preschool–K Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	14
15 Deadline: November Chronicle Copy Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting CCS 3:45 P.M. (p.3) 	16 Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	17  Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Wellness Screening/Flu Shots UCC Parish House (p.4) School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	18 Play Group, 10–11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Church Film: <i>The Mikado</i> 7:30 P.M. Library (p.3)	19 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	20  Preschool–K Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	21 Cornwall Assn. 9 A.M. UCC Day Room Voter Registration 10 A.M.—2 P.M. Town Hall (p.3) Alternatives to Violence Project, 3:30 P.M. Library (p.4)
22 	23 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall *	24 Voter Registration 9 A.M.—8 P.M. Town Hall (p.3) Region One Bd. of Ed. 7:30 P.M. HVRHS Library	25 Play Group, 10–11:30 A.M. St. Peter's Church Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26	27  Preschool–K Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library Annual Town Meeting with School Bldg. Comm. Update 7:30 P.M. CCS	28 Hazardous Waste Day (p.4) Park and Rec. Halloween Party 2–3:30 P.M. CCS (p.4) Park and Rec. Halloween Dance 7–10 P.M. CCS (p.4)
29 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 	30	31 HALLOWEEN 				

(continued from page 1)

about his job. He interned with the New Hartford recreation department, where he learned that one has to work well with town officials, the school, and the public. "This is my ideal job," he says. "I work with a great board. The volunteers are incredible; they coach and referee hours every week. I hope I can take some of the burden off them." Brian is particularly proud of the new baseball field on Foote Field. "It took a lot of work from coaches, the Park and Rec., and town officials. We can't thank them enough. Our Little League season was a big success." Brian hopes to be at all events, including the winter swim program, gymnastics, skiing, and soccer. He would like to add even more events for people of all ages—such as birding, wildflower walks, music, sports, classes, and trips to New York. "I could spend all day talking about this!" he says. Having worked six summers at a YMCA camp and directed after-school programs, he knows the needs for and benefits of such activities, and would like to see them in Cornwall.

Brian tries to be in his new office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. (672-4070). Otherwise, look for him out in the field. —Ella Clark



Grading HVRHS

The document called itself a "report card." But instead of grading students, this report card judged the institution, Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Words & Numbers Research, a local survey company, produced the report for Regional School District Number One. It relied on answers to questions asked of teachers, parents, and students.

How does HVRHS look under this scrutiny? On the whole, pretty good. Every teacher, 30 percent of parents, and 90 percent of the student body responded to some 50 questions. The bulk of the responses from all three groups reflected a grade of C. In shorter supply, as usual, were A's and B's.

All three respondent categories awarded their highest marks to the school's clerical staff. These employees were judged outstandingly friendly, welcoming, and efficient.

The teachers also gave A's to the school's sports and extracurricular programs. Generally, the faculty graded 24 areas B or "above average"—notably the overall quality of HVRHS and of the entire Region One school system.

The faculty's worst marks—D's—indicted the inadequate quality of most students' homework assignments, and faulted the administration for sluggishness in resolving disciplinary problems. Other administration shortcomings included, for 43 percent of teachers, their exclusion from management decisions affecting them.

Parents awarded no A's. Among the nine

areas of strength they found, the school could take pride in parents' citation of high-level challenge in academic courses and the "overall competence of the teaching staff." Teacher proficiency was one of the school's attributes parents cared the most about. The other was writing and grammar instruction. But 23 percent of the parents were unhappy with the teaching of language arts.

In another context, twice that percentage of parents was angry about the school's performance in "the fair application of school policies and regulations." Parents were furious at an attendance policy that limited excused absences and withdrew credit from transgressors. One respondent called the policy "an insult to me as a parent and as an adult." Parents echoed teachers in complaints about administration handling of discipline problems.

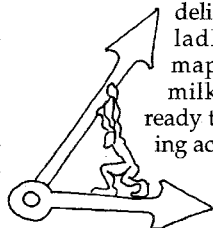
Unsurprising was the D students gave HVRHS for its "application of school policies and regulations." According to the Words & Numbers researchers, the school should concentrate on improving this aspect of institutional life if it wants to smooth relations with students, parents, and teachers.

For students, the school's willingness to hear their concerns is one of two top priorities; the other is the "overall quality of HVRHS." Thirty-three percent of students are dissatisfied in this respect; they believe the school's value depends on better relations among administrators, pupils, and faculty.

Still, though nobody got A from the students, they found merit in their academic life. Art, music, science, foreign language, and physical education all got B's. The scholars saved their most heartfelt B's for the clerical staff, apparently everyone's favorite people at HVRHS. —Charles Osborne

Fun at the Fair

Fall was in the air September 16, attracting hordes of cheerful sightseers to Cornwall Green for the ninth annual Agricultural Fair. Children of all ages had a field day wafting soap bubbles from oversized wands and piling into a big wagon drawn by two beautiful Belgian horses for a ride around town. Ellen Moon was on hand to show us how to card and spin wool into yarn, and weave it into patterned cloth, and Chris Hopkins guided us through the down-home process of shelling and grinding dried kernels of corn into cornmeal (talk about child labor!). And then, just when we were all worn out, there was Phil Hart boiling up maple syrup to make delicious candy and Debra Tyler ladling out cups of ice-cold maple-flavored Local Farm milk, while Skip Hunt stood ready to massage away any lingering aches and pains.



The annual Cow Pie Raffle netted the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department about \$1,500. Scott Matlock of Salisbury won the grand prize of \$1,000 when the numbered square on which he placed his bet was blessed by a handsome Holstein named Fancy from Cream Hill Farm, while those

who bet on eight surrounding squares received consolation prizes of \$25 each.

Charles Russ came out first in the junior division of the Hay Bale Toss with a mighty heave of 8 feet, 8 1/2 inches, while Annie Kosciuszko was first among women with 11 feet. But Bill Dinneen topped them all with a throw of 23 feet, 8 inches, providing a grand finale to a truly fair day.

—Jean and John Leich

Good-bye to a Friend

William C. Clarke

Congratulations

Erin Cole to Bradford Hedden

Sara Golier to Douglas Schneider

Alexandra Paul to Ian Murray

Land Transfers

Mr. Madwom to Joseph V. and Susan M. Turbessi, Lot 4 Kent Road for \$40,000.

Stephen H. Fitch to C & D Farms LLC, 25 acres on Clark Road for \$250,000.

Allis Ferguson Edelman to Nicholas and Laura Givotovsky, house and land on Dudleytown Road for \$460,000.

Estate of Roxana S. Hammond to Eileen M. Rogers, house and 1.3 acres on Ford Hill Road for \$145,000.

Samuel A. and Lynn L. Waterston to John A. and Carolee C. Scowcroft, 131 and 133 Great Hollow Road for \$780,000.

Amy V. Whitcomb to Benjamin S. Gray, 23 Jewell Street for \$185,000.

Fall Hunting Schedule

For the benefit of hikers and hunters:

Small game:

The season is open now through

December for various species.

Turkey—archery: Now through November 14; December 20 to 30.

Turkey—firearms: October 21 to November 4.

Deer—archery: Now through November 14 on state and private lands; November 15 to December 19, state lands; December 6 to 19, private property; December 20 to 30, state and private lands.

Deer—firearms: November 15 to December 5, private lands; November 1 to December 30, private lands—landowners; December 6 to 19, state and private lands.

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; a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset for small game.

For more information, call DEP Wildlife (860) 424-3011. Wear orange! —Jim Levy



Events & Announcements

A New Movie Series presented by the Friends of the Library begins on Wednesday, October 18, at 7 P.M. at the Library with Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. It was made in 1939 by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, and stars the brilliant Martyn Green as The Lord High Executioner and radio star Kenny Baker as Nanki-Poo. The movie series will continue on the third Wednesday of each month through March.

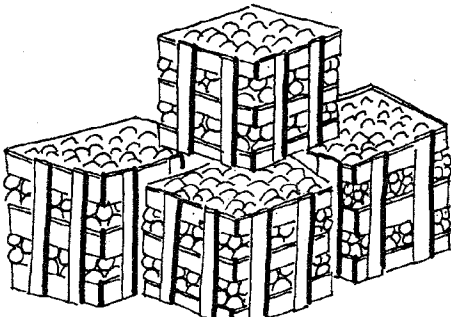
Presidential Election: Beginning October 6, absentee ballots will be available to electors who cannot vote in person at the November 7 election. Applications for ballots may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office Monday to Thursday, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., or call 672-2709 to arrange for one to be sent.

Benefit Raffle: During October and November, raffle tickets will be sold to benefit the UCC Capital Campaign to renovate the parish house and church. The three prizes in the raffle are: a quilt made by the Northwest Corner Quilters (see "Letters"), a hand-painted print *Three Witches of Cornwall* by Danielle Mailer, and a cord of wood cut by Ted Larson. Tickets are \$1 each; they will be on sale until the drawing on December 2. Look for the raffle table at the Columbus Day Sales in Cornwall Bridge, the Fall Festival at Mohawk, and on various Saturdays on Baird's porch and in West Cornwall. Tickets may also be purchased at the church office (672-6840) or by calling Chris Gyorsok (672-2715).

The Annual Park and Rec. Hay Ride will be on October 7 from 2 to 3 P.M. (rain date October 8). Peter Russ and Fred Scoville will be at CCS ready to take young and old up Cream Hill Road. Cider, doughnuts, and apples will be served after the ride.

Chestnuts in the 21st Century: The Cornwall Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, October 15, at 3:45 P.M. in the CCS Library, followed at 4 P.M. by a talk by Dr. Sandra Lee Anagnostakis, Agricultural Scientist of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. She will talk about biological control of chestnut blight disease and breeding for resistance to this and other pathogens and pests.

The Registrars of Voters will hold registration sessions at the Town Hall on the following dates and times for anyone who wishes to register before the October 24 deadline for the presidential election: October 3, 9 A.M. to noon; October 11, 9 A.M. to noon; October 21, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; October 24, 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.



Letters to the Chronicle

HONORING AN ENVIRONMENTALIST

On Route 4, one mile north of Cornwall Bridge, is a pull-off area on the bank of Furnace Brook. On a large boulder in the flowing water is a bronze memorial plaque with these words:

Heather Reaves

In memory of her work
to protect wild trout.

2000

Heather, 24, a dedicated environmentalist, was a seasonal worker for the Fisheries Division of the DEP, concerned about the purity of streams for fish. Furnace Brook was her last work stop on the April day when an auto accident in Goshen ended her life.

The plaque was a gift of the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association. Workers from the Western Headquarters of the DEP in Harwinton are maintaining the site and, in time, will enhance the brookside area with mountain laurel.

—Ann Peterson

IN DEFENSE OF BATS

I am deeply offended by Ed Ferman's "Wild-life Diary" in your September issue. I'm well aware that animal lovers are often dismissed as kooks, but I happen to have a very good sense of humor, and Ferman's letter I found to be both ignorant and unfunny. First of all, bats are of great benefit to mankind, eating hundreds of insects by the hour, including mosquitoes that we now know carry many infectious diseases. Secondly, there is little evidence that the bat even came close to biting Ferman. His descriptions of trying to kill the defenseless bat seem to be devoid of any trace of remorse for a fellow creature. By the way, I don't think much of his doctor or the Torrington Area Health Department either for their parts in the incident.

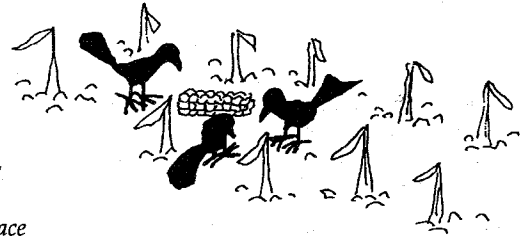
Disgusted—Betsy Ballenger

CLARK HOMESTEAD

Most of you have by now learned of the sale of the Harriet Clark homestead in East Cornwall, and that the house is being torn down, which is sad news for many, for the house has a rich history and holds a special place in many of our hearts.

I became directly involved in the demolition of the house when a friend, who had purchased the salvage rights to the house, asked me to help out on the job. I was pleased to be able to participate in saving what can be salvaged from the building, and thankful for the days to reminisce.

Standing in front of the house, I see the old road as it continues to the north, now just a woods road. It's the same road my grandfather followed on his daily three-mile walk to the old Mohawk fire tower for his watch as fire warden. I think of the schoolteachers who grew up in this house, Harriet, who taught my uncle, and Bertha, who taught my father. I hear Harriet's gravelly voice. With every nail that I pull comes a memory. There are days of picking raspberries here as a child, and picking my first quince. There is the



day I hunted squirrels here with my brother, and there is Harriet's July 4th picnic to celebrate her 100th birthday. There is the big auction, where Harriet watched many memories being sold to the highest bidder. There are many nails.

Under a shelf liner I find a tattered list of chores to be done, apparently for someone not used to doing them. The chores range from how to operate the cream separator to what to feed the pigs, horses, cows, calves, and hens. "Be sure to get the eggs."

I am relieved to know that this place will become a horse farm, not a subdivision. As I pull nails from the wide oak floors, which will be reused in another home, I hear the chain saws clearing trees and brush behind the house. Looking around the corner of the house reveals reclaimed pasture, pond, and meadow beyond, which haven't been seen for years. I am reminded that every end is a new beginning.

—Jean D. Bouteiller

RE: "THE CASE FOR GUNS"

Mr. Dunn [see September Chronicle] seems to be in the mold of the people who planted the seeds for Ruby Ridge and Waco. Their motto: Let us arm ourselves against "them." Who "them" are is never defined, although poor old Uncle Sam is generally the goat.

Can you imagine arming school teachers? Aside from the image it would project to children, most of whom know nothing of weapons, armed teachers would only add to the havoc.

The Second Amendment says: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

In today's world, which has obviously changed radically from that of the 18th century, our Militia is the National Guard and the Army Reserves—all volunteer civilians.

It seems that some of us continue to be hoodwinked by the NRA and other such self-serving groups and individuals.

—Pierre Signorat

QUILT WITH A HISTORY

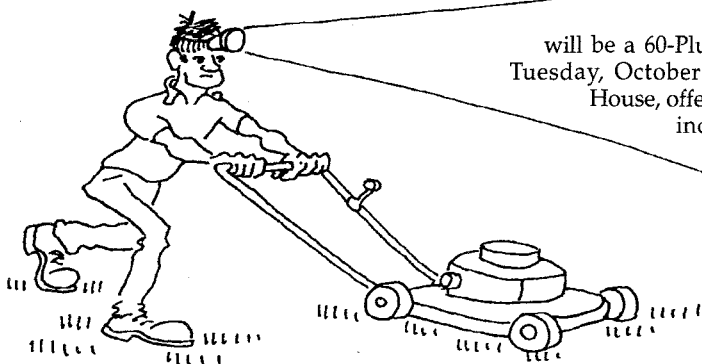
When the Northwest Corner Quilters, one of the many groups who use the United Church of Christ buildings for meetings, received a letter from the church's Capital Campaign asking for help, the members set to work making a quilt to be raffled to raise money for the building renovation.

Using antique quilt blocks made in the 1930s and '40s by Martha, Harriet, and Kate Sandmeyer (all schoolteachers in Cornwall Bridge), the quilters have created a "Flower Basket" quilt in shades of red, blue, and beige. The result of their effort is a truly beautiful quilt which reflects a little Cornwall history and a lot of Cornwall skill, dedication, and generosity. And it could be yours in the raffle!

—Chris Gyorsok

Special Hazardous Waste Day: Saturday, October 28, is the day to take to Torrington your unused pesticides, paints, stains, and solvents, along with defunct TVs, radios, computers, VCRs, and other electronics. Permits to drop off such materials must be requested from the Selectmen's Office before 1 P.M. on October 26 (672-4959).

Summer Reading Program Results: Cornwall children read up a storm this summer. A total of 2,533 books were read by children who kept reading logs for the Library's *Dive Into Reading* program and the CCS Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Of the 88 participants, 69 attend CCS and 19 were summer residents, visitors, or not yet in school. Champion performances were turned in by Anna and Phillip Geyselaers, with 120 books read to or by them, and Katherine Stewart, who read 87 junior fiction



Two Important Health Events:

There will be a 60-Plus Wellness Screening on Tuesday, October 17, at the UCC Parish House, offering a wide range of tests including hearing, vision, blood and stool, electrocardiogram, urinalysis, Pap/pelvic/breast, prostate, and others. Suggested donation: \$25. An appointment is necessary. Call Jill Gibbons, 672-2603.

Also: on that date, Torrington Area Health District representatives will offer flu and pneumonia vaccines from 10 A.M. to noon at the Parish House. There is a nominal fee; no appointment necessary.

Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held Saturday, October 7, 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday, October 8, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

On Saturday, from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M., early birds will be admitted for \$10. On Sunday, browsers will be able to fill a bag with books for \$3. Volunteers who would like to help sort or sell, October 5 to 8, please call Anne Baren at 672-6637.

Horse Show: On October 1, Gunn Brook Farm in Cornwall Bridge is having its second annual Autumnfest Open Horse Show. The show is open to spectators and participants and offers classes for both English and Western riders. The events range from halter class, which is judged solely on the horse's conformation, to Hunter Over Fences, which is a jumping class. For more information, call Marianne Pirota, 672-0203.

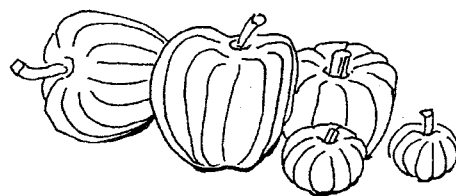
Poetry Slam #4: Cornwall's fourth annual Poetry Slam is coming up on Saturday, November 11, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Declaim, emote, sing, dance, or juggle your latest creations in poetry or prose. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. All ages and all types of performance welcomed, and refreshments provided. Original works only, please, of no more than three minutes. Call Phyllis Nauts (672-6608) to get on the list of participants.

CCS Nursery Rhyme Show: Darlene Wadhams' and Bonnie Burdick's kindergarten, transitional, and first grade classes will present a nursery rhyme show at 7 P.M. on October 5 and 6 at the Consolidated School.

Calling All Artists and Patrons: Extras for Kids invites artists of all ages to depict their favorite Cornwall person, place, or thing in any medium—paint, pencil, photo, sculpture—on Sunday, October 8. Artists are encouraged, not required, to paint their pictures that day. Bring finished work to Railroad Square in West Cornwall between 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. for display and sale at a silent auction to be held from 4 to 6 P.M. Forty percent of proceeds will benefit Extras for Kids. Refreshments. Questions? Call Barbara Stone, 672-6256.

The Park and Rec. Halloween Party will be held at CCS on Saturday, October 28, from 2 to 3:30 P.M. for children, preschool through fourth grade. Our jolly leader, Skip Hunt, will launch the costume parade. There will be a haunted house, games, and a craft table especially for preschoolers, with treats for all. Come in costume and join the fun.

Halloween Dance: Park and Rec. is sponsoring a dance at CCS on Saturday, October 28, for fifth through eighth graders from 7 to 10 P.M.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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