

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 12 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2002



Swirling Winds

Under a darkening sky and rising winds on 9/11, a number of folks gathered in the candle-lit North Cornwall Church to mark the anniversary of the Trade Center attack and to acknowledge the loss of life, the heroism, and the coming together of people concerned for their country and its values. Led by Reverends Westby and Cady, the ecumenical service sought to bring unity and hope to the assembled congregation.

At the conclusion, swirling the winds in his bagpipe to sound the sad-sweet strains of *Amazing Grace*, Gordon Ridgway strode up one aisle and down the other. Then he walked out of the church into the night, still playing, with the mournful, yet challenging and hopeful skirl of the bagpipe fading to silence in the distance.

The next day found our own town coping with the results of a whirling wind storm that brought down trees and branches, leaving homes without power for up to two days. Our own town crews and volunteer firemen were out doing what they always do, serving the town and its people. —Ken Keskinen

School Vote October 19

When looking over the history of the school building project and all the effort that has gone into developing a solution, I had a song

come to mind, to the tune of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*:

*During seven years of study
What's Cornwall been up to?
Twelve Chronicle headlines;
Eleven Town Meetings;
Ten on-liners shouting;
Nine plans for parking;
Eight more rooms for learning;
Seven sites for building;
Six architects drawing;
Five study committees;
Four referendums;
Three principals;
Two hundred thousand bucks;
And a big fat gym that has to fit somewhere!*

And that brings us to where we are now: The CCS Building Committee has come up with a reduced-cost plan that the Board of Education agrees addresses all the program needs they had outlined. The new plan, scheduled to go to referendum on October 19, includes a new addition with gymnasium and stage, entrance hallway, bathrooms and storage. The existing building would be renovated to improve the science room and music room, relocate the art room, expand the kitchen, transform the existing gym into offices and "flexible teaching space" (i.e. a multipurpose room with moveable partitions), and add a new stairway and down-

stairs bathroom. According to the committee, the renovations would provide a wider variety of rooms for instruction, increase storage space, and create a better flow for students moving class to class. The plan also includes new water and septic systems and redesigned parking and drop-off areas.

With the committee working with both an architect and construction manager, they were able to devise a plan that is estimated to cost \$3.55 million, a 25 percent reduction in price from the original \$4.7 million plan. Building Committee Chairman Jim Terrall said "Our main goal was to cut money without cutting quality or the program." Some of the changes that reduced the overall cost are: leaving Cream Hill Road where it is, installing firewalls instead of a sprinkler system, and reducing the new construction by 2,000 square feet.

How is this project going to affect your taxes? The Board of Finance is working on a detailed explanation. But Chairman Ralph Gold estimates that the total tax impact for a house assessed at \$200,000 would be \$250 per year. This will be softened by the fact that the Board has already included \$180,000 in each of the last two budgets, as payment toward a building project. This serves two purposes: taxpayers have already experienced most of the impact a building project would

(continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. St. Peter's Church Voter Registration 9 A.M.-noon Town Hall Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	2 Play Group Every Wednesday 10-11:30 A.M. Playground (St. Peter's in Case of Rain)	3 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. St. Peter's Church	4 Pre-School Story Hour Every Friday 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	5 Rotary Meeting: 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Cornwall Assoc. 9:30 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. <i>Fantastics</i> 3 P.M. UCC (p.4) Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym (p.2)
6 Absentee Ballots 10 A.M.-noon (p.2) Tim Prentice Show and Presentation 5-7 P.M. Library (p.4)	7  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	8	9	10 Voter Registraton 9 A.M.-noon Town Hall	11	12 Library Book Sale 8:30A.M.-4 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4) House Tour 11 A.M.-4 P.M. (p.4) Park and Rec. Hay Ride (p.4)
13 Library Book Sale 9 A.M.-noon (p.4)	14 COLUMBUS DAY (OBSERVED)	15 Deadline: November Chronicle Copy Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library M. R. Planning and Zoning 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	16	17  Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall CCS Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	18	19 Rotary Meeting: 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Voter Registration 10 A.M.-2 P.M. Referendum Vote 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall (p.2) <i>Our Town</i> 7:30 P.M. UCC (p.4)
20 Horse Show 9 A.M. Gunn Brook Farm (p.3) UCC Talk 11:30 A.M. (p.4) <i>Our Town</i> 3:30 P.M. UCC (p.4)	21  Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS	22 Voter Registration 9 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	23 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	24 VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	25 Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym	26 Rotary Meeting: 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Hazardous Waste Collection 9 A.M.-1 P.M. (p.4) Park and Rec. Halloween Party 2-4 P.M., Dance 7-10 P.M.
27 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS UCC Talk 11:30 A.M. (p.4) Concert 4 P.M. UCC (p.3)	28 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	29	30 Red Cross Blood Drive UCC Parish House (p.4) Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	31 HALLOWEEN		November 2: Globalization Talks (p.4) Fireman's Ball (p.3)

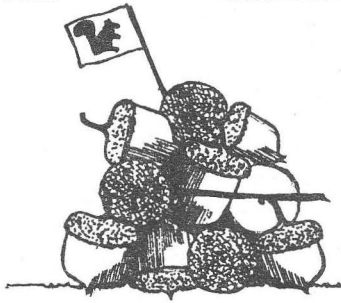
* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

have on their yearly taxes, and by putting the money up front, the Town would have to borrow less overall.

There will be a Town Meeting on Saturday, October 5, where more details about the plan, its costs and the tax impact will be presented. The meeting will adjourn to a referendum on October 19, with polls open from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. The Town Clerk (672-2709) will have special office hours on Sunday, October 6, 10 A.M. to noon to process absentee ballot applications for those who are not here during the week.

—Annie Kosciusko



“Discoveries of A Countryman”

Lewis Gannett's *Cream Hill* was published in 1949. It's out of print, but at tag sales or library de-accessionings you can occasionally find a copy. You'll know it by the brick-red binding and the winter landscape by Ruth Gannett that decorates the front cover. A quick flip of the pages will show you several of her lithographs—including the classic composite portrait of Cornwall, which serves as endpapers.

The Gannetts first came to Cornwall in the 1920s as guests of Carl and Irita Van Doren. Before long the Gannetts had found their own house on Cream Hill, where for decades they spent weekends and summers. The sub-title of this essay collection is “Discoveries of a Weekend Countryman,” and it's characteristic of Lewis Gannett to make “discoveries” rather than pronouncements; his modesty is part of the book's charm.

So is his relaxed attitude to gardening. From a chapter disarmingly titled “Innocents in the Parsley Patch”: “Most of what happens in a vegetable garden remains a mystery to me, despite almost a quarter-century of more or less assiduous effort and observation and considerable reading.” But the daring novices successfully grew all the vegetables that Ezra Stiles, Lewis Gannett's great-great-grandfather, noted in his garden records of the 1750s—though not the mulberry trees planted by Ezra, who hoped to establish a native American silk industry, the Cornwall climate notwithstanding.

As an informal history, *Cream Hill* moves easily among centuries. Ezra Stiles—a landowner here, a parson in Newport and a college president in New Haven—is a lively presence. Cameo appearances are made by the Rev. Hezekiah Gold, Cornwall's “second and most rambunctious pastor,” and by another gardener, Thomas Jefferson, who fearlessly planted tomatoes at Monticello despite their poisonous reputation.

On the evidence of *Cream Hill*, some things have changed a lot in the past half-century. Cream Hill Road is no longer “hazardous. . . at any time of year” and “all but impassable. . . from New Year's until well into June.” Lewis Gannett seems delighted by deer, whose 1949 population was small, and undelighted by the coming of radio, with its “lugubrious lot of commercials.”

But just like his 21st-century counterparts, he finds that Cornwall “restores what the city frazzles.” With—perhaps—a little twinge of guilt, he asks if week-ending is mere escapism. “We aren't sure. What we are sure about is that it works, and that we love it.”

—Franny Taliaferro

This is the first in a series recalling books about Cornwall. Suggestions for other books to be covered are welcome.

Grant Received for Hart Farm

The Cornwall Conservation Trust has received a Department of Environmental Protection grant to help buy 96 acres of the Hart farm on Cherry Hill Road. The land will be permanently protected open space, available to all.

Maggie Cooley, president of CCT, said, “We're thrilled by the grant; it reflects the importance of this land to the state and the town.

“But the hard work is still to come,” Maggie said. The CCT faces a major challenge because the state grant of \$316,225 will provide only 41 percent of the purchase price. The balance of the funds must be raised privately.

—Ed Ferman

Get It Right, Get It Faster

In August, my daughter received an invitation through the mail, addressed in a child's scrawl to “Mary Kate, West Cornwall, CT 06796.” It got to us in a timely fashion, after some sleuthing on the part of patient postal workers, surely one of the inherent benefits of living in a tiny town.

However, as diligent as our local postmasters are, they are caught in the squeeze between the demands of their supervisors and the expectations of their customers. Their supervisors are admonishing them to get us to correctly address mail so that the volumes of mail can be moved more quickly and accurately as the major mail handling facilities become automated. The final goal is to have the boxes of mail arrive in our local post offices already sorted, in order of delivery. To achieve this pre-sorting in Waterbury or Hartford the mail has to be addressed in a manner that can be read quickly by a machine (ten pieces a second!).

Customers, on the other hand, have an infinite variety of addressing styles that often suit their own tastes rather than a machine in Waterbury. Some of us don't even know our “correct” address, much less what the zip + 4 is all about.

A perfectly addressed envelope is designed to be read by a machine, from the bottom up. The bottom line should have town name, correct 2-letter state abbreviation, then

zip + 4 code. (This is simply a very specific zip code, pointing to a box or a street.) No commas or other punctuation are on this line. The next line up should have the actual mail address, either a post office box number, or number and street if you get your mail delivered to your house. The top lines are for the name(s) of the recipient. The bottom 5/8” of the envelope should be left clear for barcoding. Some other tips: use neat, capital letters; use black ink; and avoid any artwork near the address. To get your correct zip+4 code, ask for it at any post office, or go online to www.usps.com.

So, what happens to the mail that isn't addressed just this way? “Oh, it'll get there,” Postmistress Anne Russ assured me. But it may take a little longer. Some post offices, she warned, are particularly picky, so it might first get returned to sender.

—Annie Kosciusko

Good-bye to a Friend

Doris Hart Cross

Welcome

Isabel Buchanan O'Connell to Emily Buchanan and Brendan O'Connell

Ornella Zabriskie Rufo to Valerie Zabriskie and Aldo Rufo

Congratulations

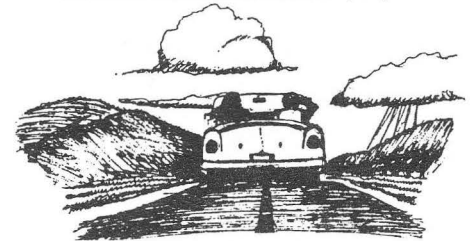
Christopher Gillette to Christine Conklin

Jonathan Paul to Tamara Drake

Diana Jane Hollander to Steven Robert Long

Land Transfers

Cornwall Partners to Margaret A. Tagliarino, land and house on Todd Hill Road for \$250,000.



No A/C for Those Horses

In its story last month on the vast and elegant barn being constructed on Clark Road to house 50 Frisian horses, the *Chronicle* erroneously reported that the horses would enjoy the benefits of air conditioning. In fact, the only areas to be air-conditioned are the farm offices and the living quarters of the resident manager. Sorry, horses.

—The Editors

Welcome to the Reverend Laura Westby!

Cornwall's newest cleric will provide the pastoral leadership for the United Church of Christ as an interim minister. Her education was at Hartwick College (B.S. with honors) and Yale Divinity School (M. Div.). Before ordination, she served as an R.N. in hospice related work, including Clinical Supervisor for the CT Hospice in Branford.

After long pastorates, many congregations appoint, for a two-year period, an interim minister who will assist them in dis-

cerning the church's direction for the future while they search for a permanent pastor. Rev. Westby has been such an interim minister in six UCC congregations and is a faculty member of the Interim Ministry Network which trains clergy for this specialized type of call. Her home is in Thomaston where she lives with her husband and two daughters.

Those who have worshiped with her are aware of both her passion and her sensitivity. As her colleague, I look forward to many services and community events together.

—Scott Cady

✓ Endangered Species at Ag Fair

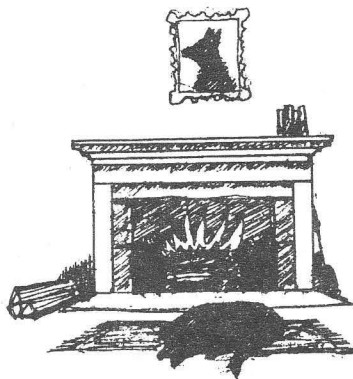
The Village Green abounded with livestock—caprine, bovine, equine and poultry too. The main feature was that endangered species, the family farmer, who looked alive and well as evidenced by the effortless 38-foot bale toss by Steven Scoville followed by Bill Dinneen and Don Polk. Laid-back politicians polished off the 8th grade delicacies and swatted gnats. Jam-in-a-jar and tag goods were offered by the churches, and sticky-faced children wandered on the green in their butter yellow soccer jerseys fortified by fresh-made maple syrup candy. A corn thresher stripped cobs, and to many a child's delight, Dan and Billy Cain did their annual grind and squeeze for fresh apple juice. (Time makes cider...)

In the growing heat of the day, 4-H* celebrated its 100th anniversary with a parade of livestock and shelties round the Green. Children loved learning the old art of hooprolling. The Fermans won the firewood raffle.

Garrick Dinneen's new event featured several pair of oxen in the pull and backing contest. "Garrick is the brains of the outfit," said Ag Committee president Pete Ripley. The Scoville's hayride was greatly in demand. Prudhomme, Robinson, and Lorch made fine showings in produce, not to mention Cooley, Hart, and Ridgway. At 2:30 P.M. the children undid the haymaze while Joyce Hart and Rachel Gall played "Fiddle in the Middle" to a circle of dancers doing the haybale boogie while looking more like turkeys in the straw. As the antique machinery put-putted home bearing the endangered species and tables folded, a new crowd of folks strode through the village to the wine and cheese lecture about family therapeutics.

—Lib Tobin

*Head, heart, hands, health...



Letters to the Chronicle

A REASONABLE SOLUTION

The School Building Committee has done a good job of carefully trimming well over one million dollars (25 percent) off the Cornwall Consolidated School renovation project's cost while still accomplishing the School Board's goals. By improving the facilities in which science, art, music, and special education are taught, their programs will have immediate and lasting positive effects on the education of Cornwall's children. Necessary improvements in the school's septic system and traffic flow will also be made in this comprehensive plan. Townspeople as well as students will benefit by enlarging the gymnasium/auditorium and the kitchen as more events will be possible. I hope that there is a good turnout at the October 5 Town Meeting and October 19 referendum.

—Gordon Ridgway

MOMENT OF TRUTH

"Cop out": to avoid or neglect problems, responsibilities, or commitments.

Many of us see our school space deficiencies as a growing problem which, in this competitive world, will put our Cornwall students at an early disadvantage. As a town, we have looked at several possible solutions with varying price tags. Now we are down to decision time with no more wiggle room and only three choices left to us:

- 1. To vote for the well worked-over recommendations of the present building committee and get on with the reorganization of existing space and the addition of new.*
- 2. To vote against the building committee's recommendations and insure the status quo well into the foreseeable future.*
- 3. To stay away from the polls on October 19 altogether—in short: cop out. There are no other choices.*

I urge you to vote on this issue; the most

Events & Announcements

A Special Piano: Mary Schieffelin's Steinway grand piano was given to the United Church of Christ by Mary's niece, Julie Schieffelin, after Mary's death. Mary had been the director of music at the church for many years.

To celebrate the gift, Anne Chamberlain will present a concert with cellist Peter Zay on Sunday, October 27, at 4 P.M. at UCC. Zay plays with the Hartford Symphony, the Boston Lyric Opera, and appears in chamber music concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe. The program will include works by Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and Mendelssohn.

The proceeds from the concert will go to the Jubilee School in Philadelphia, which marks its 25th anniversary in October. Admission at the door will be \$15 per person, with a family admission fee of \$30.



important (because of its impact on our children) that Cornwall has faced in the last ten years. Don't be a cop out.

—Scoville Soule

MMM, MMM GOOD

This is an addendum to George Kittle's piece on the transfer station. The Campbell soup labels collected in months past by transfer station operators Fred Bate and Steve O'Neill have benefited The Children's Home in Cromwell (new equipment for the computer classroom). Other landfills in Connecticut also collected labels during this drive to provide support for the children, but Fred, Steve, and the citizens of our town submitted 4,000 of the total of 5,000 labels collected. Well done!

—Earl Brecher

Campbell Soup Company labels continue to be collected at the dump. Check the "label table" there for more information.

—The Editors

CORNWALL KESTRELS

The first year of Cornwall's American kestrel nest box project has gone well. Of 11 boxes available, two in Coltsfoot Valley were used successfully by separate pairs of these CT Species of Special Concern birds (while European starlings were prevented from getting comfortable in most of the other boxes). With a number of Cornwallians in attendance, the eight little falcon nestlings produced were banded with US Fish & Wildlife Service leg bands. Many thanks to the landowners who are hosting the boxes.

—Art Gingert

Registering to Vote: The Registrars of Voters will hold registration sessions at the Town Hall on the following dates and times: October 1, 9 A.M. to noon; October 10, 9 A.M. to noon; October 19, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; October 22, 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. October 22 is the last day to register to vote in the November 5 election. Call Jayne Ridgway, 672-0279.

Autumnfest Horse Show will be held at Gunn Brook Farm on October 20 starting at 9 A.M., with a full range of events for every western and huntseat rider. The show is open to both participants and spectators. Call 672-0203 for further information.

A Masquerade Ball will be held for the benefit of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department on November 2 from 8 P.M. to midnight at Mohawk Ski Lodge. Music is by Rock n' Roll Heaven; set-ups and light snacks provided; BYOB. Costumes encouraged but not required. Adults (over 21) only; no pets. \$20 per couple. Call 672-0042 for more information.

Leave Street Signs Alone: Concerned about public safety, Gordon Ridgway asks that street markers not be removed or tampered with. Emergency vehicles must always be able to go directly to the place of need.

Blood Drive will be held at the UCC Parish House on October 30 from 2 to 6:45 P.M. Call 672-6840 for more information

Globalization and Its Effects: On Saturday, November 2, from 4 to 6 P.M. at the Cornwall Library, Jeremy Brecher and Peter Hollander will present video documentaries on the effect of international economics on developing countries. The presentation of Peter's *The Economics Game* and Jeremy's *Global Village or Global Pillage* will be followed by discussion.

UCC Talks: On Sunday, October 20, Nancy Dubler, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Douglas Green, from the Hospital for Special Surgery, will lead a discussion on new developments in life-sustaining technology and making choices in our health care system. They will also discuss decision-making rules for patients.

On Sunday, October 27, Peter Coope, principal of CCS, will speak about special programs at the school, including Peer Mediation, Book Buddies, D.A.R.E., Across America, and Invention Convention. He will also present ways the community can become more involved with CCS programs and students.

The programs begin at 11:30 A.M. at the parish house behind the church.

The Annual Book Sale of the Cornwall Free Library will be held on Saturday, October 12, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. and on Sunday, October 13, from 9 A.M. to noon. There will be a preview from 8:30 to 9 A.M. on Saturday for dealers and early risers with a \$10 entry fee. On Sunday a bag of books costs \$3. Volunteers are needed to set up, sort books, and tidy up. Teenagers are especially welcome. Please call Anne Nance at 672-6242.



Your Vote Counts!

Cornwall and Floriduh have one thing in common, a propensity for close votes—fortunately, we know how to count them better. Don't forget to vote in the school referendum later this month; one vote could literally make a difference. And remember that the Chronicle needs your continued vote of confidence (in the form of a donation) to keep on publishing.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Please mail the Chronicle to the out-of-town address above; a \$10 contribution will be appreciated.



The 4th Annual Cornwall House Tour for the benefit of Prime Time House will take place, rain or shine, on October 12, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. This year's tour could appropriately be called "barn tour" as four of the six buildings owe their aesthetic if not their very existence to the agricultural history of Cornwall. Tour tickets are \$25, and tour-and-reception tickets are \$50. To be a tour volunteer or to purchase advance tickets, call Amy Cady at 672-0233. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at St. Peter's Lutheran Church and at the former Yutzler's store deck. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

The Fantastics comes to Cornwall in a program of songs and scenes to be performed on Saturday, October 5, at 3 P.M. at the United Church of Christ, for the benefit of the Cornwall Library Endowment Fund. It is offered as a tribute to the world's longest-running musical (42 years), which closed last January in New York City.

Marc Simont will introduce the program, directed by Jean Leich, which includes performers Nick Jacobs, Laura Kirk, John Miller, Greg Zabielski, and Matt Blinstrubas, with Anne Chamberlain at the piano. *The Fantastics* was created by Tom Jones and composer Harvey Schmidt. This unique concert version was arranged for the Cornwall production by Mr. Jones, who will be on hand to talk about the musical.

Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. A reception in the parish house follows the performance.

Our Town comes to our town. The newly created Village Repertory Company will present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* on October 19 at 7:30 P.M. and October 20 at 3:30 P.M. at UCC.

Cornwall drama teacher Lesley Gyorsok will stage the play with a cast of Cornwall and area residents. Christopher Peterson is technical director. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit the UCC operating budget. Call 672-2715.

Park and Rec. Activities: The annual Halloween Parties will be held on Saturday, October 26 at the CCS gym. The first, from 2 to 4 P.M., is for children pre-school through fourth grade and will feature a magic show by Peter James. That evening, from 7 to 10 P.M., there will be a dance, with DJ, for fifth through eighth graders. Refreshments will be served at both events.

Anyone willing to coach recreational basketball, please call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058.

The Annual Hayride will take place on Saturday, October 12, leaving the CCS parking lot at 1:30 P.M. Come 15 minutes before departure time. Refreshments to follow.

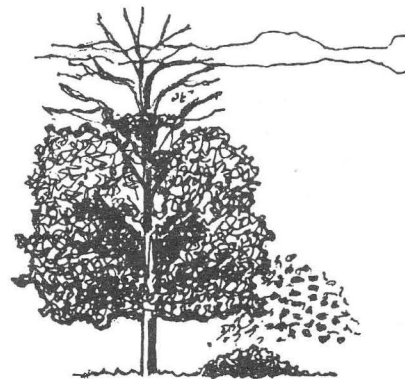
Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library Marc Simont's show of "Politically Incorrect Cartoons" will continue through October 5.

Sunday, October 6, from 5 to 7 P.M., is the opening reception for Tim Prentice's show of recent sculptures at which Tim will give a multimedia presentation of his commissioned kinetic works here and abroad. Admission to the reception and talk is \$10. Proceeds will benefit the library.

At the Wish House, on October 12, from 5 to 7 P.M., there will be an opening of an exhibit of jewelry by Elizabeth Kaestner.

At the National Iron Bank Ken Keskinen will exhibit his "Junktures" during October.

Household Hazardous Waste collection day is Saturday, October 26. Call the Selectman's Office for details, 672-4959.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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