# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 13: NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2003

Upcoming Local Elections

Tuesday, November 4, 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. in the Town Hall (big room). You're going to say (a few of you) why do this piece in the October issue when the election is in November? Because, dear readers, the election comes so early in the month (Nov.) that the editors wanted the readers (voters) to have some time (Oct.) to think about their choices on Election Day.

That said, let's have a look at the contests and the non-contests: Gordon Ridgway, nominated by both parties, has a lock for a sixth term as First Selectman.

Then it gets interesting. There are three candidates for Selectman. You vote for one, but only the top two votegetters are elected. The choices are incumbent Republican K.C. Baird, Democrat Neal (Skip) Kosciusko and Ken Keskinen, running for the Green Party.

Cheryl Evans, Town Clerk, John Green, Treasurer, and Helen Migliacci, Tax Collector, are endorsed by both parties for another two-year term.

Then comes Board of Finance. There's a two-year vacancy for which Democrat Paul Baren and Republican Roger Kane are contending. The winner takes that seat. There are also two six-year seats with Democrats Celia Senzer and Earl Brecher opposing Republicans Peter Kalmes and Jack Preston. Here it gets complicated. The top two among these

four would nominally be seated unless the Republican nominee wins the two-year seat. Then it's still the top two if one of them comes from each party. Otherwise at least one Dem would have to be seated on Finance. The reason: one party cannot have more than four members on a six-member board.

The Board of Finance also has two alternate members, and they will be Anne Kosciusko (R) and David Grossman (D) no matter which one you vote for.

The Board of Éducation has three openings, and all on the ballot will be seated. They are Democrats Jim Terrall and Catherine Tatge and Republican Wynne Kavanagh.

The Board of Assessment Appeals has two openings, which means Richard Bramley (D) and Roger Kane (R) will be reelected. Same with Planning & Zoning—two openings and two candidates who are Anne Kosciusko (R) and Doc Simont (D). The Zoning Board of Appeals has two vacant seats and three candidates, Democrats Anne Chamberlain and Hanna Grossman and Republican Heidi Kearns. The top two will be seated.

Finally, we come to Park & Rec. with four seats and five candidates: Republicans Brian Kavanagh and Tom Brown; Democrats Phill West and Don Clarke; and the Green Party's Allen Herkimer.

—John Miller

# Of Phones and Foghorns

The Cornwall Consolidated School has a new welcometo-the-twenty-first-century phone system. CCS teachers and staff members have long realized that they need a way to communicate with each other promptly in the event of an emergency as well as over the day-to-day problems of running a school.

Before the new system was installed much of the in-school communication was done the old-fashioned way, by foot. From the classroom, there was no access to the outside world or the ability to communicate with other teachers except by phoning the main office from a wall phone and enlisting assistance. Now each teacher has a phone in his/her room, and if she, for example, is waiting for a class to arrive, she can call another teacher directly to see where her students are. "We have waited a long time for this," said Susan Gingert, Board of Education Clerk at CCS. "It was really an issue of safety and security, and it saves so much time."

One important feature of the new phone system is that it can be accessed from home by a CCS staff member who, in case of a delay because of weather conditions, can change the greeting to notify parents calling the school.

(continued on page 2)

# OCTOBER 2003.

		U	OBER	4UU3 <b></b>		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	<b>TUESDAY</b>	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bend & Stretch Every Wed. 9:30–10:30 A.M. UCC Parish House (p.3) Play Group Every Wednesday 10–11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC Parish House Stretch Class Every Wed. 5:30–6:30 P.M. Town Hall	2	Pre-School Story Hour 10–11 A.M. Cornwall Library	Chess Club Every Saturday 9:30–11 A.M. Library M. R. (p.4) Triangle Trade 4 P.M. N. Cornwall Church (p.3)
5 Yom Kippur Begins at Sundown	Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	7 Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m. UCC Day Room Inland Wetlands* 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	8	Register to Vote Town Hall 9 A.MNoon (p.4)	10	11 Cornwall Library Book Sale 8:30 A.M.—4 P.M. (p.3) Cornwall House Tour 11 A.M.—4 P.M. (p.4) Electronics Recycling 9 A.M.—1 P.M. (p.3)
12 Cornwall Library Book Sale 9 A.M.–Noon (p.3)	13 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	14 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	15 Deadline: November Chronicle Copy	H6 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	17 Pre-School Story Hour 10–11 A.M. Cornwall Library Cornwall Association 7:30 P.M. Cornwall Library	Register to Vote 24 10 A.M.—2 P.M. Town Hall (p.4) A Taste of Africa 5:30–7:30 P.M. UCC Parish House (p.4)
UCC Open House 3–5 P.M. UCC (p.4)	Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library M. R.	Register to Vote Town Hall 9 A.M8 P.M. (p.4)	Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	23 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	Pre-School Story Hour 10–11 A.M. Cornwall Library Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)	Hazardous Waste Collecton 9 A.M.—3 P.M. (p.4)
26 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  Cornwall Conservation Trust Annual Meeting and Talk 4 p.m. Town Hall (p.4)	<b>27</b> ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	28 Torrington Area Health Vaccinations 10 A.M.–Noon UCC Parish House (p.4)	Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Halloween Festival 4 P.M. Town Green (p.4)	Pre-School Story Hour 10–11 a.m. Cornwall Library	

(continued from page 1)

No outside calls will go directly to the classroom during school hours, but parents can leave a message for their child's teacher by calling the school and being connected to his/her voicemail. At 3:45 P.M. each day when school is over, the phone's auto attendant responds, enabling parents and callers to access the school directory and still leave a message. As part of the system a new "bell" has been installed to indicate classroom changes and to introduce announcements.

"It really is more like a foghorn than a bell," said Susan lightheartedly, "and we still jump when we hear it." —Brenda Underwood



#### **Four Cornwall Histories**

Cornwall is fortunate among Connecticut towns to have two published town histories, despite their ages and wants: one, *Historical Records of the Town of Cornwall*, compiled by Theodore Sedgwick Gold in 1877 and enlarged in 1904 by additional pages largely on North Cornwall families; the other, *A History of Cornwall*, *Connecticut* by Edward Comfort Starr, issued in 1926.

Gold, a Cream Hill farmer and educator, was a lifetime local resident descended from Cornwall pioneers. Starr came to Cornwall in 1888 to serve until 1915 as minister of the First Church in Cornwall Village.

Both books, each over 500 pages, are in the traditional town history format: e.g., material on church and military history, education, brief biographies and extensive genealogical data. Of the two, Starr's is far more systematic and comprehensive—indeed, almost encyclopedic. Gold's is more a series of short items, some by his father, plus a 130-page history of Cornwall churches based in part on writings of the Rev. Timothy Stone, and a 27-page account of Cornwall Hollow by Charles F. Sedgwick.

Neither book is an easy read, and neither gives sources for most of its data. The two overlap, but Gold has items not in Starr, especially data on his own and other North Cornwall families. Starr has a section on roads and residences not matched by Gold, which often helps to identify former residents of presentday house sites. Each is indexed after a fashion, but for each there is now a very helpful, separate index (available from the Historical Society). Original copies are hard to acquire, especially in good condition (bookseller Barbara Farnsworth sometimes has copies), but each is available in a facsimile, print-on-demand edition from Higginson Book Co., POB 778, Salem, MA 01970 (978-745-7170); \$38.50 for Gold and \$58 for Starr.

For Cornwall's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Yale history professor Sydney K. Mitchell, a sum-

mer resident married into an old Cornwall family, produced *Phases of Cornwall History*. Its 39 pages, although narrower and far less detailed than Gold or Starr, provide an overview of the economic changes in the town, period by period, since its founding. The booklet reads like a lecture; indeed, Mitchell read portions at the celebration on the Green. But it is not a handy source for miscellaneous facts, and there is no index. The Historical Society has issued a reprint.

In 1931 the late Polly Calhoun interrupted work on a final requirement for her college degree to marry Frank and live in Cornwall. But in the early 1980s she completed that requirement with her *Cornwall*, *Connecticut*, a sociological study. With allowances for changes since, it is a good read for newcomers to town. Its 97 pages are a lively, nearly modern account with a historical background. One may quarrel over minor details, as I did with Polly—she was as protective of her text as a mother bear of its cubs—but her book has charm and viewpoints lacking in the other histories. Copies are available at the Cornwall Free Library and the Society.

—Michael R. Gannett

## **New Teachers at CCS**

Kathy West is the new science teacher at CCS. She comes to Cornwall by way of Campton, NH, where she grew up. Kathy moved to Cornwall about a year ago and in July of this year married Phill West.

She earned her bachelor's degree with a major in biology from Earlham College in Indiana. After graduation, Kathy taught environmental education at a center in the Catskills and then went on to get her teaching certification. Prior to coming to CCS, Kathy taught science to ninth and tenth graders in Brattleboro, VT.

Asked what she would like to bring to CCS Kathy replied: "I want to encourage students in their writing of lab reports, teach them graphing skills, how to design an experiment and how to take effective notes, although these are not their favorite subjects." She added: "They got very excited about the idea of dissecting things such as frogs, eyes and hearts, also part of the curriculum."

Micheline Guilman is the new physical education teacher at CCS. Although she is new to teaching she is not new to the area, having lived in Goshen for the past 15 years. She attended Wamogo Regional High School, graduating in 1997. She then went on to Springfield College where she obtained her degree in physical education with a minor in exercise science. She is also a certified personal trainer and fitness instructor. For a number of years, she has coached soccer and track and field in recreational leagues and for middle and high school teams.

When asked what she hoped to bring to the students at CCS, Micheline said: "I

would like to show them that an active lifestyle can be fun and attainable."

—Brenda Underwood

# Welcome

Natasha Michelle Corwin to Chastity Parker and Timothy Corwin

# Good-bye to a Friend

Sara Woolsey MacLean

#### **Land Transfers**

Estate of Joseph H. Choiniere to John W. and June L. Dinneen, house and 3 acres at 91 Cemetery Hill Road for \$220,000.

Robin Freydberg to John K. Goodrich, 8.8 acres off Pierce Lane for \$63,000.

Jill E. Gibbons to Craig I. And Susan C. Simons, house and 3.5 acres at 5 Ballyhack Road for \$385,000.

Gary Guilman and Christine Guilman to Lee Ann McCarthy, house and 6.02 acres at 108 Warren Hill Road for \$350,000.

Edward and Elena Dodd III to Hector and Erica Prud'homme, 6.8 acres on Lake Road for \$68,000. Sherry Bronfman to Glenn and Gina Nanni O'Brien,

house and 21 acres at 378 Town Street for \$500,000.

# Fall Hunting Schedule

For the benefit of hikers and hunters:

Small game: Species and dates vary. The season runs through December. Turkey, bow: Currently open to November 18 on state and private lands; December 25 to 31, landowners only. Turkey, firearms: October 18 to November 1. Deer, bow: Currently open to November 18, and December 24 to 31, on bow-hunting-only areas on state lands. Also open to December 31 on private lands. Deer, firearms (shotgun, rifle): November 19 to December 9, state and private lands, zones and dates vary; November 1 to December 30, landowner only; Muzzleloader: December 10 to 23. Sundays: No hunting. Some exceptions for private preserves. Shooting Hours: These are general hours; there are exceptions. Half hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey. From 7:00 A.M. to half hour after sunset for most small game. Some species are permitted to be taken at all hours. Best to check the DEP Guide. Courtesy: Respect each other's use of the outdoors. Take your trash home, don't litter. Safety: Wear orange. If you will be out alone, let somebody know where you will be. Hikers, if you see a hunter, call out to identify your location. Bikers, attach a bell to your bike to warn of your approach. Check yourself for ticks!

For more information: Contact the Wildlife Division, DEP at (860) 424-3011 for a free guide or www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/ to download a guide.

—Jim Levy

# **New Park & Recreation Policy**

At a meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission on September 8 a new policy regarding programs was voted into the Bylaws: "As a tax-subsidized Commission, all Park & Recreation programs are open to all Cornwall residents. Any child enrolled in a sports program is expected to attend practices. If a child does not attend practice during the week, he or she will not be allowed to start in that week's game unless there are not enough other players to field the team."

—Bethany K. Thompson

# **Accessory Apartments**

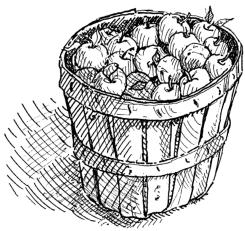
In its continuing efforts to carry out its mission to provide affordable housing, the Cornwall Housing Corporation (CHC) sponsored a presentation by Patrick Hare on creating extra living units in Cornwall homes. More than 40 people attended the seminar on September 13 at the Cornwall Free Library.

CHC President Maggie Cooley reminded the attendees that the need for affordable housing continues and that Cornwall has many huge houses which could accommodate apartments.

Hare, a Cornwall resident who has created apartments in his own home on Pine Street, has extensive training and experience in town planning. He said that most towns (including Cornwall) have zoning for accessory apartments and that people need to understand the many benefits that could come from such remodeling of homes.

Those benefits include raising the value of the property by creating apartments for rental income. This helps provide the personal and financial security that allows elders to stay longer in their familiar homes. Such income, starting at approximately \$500 a month, depending on the number of rooms, would help pay for the necessary renovations which, says Hare, could be anywhere from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Creating a kitchen is usually the biggest expense at approximately \$5,000.

—Ken Keskinen



#### **Events & Announcements**

Electronics Recycling Collection Day: Saturday, October 11, at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant on Bogue Road off South Main Street, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. No cost or pre-registration is necessary. Participants will be asked to show their driver's license or some other proof of residency to participate. Sponsored by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.

Exploring the Triangle Trade, a lecture by Ledlie Laughlin, relates the story of his family's exploration of its past slave-trade activities, what it meant to their New England forebears and its legacy today. Saturday, October 4, 4 P.M. at the North Cornwall Church. All are welcome. Sponsored by the All Saints Episcopal congregation.

Letters to the Chronicle

GIVE TO OUR TOWN

The Town of Cornwall has been fortunate to receive several bequests and gifts over the years. Mary Schieffelin's bequest has been used to help fund the new playground on Pine Street and will help restore the stage at Town Hall. The Marie Baum Scholarship is awarded each year to a Cornwall college-bound student with an interest in music. The Town has also received \$12,500 to start an endowment to fund community projects. If you would like to know more about giving or leaving money to the town, call me at 672-4959. Donations are tax-deductible and can be targeted for specific areas like scholarships or recreation.

-Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman

#### SLOUCHING TOWARD CORNWALL

In my article on mountain lions in the August issue I made fun of the idea that there could be mastodons in Cornwall. But I have received an e-mail that I feel I must share with your readers:

"I was thoroughly persuaded by your excellent article in the Cornwall Chronicle. We all see what we want to see, as demonstrated by the Loch Ness Monster legend and the case of the Abominable Snowman.

"However, I wish to inform you that on a sunny morning late last spring—June 18, according to my diary—I saw a mastodon in the pasture in back of my house. When it saw me, it raised its trunk and emitted a sound which in volume and timbre reminded me of the old Queen Elizabeth about to depart from Manhattan for Southampton. My visitor did not appear aggressive though he did raise his gleaming tusks, which according to my best estimate measured 14 feet long and were about 12 inches in diameter at the base. He then lumbered off into the woods, knocking down several ash trees and a large white birch as he went.

"Some of my friends have suggested that what I saw was not a mastodon, but simply an ordinary elephant. However, this creature was much larger than the largest known elephant.

My best visual estimate is that he stood 14 feet high at the shoulder. I was able to apply a tape measure to his footprints, which measured 19 inches by 13.5 inches. I am familiar with elephant footprints from my years of research in Kenya and Tanzania, and those were no elephant prints!

"Sincerely yours, I.C.A. Tusker, D.Phil.Oxon, F.R.S. (Cream Hill Road)"

Given Dr. Tusker's obvious credibility, I'm forced to accept the fact there are mountain lions in Cornwall.

—Hendon Chubb

# A PLANT THAT HAS OUTLIVED ITS WELCOME

This is the time of year when it is easy to identify knotweed, also known as Mexican bamboo. Those of us who stop to admire Larry's Pond can't help but admire the very tall plants blooming in stands across Rattlesnake Road. Their sprays of greenish white flowers are spectacular. As you walk up the road you discover how rapidly this plant is spreading. Hundreds of seeds, probably thousands, are dispersed by the wind after the plants flower. The problem is that knotweed forms a dense canopy which prevents other plants from surviving.

Every spring, on the upper west side of Rattlesnake Road, dozens of trillium bloom among other wildflowers. Their days are surely numbered if the knotweed is not contained.

There's some chance that establishment can be slowed if we remove young knotweed plants each spring. (There are other more drastic measures which I hesitate to mention.) Call me if you want to help. 672-0283. —Carla Bigelow

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, Tom Zetterstrom's exhibit of Portraits of Trees will continue through October 4. Beginning October 6, Karl Saliter will be showing *Floating Stones*, sculptures of wood, stone and metal—a light treatment of these elemental forms. In the glass case, Ted Hein's surprising collection of Minerals of Connecticut and the Northeast will be on view during October. At the Cornwall Arts Collection there will be an opening on October 25, from 5 to 7 P.M., of a show featuring the paintings of Phyllis Nauts and Hendon. At the National Iron Bank, Wallace Harding will be exhibiting her images of flowers during the month of October.

The Annual Book Sale of the Cornwall Free Library will be held on Saturday, October 11, from 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. and on Sunday, October 12, from 9 A.M. to noon. On Saturday, from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M., dealers and early birds will be admitted for \$10. On Sunday a bag of books costs \$3. Volunteers are needed to set up, sort books, and tidy up. New faces are especially welcome. Call Norma Lake at 672-6228.

**Bend & Stretch Clinic** for older adults. Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. on October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and November 5 at UCC. Free, but space is limited. Call (800) 752-0215 or (860) 567-6000 to register. Offered by Visiting Nurse and Home Care Northwest.

**Registering to Vote:** The Registrars of Voters will hold sessions in the Town Hall on the following dates for anyone who wishes to register before the October 21 deadline for the November 4 election: October 9, 9 A.M. to noon; October 18, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; October 21, 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Call Jayne Ridgway, 672-0279, with questions.



A Taste of Africa Dinner will be hosted by UCC at the Parish House on Saturday, October 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The dinner will benefit Suleka, UCC's sponsored Kenyan girl. Traditional African fare and theme. Suggested donation \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 7 to 12, children 6 and under free, and a family maximum of \$25. For reservations contact Charlotte Frost at 672-6323. Reservations highly recommended.

Cornwall Chess Club: All are invited to participate on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. Bring a chess set and join other chess enthusiasts of all ages for challenging games. Scott Cady will offer instruction and strategy tips. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

A Conservation Conversation on Sunday, October 26, at 4 P.M., in the Town Hall. Join expert forester Susan Kelsey and town volunteers as Kelsey highlights the special places preserved in your Cornwall area. Please join the Cornwall Conservation Trust at its open annual meeting. Maps plus hors d'oeuvres.

Winter Heating Fuel Assistance Applications are being taken for low-income households. For information or an appointment, please call Jill Gibbons at 672-2603.

## Hardboiled Yegg

A yegg is a thug or burglar, which you would know if you subscribed to the e-mail service, A Word A Day. You can sign up for AWAD at wordsmith.com; it's fun and it's free. The *Chronicle* is also free (and fun, we hope), but remember that we need your continued support to keep it going.

The Cornwall Child Center Cookbook is here! Order yours today. Makes a great gift idea. Sales support the Center's activities. Call Bethany Thompson at 672-6058. The cost is \$10 per book.

A Halloween Festival sponsored by Park & Recreation will be held on Thursday, October 30, at 4:00 P.M. on the Town Green. Come take a storytelling hayride to a field of pumpkins, decorate a pumpkin, play games, and enjoy refreshments. Free and open to all Cornwall residents. There will also be a pumpkin carving contest—all participants should bring their pumpkins to the Town Green at 4:00 P.M.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, October 25, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility. Hazardous waste such as paint cans, pesticides, propane tanks, and fluorescent bulbs can be safely disposed of. Residents must estimate the volume of their discards and pre-register to get a ticket from the Selectmen's Office any time through October 23. More details are in a brochure available at registration.

Health Care Information On Line is available for Litchfield County residents 24 hours a day on the Visiting Nurse Association's new website: www.vnaw.org. A complete description of services, information about methods of payment, and a calendar of wellness events are included. Residents with questions can e-mail them from the website or call Phil Smith at (860) 567-6000 or (800) 752-0215.

The Cornwall House Tour 2003 will be held on October 11 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. followed by a reception. Six houses from around North Cornwall will be open. Proceeds will benefit the new Cornwall Foundation. Tickets are \$25 for the tour and \$50 for the tour and a reception and may be purchased by sending cash or check made payable to The Cornwall Foundation, Inc., to P.O. Box 116, West Cornwall, CT 06796 or by calling Amy Cady at 672-0233.

**Open House at UCC:** To celebrate the completion of the church's new wing and the many generous contributions of Cornwall residents, there will be an Open House on Sunday, October 19, from 3 until 5 P.M. Come and tour the new spaces, enjoy refreshments in the Parish House, and attend a brief dedication program at 3:45 P.M. Questions? Call the church office, 672-6840.

**Jam Session!** Time and place to be determined. For information, call Nan Frost, 672-6013, or Jane Prentice, 672-6101. All players welcome.

A Masquerade Ball hosted by the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will be held at Mohawk Ski Lodge on Saturday, November 1, from 8 P.M. to midnight. \$25.00 per couple. Live music by Rock 'n' Roll Heaven. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary. BYOB, adults only. Come see the scary sights and have some fun before winter sets in. For information, call Dave Williamson at 672-0042.

The Annual Town Meeting will be October 24 at 7:30 P.M. in the newly renovated Town Hall. The agenda will be posted and the Town Report will be available at the town offices. Questions arising from the report, the financial statements and the Five-Year Capital Plan will be in order.

Flu Season Is Coming! Torrington Area Health District will be offering influenza and pneumonia vaccines on Tuesday, October 28, from 10 A.M. to noon at the UCC Parish House. Vaccines are \$20 each. Bring your Medicare card if you want Medicare to pay. No appointment is necessary.



### **CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

OCTOBER ISSUE

Nan Bevans, Illustrations
Carla Bigelow and Brenda Underwood, Editors
Doc and Lisa Lansing Simont, Publishers

NOVEMBER ISSUE Celia and Steve Senzer, Editors Ginny and Bob Potter, Publishers

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren

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