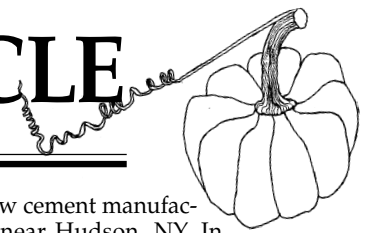




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 14 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2004



Parking Lot Blues

Anyone who frequents the West Cornwall Market or Post Office knows that it can be an interesting experience to park in the lot shared by both establishments. Many times during the week the lot is full, and turning in from the uphill side is tricky. You have to make a quick decision, because hesitating on that particular blind curve can be perilous. Or you can be trapped: take one of the interior spaces, and have all the spaces along the road happen to fill in behind you and—oops—you're stuck.

Then there are those clueless souls who park perpendicular to the market building, creating a half hour's confusion until some locals pull in, ignore the disorder and get everyone lined up properly again. Last, but certainly not least, is the hold-your-breath moment of truth when you pull out of the lot. Look left, look right, look left, then gun it and hope that if someone's coming they're not speeding. Sometimes, if you're situated just right, you can get a reflection of the view up the hill from Barbara Farnsworth's store window, making the exit less hair-graying.

Most agree the situation's dangerous, albeit one that's been in existence for decades. Fixing it is not so simple. There are three owners of the parking lot—the Post Office, the market, and the state, so any fix would have to be agreeable to all. It is not possible to

expand the size of the lot. Putting in islands would cut down the number of spots and hamper large delivery trucks, creating potentially more hazards.

Both First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and market owner K.C. Baird agree that what needs to be done is to slow down the traffic before it enters the village, and create a more uniform flow through the parking lot. Gordon has been talking with the Department of Transportation and State Police about ways to slow the traffic: increased signage, a pedestrian crosswalk, and more frequent speed checks.

For now, both K.C. and Gordon request that drivers pull in to the lot at the market end, and try always to pull out at the Post Office end, which allows a safer exit. But most important, enter and drive through West Cornwall slowly. —Annie Kosciusko

Cement Plant Plans Stumble

The prospect that Cornwall and its neighboring communities might one day find themselves under siege from "fugitive dust" and "ultrafine particulates" became less likely in early September. That was when New York's Environmental Commissioner ruled that the St. Lawrence Cement company would have to submit to a full environmental impact review on one or both of their proposed de-

signs for a new cement manufacturing plant near Hudson, NY. In the process, the commissioner rejected St. Lawrence's contention that the mining operation on the building site constituted a pre-existing use that ought to be "grandfathered" or exempt from review. Plant opponents from Northwest Connecticut and the Mid-Hudson Valley were ecstatic over what CT State Rep. Roberta Willis called "the first really meaningful ruling" regarding the plant. They believe not only that it levels what had been a very uneven playing field but also places a substantial hurdle for an operation whose negative effect on the surrounding "viewshed" is matched only by its harmful effects on the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, much grunt work remains for environmentalists, including raising the funds to bring legal and expert witnesses to testify at the forthcoming hearings. At that time it should become "abundantly clear," as one spokesman for the environmental lobby Scenic Hudson put it, "that this project cannot be permitted." Anyone interested in becoming involved should check out www.stoptheplant.com. —Paul De Angelis

A Cornwall Companion

A 272-page anthology of the *Cornwall Chronicle* from 1991 to 2004 will be on sale starting October 21. *A Cornwall Companion* (continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room Wednesdays: Play Group (starts 9/8) 10–11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC Stretch Class, 5:30 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Fridays: Story Hour, 1:15 P.M. Cornwall Library Saturdays: Chess Club, 9:30 A.M. Library					1	2
						Electronics Recycling 9 A.M.–1 P.M.†
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	Voter Registration 9 A.M.–Noon Town Hall†			Cornwall Library Book Sale 8:30 A.M.–4 P.M.† Cornwall House Tour 11 A.M.–4 P.M.†
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Library Book Sale 9 A.M.–Noon† Horse Show 9 A.M. Gunn Brook Farm Safe Sitter Course 1–5 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 P.M. UCC Parish House	P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall* Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library			Deadline: November <i>Chronicle</i> Copy	Senior Housing Conference 9 A.M. Geer Village† Voter Registration 10 A.M.–2 P.M. Town Hall†
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Safe Sitter Course 1–5 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	ABC Meeting 5:30 P.M. Windswept Gallery Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	Voter Registration 9 A.M.–8 P.M. Town Hall† Flu & Pneumonia Shots 10 A.M.–Noon UCC Parish House†		Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Homeless Awareness Overnight 6 P.M.–Saturday, 9 A.M.† Annual Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. Town Hall†	Hazardous Waste Collection 9 A.M.–3 P.M.† Wine Tasting Benefit 3:30–5:30 P.M. Cornwall Innt†
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Safe Sitter Course 1–5 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*		Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse			Annual Halloween Festival 3–4:30 P.M. Town Green†
31						
HALLOWEEN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS						

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

was edited by the late Spencer Klaw and Ed Ferman, who chose 210 stories and letters from 80 different writers and 76 drawings from 27 artists over the span of the newspaper's lifetime. Rudi Wolff designed the book, a hardcover volume with a full-color jacket designed by Marc Simont.

The anthology costs \$20 and is available from the Fermans (672-6376) or the Potters (672-6191), or by mail (143 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796. Add \$4 per book). It will also be sold at the Library.

Any profits after costs are covered will go to the *Chronicle's* operating fund, but "the book was not conceived as a fund raiser," Ed Ferman said. "Spencer and I saw it as a way to get some of the best stuff we've published over the years into an attractive and permanent format." —Lisa Lansing Simont

Process Not Politics Here

As the pace quickens along the many-months path to the election, the issues are the point, not the process itself. However, the "confusions" in 2000 caused much debate and eventually resulted in the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

In Connecticut the legislature has authorized Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz to apply for 50 million federal dollars for election spending. Some will be used for education and election publicity and some to provide each polling place, by November 2006, with a voting machine to service disabled voters. Still to come are decisions regarding the type of technology.

Here in Cornwall hanging chads have never been a problem, and this year voters will find business as usual. Our mechanical machines have had their tune-ups and are sturdy and accurate. (See page 4 for information about registering to vote and absentee ballots.)

Statistics from previous presidential elections: in 1992, 93.85 percent registered voters turned out; 1996, 84 percent; 2000, 87.4 percent. We, the registrars, challenge the Cornwall electors to top their 1992 percentage!

—Jayne Ridgway and Ginny Potter

Cornwall Youths' Active Summer

This fall many Cornwall students are bringing to their academic endeavors some of the varied fruit of their summer experiences.

A team of nine high school tennis players spending the summer or living in Cornwall emerged in August as the winner of the USA Team Tennis Sectional Tournament for New England. The group, coached by Todd and Elyse Piker, is heading for Bethany Beach, Del. on October 8 to 10 to represent New England in the Northeast Regional Championship.

Over 20 area students worked in several Cornwall restaurants or retail businesses, and 12 students worked as lifeguards on both sides of Cream Hill Lake. Annie Kosciusko, who does the hiring at the Lake Association, says she loves "having Cornwall kids work at the beach because then everyone knows everyone." Also several farmers, besides the help they got from their own children, hired students to help with weeding, picking vegetables, haying and tending animals.

Finally, eight qualified Cornwall students, from elementary through high school, were financially supported by the Region One Arts Fund for day or sleep-away camps in dance, music, theatre, drawing, painting or photography. Almost all loved what they learned. The most valuable benefit, as Charlotte Buck observed, was to "learn about myself; I became more outgoing and open to new people." —Elisabeth Kaestner

At CCS: Back to the New

Coming back to school for a fresh start to the new year was especially exciting for CCS students and teachers this September. Thanks to a tremendous effort by the Building Committee and the builders, classrooms were virtually complete, with remaining construction interfering minimally with student life.

Kindergarten teacher Darleene Wadhams loves the sunny yellow of her new room, and has made cheery curtains to make her students feel at home. Her arrangement of seating and work areas in the kindergarten is perhaps the most complex in the school. Her inviting room is filled with books and colorful learning displays.

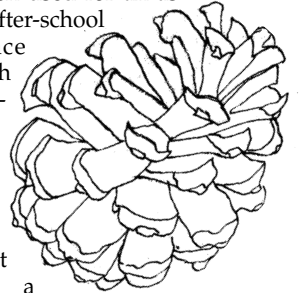
The new art room is a pleasure to be in. One long wall is filled with huge windows so that light washes over the students as they work. The art teacher, Kathy Good, is especially pleased with her new cabinets that line the wall opposite the window. "The room is beautiful," Ms. Good said. "Even the students were delighted to discover how easy it is to find supplies." As for the large new music room: "The best room in the school!" upper grade music teacher Alicia Simonetti-Shpur exclaims. Indeed its generous proportions have put an end to the jockeying for space that used to result in occasional minor damage to instruments. Soon the arrival of instrument cages will provide safe storage for instruments not in use.

Upper grade science teacher Kathy West's smashing new white lab coat sets the mood perfectly for the new science room, which she says is "much bigger, with six sinks and excellent storage and more space for students to spread out their projects." The bright yellow safety station just inside the doorway will provide both a shower and eyewash in case of an emergency.

Perhaps most touched by the increased

space in the school is Jane Hanley, the Spanish teacher who didn't have a room of her own before the renovation. "Now students come to the same room every day and follow the same routine. Spanish is recognized as being important enough to have a home base, which makes us all feel good."

The Gathering Room, so named by Patty Bramley, has been used for an assembly and for after-school activities. Once benches with folding chairs arrive, it will be used as a cafeteria as well so children in different grades will be able to eat together. "It's a lovely, cheerful place," Dr. Fitz said. "The community has worked very hard to give us a beautiful school." —Ilisha Helfman



Welcome

Paul Kaan Coffin to Ceylan and Tim Coffin
Simon Seth Wilson to Jennifer Ellis and Seth Wilson
William Taaffe to Gretchen Carlson and Philip Taaffe
Micaiah Migliacci to Tracy and Nicola Migliacci

Good-Bye to Friends

Tobias Devon Dennett
Dorothy Broe Sandmeyer

Congratulations

Hope Alexandra Cheney to
James Thomas Chamberlain Bentley

Land Transfers

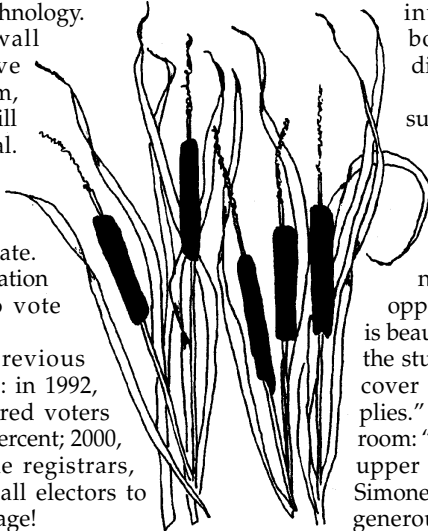
Elizabeth Ballenger to Jenny D. and Colin N. McLain,
5 acres and buildings at 18 Warren Hill Road for
\$325,000
Jonathan M. Beardsley to Louise Levy and Cornwall
Housing Corporation, 3.94 acres and buildings at 257
Kent Road for \$99,779

Two New Cornwall Businesses

The Covered Bridge Hair Studio opens in West Cornwall October 4 in the space that until recently housed Studio West, next to the pottery store. The new location represents a return home for owners/operators Debbie Bushnell and Linda Peck. The sisters grew up on Great Hill Road as Debbie and Linda Decker.

Debbie has been owner of Hair Repair in nearby Washington for 16 years, where sister Linda also worked. For Debbie, who lives on Pierce Lane and has an eight-year-old daughter attending CCS, it was a stroke of luck to find a new location within bus drop-off distance.

The other new business, a factory outlet store for the Martin-Haller Furniture Co., is located in the building formerly occupied by Strobel Millwork on Rte. 7 in Cornwall Bridge. Martin-Haller is a family business whose Indiana plant manufactures furniture ranging in style from American pine to classic French and English country designs. According to Stephen Fisher, who manages the business in Cornwall, some manufacturing



may be done here in the near future. Store hours are 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Thursday through Sunday or by appointment.

—Stephen Senzer and Paul De Angelis

Parking, Fencing, and Field Funded

Approximately 20 people at a special Town Meeting held on September 16 overwhelmingly voted in favor of spending up to \$50,000 to complete the parking lot, baseball field, walking track, fencing, curbing and landscaping (and possibly a pavilion) next to the Foote soccer field along Route 4. All funds are to be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut.

—Paul De Angelis

Photo Op at the Bridge

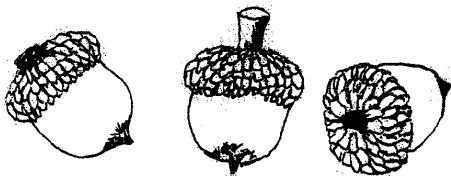
I got a call from Brad Drazen, a reporter at NBC 30, the TV outlet, around noon on a Monday. He was looking for someone to interview about the Covered Bridge—one of three in Connecticut that Drazen was doing a series on. The Cornwall segment was to air in late September.

I told him my position as Cornwall Historical Society president did not qualify me as interviewee. I put him onto Mike Gannett, as the town's most knowledgeable commentator on the bridge, among other things. We set a date for a shoot at noon the next day.

I saw a ripe opportunity for a mini-media event, and called around to alert reporter friends. On Tuesday at noon, slipping into my own journalist's role as Osborne of the *Chronicle*, I joined Bartomioli of the *Lakeville Journal* and Toensing of the *Waterbury Republican*. Also present at the bridge was Maureen Prentice of the Historical Society.

Gannett said a great many interesting things about the bridge, built in 1864. That makes 2004 the structure's 140-year anniversary. Most interesting to me was the patent held on the bridge by its designer, Ithiel Town, who invented the span's unique lattice-work truss design in 1820. Town sold the rights to use the design one request at a time. Adding the age of the truss design, the bridge is 184 years old.

—Charles Osborne



Fall Hunting Schedule

Small game: Now through December, for varying species. **Turkey, archery:** Now through November 16 and December 22 to 31. **Turkey, firearms:** October 16 to October 30. **Deer, archery:** Now through November 16 and December 22 to December 31, state lands. Now through December 31 on private lands. **Deer, firearms (shotgun, all rifles):** November 17 to December 7, state and private lands; November 1 to December 31,

Letters to the Chronicle

SPENCER KLAW

After my father, Spencer Klaw, died in June, the editors of the Chronicle wrote eloquently (without "gush") about how much he meant to the newspaper. The reverse was also true; the Chronicle meant a great deal to my father. Although he retired from his New York editing job in 1991, he never stopped loving being an editor who made sure that the interesting and important news was reported and that all unneeded words were excised. The Chronicle enabled him to become quickly an integral part of the Cornwall community and to continue doing what he loved to do, right up until his death. It was a gift only a small, supportive community could give. My sisters and I will welcome all Chronicle readers at a celebration of our father's life, which will be held in the United Church of Christ in Cornwall at 2 P.M. on Sunday, October 10. A reception will follow in the new library.

—Joanna Schultz

THE UCC CALLS A NEW MINISTER

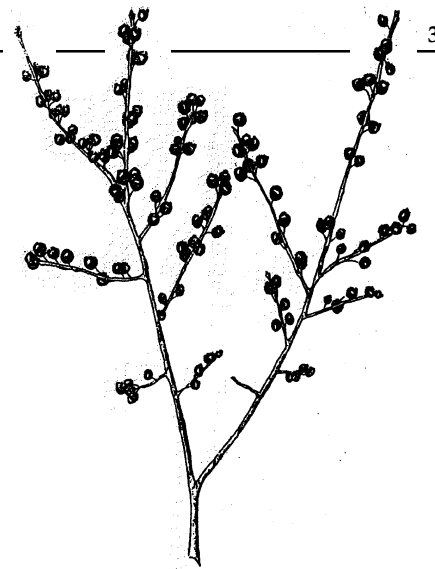
Welcome to the Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller! Micki will officially begin her ministry here at the United Church of Christ on October 18; her first Sunday is the 24th. She comes highly recommended, with a Master of Divinity degree from Duke and 18 years as minister in Cresskill, New Jersey. My first impression of Micki from my chat with her in June was that she is a very competent and compassionate woman who is looking forward to her ministry here and cooperation with other area churches. As one who values partnerships with neighboring congregations, I am pleased that we will continue those connections and perhaps even find some fresh ideas and new opportunities for joint worship, study and service.

—Scott Cady

landowners only. **Muzzleloader:** December 8 to 21. **Trapping:** 11 species may be trapped from November 7 to December 31. Check Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Guide.

Hours: No hunting on Sundays. It's illegal to carry hunting implements afield. **Safety:** Wear orange. If alone, let someone know where you will be. Hikers, if you see someone hunting, call out to identify your location. Bikers, attach a bell to your bike to warn of your approach. Check yourself for ticks! Call the Wildlife Division, DEP at 860-424-3011 for more information and a free guide.

—Jim Levy



AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Those of us who staff the Cornwall Ambulance provide more than emergency medical support to the residents of Cornwall and adjacent areas of Sharon. We also provide an opportunity for our neighbors to join us in supplying this valuable community service. Area residents 18 and over are invited to apply for membership in the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. When accepted, training to become a "first responder" or "Emergency Medical Technician" (EMT) will be provided. Those programs are held in nearby towns at various times throughout the year. The dozen plus members of today's Cornwall Ambulance squad reside in both Cornwall and Sharon. We span the generations—from late teens to "well into Social Security."

We are particularly hopeful that residents in the southern portions of our community will consider joining the ambulance squad. Additional participation by residents in the vicinity of Cornwall Bridge would enhance our response time to deal with emergencies in that area.

Inquiries are most welcome. Drop me an email or contact ambulance Lieutenant Skip Kosciusko and we'll be pleased to discuss our services and training programs.

—Bill Winters

Events & Announcements

The Cornwall Foundation has awarded grants to four local non-profit groups: \$500 to the Cornwall Free Library to fund a strategic planning study; \$528 to the Cornwall Child Center to provide a Spanish language and cultural enrichment program for children ages three to eight; \$500 to the Cornwall Consolidated School Fund for Excellence to support a student-designed outdoor arts project; and \$495 to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department for a training device to improve the skills of advanced emergency technicians.

Election Day Lunch: Cross party lines after you cast your vote November 2 and come for soup, bread and dessert between 11:30 A.M. and 2 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Donations benefit the Cornwall Food Fund; sponsored by the UCC Cornwall Fellowship Committee.

The Annual Book Sale of the Cornwall Free Library will be held on Saturday, October 9, from 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. and on Sunday, October 10, from 9 A.M. to noon. Booksellers and early risers can preview the sale for a \$10 entry fee starting at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday. On Sunday, a bag of books costs \$3 or an appropriate donation. Donations of books, tapes, CDs, (No textbooks or encyclopedias, please!) may be left at the Library through Wednesday, October 6. Questions? Call 672-6874.

Electronics Recycling: Saturday, October 2, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility on Bogue Road. Dispose of computers, printers, answering and fax machines, copiers, microwaves, TVs, VCRs, CD and record players, radios, cell and other phones, electric typewriters, remote controls. No fee or pre-registration, but driver's license or proof of residency required.

The Cornwall House Tour 2004, October 9, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., will include seven houses located in Cornwall Bridge. The Cornwall Bridge Firehouse will serve snacks and lunch, and provide restrooms. All proceeds benefit the Cornwall Fire Department Ambulance Fund. Tickets and tour maps for \$20 per person are available at the West Cornwall Market and the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse, Rte. 7, on the day of the tour. In addition to admission to the House Tour, donors (at least \$200 per person) are invited to a reception at the Firehouse after the tour ends. For information and advance tickets call Amy Cady at 672-0143.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Library, the show and sale of paintings and sculpture by Cornwall Bridge residents Lillian, Alice, and Irene Gross will continue through October. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Library.

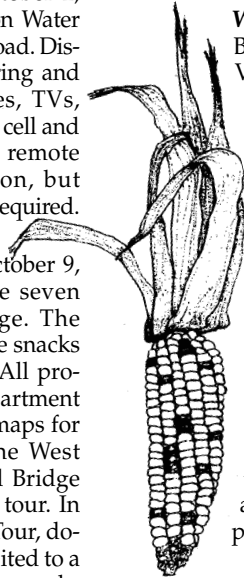
Opening at the Outsiders Gallery on October 9 from 4 to 7 P.M. is *Fall Back and Take Comfort*, a show of fiber arts featuring the work of Ilisha Helfman, Tim Prentice, Catherine Lavoie, Ellen Moon, and Nancy Bevans.

And at the National Iron Bank, Laszlo Gyorsok will be exhibiting photographs during the month of October.

Red October

We're fans of the reds in autumn colors, which as you may recall from reading "After the Fall" (November 1996), are caused by the pigment anthocyanin in red maples, oaks, and sumac. One place we hate to see red is in the *Chronicle's* ledger; you can help us keep our bottom line in the black by sending in a donation.

Voter Registration & Absentee Ballots: The deadline for voter registration is October 19. Registration sessions will be held at the Town Hall on October 6, 9 A.M. to noon; October 16, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and October 19 from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Registration applications are available at the Town Hall, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and other locations. Absentee ballots are available upon application to the Town Clerk starting October 1. They must be returned by 8 P.M. on Election Day. For more information call Jayne Ridgway, 672-0279.



Winner of the Association of Businesses in Cornwall's \$500 Video Clip Award is Weston Cadwell. A slightly abridged version of Wes's winning entry, produced in response to the call for videos that provide "a sense of the community" and make viewers "want to visit," can soon be seen on ABC's website: www.cornwallbusinesses.org.

Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines will be offered by the Torrington Area Health District on Tuesday, October 19, from 10 A.M. to noon at the UCC Parish House. Vaccines are \$20 each; to use Medicare, please bring your card.

Winter Heating Fuel Assistance for low-income households is available. Please call Jill Gibbons, Social Services Director, at 672-2603, for an application and an appointment.

Homeless Awareness Overnight from 6 P.M. Friday, October 22 to 9 A.M. Saturday, October 23. UCC front lawn. Activities planned for all ages to help raise our community's awareness of the plight of the homeless. Call 672-6840 to register or for more information.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on October 22 at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall. The agenda will be posted and the Town Report will be available at the Town Offices by October 18.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, October 23, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility on Bogue Road. There is no charge, but residents must pre-register for a pass with Joyce Hart at the First Selectman's Office, Monday to Thursday, 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. (Closed noon to 1:00 P.M.)

A Wine Tasting to benefit Cornwall Extras for Kids will be held at the Cornwall Inn on Saturday, October 23, from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. Extras for Kids raises funds for summer programs and other enrichment activities for Cornwall youth. The Cornwall Package Store will host the annual event, with hors d'oeuvres provided by the Inn. Tickets are \$15 per person. For more information, contact Hilary Laigle at 672-4825.

Fall Story Hour for ages three to five will begin Friday, October 1 from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Kindergartners may take the bus from CCS to the Library with a signed permission slip. Please call the Library at 672-6874 if your child would like to participate. The program will run for eight weeks with stories, activities and snacks.

The Annual Halloween Festival will be held on Saturday, October 30 from 3 to 4:30 P.M. on the Town Green: games, food, face painting, hay ride, a pumpkin-carving contest and more. Sponsored by Park & Rec.

The Cornwall PTA is taking orders the first two weeks of October for *Entertainment 2005*, a book that offers discounts to local and national restaurants, retail stores, attractions, and travel services. The \$30 book can be purchased for any region nationwide. Profits will help fund teachers' and students' special classroom projects at CCS. Call Nancy Lacko (672-0398) or Pat Bramley (672-6552) for more information.

The Housing Options for the Elderly Fair to be held at Geer Village on Saturday, October 16 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. is the result of an initiative by the Cornwall Housing Corporation, cosponsored by the Regional Housing Council. Workshops include discussions by architects, lawyers, service providers for the elderly, housing authorities and state funding experts. A free lunch will be available. Call Ella Clark at 364-1003 for transportation and more information.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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