

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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The Cornwall–Gulfport Goodwill Express

We're calling it Rick Stone's fine adventure. It took place early in September about a week after Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Rick was on the phone with the Gulfport Fire Department asking what they needed. "Everything" was the answer. Rick, a captain in the CVFD and a man of legendary determination, went to work. First, he rented a truck in East Windsor paid for with money from a boot collection by the CVFD over Labor Day weekend. Marty Merolla of Torrington provided a free trailer, and Dave Dolinsky funds to pay for diesel fuel.

Cornwall and Torrington collected non-perishable food, water, baby formula, diapers, some clothing, and dog food. The cargo to-taled 44,000 pounds. With Lt. Rick Meyers of the Torrington Fire Department along as navigator, our Rick headed west at 4:15 P.M. on Wednesday, September 6. There was a brief catnap in Harrisburg, PA, six hours of sleep in Tuscaloosa, AL, a fuel stop (166 gallons) in Springfield, AL, and finally arrival at the main fire station in Gulfport, MS, at 9:30 A.M. on Friday, 41 hours after leaving Torrington.

On the way there, Rick said they saw dozens of trucks carrying bulldozers and other heavy equipment away from the devastation. Puzzled by this, he was told that the

companies were pulling out because there was no guarantee they'd be paid. Apparently there were no federal or state funds available. He said the equipment looked totally clean and unused.

Rick described the scene in Gulfport as utter chaos. "Nobody knew what they were doing." However, it was a city he was familiar with, having trained there at the Navy SeaBee base prior to serving two tours in Vietnam. And it was at the same SeaBee base that the truck was finally unloaded.

The trip back included a stop in Jackson, MS, to rescue a young couple and their pit bull. The trio had escaped New Orleans and needed a ride to Torrington, where the girl's mother lived. They arrived back in Torrington at midafternoon on Sunday, September 11. Rick said there were enough supplies to send the truck right back to Gulfport, but he was told there were no state funds available to pay for a second trip. He was angry. "We cannot afford to stop—gotta keep the stuff going. If not, they'll be forgotten. How many people are still talking about the tsunami?" —John Miller

Library Reimagined

Cornwall's past is agriculture, and the land in great measure still defines who we are today. But for a farming community, Cornwall has been a surprisingly bookish town. Along with the Hughes Memorial Library, the Cornwall Free Library on Pine Street has played a longstanding part in that history, and now, with its new building just three years old, it is looking to answer important questions about how best to serve the whole community.

To that end, the Library's Board of Directors convened two focus groups on June 8 of this year. Organized by Vice President Ann Schillinger, an array of seventeen people from different parts of the Cornwall community met to discuss what needs the Library should serve and how it might serve them. A month later, on July 9, the board met with a professional facilitator at a retreat in Kent to integrate these ideas into a new strategic plan.

Defining several crucial areas, from technology to programs for young and old to community outreach, President Janet Gold promises that, with the strategic plan in place, the Library is going to begin seeking a higher, more active profile. She and the board have created several committees that, in the coming months, will promote both web- and non-web-based access to material so that, for instance, a library card not only gets you books and videos from Cornwall, and interlibrary loan not only expands that reservoir to all of Connecticut, but also, Google-like, a library card becomes a free window to otherwise costly sites like the New York Times Archives and other databases.

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SATURDAY TUESDAY SUNDAY MONDAY FRIDAY 1 Electronics Recycling Collection 9 A.M.-1 P.M. **Every Week This Month:** Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Village Meetinghouse Torrington † Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Reading by Roxana Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym (Starts October 12) Robinson & Annual Friends Thursdays: Bend & Stretch, 9:30 A.M. UCC Parish House; Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Meeting 3:30 P.M. Library † Round Singing 7 P.M. Fridays: Story Hour, 1:15 Library Local Farm Barn 2 3 4 Rosh Hashanah 5 6 8 Cornwall Library Book Sale 8:30 A.M. \$20 Viewing 9:30 A.M. Free Admission † Voter Registration Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall 9:30 A.M.-noon Cornwall House Tour Town Hall † 11 A.M.-4 P.M. † Inland Wetlands* Art Opening 5–7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery † 8 P.M. Town Offices Deadline: November COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED 14 10 11 12 13 YOM KIPPUR Chronicle Copy Cornwall Library \$5 Bag of P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Baling Twine Wreath-**Blood Pressure** Books Sale 9 A.M.-noon Housatonic River Comm **UN Talk & Discussion** Voter Registration CCS Walk-a-Thon Making 1–3 P.M. Local Farm Barn Screening 3-4 P.M. First Selectman 7:30 P.M. CCS Library 7 P.M. Library † 9:30 A.M.-noon 1 P.M. † UCC Parish House Come to Spoon River Candidates Discussion Town Hall † ABC Meeting 5:30-7:30 P.M. Hurricane Benefit 4 P.M. 4–6 р.м. CCS Gym Cornwall Inn UCC Meetinghouse † 19 16 17 18 20 21 22 Hazardous Waste Student Practice Concert Collection 9 A.M.-2 P.M CT and the Death Penalty 11:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M. CCS Gym † Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Torrington † 11:30 A.M. Hurricane Benefit **UN Talk & Discussion** UCC Parish House † Voter Registration The Southern Table 7 P.M. Library † Local Transportation Needs 10 а.м.–2 р.м. Town Hall † 5, 6:30, & 8 р.м. 4 P.M. Town Hall † Wandering Moose † Pickle-Making (Reg. Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Required) Local Farm Barn Town Hall Players Open Film: *All the President's Men* 25 23 24 28 29 26 Meeting 7 P.M. Library † ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall* Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. 7 р.м. Library VFW Post 9856 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse Voter Registration Annual Town Meeting Prose Reading Green Party Deadline 9 A.M.-8 P.M. 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym † 4:30 P.M. Library † 30 Non-Violence Study 11:30 A.M. UCC Library † HALLOWEEN 31 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Town Hall † 27 Halloween Night Games & Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. America's Role 2:30 р.м. UCC Meetinghouse † Food 4:30-8 P.M. Town Hall † 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse

(continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, the Cornwall Free Library's current endowment is limited. Librarian Amy Cady, among others, has begun the process of studying ways to keep the Library on firm, reliable financial ground—not an easy task, she



Straight from the Cow

In a town where unique is the norm lives the un-homogenized creator of Local Farm, a dairy producing raw cow's milk in a pasteurized world. Teacher, deacon, environmentalist, artist, child of the sixties, meditation leader, and farmer, Debra Tyler well exemplifies the word "individualist."

Ask Debra why in the world a young woman with a degree in teaching and with little farming experience and no land of her own would want to put together a dairy from scratch, and you get only a reassuring smile. Without words, she's saying, "Don't be embarrassed to ask such a stupid question. We're all friends here."

Talk to her while she fusses over her gentle animals, brushing whatever off a rump here and sterilizing four teats there, surrounded by a peaceful farm aroma in a twilight barn, and be converted. "Connecticut is the only state in New England that allows the sale of unprocessed milk," she tells you. Of course you have to have a sealed milk collection system and check each cow's daily production for bacteria along with enduring monthly state inspections, but in her eyes this routine is a small price to pay for milk the way nature intended it to be. Some of her customers are lactose intolerant to pasteurized, she tells you, but they "can drink my raw milk all day without a problem."

As evidence that raw milk has staunch fans, Debra has some 50-odd regulars who come to help themselves to their milk direct from Local Farm, leave their empty bottles, bill themselves according to agreement, and drop their checks off at regular intervals.

Debra didn't build her farm business entirely without help. She called on, and still calls on, a staunch circle of friends for mutual support. Among these friends are: a raw milk convert, Phil Widing, whom she helped set up as a rival dairy with Ken Gladding at the Lorch Farm; three families with pastureland that they are happy to turn over to Debra's herd in return for keeping their fields cropped; and State Senator Andrew

Roraback who, along with fellow farmer and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, views farms and farmland as essential elements of the rural character of Cornwall.

Despite the demanding work involved, Debra finds emotional and spiritual comfort in dairy farming. Further, she is intent on sharing these benefits with others through her non-profit organization, Motherhouse, which conducts a weekly meditation group dedicated to personal and family nurture and sponsors other events. (See this month's calendar and page 4.) In addition, she raises miniature Jersey cows for families that have suitable grazing land and a desire to experience the dairy way of life.

Debra's Local Farm is over 12 years old now, with a reputation that has spread well beyond town and state borders. A labor of love and a contributory way of life, it has earned its owner the well-deserved status of a Cornwall institution.

—Scoville Soulé

Homework Assignment

"Report on what you did this summer."

Has there ever been a more diabolic way devised by the mind of a teacher to ruin the memory of a perfectly good summer vacation than the above?

In the interest of "turnabout's fair play," the editors, who were once grammar-school children themselves, decided to go to the top to find out how an assignment such as this should be fielded. You're up, Dr. Fitz. What did you do this summer? —The October Editors

My Summer Vacation

It all started with a very serious plan...work for half of the day and play for half of the day. Scheduled tasks: clean the house, clean the attic, study the Book of Acts, write an annotated bibliography of all the Caldecott Medal books, and then do a brief study of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, and Strauss. I followed this plan for three days.... I then decided to play all day every day instead.

So I bought myself a new car and drove off into the sunset, spending hours at the beach, visiting friends, and spending individual time with each member of my family. Dad and I went to an Elderhostel program at Fenway Park. Third baseman (1955-1965) Frank Malzone was the speaker. Though I know absolutely nothing about baseball, I loved how he described the "old game" versus the present game. He is a scout for the Red Sox and says he doesn't use the "gun" that determines the speed of the ball or the computers to store data. He looks for the men who can "play the whole game." I liked this philosophy for our school. Test scores and grades are one important measure in our academic world. We also need to prepare our young people to have the stamina to "play the whole game."

Sorry. I'm off track.... I had the best summer I have had since I was 11 years old. It was because, without even a small trace of guilt, I played every single day!

—Kathleen Fitzgibbons, Principal, CCS

Welcome

Mark Anthony Aguilar to Rebecca Savan and Pedro Aguilar Thomas Edward Catalano to Emily Ferman and Robert Catalano Evan Alex to Melissa and Christopher Jeans

Congratulations

Lakshmi Vader to Gary Bevans Webster Wilson to Maya Foty

Good-Bye to a Friend

Grace V. Pannell

Land Transfers

Ralph I. and Thalia Scoville to Martha S. Loutfi, .578 acre off Town Street for \$22,000.

K & R Development to Andrew and Nancy Opgard, Lot #1 Great Hill Road for \$159,000.

Norman and Sandra Holman to Nancy Daubenspeck, property at 137 Popple Swamp Road for \$350,000.

Cataloguing Cornwall's History

Attentive Cornwall Village residents may have noticed a buzz around the Cornwall Historical Society's building at 7 Pine Street. For the first time ever, the exhibition space has stayed open to the public, on Saturdays, into the fall season. The exhibition—Look What We've Found—on view through October, shares with visitors some of the objects from the Society's collection that have been discovered during the systematic inventory started a year ago.

In October 2004 the Society's board engaged independent curator Jodi Polsgrove to organize the inventory project and train volunteers to help, a monumental task that may require years to complete. Every single item is being assigned a unique number, described, and recorded in a master file. Not only are old items being newly found, but the cataloguing process sometimes brings to light an item in urgent need of conservation: General Sedgwick's uniform, for example. According to Ginny Potter, president of the Society, mold had settled inside the uniform's glass case, and rust was discovered on its hanger. Brushed and aired, the uniform now rests safely in an acid-free box.

Another trove of valuable documents stems from the Foreign Mission School, established in Cornwall in 1817 for the purpose of educating "heathen youth" to become missionaries or other kinds of leaders in their native surroundings. One such example needing restoration work is the lithograph of John Ridge, a Cherokee enrolled in the school in 1819 who later married the daughter of the school's steward and became prominent in tribal affairs.

The collection contains other curious tidbits, such as an accounting book whose first page, written in 1870, summarized the total District 17 school budget for that year as \$197.10 and noted that all but \$1.30 was spent by the end of

the school year. Later, unused pages are filled with penmanship and arithmetic exercises and drawings of young children.

Once the systematic inventory is completed, it will be much easier for the Society to mount exhibits and to respond to the many requests for information. Recently Ann Schillinger, secretary of the Society, welcomed visitors from as far as Hawaii and China who wanted to learn about the Foreign Mission School. Another delegation, including the Commissioner of Education from Shandong Province, is expected in October.

Board members dream of a state-of-theart storage and exhibition space for the Society's holdings. A controlled environment with optimal temperatures and air quality can prevent or slow any decay and preserve the collection for future generations. Ample land is available behind the Pine Street building—provided adequate funding can be found. —Elisabeth Kaestner

How Your Votes Will Count

According to Connecticut State Statutes 9-188 and 9-167a, the election rules governing Cornwall's first selectman and selectman races in the upcoming election on November 8 will work this way: Voters cast one vote for first selectman (two candidates, one position) and one vote for selectman (three candidates, two positions). The highest vote-getter for first selectman wins that office. The loser then becomes a contestant in the race for the remaining positions on the board. The two top vote-getters in this race (one of whom may or may not be the losing first selectman candidate), are duly elected.

If, however, the losing first selectman candidate gets enough votes to win a seat on the board but decides not to accept, a vacancy occurs. In this case, the newly elected first selectman and the top vote-getter among the remaining willing candidates—now an elected selectman—are empowered to fill this vacancy by appointment. Under no circumstances, however, may the board be composed of three members from the same party, a caveat that may result, on occasion, in a higher vote-getter being passed over, so that more than one political party is represented on the board.

—Cheryl Evans

Events & Announcements

Electronics Recycling: Saturday, October 1, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility on Bogue Road. Proof of residency required.

Roxana Robinson will read at the Library on Saturday, October 1, at 3:30 P.M. The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library will follow.

Winter Heating Fuel Assistance for low-income households is available. Call Jill Gibbons, Social Services Director, at 672-2603, for applications and appointments. Donations to local fuel banks are needed.

Letters to the Chronicle

CORNWALL CONTRIBUTES

I was out in the garden Saturday of Labor Day weekend when Rick Stone called to say he was closing Route 7 for a firemen's boot drive for Katrina relief. By the time we arrived traffic was moving smoothly through the temporary tolls at Cornwall Bridge. The boot drive raised over \$4.500.

CCS students also raised funds. Residents brought supplies to state armories. Others received Red Cross training and are on call for duty down south.

Over the past year volunteers have been working to make Cornwall better prepared for disasters. The new gym and kitchen at CCS have an emergency generator. We have ordered cots and other shelter supplies. The CVFD has reviewed the town emergency plan and participated in a statewide hurricane response drill on September 15.

The Selectmen's Office has household emergency guides as well as information about training opportunities. Please give us a call at 672-4959.

—Gordon Ridgway

THE CHRONICLE COST ME MONEY!

In the PPS in your recent fundraising letter, you said you would welcome comments and suggestions. I have one. Don't let John Miller have anything to do with your future April editions.

I was taken in by his so-called jape about Prince Charles and Camilla. Feeling certain I would be invited to the Scotts' garden party, I sent my blue serge suit and old Etonian tie (with only a couple of small gravy spots on it) to the dry cleaners. Then I found the Royal visit was just a spoof. The cleaning money was wasted because both my suit and tie could have gotten

The Cornwall House Tour 2005, October 8, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., will include six houses in the East Cornwall area. Tickets and tour maps at \$25 per person (\$50 including reception) are available at the West Cornwall Market and Baird's on the day of the tour. All proceeds benefit the Woman's Society

Scholarship Fund. For advance tickets call Amy Cady at 672-0143.

The Annual Book Sale of the Cornwall Free Library will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M., and on Sunday, October 9, from 9 A.M. to noon. Preview the sale Saturday starting at 8:30 A.M. for a \$20 entry fee. Food for sale all day Saturday. On Sunday, a bag of books costs \$5. Donations accepted through Wednesday, October 5. Questions? Call 672-6874.

The CCS Band & Chorus will hold a brownbag lunch concert in the CCS gym on Thursday, October 20, from 11:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. All are invited.

by at a number of memorial services—even my own. Anyway I am ready for any Royal affair that may occur in Cornwall and will wear my old rumpled seersucker to the less chi-chi affairs here in Salisbury.

Enclosed is my contribution It would have been greater if I hadn't incurred the J.M. expense. —Ed McDonald

COVER PHOTO

To date the Transfer Station staff has raised approximately \$800 from the sale of the "Martha Stewart (Living) Hors d'Œuvres at the Dump" cover photo, which will be donated to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Thanks to everyone who bought a print, to the Jacobsons for their brainchild, and to Jeremy Brecher for his input. Prints are still available: contact Fred or Steve to place your order. —Steve O'Neil

TENNIS SEASON A SUCCESS

This year's tennis season was long, hot, and very active. Over 30 young players took advantage of the generous Discount Week offered by Park & Rec. Once again, the Tournament Play Group of 18 and Under kids won the New England regional US Team Tennis Championships and qualified to represent New England in the Sectional Tournament played in Delaware. The players are Jamie Green, Krysia Lenzo, Katherine Stewart, Byron Clohessy, Mary Brunelli, Tyler Cheney, Rip Furniss, Jenny Bright, and Alex Cook.

—Todd Piker

The Cornwall Website invites providers of goods and services who have a Cornwall zip or phone exchange to advertise them free of charge by e-mailing david144@optonline.net or garlic@aya.yale.edu or sending information to MarketPlace, 221 Flat Rocks Road, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754.

Also, all Cornwall artists are encouraged to be in touch with the website (go to the homepage and click "Contact") to arrange a virtual display of their works on the Cornwall Artists web page.

Art in Cornwall: Through October, Lynn Fowler's oil paintings will be shown at the National Iron Bank, as will Ken and Lisa Keskinen's show, *Generations*, at the Cornwall Free Library.

The Outsiders Gallery will host a reception with live music on Saturday, October 8, from 5 to 7 P.M. The exhibition, entitled *Corso from Cuba*, features colorful memory paintings of animals from Corso de Palenzuela's Cuban childhood.



The Third Annual CCS Walk-a-Thon will take place on Friday, October 14, at 1 P.M. Proceeds will benefit the Save the Children organization's Hurricane Katrina Fund for Children as well as the eighth-grade trip fund. Walk, sponsor a student, or make a donation payable to "CCS Walk-a-Thon." An anonymous donor will match any increase above last year's total. For information call Bente Busby at 672-2543.

A Prose Reading: On Saturday, October 29, at 4:30 P.M. in the Library, some of Cornwall's talented literary crowd will read short selections from their own work. For information contact Phyllis Nauts at 672-6608.

Voter Registration & Absentee Ballots: The deadline for voter registration is October 25. Registration sessions will be held at the Town Hall on October 4 and 13, 9:30 A.M. to noon; October 22, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., and October 25, 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 on October 7; they must be returned by 8 P.M. on Election Day, November 8.

A Discussion by Candidates for First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Becky Hurlburt will be held on Sunday, October 9, from 4 to 6 P.M. at the CCS gym. Following statements from the candidates, questions will be taken from the public. Advance questions can be submitted to the moderator, Rev. Scott Cady (stptrcnwll@hotmail.com), by Friday, October 7. The event is sponsored by the Cornwall Association.

A Southern Dinner for Hurricane Relief will be held on Monday, October 17, at the Wandering Moose. Local cooks will prepare typical southern food with an emphasis on food from New Orleans. Sittings will be at 5, 6:30, and 8 P.M. To reserve call Bee Simont at 672-6144 by October 10. Admission for one is a \$50 check made out to one of the following: The Salvation Army Hurricane Relief Fund, the ASPCA Disaster Relief Fund, or the Southern Arts Federation Emergency Relief Fund. Send a check to Bee even if you can't come: 336 Town Street, West Cornwall, CT 06796. Helpers and cooks welcomed.

Flu Shots had not been scheduled as of press time, because the Torrington Health Department had not yet received vaccine.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Friday, October 28, at 7:30 P.M. at the CCS gym. Items on the agenda include adoption of the five-year capital plan and annual reports.

First Aid CPR Classes for Friends & Family are being offered on a flexible schedule by CPR instructor Nancy O'Donnell. Call 672-6496 or email nodjod@sbcglobal.net.

Halloween Night Games & Food, and a meeting place for kids and families, will be provided at the Town Hall by Park & Rec. on October 31 from 4:30 to 8 P.M. All welcome!

Motherhouse offers these events in the Local Farm barn: Round Singing on October 1 at 7 P.M.; Baling Twine Wreathmaking on October 15 from 1 to 3 P.M.; Lactic Acid Pickle Making on October 22 from 10:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. (with visiting instructor; pre-register at \$35 per person). Questions? Call Debra Tyler at 672-0229.

From the Cornwall Assessor's Office: Pursuant to State Statute 12-40, this is a formal notice to all owners of taxable personal property located in Cornwall, Cornwall Bridge, and West Cornwall. Declaration of Personal Property forms have been mailed to all businesses and persons doing business under trade names for the year 2005. The deadline for filing is November 1, 2005. If you have not received your form, if you have questions filling out your form, or if you started your business since the last filing in October 2004, please call the Assessor's Office at 672-2703, and we will gladly send you a form or assist you.

The UN Association-USA's NW CT Chapter is sponsoring two interactive forums, moderated by John Scott, both on Wednesdays at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. Anthony Piel will present the October 12 forum on the UN, Security & Terrorism; the October 19 forum on UN Reform will be presented by Mr. Piel and John Leich. Also, on Sunday, October 30, at 2:30 P.M. in the UCC Meeting House, William vanden Heuvel, former Deputy US Permanent Representative to the UN, will speak on America's role and respon-

sibility toward the UN.

Come to Spoon River, performer Linda
Gray Kelley's noted one-woman

show, arrives at UCC on Saturday,
October 15, at 4 P.M. Kelley
brings to life dozens of smalltown characters using period
costumes. Tickets, including a
reception, are \$15, or \$5 for children under 10. To benefit Katrina
victims. Reservations: 672-6840.

UCC Adult Education: On Sunday, October 16, at 11:30 A.M. in the Parish House, Gordon Bates will speak about the death penalty in Connecticut. On October 30 at 11:30 A.M. in the church library, The Rev. Allie Perry will

speak about non-violence.

Calling All Actors, would-be actors, and stage techies to a meeting of the Town Hall Players on Thursday, October 20, at 7 P.M. in the Library to learn about next July's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, October 22, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility on Bogue Road. Residents must pre-register with Joyce Hart at 672-4959.

Transportation Needs & Opportunities for Cornwall residents, particularly the elderly and homebound, will be discussed by representatives from the NW Transit District Authority and FISH, on Thursday, October 20, at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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