CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 20: NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2010



According to a *Chronicle* poll, 50 percent of those surveyed favor the Verizon proposal to construct a cell tower off Popple Swamp Road. Twenty-six percent said they were neutral and 24 percent were opposed. Thirty-six residents responded.

"Too much is unknown about potential health hazards. Simply trusting corporations to do the right thing is, at best, unwise," said Sandy Neubauer.

"I grew up accepting power lines as part of the landscape, not beautiful but very useful," Nora Horan said. "And so it's the same with these towers; they will push us toward a more wireless world where most young people already live and [which] some of us

more seasoned types rather like."

"I'm opposed," Adam Van Doren said.
"The technology will be replaced in five years and there is no use in creating such a temporary blight."

"I will see it on my horizon, but I'm still in favor," said Nevton Dunn. "Most important is that it improves safety by improving mobile communications."

"I favor a cell tower in Cornwall. Wise national policy mandates full cell phone coverage throughout the United States, something that does not yet exist in Cornwall. I favor a siting process at the state level. Because of NIMBY few proposals for towers would receive approval from the towns involved," said Hendon Chubb.

For the moment, a decision on the tower is stalled. The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) voted to table Verizon's application while the CSC looks into an alternative site on property owned by Matt Collins at 78 Popple Swamp Road.

In its deliberations on September 7 in New Britain, the council ignored town attorney Perley Grimes's brief, perhaps predictably, since Grimes asked the council to deny the application mainly on the grounds that its hearings were "fundamentally unfair" and that its chairman's remarks were "condescending, flippant, intimidating, and suggest bias."

The CSC had previously voted unanimously to deny Fred Thaler's motion that Chairman Dan Caruso recuse himself. "There is no evidence that Chairman Caruso showed bias," the council ruled, following advice from the assistant attorney general.

What did catch the council's attention was a letter from Collins, suggesting "a better alternative for a Cornwall cell tower." He pointed out that the site on his property was originally Verizon's first choice and that his right-of-way, previously in doubt, was now clear. He also argued that his site would

provide better coverage (it is 240 feet higher) and was farther from neighbors.

Council member Barbara Bell and a colleague suggested exploring this option. Another member asked, "Can we at this stage force Verizon onto a different site that they previously rejected?" After a moment of indecision, the chairman huddled with CSC's attorney and concluded, "Well yes, we can."

–Ed Ferman

Rumsey Waiting

The landscape of Cornwall Village seems closer and closer to major alteration. Iconic Rumsey Hall, whose history was detailed in the September *Chronicle*, continues its inexorable march toward demolition. Having declared that "the building must come down," Building Inspector Paul Prindle prepared an invitation, approved by Town Attorney Perley Grimes, for contractors who are properly licensed to bid on demolishing the building, then filling and grading the area.

Site visits were offered to abutting neighbors on September 14; interested and qualified contractors visited the following day. Bids were due by 9:30 A.M. on September 21. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting that night, the contract was awarded to R V Noad Construction of Goshen, pending Board of Finance approval. The final step will be a

(continued on page 2)

_OCTOBER 2010DESDAY WEDNESDAY THURS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 1 2 **Every Week This Month:** Story Hour Community Contra Dance Tuesdays: VNA Bend and Stretch, 10:30-11:30 A.M.; Adult Volleyball, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym. 7-9:30 р.м. Town Hall 1:15 P.M. Library Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6 P.M. Call 672-0064 for location; Karate, 6:30-7:30 P.M. CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 P.M. CCS. Special Town Meeting Sundays: Meditation, 1-2 P.M. Call Debra for location, 672-0229 7:30 р.м. CCS Gathering Room 9 Book Sale 9 A.M. Library 4 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 6 8 Historical Society Sale 9 A.M. 12 Popple Swamp Rd. 6 P.M. HVRHS CHS Talk and Tea Park & Rec. 7 P.M. Inland Wetlands 2-3 P.M. Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room **CCS Library** Historical Society 8 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Commission Pie Making Workshop 10:30 A.M. Local Farm 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Bd. of Selectmen Art Opening Reception 4 P.M Lady Audrey's Gallery 7:30 р.м. Town Hall Deadline: November 13 14 Hazardous Waste 10 **12** 15 COLUMBUS DAY Chronicle Copy Collection 9 A.M.-2 P.M CCS Closed for Teachers' CCS Closed Torrington Workshop Story Hour Book Sale Annual Cornwall House Tour P&Z 7 P.M. Library 1:15 P.M. Library 10 а.м.-3 р.м. Library 11 а.м.-4 р.м. Housatonic River Comm. CCS Walk-A-Thon 1:15 P.M. Blood Pressure Screening Richard Ellis Book Talk 7:30 P.M. CCS Library NOON-1 P.M. UCC 4 р.м. Library 22 17 19 20 21 23 18 بع) Bd. of Ed. 4 P.M. CCS Library Household Electronic Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. Story Hour Waste Disposal 9 A.M.-1 P.M CCS Library 1:15 P.M. Library Torrinaton Annual Town Meeting Cornwall Artists Open Studio

27

Cornwall Volunteer

Fire Department

8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse

HALLOWEEN

Halloween Gathering 5–8 P.M. Town Hall

24

25

ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*

26

30

Day 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

Paul DeAngelis Reading and

Signing 4 P.M. Library

7:30 P.M. CCS

Flu/Pneumonia Shots

10 A.M.-NOON Library

Story Hour

1:15 P.M. Library

29

28

VNA Bend & Stretch Class

10:30-11:30 A.M. UCC

This year the Chronicle is celebrating its 20th anniversary by re-publishing memorable items from our archives.

Mary Schieffelin wrote this letter in 1995.

Skunks and Skunklets

I have never numbered skunks among Cornwall's more lovable wildlife, not, that is, until one wonderful day as I sped along Route 128 toward West Cornwall, and there, right in the middle of the busy thoroughfare, I saw a distracted mother skunk, desperately trying to shepherd innumerable little miniatures to the safety of the Klings' vegetable garden. Back and forth, back and forth she nuzzled first one, then another, until she disappeared into the underbrush with about half her troop.

That left a confused mass of skunklets still milling around helplessly in the middle of the road. I rushed to the rescue. Unable to bend down and pick one up, I tried to guide them to safety with my cane. Six or seven volatile little puffs of fur raised stiff black tails straight up in protest against such indignity (the tails, fortunately, were as yet unarmed). No sooner had one skunklet reached the bank than his brother would reverse course and scurry back.

Into the midst of this drama, along came two cars. Their drivers observed a nutty old woman plunk in the middle of the road, waving her cane officiously at the noonday traffic while she played with unidentifiable whatevers, but being good Cornwallers, they waited politely, not even honking, until the last little tail had disappeared down the bank into the underbrush and the crazy old woman and her cane had retreated to her car.

-Mary Schieffelin

(continued from page 1)

town meeting scheduled for October 1 at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS gathering room to approve funding the demolition which, as noted, has been mandated by the building inspector.

Since Andrew Hingson, owner of the property, has indicated he cannot finance the demolition, the Board of Selectmen asked the Board of Finance to approve the release of funds from the town's Emergency Reserve Fund. The town has the right to recover

the cost; First Selectman Ridgway is consulting with Town Attorney Grimes on how to do that. While there was a choice in 1996 to sell or not, in this case it would appear the town's choice is already determined. Expect a lively discussion as a once grand old building waits to fall.

— Barbara Gold

Numbers

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department President Joyce Hart had numbers on her mind recently. Her first concern is the location of the 911 or house identification numbers. This critical emergency numbering system was established by a 1992 ordinance and later adopted by the post office for delivery addresses. Each house number is determined by its distance from the end of the road; one's house number, therefore, is permanent and will not change if a new house is built on

the road.

Joyce pointed out that gold numbers on a tree trunk fade to near invisibility at 2 A.M. in a fog. Precious time can be lost searching for a house where medical assistance is needed. The best format and location is to use black numbers on a white post at the end of a driveway. The numbers should be not less than three inches high, and the post no shorter than mailbox height or more than 12 feet tall. Joyce suggests that every homeowner stand in the road and see if the ambulance could find the number.

The second number is \$10,000, the amount of two generous donations to the Charles Hepprich Scholarship Fund. Scholarships for higher education are awarded to department members up to age 25 and to children of members. Currently, six students are benefiting from the community's generosity.

The final number is 18the most recent count of junior members of the department. Juniors range in age from 10 to 17. Ten-to-12-

year-olds (junior juniors) must have a parent who is a member of the department or a department sponsor. All juniors meet regularly for fire department activities; the older group can go on calls after it has met training requirements. Joyce is looking for new junior members. They may become the adults who answer your call to 911 in the future.

—Barbara Gold

Ag Fair Opportunities

The date was unforgettably somber— September 11–but the Ag Fair was a respectful celebration of the cycle of life and the abundance of

the earth.

Vegetables, most peaceful of created beings, preened a little for observers. Among the prize winners were some that looked like sculpture (extravagantly ruffled Savoy

cabbage) and some that might have come from another planet (big blue potatoes). The farmers' market was an art gallery displaying the tomato spectrum, from Lemon Boy and Red Zebra to Brandywine and Cherokee Purple. And oh those radishes! Oh that Swiss chard!

Animal life was everywhere. Dogs love to come to the Ag Fair to check each other out (but most of them probably didn't get into the Town Hall to see the hat made from wool and dog hair). Rabbits at the petting zoo, goats, and a serene cow stayed put, but if you were lucky you could see Tarquin and

Cuzco, two llamas from Warren Hill, shaking a shaggy leg out in the field. And let's not forget the main animal event, the cow chip raffle.

If you were, say, under four feet tall, you could furiously pedal a miniature tractor on the straightaway in front of the Town Hall or you could jump from a tower of hay bales onto a bed of hay. If you were somewhat older and larger, you could try to throw a hay bale a legendary distance.

You could watch wool being spun into yarn or metal being forged into a spear head. You could absorb news of solar power or local history. You could eat and eat. You could just amble about, soaking up sunshine and feeling happy to live in jolly green Cornwall.

—Franny Taliaferro

Welcome

Logan Joshua Dolan to Stacey & Richie Dolan Winter Lee Cheney to Kathryn Lee and Ted Cheney

Land Transfers

Archer Ventures of Litchfield, LLC, to James Herity and Elizabeth A. Mitchell, land and improvements thereon at 340 River Road for \$555,000.

Franz Martin Oppenheimer and Margaret F. Oppenheimer to Robert J. Day, Jr., Roxana O. Day, Elliott Day and Alexander Day, land and improvements thereon at 21 Hollenbeck Road for \$122.892.

Cornwall's Harvest Sprint Triathlon

On the crisp clear morning of September 11, athletes, volunteers, and fans gathered at Cream Hill Lake to participate in the first Cornwall Harvest Sprint Triathlon. When 36 participants had streamed in, shuttling bikes, running gear, coffee, and water bottles to their staging areas, the half-mile swim portion of the event began at exactly 8 o'clock. Swimmers plunged in with enthusiasm and some reluctance on the 55-degree morning, volunteers stood by on the dock with stop watches, and Bill Gold announced the start. The racers were off, heading for two buoys at mid lake marking the turnaround point of the half-mile swim. Stationed in kayaks were two professional divers in wetsuits on safety patrol. Soon the field of swimmers became a blur of splashing figures in the distance. First out of the lake and onto the beach was Cornwall's Mike Root who, not pausing for a second, ran to his bike while shedding his top layer, and raced down the drive onto Town Street at break neck speed. Others followed soon after, and the next leg, a 12-mile bicvcle race, was on.

From the start it was clear that triathlons have a following, and even little Cornwall brought athletes from as far away as Farmington and Bethlehem, Conn. and Pleasant Valley and Pearl River, N. Y. Two enthusiastic teenagers, Liv Scott and Harriet Fisher, raced the whole course as individuals, in part to fulfill community service hours. Apart from the individuals who embrace these events as a passionate hobby, several teams participated relay style, each member taking on one leg of the three. This proved to be a great way

to support the triathlon as an amateur racer.

Finally, a three-mile run topped off the event, taking racers from the lake around the Scoville/Rattlesnake/Town Street loop. Waiting at the finish line were adoring fans, some holding babies, others timing with stop watches, all cheering like mad. The winner was Mike Root, who completed the course in one hour, 17 minute, 55 seconds. Nicole Feliciano was the woman champ and Team Busby (Bente-swim, Peter-bike, and Zachrun) took the team prize, finishing in an impressive one hour, 27 minutes, 59 seconds. Beautiful baskets of local tomatoes were the festive prizes.

Another winner was the Cornwall Child Center, happy recipient of all entry fees, which amounted to more than \$1,600. According to organizer Mary Kay Elwell, the race was great for everyone and will certainly be an annual event in the low-key but enthusiastic Cornwall style. One participant (who has done 19 triathlons this year and doesn't live in Cornwall) said in an e-mail: "It was one of the most well organized and memorable races I've done. Kudos, and count me in for next year."

— Emilie Pryor



The Board of Selectmen is trying to determine how to respond to requests for reactivating or creating three new town commissions. The Planning and Zoning Commission has suggested that the Conservation Commission, established in 1973 but currently dormant, could be helpful in addressing the cell tower issue. Another dormant group is the Committee on the Aging, established in 1979, with five members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Third, a group to address economic development would be useful for obvious reasons. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway notes that Sharon has an Economic Development Study Group, rather than a full commission, which was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to work on that issue.

Anyone interested in actually working on any of these issues should contact Gordon at the Selectman's Office (672-4959). If no one responds, the groups will probably continue to lie dormant.

—Barbara Gold

Cornwall Briefs

Solar Power: A \$29,000 state grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will just about cover the \$29,200 cost of solar panel towers to be installed east of Town Hall and north of the cow chip field by Litchfield Hills Solar. The ground level rack is projected to supply 100 percent of the power needs for the Town Office building; it should be in place by November 3.

Speed Signs: The state Department of Transportation has approved the installation of two solar speed signs in West Cornwall as an experiment to slow drivers who usually exceed the 20 mph speed limit. The signs will inform drivers of their speed relative

Letter to the Chronicle

A NEW DUDLEYTOWN?

About the time that Mr Hingson bought Rumsey Hall we were lucky enough to buy one of three identical houses on Lower River Road which were built in the 1830s for the managers of the shears factory. Number 36, two houses away, was built on an especially nice piece of land across from the school house, with a perfect dry stone wall at the back beneath the train station. The owner lives in New Jersey and has never occupied the house, though there was a tenant there when we arrived. After she passed away the house sustained serious flood damage from burst pipes and the exterior has slowly been reclaimed by nature. There is a lot of interest

from locals and visitors in pur-

chasing the house because of its extreme potential, but the owner has not responded to phone calls and has not visited the property since 2008. I asked Gordon Ridgway what could be done and he said, nothing, until the house becomes a liability and needs to be demolished. Perhaps I misunderstood, but it seems amazing that with this passive attitude, Cornwall hasn't gone the way of Dudleytown.

-Megan Wilson

to the posted rate. They will be located just beyond The Wandering Moose for those drivers going up Route 128 and on the corner just above the old Yutzlers' building for those drivers headed downhill on Route 128. The cost of \$4,000 each will be covered by the town roads line in the budget. If successful, a similar installation will be considered for Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge.

Teacher Grant: Media specialist Vicki Nelson was the recipient of the Cornwall Consolidated School Fund for Excellence grant for summer 2010. She used the grant, her second, to extend her Unified Studies units into grades K-5. Previously she worked with the social studies and science curricula in grades 6-8 to integrate technology into the curriculum, rather than have the technology lessons be unrelated to the academic studies. — Barbara Gold, John Miller

Events & Announcements

Community Contra Dance will be held Saturday, October 2, from 7 to 9:30 P.M. in Town Hall, for all ages and skill levels. David Kaynor will call. Suggested donations are \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. For information call 672-6101.

Cornwall Historical Society Talk and Tea on Sunday, October 3, 2 P.M., at 7 Pine Street. In connection with the society's Foreign Mission School exhibit, Vassar professor Julie Rose will read from The Heathen, her novel in progress, and talk about the creative process of writing an historical novel based on an incident in the lives of real people. Refreshments will be served. Call 672-0505.

Motherhouse Workshop: What=Pi(e)? Celebrate the harvest season with a pumpkin pie made from scratch (and from squash), October 9 from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Local Farm barn. Cost is \$35 per family; bring food for a potluck lunch. Preregister at 672-0229.

Absentee Ballots for the November 2 election will be available beginning October 4 at the Town Clerk's Office. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and from 1 to 4 P.M. An application must be submitted before a ballot is issued. Electors may use an absentee ballot only if they will be unable to appear at the polling place on the day of the election for one of the following reasons: active service in the armed forces, absence from town during all the hours of voting, illness, physical disability or religious tenets.

Art in Cornwall

At the Cornwall Library, Maggie Cady's mixed media show, The Power of Paint, continues through the month.

Lady Audrey's Gallery will host an opening reception for artist Merrill French's show, Landscapes: Urban and Rural, on Saturday, October 9, from 4 to 6 P.M.

Lynn Fowler's Artwork will be on display at the National Iron Bank during October.

The Wish House continues to exhibit Nan Bevans's artwork through the month.

Historical Society Deaccession Opportunity Sale will be held at 12 Popple Swamp Road on Saturday, October 9, from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. (Rain date, Sunday, October 10) The sale will include items from the collection that have been carefully assessed as being duplicates, having no connection to Cornwall and/or not in a condition suitable for exhibition or research. Proceeds will be used to care for items in the collection requiring restoration and to start a fund for the purchase of artifacts and documents to enhance the collection. Call 672-0505.

Paper Shredding truck will be on site at Litchfield High School on Saturday, October 23, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. There is no cost, but proof of residence in Cornwall is required. The Community Birthday Calendar, a fundraiser for the CCS eighth grade, is looking for additional birth and anniversary dates. If you wish to have your name(s) listed, please e-mail the information by October 15 to ccs-classof2011@gmail.com.

Library Events

The Book Sale will run on Saturday, October 9 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. with early bird admission for \$10 from 9 to 10 A.M. The sale continues Monday, October 11, from 10 A.M. to noon, with a bag sale from noon to 3 P.M.

Author Richard Ellis will talk about his book On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear on Saturday, October 16, at 4 P.M. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Local author Paul De Angelis will talk about his book My Dear Mrs. Kennedy on Saturday, October 30, at 4 P.M.

CCS Walkathon will raise funds for the Haitian Health Foundation and the International Bird Rescue Research Center. Join the student body of CCS at the intersection of Cream Hill Road and Cogswell Road on Friday, October 15, at 1 P.M. for a one-mile, two-and-a-halfmile, or four-mile walk for a good cause. To make a donation or ask questions, call 672-6617.

Cornwall House Tour for the benefit of the Cornwall Housing Corporation will be held Saturday, October 16, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. (See insert.)

Household Hazardous Waste collection day is scheduled for Saturday, October 16, from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Torrington Pollution Control Facility. Details and registration (required) are available at the Selectmen's Office.

Cornwall Board of Education regular October meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 19, at 4 P.M. in the CCS Library.

Time and Tide

Time and tide wait for no one, they say. We don't know much about tides in Cornwall as we are some distance from the sea. But we would still love to find a pretty shell on the beach at the lake with a \$100 bill inside, sent by a grateful reader. Thanks!

Annual Town Meeting will be held Friday, October 22, at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS gathering room. The agenda includes a review of the Annual Report, a vote on the Five-Year Plan, and any other items in the call to the meeting.

Household Electronic Waste Disposal day is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility. There is no cost, but proof of residence in Cornwall is required.

The Fifth Annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held Saturday, October 23, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. For a list of the participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, go to www. cornwallct.org and click on "Cornwall Artists."

Pneumonia and Seasonal Flu Shots will be available at a Torrington Area Health District clinic on Friday, October 29, from 10 A.M. to noon at the Library. Cost is \$60 for pneumonia shot, \$30 for flu shot; TAHD will bill Medicare Part B, some Medicare managed care plans, HealthNet, and Connecticare directly. The clinic is open to any-

Bend and Stretch Clinic for older adults will be offered by VNA Northwest, Inc. in Cornwall on Tuesdays through November 2 from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. at the UCC Parish House. Instructor Ruth Ellen Griffin will lead the exercises set to music and designed to improve balance, agility, flexibility, and, ultimately, safety. To register, call 567-6000 or 1-800-752-0215. There is no cost.

one age nine and older; wear short sleeves.

Moose Are on the Loose! The Cornwall Conservation Trust will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 6, at 4 P.M. in Town Hall. The meeting will feature a presentation on moose in our environs by Andrew M. LaBonte, a wildlife biologist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division. All ages are welcome; refreshments will be served. Questions: call Kristen Bedell at 672-6014.

Register and Vote: The election in November will be held on Tuesday, November 2, at the Town Hall from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Offices to be decided include governor, attorney general, secretary of the state, senator and representative in Congress, state senator and rep-

resentative, as well as Cornwall's registrars of voters.

Voter registration applications are available at the Town Office during office hours. Additionally, the registrars will hold sessions at the Town Hall on Thursday, October 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.; Saturday, October 16, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., and finally Tuesday, October 26, from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Mohawk Trail: A section of the Mohawk Trail, from the entrance at Dark Entry Road to the Jewell Street trailhead, will be closed temporarily beginning at sunset Friday, October 22, to sunrise Monday, Nov. 8.

Park and Rec. will host a Halloween gathering at the Town Hall on Sunday, October 31, from 5 to 8 P.M. Soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages will be provided.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

OCTOBER ISSUE

Zeke Hermann, Illustrations Barbara Gold and Franny Taliaferro, Editors

NOVEMBER ISSUE

Sharon Dietzel, Julie Schieffelin, Brenda Underwood, Editors sdietzel@optonline.net, jcs734@gmail.com, brendau@optonline.net

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Enstein

CALENDAR EDITOR Anne Baren pbaren@optonline.net

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans, Lucy and Jack Kling

DIRECTORS

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