CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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Finally, the Bend Project

There will be a new amenity for Cornwall residents and tourists this spring: a ramp for launching kayaks and canoes plus parking for 15 cars are going to be constructed at the Bend on the Housatonic River in West Cornwall. The former site of the Mallinson Shear factory, the now-overgrown and neglected area will be spiffed up in order to safeguard both the land and water.

This project has been in the works for quite a few years; the current low-impact vision won Cornwall residents' approval at an August town meeting. Cornwall will acquire three acres for recreational use at the Bend from Eversource through a licensing agreement. A Housatonic Valley Association grant is underwriting the improvements to the site, and once they have been made, Cornwall will be responsible for maintenance.

The parking area will be constructed with fill over the industrial site, leaving the site itself intact. Stormwater runoff is going to be diverted in an ecologically sound way so that the banks of the Housatonic don't erode further. The ramp for kayaks and canoes will be made of gravel, stabilized with supports to keep it in place.

After many iterations of plans for the

Bend, this current version requires very little disruption and can be completed this fall. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that there will be a Bend celebration in the spring. $-Jill\ Cutler$

Something For Everyone

The 27th annual Cornwall Ag Fair had excellent weather, fitting in perfectly between a wet day before and a forecasted following storm. Nice planning, Bill Dinneen and crew!

Celebrating the village's enduring agricultural strength and diversity, the event filled the green with a wide variety of things to see, do, learn, build, judge, and eat.

Folks were pleased that both of our farmers' markets were participating at the fair. There were lovely veggies, baked goods, beef, and other goodies to be found. St. Peter's had tasty hot dogs and hamburgers, while UCC offered

perfect corn on the cob and eighth-graders sold snow cones.

Presented almost as beautiful craft or jewelry items were tables of individual, carefully chosen vegetables for judging, each on a plate and several decorated with winning blue ribbons.

The LaPorta family demonstrated the procedure they have used during 60 years in making their Meglio Di Niente wine. Seriously. Their homemade *vino* is not for sale, so please do not call your friendly ATF agent. For the non-Italian speakers among us, the wine's name translates as "Better Than Nothing."

The non-food side of agriculture was represented by displays such as Brad Hedden's portable saw mill and Art Downs's operating "hit and miss" engines. Our much loved and respected Little Guild had two tiny puppies just arrived from the south, as well as adult dogs for adoption.

There were lots of youngsters at the fair and they were well provided with fun activities. Joe Brien kept small hands busy at his Lost Arts Workshop display while hayrides, egg-in-a-spoon, and sack races, and the crazy Find the Bubble Gum Under a Pile of Whipped Cream and Blow a Bubble Without Using Your Hands event drew large audiences. — *Jeff Jacobson*



		— OCI	LOBER 2	2018 —		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Mat Squad, 6:30 pm UCC ◆ Tuesdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library	Region One Board of Ed 6:30 pm HVRHS Library Agricultural Advisory Committee 7:30 pm Town Office Bldg	2 * Voter Registration 10 am-1 pm Town Hall 4thQ Domestic Violence Annual Vigil 6 pm Town Green Inland Wetlands Agency 7 pm Town Hall	◆ Deb Devins Writing Workshop 6:30–8:30 pm Library	4	5	6 • Columbus Day Book Sale 10 am-2 pm • Breakfast with Books for Kids 10 am-Noon Library • Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
7 ◆ Columbus Day Book Sale 10 am–2 pm	COLUMBUS DAY Columbus Day NEW Book Sale 10 am-2 pm Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC Day Room Women's Drum Circle 6:30−8:30 pm Local Farm	Monthly Senior Luncheon Noon UCC Parish House West Cornwall Septic Comm. 5 pm WC Library * P82 7 pm Library Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	10 ◆ Open House for Prospective Families 6-7:30 pm Child Center ◆ Deb Devins Writing Workshop 6:30-8:30 pm Library ◆ 7th/8th Grade Environmental Sustainability 7 pm CCS	11	12	13 + Haz. Waste Collection Torrington • Fall Fest 9 an—4 pm Mohawk • Little Guild Fall Fest 10 am—2 pm Town Green • Little Guild Parade 10:30 am Town Green • Little Guild 5K Run & Wag Race Noon Town Green • Artist Reception Laszlo & Friends 3—6 pm Souterrain
Orienteering Adventure with Joe Brien 1–4 pm Hughes Lib.	Deadline: November Chronicle Copy ◆ Economic Development Comm. 9 am Town Hall	↑ Republican Town Committee Meeting 7 pm Library ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	↑ CCS Board of Education 4:15 pm CCS ↑ Deb Devins Writing Workshop 6:30–8:30 pm Library	18 ◆ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Library ◆ Board of Finance 7:30 pm Town Hall	19	◆ Eureka Squash to Pie 9 am-1 pm Local Farm ◆ New Comers' Tea/ Floor Bd. Show 4 pm Trinity Retreat ◆ Litchfield County Witches Talk 5 pm Library
◆ Susan Hellman Artist's Reception 11:30 am UCC ◆ Meet the Democratic Candidates (Hayes/Horn) 1:30 pm Pearly's	22 ◆ ZBA* 7 pm Library	Coffee, Confections, Conversations am UCC Parish House	◆ Deb Devins FULL Writing Workshop 6:30-8:30 pm Library ◆ Region One ABC Committee 7 pm HVRHS Central Office	◆ Voter Registration 9 am–Noon Town Hall	26	27
28	29	◆ Voter Registration 9 am—8 pm Town Hall	* Halloween Dinner & Trick or Treat 5–8 pm Town Hall † Trick or Treat 5–7 pm Library † Deb Devins Writing Workshop 6:30–8:30 pm Library	Every Week This Month: Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Tai-Chi 5:30 pm and Qigong 6 pm UCC; Stitch 'n Spin, 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ◆ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Meditation, 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg, 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874 ◆ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 11 am-Noon Library ◆ Saturdays: West Cornwall Farm Market, 10 am–1 pm; Cornwall Coop Farm Market, 9 am–12:30 pm ◆ Sundays: Yoga, 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1 pm call Debra 672-0229		

Bouillabaisse for Bibliophiles

In 1977 Barbara Farnsworth placed an advertisement in the Lakeville Journal:

HELP!

I will be returning to N.W. Connecticut in April after 15 years in Europe, mainly in France. I would like to open a first-class bookshop, perhaps with a wide variety of paper from all over the world, possibly with a lot of gourmet cookbooks....Good pens for a certainty. I need help, backing, ideas....I am a writer and journalist by profession (New York Times, Town and Country, etc.), bookminded by

Any ideas? Send them to me. All letters will be answered.

The owner of Martin Gold's Books and Antiques responded, and when Barbara saw his shop she decided on it immediately. "It was a coup de foudre," said her son Alex. The family moved to Cornwall in August 1978.

Mr. Gold was a portly, cigar-smoking man who shed ashes and matches liberally over his chaotic stock of books and furniture. "You could barely get in the door," remembered Carol Goodfriend. But Barbara changed that.

Association of America.

She bought case after case of books at rummage and estate sales, from attics, auctions, and libraries. But she soon became selective. "Every book was meticulously curated, observed with care and passion, and then inscribed with her unmistakable cuneiform pencil handwriting," Alex told me. The collection became organized by topics such as "Ships and the Sea," or "Bees and Other Bugs." The feather in her cap? She became a member of the prestigious Antiquarian Booksellers'

In 1992, Andrew Malcolm, describing Farnsworth's Books in the *New York Times*, quoted Barbara as saying, "Nobody runs an old bookstore to get rich. It just legalizes my compulsion to own lots of books on lots of subjects and to put my own mark on the store. This place is my personal struggle to preserve some serendipity in American life."

Once upon a time, the village of West Cornwall was a hub of commercial activity and her shop was a part of that. There are fewer stores in the village now, and booksellers rely on the internet for sales.

Visitors to the internet won't find a real place like Barbara Farnsworth's bookstore with its creaky floorboards and the strong whiff of scholarship. She was a lover of books and of the people who write them and read them. She was professional and fair. When she discovered that some books had gone missing, she posted this sign: "It distresses me to find people have been stealing books. Please don't. This is a civilized place." –Ella Clark

"Dennyville"

Cornwall's economic woes are part of our heritage. A full-page ad for an organization promoting economic development in Appalachia featured a photo of a nearly abandoned town with closed stores and dusty streets. Cornwall's sharp-eyed Edward Tatnall Canby noticed that it was actually a photo of downtown West Cornwall. But our history also offers inspiration and hope for our current community-oriented efforts at economic development.

In 1953, members of the Cornwall Planning Commission, the West Cornwall Village Improvement Society, the Cornwall Garden Club, and the Cornwall Men's Club heard presentations about a proposal for a West Cornwall shopping area and requests for their suggestions.

While the speaker was a relative newcomer to the area, those present must surely have known his voice. As the host of America's Town Meeting of the Air for 17 years, George V. Denny undoubtedly had one of the best-known voices in America. Retired to a new home overlooking the west bank of the Housatonic at Cornwall, Denny and his wife, Jeanne, decided to develop a shopping area. Denny emphasized that it should

"supplement what we already have," not compete with it. And early on he solicited his neighbors' opinions about the project.

Christopher "Christy" Smith rented space for what became the Covered Bridge Hardware and Building Supply Company. The F. North Clark Insurance Agency moved in next door. The old horse barn back of the railroad station was sectioned off for a restaurant, barber shop, and beauty parlor. Archie Jamgotchian rented space for a furniture store and made plans to move his Housatonic Rug Shop to a shingle mill near the train station. Other commercial establishments followed. The Covered Bridge Shopping Area opened May 30, 1954, the 19th anniversary of Denny's first America's Town Meeting of the Air broadcast. Some of its commercial establishments

have continued in one form or another down to the present day.

Then as now, not everyone was enthusiastic about development. Legend has it that a North Cornwall old timer referred to the Covered Bridge Inn and Shopping Area as "Dennyville" and refused to go to West Cornwall any 🖎 🔊 more.

On August 6, 1954, the ₽_O Covered Bridge Inn and Coffee House opened on Main Street. Cornwall farmers had recently started breeding Black Angus cattle, and the inn featured Black

Welcome

Thomas James Garofano III to Jessica and Thomas Garofano, Jr.

Good-bye to a Friend

Ron Hummel

Land Transfers

Joyce Pequignot to Cornwall Housing Corporation, residence, buildings, and improvements at 257 Kent Road, for \$135,019.27

James P. Lynch to Barbara and Clinton R. Bishop, land with improvements thereon at 7 West Drive, for \$380,000.

Angus beef, providing them a local market. Dioramas portrayed scenes of very humanlooking Black Angus cows. On the wall was a mural of bucolic local scenescomplete with grazing Black Angus. The menu was premature locavore: "Ayrshire milk from Old Bank Farms"; "Angusburgers," and "Bridgeburgers" from Prime Aberdeen Angus from Briarcliff Farms"; "Angus steak dinners"; "Eggs, any style, from Cornwall Poultry Farm." Apparently unable to break the radio habit, Denny initiated a weekly radio broadcast "At the Covered Bridge Inn" on WLCR featuring music, interviews, and comments from Denny.

Seven local residents formed the inn's board of directors. The original hosts were Lew and Phyllis Sarasy. An early ad noted, "They'll welcome your suggestions, critical or constructive, for this is Cornwall's own establishment, designed to serve and reflect credit upon our community." They were followed by John and Elyse Harney. Elyse Harney recalls, "Managing an inn is a career that becomes a lifestyle-social gathering and community networking is at the forefront of all successful establishments."

—Jeremy Brecher

Cornwall Briefs

•Heather Dinneen has assumed the position of Cornwall's interim director of social services until January 2019, following the unexpected resignation of Jane Muir Sellery in late August. Office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to 3 р.м. and by appointment.

•Cornwall runs out of gas: Replacement of the fuel tanks at the Cornwall Bridge CITGO station were scheduled to begin the last week of September and last approximately six weeks. The pumps may be dry, but the convenience store remains open

throughout.

•Needed: emergency management director. The town is looking to

hire someone for this parttime position to replace Terry Burke, who is retiring after some four years. Ideally the person should be trained in procedures for dealing with natural disasters, etc.

- •One down, a couple to go: While work was still continuing on the Covered Bridge, work renovating the Smith Street and Gravel Bank bridges was due to begin in mid-September.
- •Town of Cornwall Prescription Discount cards are being distributed free of charge by the first selectman's office. Anyone who has limited or no insurance coverage for prescription medicine (or coverage with a high deductible) may save out-of-pocket expense by using the card (it cannot be used in conjunction with Medicare, Medicaid, or another insurance plan). Some pet medications are also discountable.
- The uptick in usage of Hammond Beach this past summer as reported by beach director Marina Kotchoubey is credited to the new dock and such programs as yoga and paddle boarding. Tune in next summer for more!
- The annual town meeting that usually takes place in October has been delayed until November due to a delay by the state in auditing its accounts.

—Paul De Angelis

Voter Registration: The deadline for voter registration is October 30 in order to vote in the November 6 gubernatorial election. Registration sessions will be held at the town hall on October 2, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., and October 25, 9 A.M. to 12 P.M., and October 30 from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Registration applications are available at the town hall and library as well as on-line (http://voterregistration.ct.gov/).

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 6, at the town hall, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters.

There will be two questions on the ballot for approval or disapproval of a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Connecticut. Question One involves the distribution of money from the Special Transportation Fund. Question Two involves the transfer, sale, or disposition of state-owned or state-controlled real property or interests in real property. See the town clerk for the full text of the questions.

Absentee ballots will be available after October 5. Absentee ballots can only be issued for the following reasons: 1. Active service in the Armed Forces of the United States; 2. Absence from the town during all hours of voting; 3. Illness; 4. Religious tenets forbidding secular activity on the day of the election, primary, or referendum; 5. Duties as a primary, election, or referendum official at a polling place other than your own during all hours of voting; 6. Phys-

Letters to the Chronicle

THE TOWN HALL PLAYERS:

In 2002 a group of Cornwall thespians came together to present Our Town. Before long the group became the Town Hall Players, a Cornwall community theater. In the first ten years we performed plays such as The Dining Room, and Midsummer Night's Dream. During that time we obtained nonprofit status so that we could raise funds. The town gifted a new curtain, and we bought lighting, props, and cushions for the chairs.

In March of this year, after a seven-year hiatus, THP hosted an Open Mic and Potluck. There was standing room only.

We encourage everyone who has an interest in any aspect of community theater to join us.

In addition to performance, we are pleased to support the revival of the Cornwall Play Reading Group. Already this group has gotten together twice to read.

Please join us as we bring community theater back to Town Hall!

-Molly Hinchman, Vice President, THP

A CORNWALL LANDMARK:

September's article on housing inequality omitted a significant National Historic Landmark here in Cornwall: the Steward's House of the Foreign Mission School. There are only 2,600 landmarks, including the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty.

According to Starr's History of Cornwall, the young John Sedgwick (later Major General), whose historic house was mentioned, was also educated at a private school that earlier had been the FMS Steward's House. The Steward's House was home to several other schools, which educated well-known Cornwall students living today.

—Ben Gray, Sr.

A NEW KEEPER OF THE KEYS

Cornwall has a new interpreter of its historical record and its stories; Suzanne Fateh joined the historical society as its curator in August. Suzie comes to us from a 30-year career in museums and historical organizations. These include the New-York Historical Society, the Gunn Museum and Library, and most recently the Mattatuck in Waterbury. A resident of Southbury, she will be in Cornwall 20 hours a week working on collections, archives, and reorganizing the work space on the second floor. She is available by appointment only. Leave a message at 672-0505 or contact her at curator@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org.

-Lisa L. Simont, President of the Board

ical disability. Town clerk hours are Monday to Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M. Please don't wait until the last minute to apply for your absentee ballot. They must be returned by 8 P.M. on election day.

Events & Announcements

Also: check our Facebook page for event reminders and Cornwall updates

Home Heating Help and Food Pantry: Many residents are income eligible for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program designed to defray the high cost of home heating. Contact Heather Dinneen at Cornwall Social Services for more information: 672-2603 or email cornwallsocialservices@gmail.com to find out food pantry hours or needs.

United Church of Christ Congregational: The Mat Squad is looking for help. Crocheters are needed to take our plastic yarn and make 3-foot by 6-foot mats for the homeless. This can be done at your home, or join us on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the UCC. For information call Tracy at 672-6840 or email her at mgray09@snet.net.

CVFD Count

- 2 false alarms
- 3 mutual aid to neighboring towns
- 2 trees/wires down
- 1 gas leak
- 2 motor vehicle accidents
- 19 medical emergencies

munity Vigil for victims of domestic violence: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Join WSS and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway on Tuesday, October

Women's Support Services' Annual Com-

2, at 6 P.M. on the town green. Event will take place rain or shine.

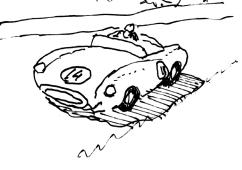
At the Cornwall Library

Writing the Stories of Your Life with Deb Devins: Wednesday, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., October 3 through November 7. This class is for anyone interested in writing about your life. Deb will get you started, or help you continue with work-in-progress. \$50 fee.

Columbus Day Book Sale: October 6, 7, and 8 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Early birds can shop at 9 A.M. for a \$15 fee on Saturday, October 6. Sunday, October 7, is half price, Monday, October 8, is fill-a-bag for \$5. We need books. Mysteries are especially welcome.

Litchfield County Witches: Historian Pete Vermilyea will discuss

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

Litchfield County witches. Saturday, October 20, at 5 P.M.

Trick or treating at the library: Halloween night, 5 to 7 P.M.

Toddler/Infant Playgroup at the Cornwall Library has been moved to Fridays from 11 A.M. to noon. Please join other parents and caregivers. Not a drop-off program. Contact the library for details.

Cornwall Park & Rec

Breakfast with Books at the Cornwall Library, Saturday, October 6, from 10 A.M. until noon. A light breakfast will be served in the children's area of the library during the Columbus Day Book Sale.

Senior Monthly Luncheon, October 9, at 12 noon at the Parish House. Cost \$8/ person. Please RSVP to Jen Markow at prcornwall@gmail.com or 860-480-0600; call or text.

Morning Coffee, Confections, and Conversations: Tuesday, October 23, at 9 A.M. at the UCC Parish House.

In order to make Halloween a great and safe experience we are asking for donations of candy. Donations can be dropped off by Monday, October 29, at the town hall or CCS.

Halloween Party: Wednesday, October 31, 5 to 8 P.M. All ghosts, goblins, princesses, fairies, families, and friends are welcome to come and enjoy a free dinner at the town hall and then trick or treat in the village. Park and Rec will provide soups, fresh veggies and fruit, corn dogs, mac and cheese, and apple cider.

Cornwall Community Contra
Dance: Saturday, October 6,
town hall. Dancing will begin
at 7 p.m. with old-time music
by Still, the Homegrown Band
and calling by David Kaynor. All
dances taught, no partner necessary, all ages welcome. Donation
requested. Contact Jane at 6726101, or go to motherhouse.us.

Sorry, no EZ Pass!

Are you already missing the sweet clicketyclack of the unrenovated Covered Bridge? Or perhaps even the days it was a toll bridge? Why not wallow in nostalgia by flipping through the *Chronicle*'s online archive and drop us a token toll. Free Blood Pressure Clinic: Monday, October 8, from noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Day Room. For information contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Cornwall Child Center Open House for current and prospective families on Wednesday, October 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There will also be a book fair hosted by Barefoot Books at that time.

Cornwall Consolidated School: Please join the seventh- and eighth-grade CCS students on October 10 at 7 P.M. in the Gathering Room at CCS to learn about their work on environmental sustainability. They hope to broaden their

learning and potential impact on Cornwall by having a dialogue with the wider community.

October Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, October 13, at the Torrington Street Department, 107 Arthur Street, Torrington (new location). Check the post offices, transfer station, and library bulletin boards for time. To participate you will need to pick up a ticket at the first selectman's office.

Little Guild of St. Francis 5K Run & Wag: Saturday, October 13. (See insert.)

Art in Cornwall

At the Souterrain Gallery, October 13, 3 to 6 P.M. will be the opening reception for Lazlo Gyorsok and the Housatonic Camera Club's exhibit "The Magic Corner Captured and Other Fantastic Imagery." The exhibit continues through De-

cember, Thursday to Sunday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall continues showcasing paintings of Donald Bracken, Lennart Swede Ahrstrom, and Scott Zuckerman, in addition to some landscapes photographed by Ian Ingersoll. Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

In the UCC Parish House, the exhibit of Ellen Moon's watercolors and fiber arts, "Translating Nature," will continue until October 16.

Beginning on October 21, the Parish House will showcase an exhibit of Susan Hellmann's paintings and textile pieces, "Mindful of Cornwall," inspired by her childhood memories of Cornwall. The exhibit will run until November 25. Opening reception on Sunday, October 21, at 11:30 A.M. The show may be viewed

Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., Sundays from 10 A.M. to noon, and by appointment with the artist (shellmannart@gmail.com).

At the Hughes Memorial Library:
Orienteering Adventure. Learn how to use a map and compass to find your way in the woods—
and the mall parking lot.
Sunday, October 14, from 1 to 4 P.M., 35 Lower River Road. Free. All ages welcome.
For more information visit

For more information visit lostartworkshops@gmail.com.

Republican Town Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 7 P.M. in the library.

Meet Jahana Hayes, Maria Horn, and other Democratic candidates on Sunday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Pearly's. All are welcome for refreshments, music, and fun.



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THIS MONTH

Duncan Hannah, Illustrations Jill Cutler and Ella Clark, Editors Ben Gray, Jr. and Caroline Kosciusko, Facebook Posts

NEXT MONTH

Kerry Donahue and Meg Tansy, Editors kerry@kerrydonahue.com or megtansey@me.com

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