



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 12 : NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 2002



CCS Expansion Plans

School Building Committee Chairman Jim Terrall and project architect Dale Cutler fielded a lively and largely upbeat discussion with an audience of about 50 people meeting in the CCS gym on August 9. "The basic goal of this committee," Terrall opened, "is to provide Cornwall children with opportunities equal to those that the other five towns in the district offer their children."

Architect Cutler told the audience he had agreed to work from preliminary plans drawn up by committee member Alec Frost, because he found those plans "both concise and relatively inexpensive." Coordinating with project manager Dan Sexton of Casle Corporation, Cutler is exploring possible cost reductions by simplifying building techniques, reducing site work and building "footprint" and installing firewalls as an alternative to a sprinkler system.

Opinions expressed by the audience ranged from dissatisfaction with anything less than a high school or NBA-sized gym to a desire to stick to a bare-bones budget. "How do we know the school population won't expand in another few years so that we will need yet more classroom space?" was a question asked of Terrall. "We don't," was Jim's answer, "but we have built in a degree of flexibility by setting aside the present gym area as a multi-purpose space that could be

converted to classrooms if needed."

If all goes smoothly, Sexton expects to have cost estimates by early September. For this to happen, the Building Committee will have to make decisions regarding the firewall option and gym size as well as resolving other issues. Then, the tentative schedule is for the town boards involved to approve final design by mid-September; a town meeting to review the whole package on October 5; and a nail-biting referendum on October 19. Meanwhile, First Selectman Ridgway will be busy chasing state funding and private financial support, as well as examining tax relief options.

—*Scoville Soule and John LaPorta*

Thumbs Down on Main Street

At a town meeting on July 25, Cornwall voters turned down a proposal to change the name of a short segment of the Sharon Goshen Turnpike to Main Street. The vote, by paper ballot, was 29 against and 15 in favor of the change. Ian Ingersoll, the chief proponent of the change, who among others had long been using Main Street for his business address, had complained that the postal service had been failing to deliver some of his mail on the ground that there was actually no Main Street in West Cornwall. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway opposed the change,

saying that it could cause confusion for emergency service vehicles, that he had been assured by the Post Office that in any case Ingersoll's mail would be delivered. "There had to be some essential reason to change a street name," Ridgway said after the vote, "and there wasn't any such reason."

—*Bobby Klaw*

CCS Opens

Cornwall Consolidated School opened in late August with 172 students, down from the 198 on opening day last year. Part of the 26-pupil drop is a smaller kindergarten class of 14 compared to last year's graduating eighth grade of 24. The school also opened with a small turnover in staff, just one new teacher, Shannon Czepiel (See-ple), who is teaching math in the upper grades.

Meanwhile, the *Chronicle* has learned that the Board of Education recently met in executive session but did not take action on a new contract for Principal Peter Coope, whose current three-year term ends next June. When asked about Coope's status at CCS, Board of Education Chair Barbara Gold said, "Mr. Coope is in place for the current school year."

However, Region One Superintendent John O'Brien said that although there had been no discussion about extending Coope's contract beyond next June, "no decision has been

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Marc Simont Exhibit Opening Reception 5 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)	2 LABOR DAY Hammond Beach Closes for the Season 7 P.M.	3 Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. St. Peter's Church B. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agric. Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Office Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	4 Play Group Every Wednesday 10-11:30 A.M. Playground (St. Peter's in Case of Rain)	5 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15-2:15 P.M. St. Peter's Church Osteoporosis Presentation 1 P.M. Town Hall (p.4) CCS Bldg. Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	6 ROSH-HASHANAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	7 Rotary Meeting: Women's Support Services 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R.
8	9 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	10 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	11 Community Ecumenical Service to Commemorate 9/11 7:30 P.M. North Cornwall Meeting House (p.4)	12	13 	14 Cornwall Arts Collection Reception 5-7 P.M. (p.4)
15 YOM KIPPUR BEGINS AT SUNDOWN Deadline: October Chronicle Copy	16 Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Cornwall Library M. R.	17 Osteoporosis Testing 9:30 A.M.-Noon UCC Parish House (p.4)	18	19 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall CCS Bldg. Comm. 5:30 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	20 Pre-School Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	21 Rotary Meeting: UConn Master Gardener 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R. Bd. of Assessment Appeals—Autos Only 9:30 A.M.—Noon Town Office Agricultural Fair Noon-4 P.M. Village Green (see Insert) Fred Sander Talk 5 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4.)
22	23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS ZBA 8:30 P.M. Town Hall*	24	25 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26 Annual Meeting Cornwall Library 4:30 P.M. (p.4) CCS Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library (p.4)	27 Pre-School Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	28 Rotary Meeting: CT State Archeologist 8:15 A.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R.
29 	30					

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)
made." O'Brien added that it was "too early."

Coope brushed aside a question about his plans after the current school year and said he would continue to work on school goals which he said included problem solving, improving writing skills and building a sense of respect and responsibility among the students. —John Miller

Nature Sightings in Cornwall

Seen a rare bird lately? Or maybe some unusual action involving a familiar animal? If so, there's a new place on the Cornwall website (www.cornwallct.org) to tell us all about it. The "What's New" category on the website now includes "Nature Sightings" in Cornwall. Listed among the initial reports are Steve Senzer's seeing a barred owl grab a goldfish from his pond, John Miller's finding (and also recognizing) a least weasel and Richard Grigg's gripping tale of his encounter with two hummingbirds inside his pickup.

So far, no cougars or moose, but when you see some unusual nature event, you can now tell us all about it by e-mailing hannakg@optonline.net. —Hanna K. Grossman



Memories of Cornwall Summers

Cornwall has a 100-year history of summer residents and weekenders. One of the first families to establish a second home here was Carl and Irita Van Doren, who bought a house on Town Street in 1915 and then moved to the home on Cream Hill now owned by their daughter Bobby Klaw and her husband Spencer.

We talked recently with the Klaws about their recollections:

"Bobby spent every summer here during her childhood beginning in 1920 and actually wrote a book about it that was published by Viking when she was 14. She was their youngest author ever!" Spencer said.

"I wrote it under the pseudonym Martin Gale," Bobby said. "It was called *One Summer* and it was fiction about the adventures of an 11-year-old named Peggy Bradford. But it was really about my life in Cornwall, the lake, the square dances..."

"There weren't many wealthy summer residents early on, except for the Sacketts (who lived on Rexford Road, in the house now owned by the Pryors). They sometimes had our family for tea. We kids wore our white socks and Mary Janes. It was the only house I'd ever been in where there was a butler. I didn't know quite how to deal with him.

"Spencer and I were married in 1941 and

began spending summers here together in 1946.

"Our home was originally a farmhouse and then served as a dormitory for loggers. It had a carriage shed, which Carl and a friend reconstructed into a great outdoor living room.

"Some of our neighbors were Lewis Gannett, who was still working at the *Herald Tribune*, the Bournes, and a lot of Yelping Hill people. Henry Canby fell in love with Cornwall in the early 1920s and bought a large chunk of land that was the basis for Yelping Hill.

"Ted Gold, Charlie's father, owned Cream Hill Farm and was the most elegant farmer; he wore whipcord britches and had played polo at Yale.

"Rose Algrant came here as a penniless immigrant and for a time tended goats on the Day's farm. She was known to some people as "the goat lady." Of course, that was before she became a teacher and a patron of the arts.

"Shopping was all local and easy. We used to call in our grocery order to Blanche Yutzler, and it would be all ready for us when we went down to pick it up. Bierce's store (later a series of restaurants, now a home) had everything from soup to socks and underwear. If you couldn't find it at Bierce's, you probably didn't need it.

"The summer people and locals were two separate worlds, but there wasn't much if any hostility between them. Some folks bridged the gap, like Brad Walker, the town doctor, and the Calhouns, who came to all the square dances at the lake.

"Part timers like us didn't get involved with town issues; we hardly knew who the first selectman was. One exception was Lewis Gannett, who helped organize a campaign to save the covered bridge. About 1946, when Joe and Ann Blumenthal were not going to be accepted in the Cream Hill Lake Association because Joe was Jewish, Lewis drove all around town to lobby for their admission. They were finally invited to join, but they understandably declined.

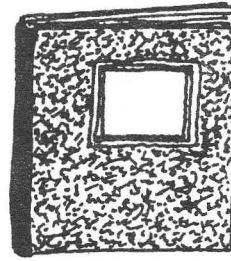
"The mingling of summer people into town affairs was a gradual thing, which had to wait until people retired. Dorothy Van Doren became a member of the school board and her niece, Margaret Bevans, followed her.

"Later, Patsy Van Doren was elected first selectman. The astonishing thing about her win is that she was not only a woman and a Democrat but a recent New York transplant.

"She was helped by Marty Gold, the cigar-smoking Democratic town chairman. Marty was also a JP and once tried to marry a couple in the middle of the Housatonic River. The problem was that the rock the couple wanted to stand on was actually in Sharon.

"About 1989 it was our turn to become full-timers. And after Margaret died and Tommy could no longer do it, we found ourselves as publishers of the *Chronicle*."

—Interviewed by Ed Ferman and George Kittle



4-H County Fair

The weekend of August 10 and 11 was important to nine Cornwall youths. They all participated in the 70th annual Litchfield County 4-H Fair which was held at the Goshen Fairgrounds. Hannah Colbert, Garrick Dinneen, Silvia LaPorta, Liz Kavanagh, Thomas, Will and Amanda Kennedy, Elizabeth

Ridgway and Charles Russ represented four clubs with their animal projects and displays in the "Home Show" building.

—Bianca LaPorta

Welcome

Daniel Moses Saed and Arie Joseph Saed to Larry Saed and Leslie Elias-Saed

Sydney Hazen Boyum to David Boyum and Alexes Hazen

Congratulations

Mark Mirko to Stephanie Welsh

Peter Hammond to Kimberly Gellatly

George Duncan to January Wiltshire

Land Transfers

Cornwall Partners to Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc., gift of 7.6 acres on Todd Hill Road and Sharon Goshen Turnpike.

Damien Oskwarek to Linda Frankel, 39.4 acres on Kent Road and Whitcomb Hill Road, \$55,000.

Housing for Horses

There are still no horses in residence in the barn at C&D Farms, but the barn's interior appears to be nearing completion. Major earthmoving at the site is also going ahead, based on a recent tour of the construction in the company of Roger Kane of the Inland Wetlands Commission. One rumor turns out to be true: air-conditioning in the barn is for the horses. But the elevator is only intended to carry feed and bedding.

The new barn is an immense and handsome building. It has a cruciform shape, topped by a row of small cupolas and large dormer windows. The barn is built of cinder blocks (soon to be covered with stucco) and its roof is slate. The interior has a long, lofty central aisle, supported by rows of 25-foot pegged posts, curved braces and crossbeams of Douglas fir. The side aisles will be partitioned with metal bars and fittings into individual stalls for 50 horses. Offices, an apartment for the farm manager, a veterinary lab, and a hall with a large fireplace all connect with a circular space two stories high, topped by a shallow rotunda at the crossing of the two arms of the building.

The barn is well below the level of the road. Thus, C&D has had to resolve a lot of water issues in order to avoid adverse environmental impact on the watershed east and south of the farm. There can be no manure pile, for instance, so soiled bedding and manure must be regularly removed and disposed of elsewhere. Clean ground water from the property, with the runoff from the roof, will be drained into an enlarged pond below the site. A well and pumping station

will supply a sprinkler system for the barn. Unclean runoff from the driveway and the yard will be carried into a sedimentation pond for filtering before it is piped into the brook, which eventually drains into the East Branch of the Shepaug River.

— Anne Schillinger

The School: Keeping Taxes Down

The current School Building Committee feels that last year's vote to terminate the \$4.7 million CCS addition was not against making needed improvements to the school. Instead, it was a message about cost. The members say they are determined not to eliminate essentials from the plan they are working on, but they know that the town can't afford unnecessary luxuries.

With the sponsorship of the selectmen, a number of Cornwallians are pledging tax-deductible contributions that would reduce the amount of money the town has to borrow for the project if it passes at a future referendum.

Although some people may feel that it's wrong for the town to ask people to make private contributions to a tax-supported activity, Jim Terrall, the chairman of the School Building Committee and also a member of the Board of Education, does not agree. He points out that the local property tax is regressive and hits lower-income people especially hard. If some of the better-off people in Cornwall want to help lower the tax burden of the school addition, he says, we should welcome it.

The goal of the effort is to raise \$100,000 (which would reduce the amount of bonding by \$85,000 because the state won't match private gifts). For more information or to make a pledge, call Hendon Chubb at 672-6607. Small contributions will be appreciated as well as large ones.

—Hendon Chubb

A Capital Trip

There were plenty of empty seats on the bus when Meagan Pastre and Alie Collins climbed on board in East Hartford in the wee hours of July 14th, but it was packed with other Connecticut high-schoolers by the time it pulled up at a Georgetown University dorm in Washington, D.C. The two Housay students were representing Cornwall on a five-day tour of the wheels of government

sponsored each year by the Connecticut Republicans. By week's end, they had visited the Supreme Court, D.A.R., Eisenhower Executive Office Building, State Department, Smithsonian, and Capitol Hill where they met Representatives Nancy Johnson and Rob Simmons. They also squeezed in a Potomac cruise, an Orioles game and much more.



Letters to the Chronicle

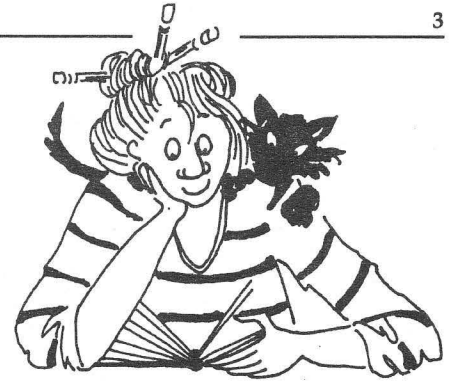
UNDERGROUND R.R.

I am looking for Underground Railroad sites in Northwest Connecticut. I am lacking a site in Cornwall. I do have the Guinea Road settlement as a possibility, but nothing substantial. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me at channy@skyweb.net

—Carol Hanny

COUNTRY ROADS

The Chronicle's August story about a "slow down" campaign for Cornwall was welcome news indeed. Within the past year, I have noticed a tremendous increase in speed demons careening around corners, tailgating and passing dangerously. With construction of the new horse barn on Great Hill Road, the number of trucks, SUVs, and other large vehicles has increased exponentially on what used to be the slow back road to Litchfield. We have been narrowly missed while exiting our driveway by vehicles racing up Great Hill's "S" curve. Going down,



some drivers let-it-rip at speeds well in excess of 50 mph.

Please: slow down, enjoy our exquisite views, save your lives - and ours!

—Carol H. Goodfriend

OOPS!

I was born a little over a month and a half ago so this letter is going to sound somewhat precocious. I'm writing because my grandfather was upset that my name was misspelled in the July Chronicle and, after all, it was my introduction to the Cornwall community. Please forgive his "upset."

—Lila Grey Miller

Both of the young Cornwall women are enthusiastic about Washington and are considering applying to schools there.

—Matt Collins

Tennis in Cornwall

This year's tennis summer in Cornwall Village was exciting and vigorous. Early in the year, the Cornwall Community Tennis Association organized an initial court reconditioning to assure that play could start in mid-May. Tom Hubbard, owner of the site, invested in a state-of-the-art court roller. Using it, Tyler Cheney and Todd Piker rolled the red clay courts all summer long.

Good thing they did, too. Tennis clinics ran throughout July and gave the courts serious usage. This year saw at least 75 juniors take part in classes conducted by Elyse Piker, Naysan McIlhargey and Todd Piker. Classes ranged from beginners aged six up to juniors aged 18. A couple of precocious five-year-olds also took part. Many a morning the shouts echoed: "Racquet back!" "Step, swing!", "Follow through!" True angst was shown as the reality of the arduous journey to become an accomplished player was replaced by a sigh and the willingness to settle for just one decent shot. Everyone worked hard, showed improvement and was convinced by their teacher's guarantee, "Stay the course and in due time you will be able to play this game."

New additions to this year's program were a twice weekly Women's Clinic and a Junior Tournament Group. The Junior Group played competitive matches against teams from New Milford, Torrington, Twin Lakes and Watertown. Home matches were hosted at the Cream Hill Lake Association. The kids

watched Wimbledon and went with their coach to the Pilot Pen tournament in New Haven. Hopefully, next year will see Inter-Town Singles, a Doubles Tournament Fund-Raiser and maybe some exhibition matches to boot.

— Todd Piker

Legislative Redistricting

Redistricting decisions by the state legislature, triggered by the 2000 Census, revised all three legislative districts in which Cornwall is located.

Most significant is the merger of the 5th and 6th Congressional Districts into a single new district. Creation of the new district means that two incumbent members of Congress, Republican Nancy Johnson and Democrat Jim Maloney, will face one another in November. Observers expect the race in the new district to be close, based on past voting patterns. For example, in the 2000 presidential race, the new 5th was won by Al Gore by less than he won the entire state.

The new 30th State Senate District contains nearly 100,000 residents, two-thirds of them in four large communities (New Milford, Brookfield, Winchester and parts of Torrington). The remaining third live in 11 small towns, including Cornwall. Boundaries of the new district differ quite substantially from before.

The 64th House District is little changed — only a small shift in its portion of Torrington. The district's population of 23,000 now splits about equally between parts of the city of Torrington and the four towns of Cornwall, Goshen, Salisbury, and Sharon.

— David A. Grossman

Events & Announcements

The Rose Algrant Show presented the work of 35 artists, which included paintings, sculptures, collages, mobiles, jewelry, ceramics, weaving and needlework. This year's gross receipts of about \$12,000 represent sales by 21 artists. This year profits will go to The Little Guild of Saint Francis, which will receive about \$2,500.

Art in Cornwall: On Sunday, September 1, at 5:00 P.M., the Friends of the Cornwall Library will host a reception for Marc Simont's show, featuring 50 years of cartoons to the editor of the Lakeville Journal.

The Cornwall Arts Collection will have an opening on September 14 from 5 to 7 P.M. of a show featuring the paintings of Ira Barkoff and Wallace Harding.

On August 10, Estelle Stetson, Hughes Memorial librarian, presented 86-year-old Cornwall artist William Braun the Golden Paint Brush Award at the opening of an exhibition of his paintings, commercial art and Revolutionary War maps. Braun's works can be seen through October. Proceeds of any sales will benefit the Hughes Library.

At the National Iron Bank, Harry Colley will be showing photographs during the month of September.

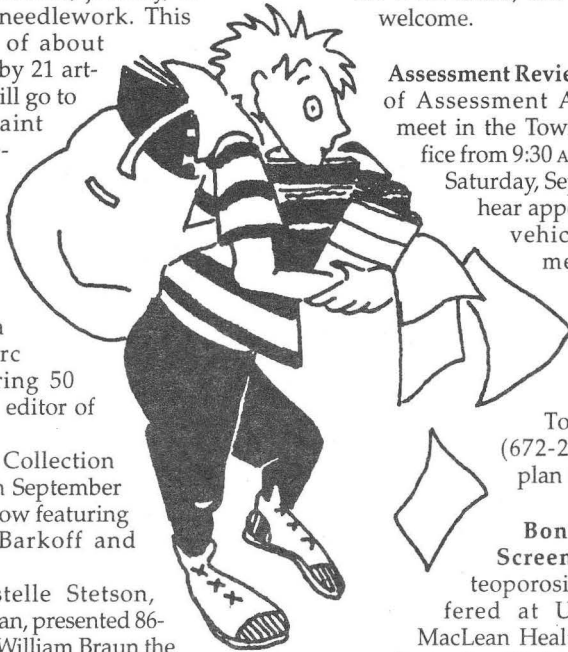
Wanted: 10 Flat Acres: The Cornwall Housing Corporation (CHC) has two successful projects focused on younger families but housing is still needed for the elderly. But where's the land?

CHC is looking for 10 acres of buildable flat terrain near a town center. CHC could pay for the land and can then apply for HUD funding to build 10 or more clustered units. If you

have any suggestions, please contact Ella Clark (ella.javanet@rcn.com).

Financial Statement

In these days of creative accounting it's comforting to know that the *Chronicle's* finances are a model of simplicity. Our expenses last year were \$8,064 (almost all for printing and postage) and our income was \$8,432 (all from your donations). So you can invest with confidence in the Cornwall Chronicle Inc.



To Commemorate 9/11, there will be a community ecumenical service at the North Cornwall Meeting House on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 P.M. For information, call the UCC office, 672-6840. All are welcome.

Assessment Review: The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in the Town Clerk's Office from 9:30 A.M. to noon on Saturday, September 21 to hear appeals on motor vehicle assessments. Appointments are not required but please call the Town Clerk (672-2709) if you plan to come.

Bone Density Screening for osteoporosis will be offered at UCC by the MacLean Health Center, on September 17, from 9:30 A.M. to noon. Call Jill Gibbons at 672-2603 to make an appointment. The test uses ultrasound on the bare heel and takes just a few minutes. There is a charge of \$25 for those 50 or older and \$30 for others. Not sure if you need it? Come to a slide presentation about bone loss on Thursday, September 5 from 1 to 2 P.M. at the Town Hall and find out.

Individual or Family Therapy, that is the question. On Saturday, September 21 at 5 P.M., Dr. Fred Sander will present a talk on this subject at the Cornwall Library. Dr. Sander uses excerpts from the film *Ordinary People* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* to illustrate treatment of human situations. Refreshments will be served. Free. Donations to the Cornwall Library welcome.

The Cornwall Free Library book sale will be held on October 12 and 13. If you have books in good condition to donate to the sale, please bring them to the Library. Anyone interested in helping out for the sale can call Anne Nance at 672-6242.

The Cornwall Library Association Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, September 26 at 4:30 P.M. at the Library.

Donors to the Library building project and the endowment should check the gifts book at the Library for accuracy. Although no amounts are listed, the spelling of names and memorial gifts should be checked. The book will be on the circulation desk until September 30.

Veterans' Exemption: Veterans who served during time of war may be eligible for a higher exemption than last year, if their income for 2001 was under \$31,100 if married or \$25,400 if single. Obtain applications from the Assessor's Office and file by October 1. New residents who may be eligible should file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk by October 1. For further information call the Assessor's Office at 672-2703.

Courses by Cornwallians: Three Cornwallians will teach courses this fall under the auspices of the Taconic Learning Center. At Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Mondays from 2 to 4 P.M., starting September 16, Phyllis Wojan will teach Contemporary Genetics. At Noble Horizons, on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 P.M., starting September 10, John Leich will teach Advanced Spanish. Also at Noble Horizons, on Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to noon, starting September 11, Ken Keskinen (with Doris Stoecker) will teach a course on the novels of four writers, "Twentieth Century Brits." To register (\$50) and for information about other course offerings, call 435-2922.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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