



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 15 : NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 2005



A Million Smiles

Unless you're an overseas subscriber or an overworked hermit, you know by now that Jane Bean—wife of David, parent of Chandra, grandparent of Gabe and Eli—won \$1,000,000 in the lottery last month.

Perhaps just as important is the way the town reacted. No envy. No malicious murmurs about idiot's luck. No snickers that it was only \$700,000 after taxes. No, just a great groundswell of satisfaction that a modest and good person had been richly rewarded.

We at the *Chronicle* are tempted to think that Jane's service as a volunteer editor last month had something to do with all this. But of course it didn't. We're happy to join in the town's happiness and to wish that the Beans' ancillary problems are all little ones.

—The Directors and Editors

It Gets Interesting

For the first time in many years, Cornwall has a hot race for first selectman. It pits seven-term incumbent Gordon Ridgway and retiring school board member Becky Hurlburt against each other. Both are Democrats, but Becky is running as a petitioning candidate. The race comes out of July's contrasting party caucuses. Republicans met first with about 30 party members on hand and nominated incumbent K. C. Baird for se-

lectman but no one for the top spot. There apparently was a movement among some Republicans to nominate Hurlburt for first selectman. If they had, others at the caucus were prepared to nominate Ridgway.

Several days later, well over 100 registered Democrats and guests filled all available seats in the Town Hall to see who would gain the top spot on that party's November ticket. Both candidates were nominated, and both spoke, as did several others on their behalf. The paper-ballot vote was close, with Gordon prevailing 65 to 51.

So when you go to vote on Tuesday, November 8, here are your choices for the Board of Selectmen: Ridgway and Hurlburt for first selectman; and Baird, Republican, Richard Bramley, Democrat, and Roger Kane, petitioning and unaffiliated, for selectman. From those five, the board will be made up of the winner for first selectman—Ridgway or Hurlburt—and the top two vote-getters among the three candidates for selectman AND the loser in the first selectman race. Confusing? (Read it again!) What happens if Ridgway, Hurlburt, and Bramley are the top three? The answer came from Bernie Liu in the office of Connecticut's Secretary of the State: they cannot be seated as a Board of Selectmen, because all are registered Democrats, and the board must have minority rep-

resentation. The third seat would then go to the person coming in fourth in the voting. It's an outcome unlikely to occur, but we wanted to know just in case.

Finally, please save this date: Sunday, October 9, when the candidates will be on a panel sponsored by the Cornwall Association from 4 to 6 p.m. at CCS. They will each be making statements and answering your written questions.

—John Miller

Lovely Beginnings

Chairman of the Board of Education, Barbara Gold, credits Principal Kathleen Fitzgibbons, entering her third year, with "developing a healthy and positive culture" at Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS). For her part, Dr. Fitz is delighted to begin the school year in a facility whose renovation is complete. "To come back to school and have it all ready is wonderful." Having spent her first two years listening and learning about CCS, she now draws attention to the benefits of the size of Cornwall's school in comparison to other elementary schools. "Our curriculum is specifically tailored to Cornwall children and is defined by their needs. We are small enough to be able to do that." Enrollment stands at 143 this year, compared to 140 this time last year. Fifteen students are entering kindergarten.

(continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym; Jam Session , 7:30 P.M. Village Meetinghouse 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 Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room				1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Park and Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Offices	7	8 	9	10 Wildlife & Forest Management Forum 4-5:30 P.M. Town Hall †
11 PATRIOT DAY	12 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House ABC Meeting 5:30-7:30 P.M. Cornwall Inn † Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	13 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14	15 Deadline: October Chronicle Copy Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	16 Exhibit Opening 4:30-6:30 P.M. Historical Society †	17 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room
18 Hollaender Chamber Ensemble 4 P.M. UCC †	19 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. Library	20 Red Cross Blood Drive † 1:30-6:15 P.M. UCC Parish House  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23 Senior Program 11 A.M. Library †	24 Bd. of Assessment Appeals (Motor Vehicles Only) 9:30-11 A.M. Town Clerk's Office † Annual Agricultural Fair 11 A.M.-4 P.M. Village Green † Newcomers' Tea 4 P.M. Library † Square/Contra Dance (Ag. Fair) 7:30 P.M. Village Green
25 Art Opening Reception 3-5 P.M. Library †	26 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	27 Senior Program 10 A.M. Library †	28 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	29	30 Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library †	

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

New teachers include P.E. teacher Aaron Boucher and Sarah Blehrud, sixth-grade social studies and math teacher, who is returning from maternity leave and replacing Clair Walton.

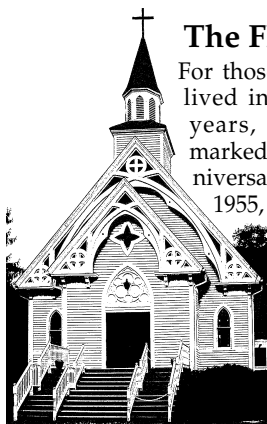
Pam Brehm, long-time director of the Cornwall Child Center, says she has enjoyed working closely with Fitzgibbons to make the relationship between the Child Center and the school a fluid one. "We share children and families with CCS," says Brehm, "so we coordinate our activities and programs so they complement each other, rather than cause conflicts." One example of their liaison is that Mrs. Burdick's first-graders can be found on Friday mornings reading to the nursery children.

According to Brehm, the Child Center, which received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children in June 2004, has had an increase in the number of inquiries from prospective parents in surrounding towns who are in search of a high-quality, accredited nursery program. Cornwall's is exceptional in that it charges fees based on a sliding scale depending upon family income. Scholarships are also available. The Center serves children ages three to eight from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Monday to Friday. As of June 2005, enrollment stood at 36.

Two Cornwall residents will be joining the staff at the Child Center this fall. One, Ania Utrata-Wynn, is returning from maternity leave. The other, Lesley Petersen, is the third alumna of the Child Center to return as a teacher in recent years.

At HVRHS, 35-year veteran Bunny McGuire, who just retired as executive secretary to the principal, will be replaced by Julie Lang. Principal Gretchen Foster, now entering her second year, invites the community to a welcoming session from 7 to 9 P.M. on September 6, which will be an opportunity for students and parents to learn about and become involved in a wide variety of activities. An Open House is set for September 21 at 6:30 P.M. Foster encourages those interested to find out more about HVRHS on the newly enhanced website: www.hvrhs.org. Of the anticipated 660 students enrolled at the high school this fall, 78 come from Cornwall. Cornwall sends 20 ninth-graders to join the incoming freshman class of 185.

—Sally Van Doren



The Flood of 1955

For those of us who have lived in Cornwall for 50 years, the past month marked an important anniversary. On August 12, 1955, Hurricane Connie came ashore in North Carolina and headed up to New England. Five days later, Hurricane Diane also moved up the coast. Connie

dropped four to six inches of rain over southern New England, causing soil to become saturated and rivers to rise. When Diane hit, New England was bombarded over a two-day period with 20 more inches of rain. (Yes, 20!) The Housatonic rose to a near-record level in places but, although West Cornwall was washed out, the river was not the cause. Fred Bate, whose meat market was in the path of the flood, vividly remembers that day. "It started to rain," says Fred, "and how it rained; it came right down by the bucket. The Housatonic didn't get that high, but what caused the problem were the small streams. At the foot of Dibble Hill Road where the bridge crosses the river, debris, including limbs and trees, jammed up under the bridge causing the water to flood back up Dibble Hill Road. When it broke loose, it was all downhill. It came right through the village and gouged out anything in its path all the way down to the river. Trees were upside down in the neighbor's yard, and there was meat and equipment dumped in the gully in front of Bill Bierce's store [formerly in the large shingled house opposite the pink house in West Cornwall]."

Fred lost his shop in the flood, but he recalls that the community was very supportive. "Everyone pitched in with picks and shovels and chainsaws. The town formed a committee to assess the flood damage people had sustained, and then they doled out the money."

This was the worst flood in the history of the eastern United States. President Dwight Eisenhower declared Connecticut a disaster area. Cornwall was fortunate not to have lost any lives, but neighboring towns were not so lucky.

—Brenda Underwood

Land Use Issues

Preliminary plans for a road that would allow developers to build as many as eight very expensive homes on the 119-acre Furnace Brook Farm property were presented at a meeting of the selectmen in June. There's not been a formal proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and developers may not pursue that particular plan. But the scale and the cost to the town of servicing the road (with eight lots it would have to be a town road) provoked discussion at the Land Use Forum.

That preliminary proposal for a fancy subdivision underlines the importance of reviewing existing land use regulations for their currency and enforcement.

The Town Plan of Conservation and Development sets the framework guiding the evolution of land use regulations and thus the balance between private property rights and the community interest in preserving the rural nature of Cornwall, as well as in encouraging the local economy. The Land Use Forum (July) and the forum on Agriculture in Cornwall (August) signify the beginning of a dialogue on where people want the town

to go. There will be more meetings in the autumn. P&Z will be announcing the formal start to hearings on the new Town Plan.

Meanwhile, residents need to be active and vigilant. The issues at stake are major.

—Martha Loufifi

Welcome

Spencer Allyn to Jennifer and Joseph Markow
Elijah Luis Lopez to
Chandra Casteel and Luis Lopez-Caicado
Peter Michael III to Michele and Peter Gorat, Jr.
Caroline Elizabeth to Caryn and Paul Barber

Congratulations

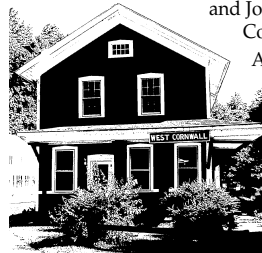
Donna Murphy and Larry Rude

Good-Bye to Friends

Robert L. Ardizzone
Amos Landman
Grace Woodruff

Land Transfers

William L. and Lynne Fox to Robert S. Rubin, 9.865 acres with cabin on Hollenbeck Road for \$150,000.
Frederick N. and Sarah V. Patzman to Elizabeth Alexander and Titus Welliver, property at 56 Hall Road for \$925,000.
James F. and Kathleen A. Lawson to Philip Taaffe and Gretchen S. Carlson, property at 52 Cogswell Road for \$535,000.
R. Drew and Carol S. Ohmen to Annette Wuersching, property at 141 Kent Road for \$263,500.
Est. of Lynnerna R. Niebergall to Gary S. Guilman and Joseph C. Gemayal, portion of property in Cornwall at 378 Kent Road for \$344,787.30.
Angela K. Dorn to Richard Ferrari, property at 191 Town Street for \$525,000.



Deer in Cornwall

It is hard to believe that in 1897, nearly exterminated by wolves and mountain lions, only 24 deer were reported in Connecticut. Today, lacking those animal predators, there are well over 75,000 deer throughout the state.

In 1974 Connecticut passed the Deer Management Act, and in 1975 the first deer-hunting season was permitted on public lands. Cornwall is 25.6 percent state forest—a total of 11,556.36 acres. All except Mohawk Mountain (5,943 acres) are open to hunting.

Experts say that an adequate number of antler-less deer, both females and male fawns, must be harvested annually to reduce deer density. Usually, the removal of one adult doe during hunting season results in three fewer deer the following spring. As deer numbers decrease, the number necessary to be removed also decreases. In this way, hunting is controlled, from the initial phase when deer harvests are high to the maintenance phase when density is lower.

Studies have shown that the ideal deer density is 10 to 15 deer per square mile. Although Howard Kilpatrick of the Wildlife Division of the Department of Environmental Protection is reluctant to offer a specific count, aerial surveys, winter tracking, and designated routes suggest that our deer population is dwindling. One reason may be habitat change due to the sharp increase in



Letters to the Chronicle

OFF THE FENCE

Democracy is alive and well in Cornwall! For a decade or so I have been living the political life of the "unaffiliated voter." This summer I decided it was time to get off the fence, return to the Democratic Party, and try to make a difference. My timing could not have been better. I am glad I did not miss the spirit that was in the air at the packed-to-the-rafters caucus on that muggy Monday in July. Both candidates, Becky Hurlburt and Gordon Ridgway, spoke of open communications. I invite the other two-thirds of the Cornwall voters to join us in asking questions and reviewing the past projects and decisions. Let's discuss with one another and the candidates what our town needs for the future. This promises to be an exciting season for Cornwall politics.

—Tricia Collins

FARM SMELLS

There are some smells, like skunk, for example, or wet dog, which I quite like in moderation but which become obnoxious in concentrated doses. I was reminded of this by Bob Potter's piece in last month's Chronicle, about how the EPA wants to eradicate the methane produced by cows, which it claims is polluting the atmosphere, by giving farmers the choice—which is no choice at all—of spending untold thousands to hermetically seal their dairy barns and manure pits or face a possible daily fine of up to \$25,000, a measure that would virtually sound the death knell of the small American dairy farm.

Now, I happen to like farm smells, all of them. They are part of a way of life. And they are not overpowering. At least they used not to be. In recent years, though, I have become aware of certain farms in the area which, when I drive by them, emit a biting, stinging stench that causes me to hold my breath and step on the gas.

What has happened to farming methods to

bring about this change? A friend opined that the cause is the greater size of these farms and particularly the concentration of cows—and hence their waste—in small areas, so that a smell which is acceptable, even pleasant, in open fields becomes noxious in confined spaces. The driving force is no doubt profit, but at a cost to the air we breathe. But whatever the cause, while I would not object to something reasonable being done to deal with this problem, for God's sake, EPA, leave the old-fashioned farmer alone!

—George Kittle

A GENEROUS CUP OF LEMONADE

Back on July 2, in honor of my first birthday, I hosted an Alex's Lemonade Stand at the Cornwall Bridge Fire House. It raised almost \$900 for pediatric cancer research!

I, along with my mom, my cousin Dan Hedden, and friends Wilson and Genevieve Terrall, Sam Bate, Amy Ingvertsen, and Jeanne Zanthos, sold pink and yellow lemonade, bracelets, and bandanas. My dad and my grandfather helped out by building a very neat lemonade stand. Donations for the lemonade ranged from \$.50 to \$50 per cup! We all had a good time and look forward to doing it again next year. Watch for the signs!

Thank you to all who helped out in any way.

—Reilly Hedden

CORNWALL SWIM TEAM

This year Cornwall placed second in the Husatonic Swim League Championships held on August 3 at the Lakeville Grove. Our two coaches, Kasey Rosenfield and Ashley Saunders, did an excellent job guiding all 42 of us who participated. When the season first started we dreaded practices. But later on we made new friends and looked forward to the meets—especially to gorging ourselves on cookies and juice afterwards. One thing was for sure: we all hoped to get red and blue ribbons, but that didn't always happen!

The very best part of being on the swim team was the swim across the lake and back (which is

about one mile!) after the championships. It was a beautiful, hot, sunny day, and we took our time. When we returned to the club side of the lake we feasted on pizza, pasta, salad, and a cake that said CORNWALL SWIM TEAM on it. Later, everyone on the swim team received a medal, championship ribbons, and a piece of paper listing each swimmer's special strengths. We can't wait until next summer!

—Sabina, Camilla, Zachary Busby

ART SHOW BREAKS RECORD

The Rose Algrant Art Show's 45th exhibition surpassed all previous records, with sales of \$17,500. (Average past sales were \$10,000.) There is no obvious explanation for the increase. As usual, about half of the 45 exhibitors sold work, and no one item brought in a huge sum. Was it the new location at the school, which provided good lighting and ample space and is on a busy thoroughfare? It's anybody's guess.

—Bee Simont

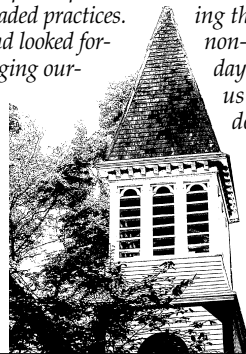
YOU CAN HELP

Chronicle readers know that the Dunn family and the Connecticut EPA have been dueling over an oil spill. Readers may not be able to help the Scoville cows, but they may be able to help the Duns.

They have been billed \$194,000 by an oil-spill clean-up contractor for state EPA-mandated work. The contractor's bill, 21 pages long, claims that between March 23 and May 2 of this year, three men worked daily on the site (the Rock Shop on Route 7, near the intersection with Route 45). The contractor claims that, during that time period, there were only three non-working days—Good Friday and two days the following week. The reality, some of us believe, is that little or no work was done on most days.

If you traveled often past the site during that time period, would you be willing to declare what you observed regarding the extent (or lack) of such work? If you can help, please call Liane and Monte Dunn at 672-6975.

—Wm. Earl Brecher



logging. Deer depend on acorns and other nuts to maintain the high reproductive health of the herd. Harsh winters are another possibility. Bucks and does herd separately most of the year, but in a severe winter with heavy snow on the ground, deer often "yard up" together to browse all the trees and shrubs within reach. (Leadership in the "yards" is matriarchal.) Eventually, if cold and deep snow persist, some will starve to death, even though there may be more food less than a mile away. Smaller deer, unable to reach higher tree branches, starve first.

If you experience property damage due to browsing, you can make changes in your

plant preferences and use management techniques to minimize such damage. The Cornwall Free Library offers lists of deer-resistant plants and specifications for deer fencing.

—Carla Bigelow

Events & Announcements

The Third Newcomers' Tea, sponsored by the Cornwall Association, will be held on Saturday, September 24, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. People who have moved to Cornwall in the past three years are invited. For information contact Anita Brean, 672-6260.

The 2005 Cornwall House Tour is Saturday, October 8 (Columbus Day Weekend), from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., and this year features six houses located in East Cornwall. The tour will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the Cornwall Woman's Society. If you would like to volunteer to work on the day of the event, call Cilla Mauro at 672-6969. For tickets and additional information about the event call Amy Cady at 672-0143.

Town Office Hour Changes: Effective September 1, the Selectmen's Office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., and the Social Services Office will be open on Friday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the UCC Parish House on Tuesday, September 20, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. Drop in or call Pat Blakey at 672-6516 for an appointment. You must be over 16 years old, weigh at least 110, be healthy, and be willing to give an hour of your time.

The Clifton Read Fund: Residents of Cornwall in need of temporary rental assistance may find help from the Clifton Read Fund. Residents are asked to first consult Cornwall's Social Services Office (672-2603) to determine other avenues of help. Social Services will then provide an application for assistance by the Clifton Read Fund.

The fund is administered in confidence by a three-person committee of the Cornwall Housing Corporation. It was established in 1994 in memory of Clifton Read, an original board member. Since its inception, private donations have sustained the fund. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to the Cornwall Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 174, Cornwall, CT 06753. Please label checks for the Clifton Read Fund.

ABC Meeting, Monday, September 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., at the Cornwall Inn. Carol Ebersol will talk about Alternative Ideas for Healthy Living. Open to the public.

Story Hour at the Library begins Friday, September 30, at 1:15 P.M. for ages 3 to 5. The program will run for eight weeks. Kindergartners may take the bus from school with their parents' permission. Stories and activities; snacks will be served.

Don't Miss Your Chance to Vote! Applications for an absentee ballot for the November 8 town election are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. 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. Absentee ballots become available on October 8. However, if you are out of the country before this date, you may request a blank absentee ballot.

The Annual Cornwall Agricultural Fair will take place on Saturday, September 24, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., on the Town Green. For information, contact the Selectmen's Office, 672-4959.

Author Roxana Robinson will read from her latest work, *A Perfect Stranger: And Other Stories*, at the Library on Saturday, October 1, at 3:30 P.M. The reading will be followed by a discussion and the annual meeting of the Friends of the Cornwall Free Library. Refreshments will be served.

In Court, a first-ever exhibition of original courtroom drawings by Marc Simont of the 1976 Peter Reilly hearing, opens Sunday, September 11, at 3 P.M. at Noble Horizons. Marc, Donald S. Connery (author of *Guilty Until Proven Innocent*), Robert Estabrook, and Peter Reilly will talk. Reception follows.

Chronicle Insert Policy: Requests for inserts have increased in recent months. In an effort to be fair to all, the *Chronicle* will try to follow these procedures: (1) First come, first served; (2) Requests for a second insert within a year will be honored only if no other organization wants that month; (3) Inserts must be limited to a single sheet, but organizations may agree to share using opposite sides of the page. To schedule, call Lisa Lansing Simont (672-2707) and give her a copy for approval. After that, communication concerning inserts is between the local organization and our printer, Moore and More in Millerton, to whom copy must be given by the 15th of the month.

A Wildlife and Forest Management Forum, sponsored by the Cornwall Association and the Cornwall Land Trust, will be held on Saturday, September 10, at the Town Hall, from 4 to 5:30 P.M. Experts on deer, beavers, bears, and the local ecology will offer insights and answer questions.

Art in Cornwall: Through September at the National Iron Bank are wood and sand pictures inspired by rug patterns of southwestern Native American art.

From September 3 to 30, the show at the Outsider's Gallery is *Jazz and Abstracts*, featuring artists Max Coyer, Steve Soklin, and Pam Bramble.

At the Cornwall Free Library, Ira Barkoff's landscapes and Ilisha Helfman's *Knitted Nature* continue through September 24. *Generations*, a show of work by Ken and Lisa Keskinen, opens September 25 with a reception from 3 to 5 P.M.

The Hollaender Chamber Ensemble returns to perform at the United Church of Christ on Sunday, September 18, at 4 P.M. The concert will feature a Mendelssohn piano trio, a Brahms piano quartet, and Robert Kahn's *Seven Songs* for tenor and piano trio. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Call 672-6888 for more information.

Two Programs for Seniors: The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging (WCAAA) will present a medication management program on Friday, September 23, at 11 A.M. at the Library meeting room. Bob Stack, a local pharmacist, will talk about "Taking Your Medications Safely" and will answer questions. On Tuesday, September 27, at 10 A.M., also at the Library, representatives from the WCAAA and the Social Security Administration will present a program on the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan slated to begin in January 2006. Enrollment forms will be available after the presentation. Please call Jill Gibbons at 672-2603 if you wish to attend. There must be 20 attendees to have this program offered. Each event lasts an hour. Light refreshments will be served.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in the Town Clerk's Office on Saturday, September 24, from 9:30 to 11 A.M., to hear appeals on motor vehicle assessments. No appointment necessary.

The Cornwall Historical Society will share some treasures discovered during inventory in an exhibit, *Look What We've Found*, opening on Friday, September 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. Some of the items will also be displayed at the Agricultural Fair, during which the Society will show photographs from its collection of farms and farming.

The Cornwall Free Library is happy to receive donations of all kinds of books (but please, no textbooks!) prior to its book sale on October 7 to 9.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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OCTOBER ISSUE

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